



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

July 2004

About this Report

Purpose

This is the next to the last issue of the Wayne Quarterly. A final issue will be in October. This report provided a status and short summary of environmental analysis on the Wayne National Forest. Issued quarterly, it was intended to complement other public involvement initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers.

Replacing the Quarterly is a system called the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System data base. It is a web based system which the public can access on the web. The data base includes not just projects on the Wayne National Forest, but projects on national forests across the country. These projects can be sorted in a variety of ways or printed out. Currently the system is updated only four times a year, April 1, July 1, October 1, and January 1.

If anyone is unable to access the website and still wishes to receive a hardcopy of the proposed actions on the Wayne, please contact Connie Roberts at 740-753-0883. A copy of the web based report can be printed off and mailed to those who request it. We value your comments and want you to continue to be involved in oversight of our Forest activities.

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 two categories. Each includes a brief description of the project and approximate time frames.

The two 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.

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 July 1, 2004, the Wayne National Forest has 236,383 acres of public land. During the last quarter, the Athens Unit acquired 129 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 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 the fall 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, notify croberts@fs.fed.us or: 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	Fall 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. Lost Run Subsidences	Hocking County	August 2003	September 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.
3. Monkey Hollow Subsidences	Hocking County	April 2003	August 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.
4. New Straitsville Subsidences	Hocking County	August 2003	September 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
General Projects					
5. 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.
6. Buckhorn Restoration	Ironton District	June 10, 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Date Decision	Contact Person	Status of Project
9. Prescribed burning to improve sensitive plant habitat and to reduce hazardous fuels	Lawrence County	June 9, 2004	July 2004	Michael Freidhof, Ironton	The proposed action is to burn two sites every 2 to 5 years over the next decade so that the preferred habitat conditions remain or are improved for the plant species. Two other sites would be burned 3 to 5 years over the next decade so that the amount of fuel is low enough to lessen the likelihood of a very hot and hard-to-control fire that would risk private land. The total acreage is approximately 1,200 acres.
10. Prescribed Burning in storm fuels	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 25, 2004	November 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	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.
11. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	September 29, 2003	Fall 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.
Special Use Permits					
12. Chaney-Lisk Federal Well Development	Washington and Monroe Counties	June 18, 2004	August 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Carlton Oil Corporation proposes to develop three federal wells on the Marietta Unit. The Chaney #2 well, in Washington County involves 1800 feet of an existing access road. Lisk #1 and 2 are in Monroe County. The Lisk #1 well is accessed from an un-maintained township road and 1,217 feet of new road construction. Lisk #2 also uses an un-maintained township road. For each site, if approved, a well pad will be leveled and plastic surface pipe laid.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
13. Federal Well Development – Lawrence County	Aid Twp., Lawrence Co.	February 12, 2004	September 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. These permits have been given a low priority by the State Division of Oil and Gas.
14. Hackathorn federal mineral development	Newport Twp., Washington Co.	April 2003, additional scoping April 2004	October 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	Carlton Oil Corp. has proposed a federal well. Subsequently three other wells were added to the analysis but then were pulled out and are being analyzed separately.
15. Hay Mowing Permits	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	Fall 2003	July 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).
16. Hay Mowing Permits	Perry Twp, Gallia Co.	Fall 2003	July 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
17. Pasture Access Road	Elizabeth Twp, Lawrence Co.	November 2003	July 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.
18. Proposed Haying Area	Perry Twp, Monroe Co.	May 2004	July 2004	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	An application has been filed by Barbara Weddle to hay approximately 10 to 12 acres of Federal land. The land was recently purchased by the Forest Service. The field has been hayed for several yeas prior to the Forest purchase of the property.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
19. Powerline Relocation	Symmest Twp, Lawrence Co.	January 2004	July 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.
20. Proposed plugging of Orphan Wells	Independence Twp, Washington Co.	June 2004	September 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	This proposal would involve plugging 2 orphan wells along the Ohio River. Forest Service and BLM funds will be used to plug these orphan wells. Clearing of approximately ¼-half acre at each well site will be required to accommodate a plugging rig. Sites will be reclaimed once plugging is completed.
21. Proposed plugging of Orphan Wells	Green Twp., Hocking Co.	June 2004	September 2004	Max Norris, Nelsonville	This proposal would involve plugging one orphan well in the Dorr Run ORV area. State of Ohio Orphan well funds will be used to plug this well. Clearing of approximately ¼-half acre at each well site will be required to accommodate a plugging rig. Site will be reclaimed once plugging is completed.
22. Proposed Oil and Gas Well on Reserve Mineral Rights (Non-NEPA since mineral rights are reserved)	Jackson Twp, Monroe Co.	April 2004	July 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Beck Energy for a reserve mineral permit to drill an oil and gas well to develop private mineral reservation rights. Approximately ½ to ¾ an acre will be needed for the well pad and approximately 600 feet of access road. Another 1,500 feet of access road is existing. Trees will be removed on the well site and new road.
23. Proposed development of oil and gas features	T5N, R17W, Sec 8 and 17	March 5, 2004	November 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. These permits have been given a low priority by the State Division of Oil and Gas.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
24. Proposed Gas Pipeline	Lawrence Twps, Washington Co.	May 2004	August 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Stonebridge Operating Company to install approximately 5,000 feet of surface 1-inch plastic gas pipeline next to an existing pipeline.
25. Proposed Gas Pipeline	Lawrence and Newport Twps, Washington Co.	April 2004	July 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Viking International Resources for a permit to install approximately 3,000 feet of 3-inch gas pipeline and approximately 2,500 feet of 1-inch gas pipeline. Pipelines will be on the surface and portions of lines will follow existing lease and maintained roads. Some tree removal will be required. The 3 foot pipeline will cross the Little Muskingum River and be bored under the river.
26. Proposed Gas Pipeline for Ben Smeltzer Company	Newport Twp, Washington Co.	April 2004	July 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	An application has been filed by Ben Smeltzer Company for a permit to install approximately 5,800 feet of 2 foot plastic surface pipeline to follow existing pipelines and roads. No trees will be removed.
27. Proposed Gas Pipeline and Compressor Site	Ludlow Twp, Washington Co.	April 2004	July 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, removing some brush.
28. Proposed Road	Ludlow Twp, Washington Co.	March 13, 2004	July 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
29. Bennett Hollow Channel Restoration	York Twp, Athens County	February 26, 2004	March 23, 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	This decision allows for 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. This project is currently in contracting.
30. Cadmus Wetland Restoration Project	Gallia County	Spring 2002	July 8, 2004	Kathy Flegel	This project involves the construction of a 30 acre wetland in portions of an old bottomland field. A low dam will be built, encircling about a third of the highest part of the field. The low dam or levee will have a clay core to disrupt any existing underground drainage tiles. Depending on funding, construction would occur during the summer of 2004 or 2005. Other small shallow pools might be built in the area as funding allowed.
31. Carbon Hill Portal Closure	Hocking County	May 2003 – rescoped Jan. 21, 2004	May 3, 2004	Gary Willison, Athens	This decision proposes closing the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard. Analysis continues.
32. Coal Exploration on Outstanding Mineral Rights (Non-NEPA since mineral rights are outstanding)	Monroe Twp, Perry Co.	April 2004 (Legal Notice)	June 30, 2004 (Record of Admin. Action)	Max Norris, Nelsonville	Buckingham Coal Company has received a go-ahead to drill approximately 19 exploration holes for coal on their outstanding mineral rights. A plan of operations will be issued for the activity. Most of the drill holes will be located along existing roads. Approximately 0.9 miles of access trails will be needed to access several other drill sites. A small track-mounted drill rig will be used. All drill sites and access trails will be reclaimed.
33. Commercial thinning of pine	Perry County, Athens District	April 1, 2003	June 29, 2004	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	A decision has been made to thin 70 acres of white pine in the Beech Grove area of the Athens District. Less than a half mile of temporary road will be constructed. Overstocked stands are vulnerable to insect and disease problems. Some additional work such as development of a small waterhole and closing illegal trails will also be done.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
34. Proposed Gas Pipeline	Liberty Twp, Washington Co.	April 2004	May 19, 2004	Tom Thompson, Marietta	The decision was made to allow Greg Cappadona to lay 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.
35. Restoration of Mixed-Oak Forest Ecosystems with Prescribed Fire Project	Lawrence County	May 16, 2003	March 25, 2004	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	This decision was made to support research done by the Northeastern Research Station in Delaware, Ohio. This project involves conducting prescribed 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. One hundred sixty acres in the Bluegrass area were burned on April 9, 2004.

