



Wayne Quarterly

Schedule of Proposed Actions

October 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. 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 September 15, 2002, there were 233,638 acres of public land on the Wayne National Forest. This quarter the Forest purchased 38 acres on the Marietta unit, 216 acres (fee simple) plus 13 acres of mineral only (under existing NF land) on the Athens Unit. 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 interdisciplinary team has been analyzing the more than 600 pages of comments received in response to the Notice of Intent that was published in April. The analysis will produce a list of "Issues, Concerns and Opportunities" to be addressed in the revision. These planning steps are in preparation for the decision process and should take about four years to complete.

Comments may be mailed to: Forest Plan Revision Team - Wayne National Forest, 13700 U.S. Route 33, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

We will continue to post information to a special section of our webpage at www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne and 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 email to croberts@fs.fed.us.

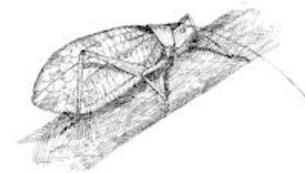
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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider 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	April 2002	January 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	The project could comprise a 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. We are currently working to identify and analyze the effects of alternatives to the proposed action.
2. Essex Mine Opening Closure	Hocking County	April 2002	September 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	We are proposing to close the opening to an abandoned underground mine that is a public safety hazard.
3. Jobs Hollow Gob Pile	Perry County	January 1999	October 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	This project will contour, cap with soil, and re-vegetate a two-acre coal waste pile.
4. Jobs Hollow Mechanical Dosing Unit	Perry County	March 2002	October 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	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.
5. Lost Run Subsidences	Hocking County	December 2002	July 2003	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.
6. Monkey Hollow Subsidences	Hocking County	December 2002	August 2003	Gary Willison, Athens	We want to close several 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. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
7. Snake Hollow Restoration	Hocking County	October 2001	November 2002	Gary Willison, Athens	The project will 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 analyzing the effects of the alternatives and the proposed action.
General Projects					
8. Allowing Mountain Bike Use	Lawrence and Gallia Counties	February 19, 2002	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof, 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.
9. Bluegrass Ridge and Markin Fork Restoration Project	Ironton Ranger District	Follow-up scoping letter mailed July 26, 2002	November 1, 2002	Kathy Flegel, Ironton	A supplemental environmental assessment for the Bluegrass Ridge Restoration Project on the Ironton Ranger District of the Wayne National Forest is available for review. The proposal is to complete the Markin Fork and Bluegrass Timber Sales and related post-sale treatments including prescribed burning, with minor modifications to implement conservation measures recommended by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the protection of the Indiana bat. These timber sales have been suspended since July 15, 1997, while new information regarding endangered, threatened and sensitive species has been considered. The comment period has been extended until October 13, 2002.



Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
10. Consent to Oil and Gas Leasing	Forest-wide	July 28, 1998	October, 2002	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 was completed and sent out for comment on July 16. Comments were due by August 29. Work is now underway to review the comments received, make adjustments and complete the final EA.
11. Forest Plan Amendment for Threatened and Endangered Species	Forest-wide	December 2001	November 2002	Ted King, 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. Scoping was completed during December 2001 and January 2002. An EA is available for public review. The proposed amendment would include the Terms and Conditions of the Biological Opinion to the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species.
12. Indian Creek Road and Bridge	Symmes Twp, Lawrence Co.	November, 2001	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof, 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.
13. Kenton Lake Improvements	Ironton District	December 2003	September 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	This proposal is to harden a boat launch site and to construct an accessible fishing pier and trail.
14. Kudzu Treatment	Ironton	April 2002	October 2002	Erin Larson, Nelsonville	Proposal is to treat one patch of Kudzu that has become established along County Rd. 210 in Lawrence County. The goal is to eradicate this patch over a 3-5 year period through use of goats to repeatedly graze the kudzu.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
15. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Addition.	Athens	1996 – re-issued October 2001	December 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	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. Work on the EA is underway. A draft should be out for public review in early October.
16. New Straitsville Land Exchange	Athens Ranger District	May 2001	January 2003	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	A proposal has been received from the Village of New Straitsville for 105 acres of federal land. The Village is interested in economic development and wish to expand development onto what is now federal land. The federal tract includes three special use permits and several easements. In return the Forest would receive 95 acres including a 14-acre wetland, a tract within the Monday Creek ORV area, and a tract adjacent a special area. A draft EA is expected out in late October for public review.
17. Prescribed Burning Program	Forest-wide	September 2001	March 31, 2003	Kevan Moore, Nelsonville	Work is approximately 70 percent complete on an environmental assessment on the impacts of prescribed burning four areas, totaling 2, 035 acres, to accomplish resource and fuels management objectives. A draft EA will be mailed out by early October for comment.
18. Re-introduction of threatened and endangered species	Forest-wide	February 2002	December 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.
Special Use Permits					
19. Buried Water Line	T4N, R17W, Sec 32	May 2002	October 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made to lay a 610' long section of water line in the Martin Road area to provide service to a house currently being constructed on an adjacent private tract. Awaiting clearance from the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
20. Drake 4C well development	Benton Twp, Monroe Co.	February 2002	October 15, 2002	Marsha Wikle, Nelsonville	The draft EA for this project was completed on August 29, 2002. The comment period closes September 28 on the draft EA for this project to develop federal minerals by the Carlton Oil Corporation on the Drake 4C well. The proposed site for the well pad is 100' by 200' and, during the drilling operation, will contain equipment such as water tanks, a small structure known as a "doghouse", and a drill rig. Permanent fixtures would include a pump jack elevated above the flood plain. If approved, a 700' access road, 24' wide, will be constructed from the Drake #4 well north to this site and utility lines will be buried along the access road.
21. Pine Creek Road Repair	Lawrence County	September 13, 2002	Spring 2003	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	The Forest is considering making repairs and reconstructing the existing Pine Creek Road (FR 132).
22. Proposed Permit to Repair Land Slip	York Twp, Athens Co.	June 2001	October 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.
23. Proposed Temporary Road Permit	T6N, R17W, Sec 22. Gallia Co.	October 2002	December 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Mead Paper Company has requested the use of approximately 1500' of existing road across federal land to access a tract of timber to be harvested on private land.
24. Powerline request	Green Twp, Hocking Co.	May 3, 2002	October 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	An application proposes construction of approximately 60 feet of overhead power line from an existing power line to adjacent private land near Haydenville, Ohio.
25. Temporary Road Permit	T4N, R19W, Sec 27	March 2002	July 2002	Nelson Krueger	A proposal has been made to use a temporary road to haul timber from private land in the Dennison Hollow area (the same road was used in 1979 and 1987).

