



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

April 2004

About this Report

Purpose

The purpose of the Wayne Quarterly is to provide a status report and short summary of environmental analysis on the Wayne National Forest. Issued quarterly, this is intended to complement other public involvement initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers.

Legal notices will continue to be published in local newspapers: the Athens Messenger for Forest-wide decisions and those affecting the Athens Ranger District, and the Ironton Tribune for those affecting the Ironton District.

For further information or to provide comments regarding any of the items described in this report or for copies of available documents, please contact the responsible Ranger District. We encourage you to pass on any information having a bearing on the decisions being considered. Addresses and telephone numbers are on the back page or contact us through email at: r9_wayne_website@fs.fed.us.

How You Can Become Involved

Read through the list of proposed projects. If you want to provide site-specific comments on a project, get more information, or be placed on the project mailing list, write or call the contact person listed for that project. We value your site-specific involvement. A generic statement of interest in all projects is not specific enough. It is only through site-specific input that we can be responsive to and incorporate your concerns into

project development. Project-specific involvement is required for standing to appeal a project.

Only those who submit timely and substantive comments on projects resulting in environmental assessments will be eligible to appeal the decision. Pre-decisional environmental assessments may not always be available; instead comments will be solicited earlier in the process so that substantive comments may be more fully considered. Acceptable formats for electronic comments will be txt, html, pdf, or any file format viewable in Microsoft Office applications.

Organization

Projects are listed alphabetically in three categories. Each includes a brief description of the project and approximate time frames.

The three types of listings in the Wayne Quarterly are:

Proposed Projects:

Projects are listed for which public input is being or is about to be sought. These include those currently under study or analysis. Forest activities or events may also be included.

Completed Decision Documents:

These projects have culminated in the preparation of completed environmental assessments and decision documents. Also included, are projects "categorically excluded" from documentation in an EA (Environmental Assessment) or EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) but documented in a decision memo.

Projects in Progress:

Projects listed here are actively underway. They are included in order to keep you apprised of ongoing forest activities.

Editor's Note:

Contact Gary Miller at 740-753-0101 with suggestions for the Quarterly, to obtain more copies, or change the mailing list.

Large Print copies available on request.

Forest-wide Programs/Projects

Anticipated "Walk-in" Business.

Requests from the public occasionally necessitate analysis be completed with a short turn-around. This may mean that decisions are made without prior notice in the Quarterly, however, they will continue to be announced by legal notices in newspapers as appropriate. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads, oil and gas exploration, utility right-of-way, and recreation special events. Fees are collected annually for special use permits, although in some cases (such as rural electric companies) may be waived. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of April 1, 2004, the Wayne National Forest has 236,254 acres of public land. During the last quarter, the Athens Unit acquired 11 acres.

The highest priority for future acquisition is placed on tracts within Management Areas 2.1, 6.1, 6.2, and 9.2. Additional priorities are placed on tracts with unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species or geological features, tracts that provide needed recreation opportunities, tracts that contain cultural resources, and tracts that consolidate the land base or provide access to other National Forest lands. Fair market value is paid to willing sellers. Contact Terry Krasko, Athens office, for more information.

Forest Plan Revision.

The Wayne's Forest Plan Revision interdisciplinary team is currently analyzing the effects of the alternatives that have been developed. Analyzing the effects will take most of the interdisciplinary team's time during the next 4 months. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement and a Proposed Revised Forest Plan are scheduled to be published in October of 2004.

