



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

January 2002

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.

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

Large Print copies available on request.

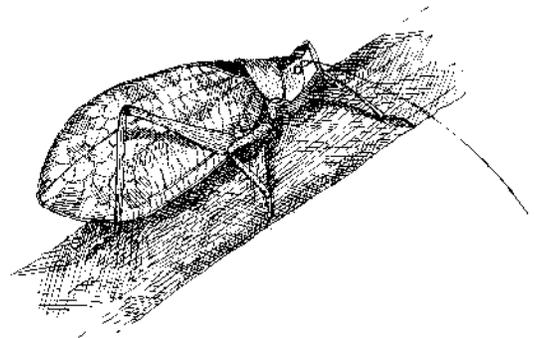
Forest-wide Programs/Projects

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. Scoping efforts for these requests would be conducted as applicable. Examples of walk-in requests include special use roads, oil and gas exploration, utility right-of-way, forest products such as firewood or house logs, and recreation special events. Fees are collected annually for special use permits, although in some cases (such as rural electric companies) may be waived. Local government receives a portion of the fees collected for special use permits. Analysis and documentation is done on each request.

Land Acquisition.

As of January 1, 2002, there were 232,926 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. No additional acreage was acquired during the last quarter of 2001. 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 Regina Martin, Athens office, for more information.



