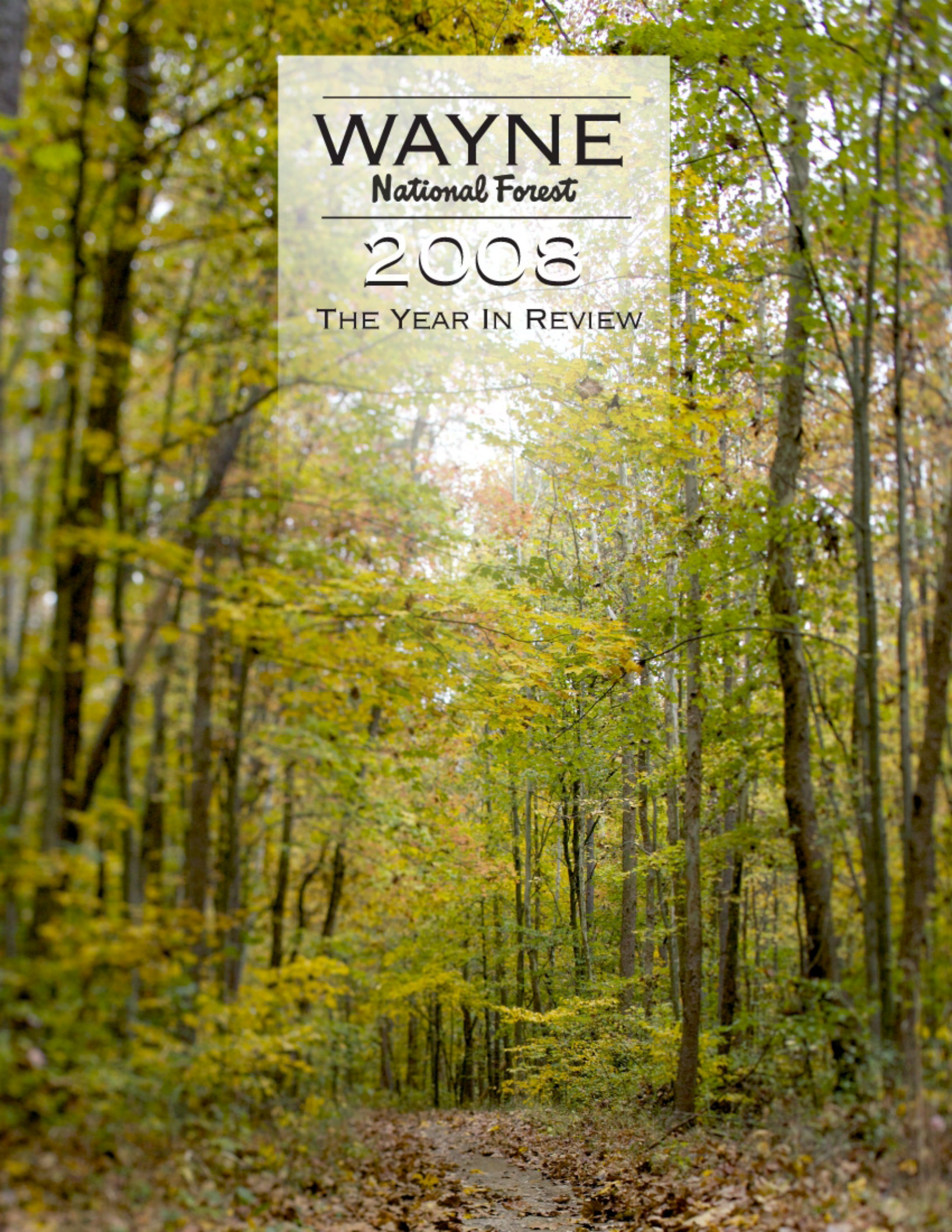


WAYNE
National Forest

2008
The Year In Review

A Letter From The Supervisor

As you read about some of our highlights this past year, I hope you feel as proud as I am of the work that was accomplished by the Wayne's full-time and seasonal employees. Many thanks to Jerri Marr for coming over from the Monongahela National Forest to work as the acting Forest Supervisor for half of the year, since Mary Reddan retired in the spring.

