



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

October 2001

Closing subsidences and protecting groundwater

A subsidence is a land feature where the land begins to sag or collapse due to removal of subsurface support. In southeastern Ohio this occurs primarily because of subsurface mining.

Gary Willison, Watershed Program Manager on the Wayne National Forest explains, "Mining was done in large underground rooms with pillars left to hold up the ceilings. Where these rooms were within 50 feet of the surface, such as in drainages and valleys, over time, the ceilings of the mines are caving in." He explains that water flowing through these drainages becomes disrupted when it hits the collapsed area and mixes with groundwater. When the water flows in and out of these subterranean mines, it reacts with the sulphur in the coal forming sulphuric acid that changes the pH, and dissolves heavy metals.

In order to correct some of the subsidence problems on the Wayne National Forest, Willison's team is implementing an aggressive program. In each case, once the subsidence is corrected, topsoil will be returned to the area, and the site reseeded and mulched to blend with the natural stream channels.



Subsidence at Long Hollow

The Essex Mine

Three subsidences in the area of the old Essex mine will be filled in and the surface around the subsidence re-contoured. One of the subsidences is capturing the flow of a small tributary to Sycamore Creek. By sealing this subsidence we will return this flow to the surface. Approximately 90 feet of stream will be modified and improved by this project.

To minimize impacts Willison said the work, now completed, was done during the driest part of the year. A 90-foot drainage channel will need to be constructed. It will begin upstream of the subsidence and proceed past the current collapsed site. The channel will be lined with a Geo-synthetic Clay Liner (GCL) to prevent water from working its way through the backfilled material. In addition limestone riprap will be used to fill the breached area. A filter fabric will be placed under the riprap to prevent the stream from cutting into the fill material.

The Long Hollow Mine

Eight subsidences will be closed in this area and the surface re-contoured. Willison notes, "Two of the subsidences are capturing the flow of this tributary to Monday Creek. The project will return the stream's flow to the surface." He adds approximately 30 feet of stream will be modified and improved to eliminate any potential impact to the Indiana bat.

Currently there is no access road to the site but only minimal brush removal should be required to get equipment into the area. The new stream channel will blend with the upstream section that has a width of 6 feet narrowing down to the 4-foot width of the lower section. A Geo-synthetic Clay Liner (GCL) is required to prevent water from working its way through the backfill material and into the mine

void. All butternut trees (a regional sensitive species) will be flagged and protected.



Essex Mine opening

Orbiston Mine

Willison said three subsidences have been closed and the surface contoured around these subsidences that once captured the flow of a small tributary to Monday Creek. Approximately 70 feet of stream was modified and improved by this project.

The reconstruction of the stream channel, like Long Hollow involved narrowing the stream from a width of 6 feet down to the lower channel section width of 4 feet. A Geo-synthetic Clay Liner (GCL) is required to prevent water from working its way through the backfill material and into the mine void.

Rock Run Drainage

At this site, acidic mine drainage empties into Rock Run. Monitoring at the site has documented a discharge rate of 50-100 gallons per minute. This highly acidic water is draining from a closed mine shaft.

Willison said the Wayne plans to treat the acidic water by modifying the existing drainage structure with the addition of limestone to approximately 550 feet of drain channel. In a related action trash and debris that has been dumped at the site will be consolidated and buried using silt and plant debris removed from the channel. According to Willison, "The site will then be protected from erosion with approximately 500 feet of silt fencing."

Nearby an earlier reclamation project, done in 1998, needs further work. Monitoring at the site has found that acidic groundwater discharges from the toe of the reclaim.

Willison explains surface water percolates through the reclaimed gob pile from a 20-acre drainage. He said the percolation will be stopped by filling the depression with borrow from the previously used borrow area west of the reclaim and constructing a limestone-lined channel to carry the surface water away from the area. This work will impact approximately 0.3 acres. He adds that the ground water discharge will be treated by extending the existing open limestone channel an additional 700 feet down stream to the northern edge of the project area.

Willison said "These projects have tremendous impacts on the quality of our water. The total area affected by all of these projects is only six acres; small area - big benefits." Willison said these are only the first of a series of watershed improvement projects planned on the Wayne National Forest. He speculates that in time, orange-colored, acidic water may disappear from the forest as work continues to close the old mine shafts in southeastern Ohio. For more information on watershed restoration projects contact Gary Willison at the Wayne National Forest's Supervisor's Office.



Spreading out the Geo-synthetic Clay Liner to seal the Essex subsidence.

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.

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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 September 30, 2001, there were 232,926 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. During the past quarter the Forest has acquired 149 acres on the Marietta Unit and 2,188 acres on the Athens Unit in a single purchase from Sunday Creek Coal Company. The photo below is of Wayne NF land staff receiving the deed for this large tract from Sunday Creek Coal Company executives. 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.



