



Success Stories

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Partners on the Wayne Reclaim Waste Coal Pile

Work is underway to reclaim a two-acre pile of waste coal on the Wayne National Forest. The low-grade coal—called gob—was piled 40 to 50 feet high on the site, and is all that remains of the Jobs Hollow Number 13 Coal Mine.

“The pile was left behind when the mine closed in the early 1900’s,” according to Ted King, the project coordinator.

King said Hocking Technical College in Nelsonville, Ohio, entered into a challenge cost-share agreement with the Wayne NF to clean up and rehabilitate the gob pile area, located near New Lexington in Perry County, Ohio.

The college agreed to donate approximately \$16,000 in labor and equipment time. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$57,000. Work began in January, and is scheduled to be completed in August 2003.

“The Forest Service acquired the site, along with the subsurface rights, several years ago,” King said. “It is one of several similar sites in the area which has a long history of underground and surface mining.”



This “gob pile” of waste coal is being cleaned up thanks to efforts of partners on the Wayne.

The waste coal pile sits on a steep slope adjacent to a stream that drains into the headwaters of Monday Creek. A strip pit above the gob pile drains into the pile as well, causing acidic water runoff that may enter the creek and groundwater.

King explained that under the challenge cost share agreement, Hocking College will complete the earthwork according to engineering plans provided by the Forest Service. In return, the Forest Service will reimburse them for some supplies and provide planning and technical expertise.

“Most of the funding will come from state and federal dollars earmarked for mine reclamation,” King says.

“Our share is only about 12 percent of that amount,” said King. “It’s a tremendous opportunity for us to get a lot of work economically.”

The clean-up program also has profits for Hocking as well.

“It also benefits the technical college,” King explained. “One of their programs is Environmental Restoration. It may be one of the fastest growing fields in the college, preparing students to restore environmentally unstable land.”

King said the college trains students with heavy equipment: bulldozers, excavators, dump trucks, etc., and working with the Wayne NF allows the students to get hands-on experience.

Hocking College has received national awards for combining environmental training with working in the public sector to restore land.

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Fisheries Biologists Work to Enhance Habitat



The fisheries crew secures a downed tree that will enhance habitat in the West Branch of the Upper Ammonoosuc River in New Hampshire.

There's not only fish splashing around in the brooks of the White Mountain National Forest in Maine and New Hampshire. On any given day between ice-out and freeze-up, you're likely to see Androscoggin Ranger District biotechnician Jay Milot where he likes to be best—in a stream, checking out the fish situation.

He's usually analyzing the habitat, surveying the species mix, and making mental notes about streamside vegetation and impacts left by timber barons of past centuries. He'll also be studying the success of past stream projects and scoping out a likely place for the next one.

The lands in this part of New England were heavily logged in the late 1800s and early 1900s, scouring many a stream course that served to transport logs from the hills to the mills. As more streamside trees traveled to town, in-stream habitat diversity suffered. Gone were the trees that would have eventually fallen in to form pools and provide cover for resident fish.

It wasn't that long ago that the White Mountain NF fisheries program focused mostly on data collection as stream habitat conditions and trout populations were inventoried and tallied. But over the last decade, the Forest began to use that data to design and implement in-stream habitat improvement projects.

Supported by the able leadership and expertise of Forest Fisheries Program Leader Mark Prout and District Biologist Lesley Rowse, Jay implemented several habitat improvement projects in Maine's Evans Brook. Early monitoring data indicates success in the form of increased woody cover, more pool habitat, and bigger fish.

The projects caught the eye of folks in New Hampshire. The staff work, sensitive implementation, and professional approach by Jay, Lesley, and Mark won the support of officials with New Hampshire Fish and Game and the Department of Environmental Services. A stream restoration project implemented last year in northern New Hampshire makes it clear as a babbling brook that the projects' habitat benefits are just part of the pay-off: the extra success shines in the partnerships formed after many field trips and much insightful dialogue.

The New Hampshire Stream Team was born, bringing together the Forest Service, New Hampshire Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NH Department of Environmental Services, National Park Service, Trout Unlimited and the Army Corps of Engineers to address stream issues across jurisdictions and interests. Members of this interagency network now share expertise, publications and resources. They help each other collect monitoring data, establish reference stream reaches at gauging stations, and provide input to habitat projects throughout New Hampshire.

Back in Maine, Forest biologists are now focusing their attention on a new stream restoration project, this time in Great Brook. Together with the local Soil and Water Conservation District and neighboring cabin owners, the White Mountain NF will be improving Great Brook stream habitat over the next five years. The Northeast Research Station has joined in to design monitoring plans for fish, invertebrates, and physical features of the stream. The Stream Team's efforts are rippling through the region. Restoration projects are now proposed on federal, state, and private lands, with the Forest Service viewed as a leader in stream habitat management.

The credibility of the agency has grown due to the efforts of the White Mountain NF biologists. Jay Milot, Lesley Rowse, and Mark Prout are recent recipients of the Regional Forester's Honor Award for leadership in stream habitat management, and are now nominees for the 2002 "Rise To The Future" award that honors fisheries management accomplishments across the nation.