Project Name and Description	Location	Initial Public Inv.	Est. Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
26. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Athens District	July 2002	October 2002	Tom Thompson, Marietta and Max Norris, Nelsonville	Approximately 36 special use permits are up for renewal. 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. These permitted uses have been in place for many years and there will be no new disturbance. These permits include oil and gas pipelines, power lines, telephone lines, cultivation, private roads, and a garage.

Completed Decision Documents

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
27. Access road and site use	T6N, R17W, Sec 29	March 2002	July 19, 2002	Nelson Krueger	The Forest Service issued a permit for a short access road and site use in order to plug two abandoned leaking gas wells in the Peniel area. The Bureau of Land Management is the lead agency. The work on the road and two small pads needed to set up the equipment will be done in October.
28. Hay Cultivation Permit	Lawrence County	January 2002	August 14, 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	Two permits for hay cultivation that had been approved. Both areas had been under permit earlier, then were dropped. One field is 31 acres, and the other is 3 acres. Both are now being hayed. The requested grazing permit processed with the hay cultivation areas, was dropped.
29. Monday Creek Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Area Improvements.	Athens	September 2001	August 6, 2002	Jennie Freidhof, Nelsonville	A decision was made to relocate 8 short sections of trail off Forest Service and Township roads and relocate some surface pipelines to allow for road maintenance. One additional section currently on Forest Road 1985 was dropped from this proposal and will be looked at further.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
30. Permit to Conduct Geophysical Investigations	Monday Creek & Monroe Twp., Perry County & Trimble Twp, Athens County	April-May 2002	July 23, 2002	Max Norris, Nelsonville	A permit has been approved for Precision Geophysical Inc. to conduct geophysical investigations for oil and gas. A total of 3.4 miles of line will be explored. Backpack augers will be used to drill test holes. Three 5-foot holes will be drilled every 110 feet and 1/3 lbs of explosive placed in each hole. Geophone lines will be placed along the seismic line to pick up vibrations from the explosives.
31. Proposed Road Access	T4N, R19W, Sec 36	March 2002	September 10, 2002	Nelson Krueger	A decision has been made to approve the use of 200 feet of access road for farm machinery to a private landowner for access to adjacent cropland along Pine Creek.
32. Private Road Access	Trimble Twp, Athens Co.	May 3, 2002	August 23, 2002	Gary Cravens, Nelsonville	This proposal made by Sheldon Kittle to use approximately 1, 500 feet (0.69 acres) of existing road on Forest Service land for access to a private residence has been approved.
33. Prescribed Burning for Yellow-fringed orchid	Grandview Twp, Washington Co.	May 9, 2002	August 7, 2002	Erin Larson, Nelsonville	A decision has been made to use a combination of prescribed burning and shrub/small tree removal to reduce hazardous fuel build-up and open the understory for increased sunlight exposure to populations to yellow-fringed orchid. Eight acres are involved in this project. The burn will take place in the fall of 2002, and every 2-5 years thereafter.
34. Renewals of Special Use Permits.	Gallia and Lawrence Counties	August 15, 2001	June 4, 2002	Nelson Krueger, Ironton	A decision was made to renew 15 of the 19 permits up for renewal. Permits may be renewed if the use is still desired and all conditions have been met. Four of the permits proposed earlier for renewal, hay cultivation in Gallia County and military training permits in Lawrence County are still being analyzed. Size limitations on categorically excluding permit issuance caused these permits to be pulled out and considered separately. These special use permits will be re-issued for a 10-year period.