Proposed Projects

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
Watershed Restoration Projects					
1. Snake Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	October 2001	May 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.
General Projects					
2. Consent to Oil and Gas Leasing	Forest-wide	July 28, 1998	Not determined	Ahmed Mohsen, Nelsonville	The decision made to consent to the leasing of federally owned oil and gas resources under 4,609 acres of National Forest land was appealed and sent back to the Forest for further analysis. The next course of action has yet to be decided.
3. Fish Habitat & Access Improvements at Lake Vesuvius	Lawrence Co.	Winter 2001	Fall 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	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; (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; and (6) construction of a horsecamp.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
4. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	November 2001	April 2002	Bob Gianniny, Nelsonville	The Final Biological Opinion for continued implementation of the Wayne Forest Plan was received in late September 2001. Public scoping is scheduled to start in October 2001, beginning the NEPA process to ensure the Forest Plan is in compliance with the requirements of the Biological Opinion.
5. Kenton Lake Access Improvement	Ironton Ranger District	April 2001	Winter 2001	Becky Ewing, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
6. 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.
7. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	January 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	The EA will be re-issued for Notice and Comment in late October. This project proposes the addition of 8 miles of ORV trail to the existing Monday Creek ORV trail system and expansion of the New Straitsville ORV parking lot.
8. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Area Improvements.	Athens	September 2001	December 2001	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, install a “sweet smelling toilet” at the Monday Creek Ford parking area, relocate some surface pipelines to allow for road maintenance, and straighten a section of Forest Road 1985 for safety reasons. After a tentative decision to relocate the toilet, that portion of the proposal was re-scoped in October.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
9. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	June 2001	February 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.
10. 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
11. Reforestation with native species	Forest-wide	October 2001	December 2001	Phil Perry, Nelsonville	Proposal is to plant native tree and shrub species on former agricultural fields and strip-mined land.
12. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2001	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	Contracts have been awarded for the preparation of environmental assessments on the impacts of prescribed burning four areas to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives.
Special Use Permits					
13. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Athens Ranger District	August 10, 2001	October 2001	Gary Cravens, Athens and Tom Thompson, Marietta	Most special use permits are issued for a 10-year period. The permits are existing and are proposed to be renewed to continue the existing uses. These permitted uses have been in place for many years and there will be no new disturbance. Two separate scoping letters were sent out, one for the Athens Unit and one for the Marietta Unit. The permits include waterlines, cultivation and mowing, telephone rights-of-way, oil and gas pipelines, powerlines, private road rights-of-way, and a church. Maps and details on each of the 63 permits up for renewal are available from the Athens District office in Nelsonville and Marietta.

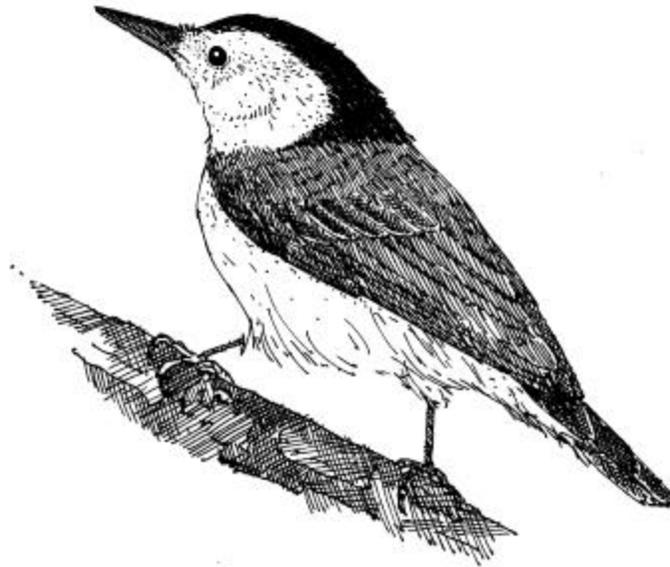
Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
14. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Ironton District	August 15, 2001	November, 2001	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Most special use permits are issued for a 10-year period. Permits may be renewed if 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.
15. Powerline Permit Application	Starr Twp, Hocking Co.	June 2001	October 2001	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	AEP (Columbus Southern Power) filed an application to construct an underground powerline across federal land along an existing road.
16. Proposed Permit to Repair Land Slip	York Twp, Athens Co.	June 2001	October 2001	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	Application filed by Anthony Johnson to excavate area on federal land to repair soil slippage that is threatening a private home.
17. Private Road Permit Request	Swan Twp., Vinton Co.	July 2001	November 2001	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.
18. Proposed Permit to Conduct Studies and Surveys.	York Twp., Athens Co. and Green and Ward Twp., Hocking Co.	October 2001	December 2001	Gary Cravens, 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.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
19. Essex Subsidence	Hocking County	April 2001	September 25, 2001	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	The project is located approximately 2 miles east of New Straitsville on State Route 216. The decision has been made to fill this subsidence. Construction is scheduled to begin on October 15, 2001.
20. Long Hollow Subsidence	Hocking County	April 2001	September 17, 2001	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	The project is located approximately 2 miles north of Buchtel near Township Road 212. The decision is to fill eight subsidence in an unnamed, intermittent branch of Long Hollow. ORV trails in the area will be rehabilitated or relocated as needed. Construction is scheduled to begin on October 15, 2001.
21. Orbiston North Subsidence Closure.	Athens County	August 2000	August 9, 2001	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	This project is located off SR 78 north of Buchtel. The proposed action is to close the subsidence and return the captured stream to the surface. Construction is scheduled to begin on October 15, 2001.
22. ORV Trail Reroutes.	Ward Twp, Hocking Co.	April 2001	August 2, 2001	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	The Forest will re-locate a 0.75 mile section of off-road vehicle trail east of State Route 278.
23. Rock Run Gob Pile — Phase II	Perry County	April 2001	August 9, 2001	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	This project is located approximately 2 miles north of New Straitsville on County Road 41. The decision is to prevent water from percolating into the reclaimed gob pile by sealing the area of percolation and moving the water away from the gob pile in two open limestone-lined channels. Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2001.
24. Rock Run 24	Perry County	April 2001	August 9, 2001	Gary Willison, Nelsonville	The project is located approximately 1 mile north of New Straitsville on County Road 41 in an unnamed tributary to Rock Run. The decision is to treat an acidic seep by adding limestone to the stream channel. Construction is scheduled to begin on September 17, 2001.