State ATV Grant Benefits Allegheny NF

McKean County (PA) has been awarded an \$80,000 grant by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to prepare a master-site development plan and environmental study for approximately 100 miles of all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trails in the Allegheny National Forest.

The Allegheny NF has partnered with McKean County Planning Commission to write the grant.

The award was part of a \$700,000 eight-grant program announced Jan. 14, 2003, by the DCNR to develop and improve ATV and snowmobile riding opportunities for the public. The state grant monies can be used to help buy land; develop plans and conduct surveys; construct and maintain ATV and snowmobile trails; and conduct training related to ATV and snowmobile use.

Currently there are 108 miles of maintained ATV trails on the ANF, the largest public trail system in a five-state area. Ten miles, considered short by ATV standards, currently comprise the Willow Creek ATV Trail that is eleven miles west of Bradford.

It is in this 10,000-acre area that the study for this grant will be performed. The Forest Service has already designated this area as an Intensive Use Area, one beneficial to ATV trail development. McKean County is working closely with the ANF to develop these additional trail miles, improve the existing trail and add amenities to service one of the fastest growing recreational industries.

Several groups support this project including the Allegheny Trail Riders, The Tuna Valley Trail Association, the Kinzua Valley Trail Association, the ATVtraction organization and the Allegheny National Forest Vacation Bureau, McKean County's tourist promotion agency, which has a long-standing relationship with the ANF in promoting the Region and disseminating information to attract and promote tourism.

The Allegheny Trail Riders have offered to assist in trail surveys for the Environmental Impact Statement preparation and trail maintenance once this system is in place. Other individual volunteers and volunteer groups are expected to cooperate in an effort to collect data, and to assemble and mail the study results.

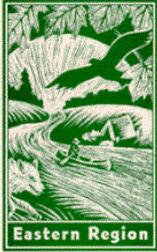
The groups that support this project will also provide guidance and assistance with connecting the proposed trail to other projects planned for the Region.

Once the study is completed, the trail could provide further linkage opportunities—when feasible—with other trails being planned by the local ATV groups within McKean County.



The use of All-Terrain Vehicles on the Allegheny is a popular pastime, and new grant money from the state will improve this form of recreation.





Wayne Employees Honor Deployed Soldiers



The tower of the Nelsonville Supervisor's Office is adorned with seven candles to show support for the deployed soldiers from the Wayne NF and their families.

Seven candles burn in the tower of the Wayne National Forest Headquarters in front of an American flag. Each candle represents a deployed soldier. When illuminated at night it can be seen from U.S. Highway 33.

Becky Stewart, Information Receptionist on the Wayne, said it was first done as a send off for a Wayne employee leaving for deployment. Then, because so many families on the Wayne NF were personally affected by the deployments, they left it up.

"It was something we could do as a tribute to the soldiers," she said. Robyn Wright and Mandy Reese helped with the USA banner.

Stewart said she wanted to represent both the employees and family members that were deployed.

"It's on everyone's mind, especially those whose families are gone," Stewart explained.

One candle is for a co-worker whose empty desk is a grim reminder of the absence of citizen-soldiers from our workforce.

One candle is for the husband of a co-worker, deployed with the same National Guard unit to unknown lands.

Three candles are for sons, one for a daughter, and one for a nephew of those who work in the Nelsonville office.

Forest Supervisor Mary Reddan has a son and a daughter deployed for the war.

"I'm proud to be a mother of two fine children who have been chosen to support the American people through service to their country in the armed forces," Reddan said. "I'm pleased that we are able as a Forest Service office to recognize those serving their country."

Stewart said she got the idea when Wanda Poston, a SCSEP enrollee on the Athens District, was telling her that the hardest time in her life was when her husband was off in World War II.

"Wanda said the happiest time was when he came home," Stewart explained. "Wanda talked about how everyone kept the home fires burning while the soldiers were gone in World War II."

Stewart said the World War II slogan prompted her to think of candles, and keeping the candles burning until the soldiers returned.

"This war will affect all of us," Stewart said solemnly. "Hanging a flag is a small thing, but it shows our support for the families of these soldiers and helps remind us of their sacrifice."

Stewart said they have many veterans in the Nelsonville office, and patriotism is never in short supply.

"If I could," Stewart said, "I'd hang a flag on every light post to show everyone how proud we are of our soldiers!"





Hoosier Biologist Leads NAAMP Training

“This one sounds a lot like running your fingernail over the teeth of a comb,” suggests Anne Timm, Fisheries Biologist on the Hoosier NF, as she played a recorded call of a Western Chorus Frog. The group listened and made notes.

Timm just completed training the first group of volunteers on the Hoosier to participate in the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP). This national program began in 1999 and has established protocols for monitoring frogs and toads across the country.

Timm, who did her graduate work on frogs in reclaimed coal mining areas of southern Indiana, brings enthusiasm and a wealth of knowledge to the program and is excited about the possibility of increasing the forest’s awareness in amphibians and their habitat.

Each volunteer received a cassette tape and CD with the calls of 16 Indiana native frogs and toads. Timm went over the characteristics of each of these species and how to tell their calls apart.