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
35. Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) - Grapevine Control Athens District	Athens District	June 16, 2002	August 7, 2002	Charles Klee, Nelsonville	The decision was made to conduct TSI, specifically grapevine control, on 1,495 acres of forest stands throughout the Athens and Marietta Units of the Athens District. The grape vines compete with and damage desirable trees. Ten acres were dropped from the original proposal due to a concern over a sensitive plant species.
36. Timber Stand Improvement (TSI) - Grapevine Control Ironton District	Ironton District	June 16, 2002	September 12, 2002	Gary Dixon, Ironton	The decision was made to conduct TSI, specifically grapevine control on 438 acres of forest stands on the Ironton District. The acreage was reduced slightly from the original proposal after internal scoping and comments from the public.

Projects in Progress – Decision Documents Complete

Project Name and Description	Location	Public Inv.	Decision Date	Contact Person	Status of Project
37. Vesuvius Dam repair.	Lawrence Co.	April 16, 1997	May 1998	Mike Freidhof, Ironton	Work on the dam is nearly complete. Boat ramp improvements will start in early October and should take approximately six weeks to complete. Construction of the boardwalk is not due to start until winter or spring. Due to the ongoing construction, the valve will now not be closed until July 2003. The delay is due to construction delays during the winter months. After the valve is closed the lake should begin to refill and DNR will restock the fish in the fall.

KIMBLE CREEK PILOT PROJECT

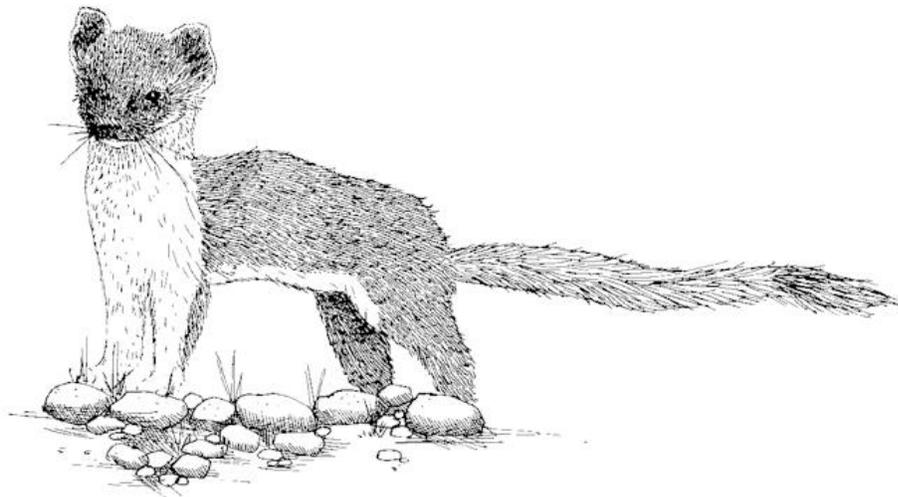
An abandoned coalmine is located near Kimble Creek, on National Forest land in northern Lawrence County, Ohio. The site is adjacent to Highway 93, approximately five miles south of the town of Blackfork, Ohio. The abandoned coalmine is discharging strong acid mine drainage (AMD) into Kimble Creek. The mine "blew out" in 1995, impacting seven miles of upper Pine Creek and at least one private well. Investigations conducted by ODNR and others between 1995 and 1998, and USFS investigations since 2000, indicate extensive mine tunnels, some of which are flooded.

Acid Mine Drainage contains sulfuric acid, a hazardous substance. The Forest Service addresses releases of hazardous substances on federal land through its authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).

This project will address toxic acid mine drainage from the Kimble Creek abandoned mine site which impacts Kimble and Upper Pine Creeks. The FS has considered many alternatives to curtail the acid mine drainage including conventional and passive water treatment, mine dewatering, and biological treatments.

This fall, we plan to install a pilot-scale Pyrolusite® Process water treatment system. The purpose is to collect necessary data to evaluate effectiveness of this technology on discharges similar to those at Kimble Creek. The test of the system will begin next spring. "Pyrolusite" is a patented method of removing heavy metals from AMD. It resembles a pile of limestone that the contaminated water flows through. Selected bacteria are inoculated into the limestone. These bacteria are cultured for their unique ability to remove dissolved metals, simultaneously etching away at the limestone to raise the pH. Construction of the pilot project is anticipated to begin in October 2002. The system requires a minimum monitoring period of one year to determine effectiveness, or to make adjustments to improve the results. If the year-long test is successful, we would plan to install a full-scale treatment system in 2004.

Tim Buxton is designated the On Scene Coordinator. Mike Nicklow of the Nelsonville office is designated spokesperson for this project. He can be reached at 740-753-0555.



Long Tailed Weasel

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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