The Katydid

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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
1. Big Four Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	March 2002	January 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	The project could comprise an assortment of actions including: construction of limestone channels, closing of water collecting subsidences, wetland restoration and flood control, and other acid mine drainage remediation activities.
2. Jobs Hollow Gob Pile	Perry County	February 2002	May 2002	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	This project will contour, cap with soil, and re-vegetate a two-acre coal waste pile.
3. Jobs Hollow Mechanical Dosing Unit	Perry County	February 2002	May 2002	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	We are proposing to treat the acid mine drainage in Jobs Hollow by using a mechanical dosing unit to add limestone kiln dust to water in the stream channel.
4. Snake Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	October 2001	September 2002	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	This project could involve a variety of actions including: construction of limestone channels, closing of water collecting subsidences, contouring and capping a coal waste site, and other acid mine drainage remediation activities. We are currently working to identify alternatives to the proposed action.
General Projects					
5. Bat Gate Installation	Ironton District	April 2002	Summer 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	The installation of three bat gates is proposed for abandoned mine openings on the Ironton District. These gates protect bat hibernacula by allowing for normal air flow and bat movement but restricting access to people.
6. Consent to Oil and Gas Leasing	Forest-wide	July 28, 1998	Not determined	Ahmed Mohsen, Nelsonville	An earlier decision to consent to lease federally owned oil and gas resources under 4,609 acres of National Forest land was appealed. A revised EA is currently being prepared and should be available to the public this Spring.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
7. Fish Habitat & Access Improvements at Lake Vesuvius	Lawrence County	Winter 2001	Winter 2001/2002	Becky Ewing, Ironton	An environmental assessment was mailed on January 7 for a 30-day comment period. The document is available on the web or by request. This project proposes fisheries and recreation improvements to Lake Vesuvius and the surrounding recreation area. The proposed projects are short-term in nature (those that may be done while the lake is drawn down to fix the dam), and some that are long-term in nature. The proposal includes (1) fish structures to be placed in the upper half of the lake; (2) the area around the boat ramp to be deepened and grade control structures added; (3) barrier-free piers and boardwalk to be constructed; (4) bridge to be constructed across the lake; (4) modify the Lakeshore Trail to include mountain biking opportunities; (5) upgrades to the campgrounds; (6) boat ramp parking area expanded; (7) improvements to the beach area; and (8) construction of a horse camp.
8. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	November 2001	April 2002	Bob Gianniny, Nelsonville	The Forest Plan will be amended based on the Biological Opinion for continued implementation of the Wayne Forest Plan received in late September 2001. A letter to the public was mailed December 13, 2001. This scoping effort proposes an amendment that would included the Terms and Conditions of the Biological Opinion to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species.
9. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November, 2001	May 2002	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The bridge crossing Indian Creek on the former Township Road 129 is in poor condition. The Forest Service has temporarily blocked the road. 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 would be welcome.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
10. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	March 2002	September 2002	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
11. New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	To be determined	Regina Martin, Nelsonville	A proposal has been received from the Village of New Straitsville and the feasibility of the exchange is being analyzed and negotiations are ongoing. The Village is interested in economic development and wish to expand development onto what is now federal land.
12. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	Summer 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	The EA is underway with completion planned by summer. This project proposes the addition of 8 miles of ORV trail to the existing Monday Creek ORV trail system, construction of a trail bridge, and expansion of the New Straitsville ORV parking lot.
13. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Area Improvements.	Athens	September 2001	March 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	Public scoping was completed during September for a proposal to relocate 9 short sections of trail off Forest Service and Township roads, relocate some surface pipelines to allow for road maintenance, and straighten a section of Forest Road 1985 for safety reasons.
14. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	February 2002	Winter 2002	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.
15. Timber Stand Improvement	Forest-wide	December 2001	April 2002	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	Specific areas are being identified as potentially needing treatment for control of grape vines competing with desirable tree species and areas of regeneration are being field checked for crop tree release needs to improve conditions for desirable tree species
16. Reforestation with native species	Forest-wide	October 2001	January 2002	Gary Dixon, Ironton	Proposal is to plant native tree and shrub species on 141 acres of former agricultural fields and strip-mined land.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
17. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	Contracts have been awarded for the preparation of environmental assessments on the impacts of prescribed burning four areas, totaling 2, 035 acres, to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives.
Special Use Permits					
18. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Ironton District	August 15, 2001	February, 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Most special use permits are issued for a 10-year period. Permits may be renewed if the use is still desired and all conditions have been met. Several permits on the Ironton District have come up for renewal in recent months, public involvement has been sought and biological analysis is underway. The group includes utilities such as waterlines, telephone rights-of-way, pipelines, hay cultivation permits, private road rights-of-way, military training exercises, a boat dock, and radio antennas on a Forest Service tower. Maps and details on each of the 19 permits up for renewal are available from the Ironton office.
19. Hay Cultivation and Grazing Permits	Lawrence County	January 2002	March 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Two permits for hay cultivation that had been dropped in recent years are under consideration for renewal. One field is 31 acres, and the other is 3 acres. A grazing permit has also been requested for a 1-acre strip of land in the Hanging Rock area. This permit area is a strip of land between two fields owned by the proponent.
20. Hecla Water Tower	Lawrence County	December 17, 2001	February 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Hecla Water Company has requested their current special use permit for a 20-foot water tower be amended to allow them to raise the water tank to 70 feet. Due to increased population they can no longer maintain water pressure in the area without increasing the height of the tower.
21. Proposed Permit to Repair Land Slip	York Twp, Athens Co.	June 2001	March 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	Application filed by Anthony Johnson to excavate area on federal land to repair soil slippage that is threatening a private home.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
22. Private Road Permit Request	Swan Twp., Vinton Co.	July 2001	February 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	Application filed by Jack Luce to construct an access road on federal land to access his private land that is surrounded by federal land.
23. Proposed Permit to Conduct Studies and Surveys.	York Twp., Athens Co. and Green and Ward Twp., Hocking Co.	January 2002	February 2002	Myra Williamson, Nelsonville	An application has been filed by Ohio Department of Transportation to conduct environmental studies and surveys on federal land to evaluate proposed alternatives for the proposed Nelsonville By-pass of U.S. Highway 33. Another application has been requested to conduct subsurface investigations involving drilling test holes into strata and possible mine voids. These two applications will be evaluated together as one proposal.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
24. New toilet construction at Monday Creek ORV Area.	Athens	September 2001	November 7, 2001	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	The decision was made to construct a "sweet smelling toilet" at the Monday Creek Ford parking area.
25. Powerline Permit Application	Starr Twp, Hocking Co.	June 2001	November 28, 2001	Max Norris, Nelsonville	The decision was made to amend an existing permit to AEP (Columbus Southern Power) allowing them to construct 1,865 feet of underground powerline across federal land along an existing road to private property.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
26. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Athens Ranger District	August 10, 2001	November 15, 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens and Tom Thompson, Marietta	The decision was made to continue these special use permits. A total of 62 special use permits were extended. These are existing permits on the Athens District (49 permits on the Marietta Unit and 13 permits on the Athens Unit) that were approaching expiration. There are no changes in the physical environment or facilities, and the uses have not changed since originally authorized. Most permits were extended for a 10-year period. The permits include waterlines, cultivation and mowing, telephone rights-of-way, oil and gas pipelines, power lines, private road rights-of-way, and a church.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
27. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Becky Ewing, Ironton	Construction is underway to upgrade the dam to withstand storm events and meet current safety regulations. The lake will be completely drained for the duration of the contract (approximately 2 years). When complete, ODNR will restock the lake.