While Indiana has been an active participant in the program since 1999, the area around the Hoosier National Forest has never been well monitored. That was prior to Timm coming to the Forest. She’s now launched an ambitious program and assigned her newly trained volunteers, armed with their tapes and CDs and clipboards, to different call survey stationary sites.

The main goal of the program is to establish permanent, long-term monitoring sites and local driving routes that can be used to collect frog population data for both the Indiana non-game program and the Hoosier National Forest.



Hoosier Fisheries Biologist Anne Timm led volunteers through the basics of how to identify and monitor frogs and toads.

Wayne NF Featured on U.S. Postal Service Stamp



The new U.S. Postal Service stamp featuring the Wayne NF was released on March 1.

The U.S. Postal Service’s newest stamp features a color photo taken near Marietta, Ohio. The photographer, Ian Adams, said the picture depicts a country lane and barn located on the edge of the Wayne National Forest in Washington County.

The stamp commemorates the bicentennial of Ohio and was released March 1.

Ohio was the first state to be carved from the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory were lands ceded to the United States in 1787 after the Revolutionary War.

Ohio achieved statehood on March 1, 1803, after President Thomas Jefferson approved Ohio's constitution.

The Wayne National Forest covers 38,590 acres in Washington County, Ohio where this photo was taken.





White Mountain Bark Used in Local Ed Project



Volunteers assisted in the project by stripping the birch bark from the tree using putty knives and elbow grease.

When the Sandy Point Discovery Center—an environmental interpretation and education facility, located in Stratham, N.H.—needed paper birch bark to re-create a Native American wigwam, they turned to the White Mountain National Forest for assistance.

Brent Beebe from the Pemigewasset/Ammonoosuc Ranger District volunteered to coordinate the project and lend his back to the cause. Bark was harvested from recently cut paper birch trees within the White Mountain NF.

The Sandy Point Discovery Center—funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department—is located at a spot along the edge of Great Bay that was once used by the Abenaki tribes over 400 years ago.

Field trips, such as “The Trail of the Arrowhead,” are held at the Center. A guided discovery walk teaches students about native plants and animals along the way. Students travel

“back in time” as they visit an Abenaki-style fishing encampment where the wigwam is now placed.

While in camp, visitors have a chance to taste smoked fish, a staple in the diet of the American Indians that fished Great Bay. This, in turn, helps transport visitors back in time as they discover the natural resources of the Great Bay Estuarine System that were utilized by the native inhabitants of coastal New Hampshire.

Staying “Bear Aware” in Southeastern Ohio

The black bear has returned to Ohio.

Black bear sightings are coming in fast and furious. Black bears populated Ohio at the beginning of the European settlement, however the numbers began declining due to the disappearance of their habitat and uncontrolled trappings and shootings in the 1800’s.

Black bears are a state endangered species in Ohio. But as the forests return to the state, so too has the black bear.

In an effort to create awareness and co-existence strategies between humans and bears, a cooperative effort between the Athens and Hocking County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Hocking College, the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Wayne National Forest came to fruition.

State experts delivered a detailed presentation to over 200 people on Feb. 27. An additional 40-50 people could not be seated due to overcrowding and fire code issues. The audience was eager to learn more about this magnificent creature. Displays from the Wayne NF included a borrowed “Be Bear Aware” exhibit from Region 3, and the newest “Hiking in Black Bear Country” brochure from the Center for Wildlife Information in Montana.

“I couldn’t believe how fast our material went. Being able to give out professionally illustrated and informative brochures caught everyone’s attention and comments were very positive,” said Athens District Wildlife biologist Lynda Andrews. “The atmosphere in Ohio is extremely ripe for the this campaign.”



Local residents turned out Feb. 27 for information on the growing population of black bears in southeastern Ohio.



“Snowrolls” Pile Up on the Hoosier NF

Residents agreed they'd never seen such a thing happen before. The morning of February 11th, people in Lawrence County, Indiana, woke up to see snowballs in their yards and fields. Wet snow the previous day and high winds during the night had combined to create thousands of “snow rolls.”

Winds, gusting to 60 mph during the night, apparently whipped across the flat areas of the county and rolled up snow. Behind each snow roll was the path that the roll had followed, with the layers of the roll, like layers of carpet getting bigger to the outside of the roll. As the sun hit the rolls the narrow centers of the rolls melted, making many of them appear hollow.

Luella Pugh, Hoosier NF SCSEP, will soon celebrate her 90th birthday. She was fascinated with the snow rolls and said she had never seen or heard of such things. In the field north of the office parking lot snow rolls were abundant and employees snapped pictures on break and lunch hour.

Photographers were out in abundance capturing the phenomenon, and TV stations carried photos of fields of snow rolls in all the nearby communities. Pugh and the other SCSEPs said they felt privileged to have witnessed the incredible show and wanted pictures to pass on to their grandchildren of this once in a lifetime event.

The Hoosier National Forest, gained a new resource of interest for the fleeting days before the snow rolls melted as people drove in to see the rolls scattered in every open area and along roadsides.



Hearty wind gusts caused hundreds of snowrolls on the Hoosier NF on February 11.



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