You can find information on the Forest Plan Revision on a special section of our web-page at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne. We will continue to inform you of special events by mail. If you wish to receive information about the plan revision by e-mail rather than printed mail, please send an e-mail to croberts@fs.fed.us or to: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Forest Plan Revision					
1. Forest Plan Revision	Entire Forest	January, 2002	September 2005	Bob Gianniny, Supervisor's Office	This is the scheduled revision of the 1988 Forest Plan. Significant issues, concerns and opportunities have been finalized. Alternatives have been developed. The effects of the alternatives are currently being analyzed.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
2. Bennett Hollow Channel Restoration	York Twp, Athens County	February 26, 2004	June 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	This project proposes rerouting acid mine drainage from three strip pits through a limestone pit before it enters an existing stream. One of the strip pits is draining onto private land.
3. Carbon Hill Portal Closure	Hocking County	May 2003 – rescoped January 21, 2004	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard. Analysis continues.
4. Lost Run Subsidences	Hocking County	August 2003	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.
5. Monkey Hollow Subsidences	Hocking County	April 2003	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We want to close several subsidences that are capturing surface water into underground mines. The water significantly contributes to the area's acid mine drainage in the area. Analysis continues.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
6. New Straitsville Subsidence	Hocking County	August 2003	May 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	We are exploring opportunities to close a number of subsidence that are capturing surface water into underground mines. This water significantly contributes to the acid mine drainage in the area.
General Projects					
7. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Spring 2005	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to allow mountain bike use (non-motorized) on the Morgan Sisters/Symmes Creek Trail System. This trail system consists of approximately 14 miles of trail. Hikers have not used these trails in significant numbers in the past several years. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
8. Buckhorn Restoration	Ironton District	April 2004	October 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	A landscape-level treatment on the Ironton District is proposed which will include harvesting damaged and non-vigorous trees to reduce stand density and increase space for residual trees to grow. Treatments will also remove fuel build-up and lower the fire hazard.
9. Commercial thinning of pine	Athens District	April 1, 2003	Late spring 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	It has been proposed to thin a small number of acres annually on the Athens District. Overstocked stands are vulnerable to insect and disease problems. Internal scoping will occur during winter/spring 2004.
10. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2001	Spring 2005	John Brown, Ironton	The bridge crossing Indian Creek on the former Township Road 129 is in poor condition and has been temporarily closed. The road needs to be either closed at that point or the bridge replaced. The proposed action is to close the bridge and construct a parking area. The former Township Roads 95 and 129 beyond this spot would be closed to vehicles, but foot travel allowed. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
11. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	Spring 2005	John Brown, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail. The project has been delayed due to work on the ice storm damage.
12. Restoration of Mixed-Oak Forest Ecosystems with Prescribed Fire Project	Lawrence County	May 16, 2003	March 2004	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	A proposal is under consideration in support of the Northeastern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio. This project involves conducting prescribed burning as part of a research project to determine the appropriate fire regime for mixed oak forests. A second goal is to establish a monitoring program for fire effects and ecosystem sustainability. The burning would take place on two areas (Bluegrass and Youngs Branch) totaling 320 acres, over the next 10 years. This would be a continuation of the research with prescribed fire that was conducted on these areas from 1996-1999. Waiting for review from Fish and Wildlife Service.
13. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	September 29, 2003	Spring 2004	Lynda Andrews, Nelsonville	This proposal is to reintroduce the American burying beetle. Staff is reviewing conservation strategies for these species. Any formalized proposal will be done in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Special Use Permits					
14. Federal Well Development	Aid Twp., Lawrence Co.	February 12, 2004	May 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	EOG Resources has proposed to develop six wells on National Forest System lands. The mineral estates have been previously leased, so the leaseholder is now exercising their rights for development. Each site will include a well pad 100' by 150' and once the drilling is complete will contain a brine tank, separator and meter run. Access roads and connecting collection pipelines may also be included.
15. Hackathorn et al federal mineral development	Newport Twp., Washington Co.; Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	April 2003, additional scoping April 2004	June 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Carlton Oil Corp. has proposed four wells in addition to the Hackathorn #1 well proposed in 2003. Chaney #2, Littleton #2, Lisk #1, and Lisk #2 will be analyzed together in 2004.
16. Hay Mowing Permits	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	April 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Collective group of small hayfields adjacent to Etna-Waterloo Road and SR 93 (total about 4 acres). Proponent has mowed them for several years while owned by Mead/Westvaco (newly acquired tract).
17. Hay Mowing Permits	Perry Twp, Gallia Co.	Fall 2003	April 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Proposed hay permit for a field that was under a permit for many years but dropped in 2002. This 5-acre ridgetop field in the Symmes Creek area is accessed from Woodside Road
18. Pasture Access Road	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2003	April 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	An access road to a pasture has been requested using an existing road which currently accesses a gas well. The road can also be used to plug another well in the pasture accessed if the permit is granted.
19. Powerline Relocation	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	January 2004	June 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	This relocation project along Lawrence County Road #47 proposes eliminating a 900-foot cross-country stretch of line and moving it adjacent to the road for about 1,300 feet. A portion of the line is already in place.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
20. Prescribed Burning in storm fuels	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 25, 2004	April 2004	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The proposal would involve using prescribed fire to further reduce the fuel hazard within 200 feet of selected roadsides. In all but one area the fuels were pre-treated in an earlier project. Approximately 554 acres are being considered for treatment.
21. Proposed reroute of distribution line	Symmes Twp., Lawrence Co.	March 5, 2004	May 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Buckeye Rural Electric has requested permission to reroute a portion of their distribution line, converting a cross-country section to a roadside location. This reroute would eliminate approximately 1,000 feet of right of way, moving the line adjacent to the County Road #47 corridor.
22. Proposed development of oil and gas features	T5N, R17W, Sec 8 and 17	March 5, 2004	May 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	EOG resources has requested permission to access two wells on adjacent private property across approx. 1,300 feet of national forest and connect these to an existing well on federal land with a 3,000 foot buried gasline. All work would be along existing roadways.
23. Proposed Gas Pipeline	Liberty Twp, Washington Co.	April 2004	May 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Greg Cappadona for 1,500 feet of surface plastic gas pipeline along a township road. A 2-inch pipeline will be installed by hand and no tree removal will occur.
24. Proposed Gas Pipeline and Compressor Site	Ludlow Twp, Washington Co.	April 2004	May 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Gatherco, Inc. to install a natural gas compressor and lay approximately 3,700 feet of surface gas pipeline in an existing pipeline corridor. Some brush will be removed in the existing corridor.
25. Proposed Road	Ludlow Twp, Washington Co.	March 13, 2004	April 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Tony Bowersock for a road permit on federal land to access adjacent private land. The road will be approximately 300 feet long and located partially on an old abandoned existing road. Some tree removal will be required.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
26. Hazardous Fuel Reduction	Lawrence, Gallia, and Scioto Counties	August 4, 2003	January 26, 2004	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	A decision was made to implement further fuel reduction projects resulting from the February, 2003 Ice Storm. The amount of potential fire fuels in the event of a wildfire increased significantly resulting in potential fires that would be more difficult to control and get much larger. Under this decision 930 acres of the most heavily impacted areas, in nine treatment parcels will be treated. The project is currently being designed and contracts prepared for advertisement
27. Nelsonville Bypass – Phase II Subsurface Investigations	Starr and Ward Twp, Hocking Co. York Twp, Athens Co.	September 16, 2003	February 10, 2004	Dan Kincaid, Nelsonville	A special use permit to Ohio Department of Transportation was amended to include additional subsurface investigations. Under this permit they are allowed to drill up to 192 holes on NFS land related to their investigation of the Nelsonville bypass routes.

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