Project Name and Description	Location	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Non-NEPA Special Project				
36. Kimble Creek abandoned coal mine site (CERCLA Project also known as the “Superfund Law”)	Lawrence Co, Ironton Ranger District	Summer/Fall 2004; Decision made by Regional Forester Randy Moore	Mike Nicklow, Nelsonville or Tim Buxton 603-466-2713 x237	Since 2000, the Forest has been acting under CERCLA authority to address the ongoing release of acid mine drainage from the abandoned Kimble Creek coal mine site. In 2003, a pilot-scale Pyrolusite Process ® water treatment system was constructed, and data from that installation has resulted in a recommendation to construct a full-scale treatment system for the site. A public comment period started in June, 2004, and construction on the full-scale system is expected to start in the fall of 2004. Acid mine drainage from this site initially impacted more than 7 miles of Kimble and Upper Pine Creeks.

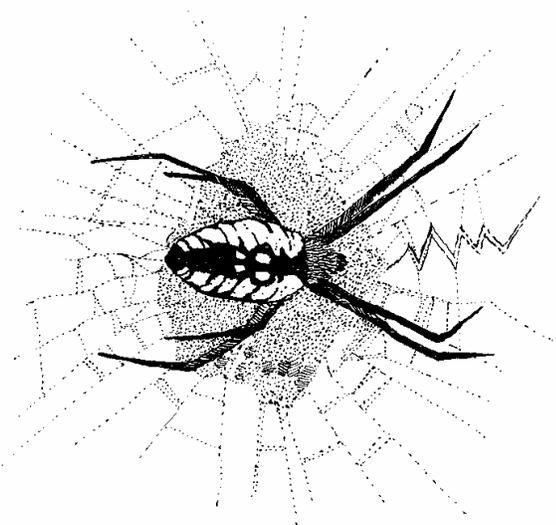
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