Revising the Wayne N.F. Land and Resource Management Plan

Public comments are being sought in a variety of forums to get input for forest plan revision. Three public meetings were held in January, one on each unit of the Wayne National Forest. "These meetings kicked off the first step in the revision process," said Mary Reddan, Forest Supervisor. "We want to focus on which areas of the current plan need changed." Reddan suggests people consider also how they would improve or change resource management of the Wayne National Forest at the ground level.

Reddan emphasizes that revising a Forest Plan is a long process and that this is only the first of many opportunities people will have to provide input. At this point the Wayne National Forest is identifying, with the public's help, possible "needs for change" to the existing Plan. The areas identified will be used to develop a Notice of Intent (NOI). The NOI is an official document that provides public notice for revising a Forest Plan. The Wayne NOI should be published in Spring, 2002.

The Wayne N.F. plan revision process is expected to take approximately four years. "Throughout this time period there will be numerous times we'll be coming to you, the public, and asking for input" said Reddan. With each step, she explained, the forest will go back to the public and get feedback. At each of these steps, Reddan advised people to be as specific as possible in preparing their comments.

Comments should be sent to the Forest Plan Revision Team, Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

The Wayne National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne has additional information on the existing forest plan and will be regularly updated with information on plan revision. In addition mailings will regularly keep people informed through the process. To get on the Wayne National Forest's plan revision mailing list call 740-753-0101.

Why revise the Forest Plan?

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, productivity and diversity of the land to meet the needs of present and future generations. One way the agency addresses these issues is to develop Land and Resource Management Plans as required by the 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Forest Plans provide overall management for the entire National Forest for a ten-year period. Plans must be revised at least every 15 years. The Wayne National Forest Plan was approved in 1988, so a revision will soon be due.

What's in a Plan?

All Forest Plans answer the following questions:

1. What are the multiple use goals and objectives for the Forest?
2. What are the Forest-wide standards and guidelines for future site-specific decision making?
3. Where are the management areas and what is the management area direction?
4. How much suitable timber land exists? What is the allowable timber sale quantity for a 10-year period?
5. What are the monitoring and evaluation requirements?
6. What are the non-wilderness allocations or wilderness recommendations for any roadless areas?

The existing 1988 Plan will be used as a starting point. Modifications or changes will be made in those areas where change is needed.

**Wayne National Forest
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764**

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Wayne National Forest Offices

**Forest Supervisor's Office
and Athens Ranger District**
13700 US Highway 33
Nelsonville, OH 45764
(740) 753-0101
FAX: 740-753-0119

website: www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne
[Federal Deaf Service Relay:
1-800-877-8339]

Ironton Ranger District
6518 State Route 93
Pedro, OH 45659
(740) 534-6500
FAX: 740-534-6565

Marietta Unit – Athens District
Route 1, Box 132
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 373-9055
FAX: 740-373-8079



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