When I arrived here in August 2008 as the new Forest Supervisor, I learned right away southeastern Ohio and the Wayne National Forest are unique places to live and work. As we go forward into 2009, I see three primary priorities to help the Wayne National Forest implement the strong, ecologically based Forest Plan;

Restoration of ecosystems and watersheds - for example, continuing and expanding the watershed restoration work on abandoned mine lands, and sustaining an active effort to restore the oak ecosystem.

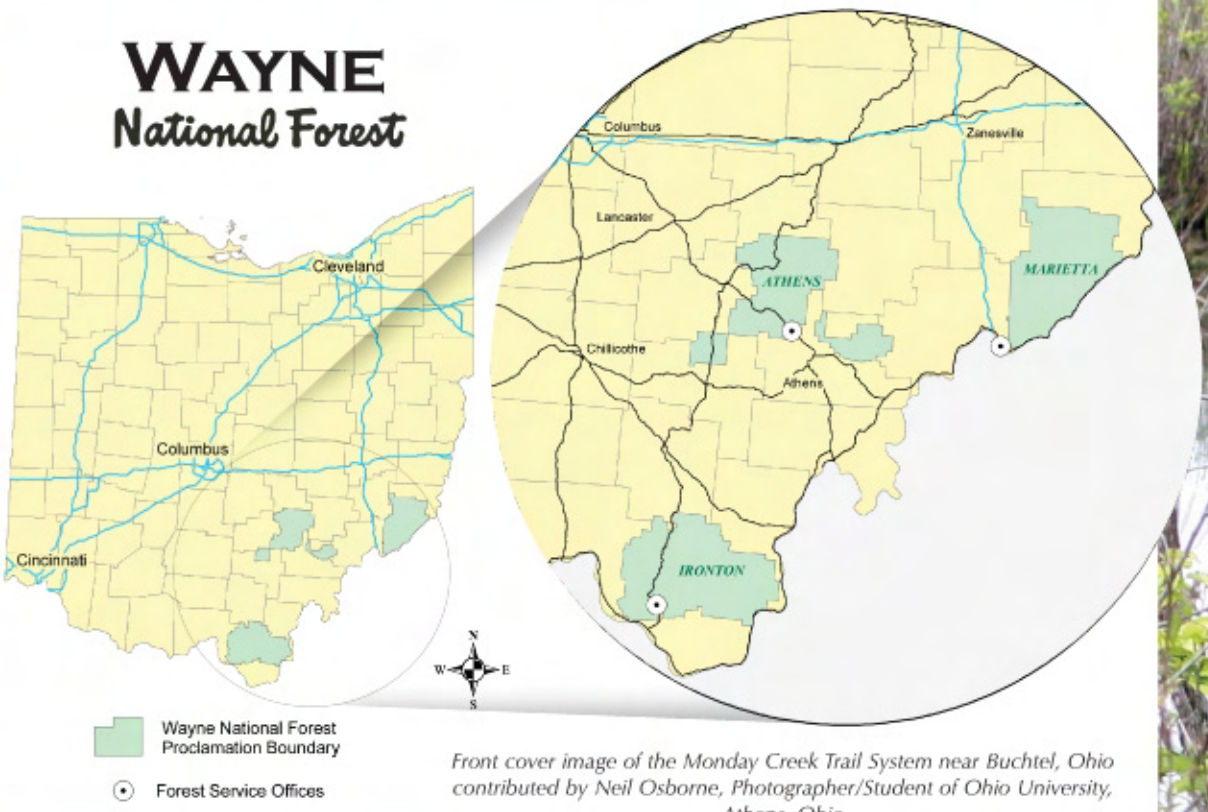
Recreation - the promotion of safe and legal off highway vehicle use, updating our recreation facilities, and interpreting the rich history and ecology of southeastern Ohio.

Community - we will continue to work with partners and other agencies to be involved in natural resource, economic and environmental sustainability efforts locally and statewide.

I look forward to learning more about the Wayne and its niche in the National Forest system, as well as in the Appalachian region.

Jo Reyer

Jo Reyer
Forest Supervisor



Front cover image of the Monday Creek Trail System near Buchtel, Ohio contributed by Neil Osborne, Photographer/Student of Ohio University, Athens, Ohio

Forest Headquarters

Nelsonville, Ohio

Snake Ridge Lookout Tower Gets a New Home

Snake Ridge Lookout Tower today at the Nelsonville Headquarters.