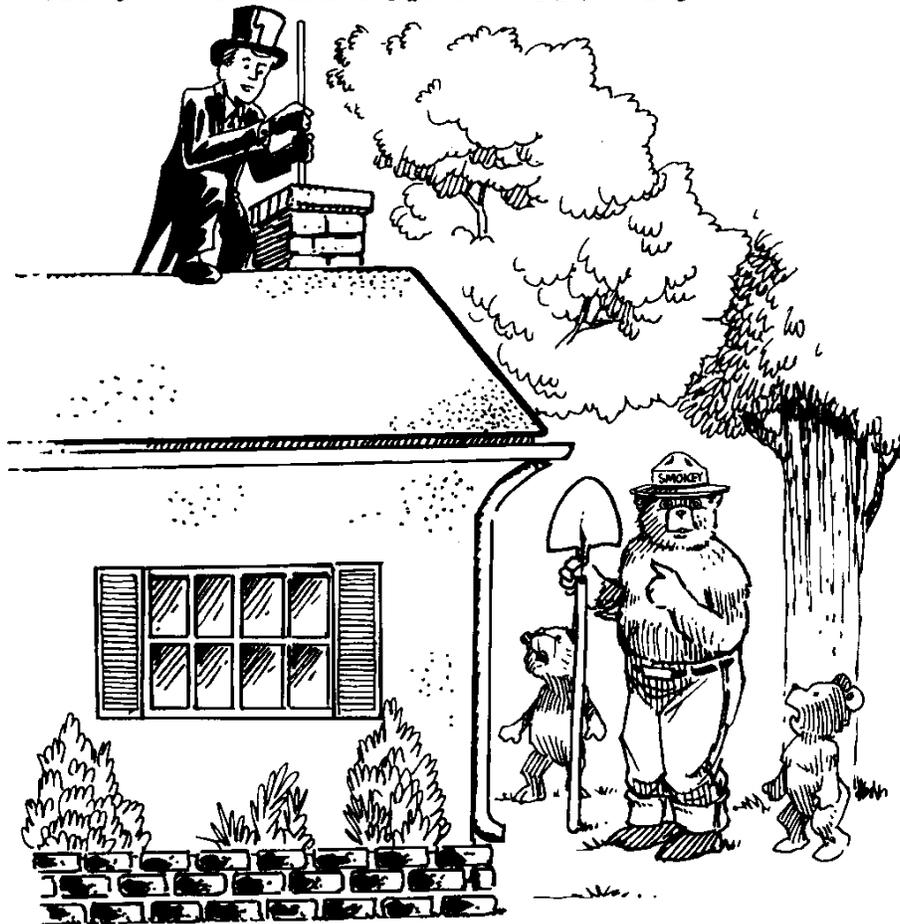
Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
25. 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.



White-breasted Nuthatch

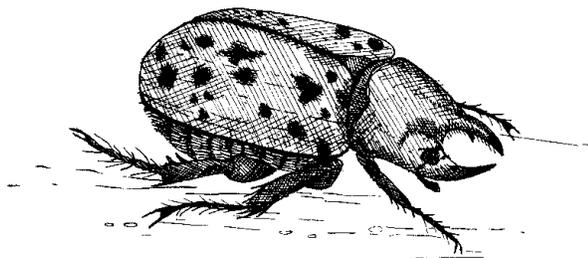
**SMOKEY SAYS: "MAKE SURE YOUR CHIMNEY
AND FIREPLACE ARE FIRESAFE!!"**



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