In 2008, the Snake Ridge Lookout was relocated and reconstructed adjacent to the Wayne National Forest Headquarters Office. This tower once stood along S.R. 278 southwest of Nelsonville. It was originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1939.

The tower was dismantled in the 1970s and donated to Hocking College where the top 50 feet was used for firefighting exercise drills. When the new Headquarters was built, the Forest asked to use the tower as an interpretive facility. The College was no longer using the tower, so it was returned and the lower portion was re-fabricated to restore its 100-foot height.

On top of the tower is a remote camera that shows an aerial view in the headquarter's lobby.

Increased Revenue for Recreation Improvements

Early figures show approximately 16,000 trail permits were sold in 2008, yielding about $380,000 in revenue for the Forest. Despite a 24 percent drop (21,000 permits sold in 2007) in trail permit sales, the Forest collected an additional $120,000 from the previous year. This was a direct result of the recreation fee increase approved in 2008. Prior to this action, the Forest had not raised its fees in 10 years.

During the scoping process, the Forest asked the public as to what level of fee increase they would like to see. The majority of the public agreed to a noteable increase, as long as additional services and amenties were provided.

At least 80 percent of the revenue will be used to operate and maintain existing campgrounds, picnic areas, and trails. These funds will also be used to help finance new recreation projects such as construction of trails, bathroom facilities, parking areas, and bulletin boards. Construction projects planned for 2009-2010 include a new 30-mile ATV trail connector with parking areas and restroom facilities on the Ironton Ranger District. On the Athens Ranger District, five additional miles will be added to the Monday Creek ATV Trail system near Camp Ohio.

Wayne Completes Phase II of Solar Panel Project

Additional solar capacity has been added to the Headquarters building and in October, 2008 the office showcased its new solar power system as part of the Annual Ohio Solar Tour. The Forest completed the installation of 30 additional solar panels, for a total of 50, on the roof. The panels offset energy costs, reduce the environmental footprint of the headquarters building, and provide educational opportunities to the public about renewable energy.

ATHENS RANGER DISTRICT & MARIETTA UNIT

"We had a great year. 2009 promises to be busy with some exciting projects."

-Develа Clark,
District Ranger

The Return of the American Burying Beetle

After 20 years of being listed as a federal endangered species, the American burying beetle (ABB) returned to the Forest when 288 pairs of the beetle were released June 25, 2008.

Male and female beetles were placed in excavated holes with a quail carcass. Twelve days later biologists returned and found that reproduction had taken place and larvae were thriving on several quail carcasses. Biologists will continue to monitor the insects.

U. S. Forest Service personnel and partners from the Ohio State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ohio Dept of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife, The Wilds, and the St. Louis Zoo were responsible for the placement of the beetles onto the Forest.

The Forest is now planning to release even more American burying beetles in 2009.

Partners in Action

In July 2008, the Wayne began a new partnership with the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) to remove autumn olive, an invasive plant, from grass and shrubland ecosystems on the Athens

Ranger District. Several species including grouse, bobwhite, turkey and the Henslow's sparrow, a declining species and a Regional Forester Sensitive Species, will benefit from this activity.

The RGS had the ideal equipment for the project, a Cat 297C skid steer with a mulcher. This machine is capable of removing autumn olive shrubs in seconds. The win-win situation benefits the Wayne by mechanically reducing fuels, restoring early successional habitat, removing non-native invasives, and restoring wildlife habitat. RGS benefits by promoting conditions suitable for ruffed grouse, American woodcock and related wildlife to sustain our sport hunting tradition and outdoor heritage.

Frontier Boat Launch Design Phase Completed

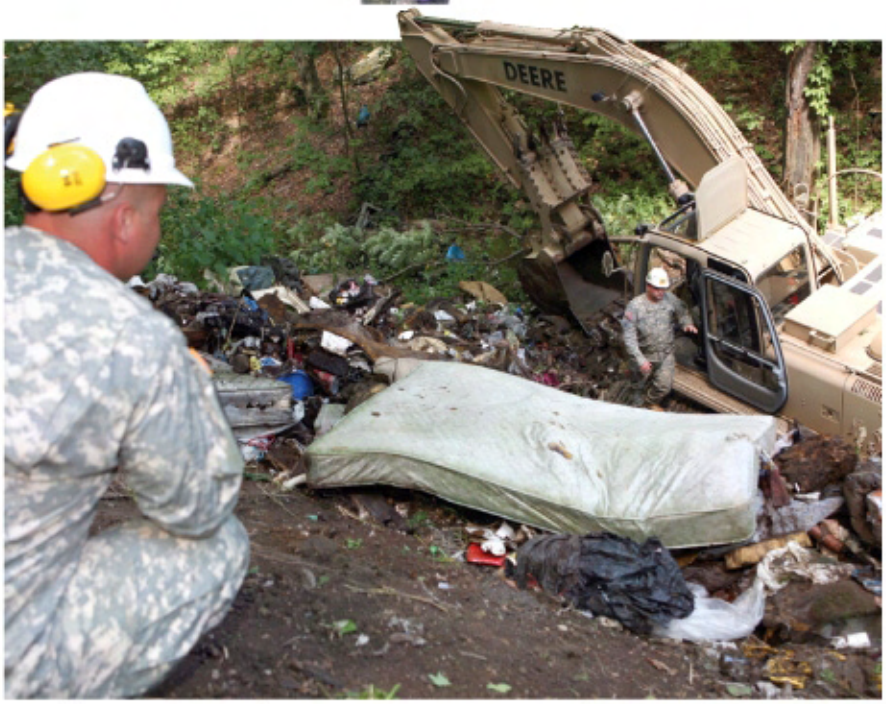
In 2008, the Forest started the design phase of the new 2.2 million dollar boat launching facility on the Ohio River. Funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the new facility will be located between Grandview and New Matamoras on State Route 7.

The facility will include 70 parking spaces for trucks and trailers and approximately 12 spaces for cars. It will have drinking water and toilets and be accessible for all recreational users. Site preparation has already started with construction planned for the summer of 2009. Completion is anticipated in 2010.

Project Improves Monday Creek Water Quality

Work on an abandoned mine project called Valley Junk has made a significant difference in the water quality for Monday Creek. Located on 7 acres east of Nelsonville, the project has stopped approximately 20-million gallons of surface water from draining into the underground mine complex and reacting with coal to create acid mine drainage.

The project closed 9 areas where the mine roof collapsed under the old stream channel, redesigned the main channel, and cleared mine waste products from the side drainages. In the last five years, several million dollars have been invested by the U.S. Forest Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Mineral Resources Management, Monday Creek Restoration Project, and other local watershed groups to restore watershed health in the area.



A soldier watches as the equipment operator inspects his equipment while cleaning up a large illegal dump on the Wayne National Forest.

Military Assists the Wayne

In 2008, the U.S. Army Reserve 779th Engineering Company from Parkersburg, WV worked with the Forest on two projects that helped soldiers receive real-world equipment operations training. The Wayne saved more than $56,000 by working with the Army.

The first project was an illegal dump that may have dated back over 60 years and overflowed onto private land. The dump was adjacent to the North Country National Scenic Trail, in addition to being an eyesore was a pathway for water runoff into the Little Muskingum River. The partnership removed 160 tons of trash and over 400 tires to protect the watershed.

The second project involved the reconstruction of a roadbed and two culvert replacements on the access road to Kinderhook horse trail. The parking area was also improved. The completion of the two projects led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Army Reserve unit and the Wayne to continue to work on projects in the future.

Ironton Ranger District

"I've had a warm welcome to the area and look forward to working with the community we serve."

-Tim Slone,
District Ranger

American Chestnuts Planted on the Wayne

In a partnership with the Wayne, the American Chestnut Foundation, Ohio University; Department of Environmental and Plant Biology, and researchers from the U.S. Forest Service Research Lab in Delaware, Ohio, several hundred disease-resistant American chestnut seedlings were planted on reclaimed strip mine sites on the Forest last spring.

One of the Hybrid American Chestnut seedlings raised at the U.S. Forest Service Research Lab in Delaware, Ohio was planted on the Wayne National Forest.

Both the Athens and Ironton Districts planted some of the seedlings. On the Ironton District, inmates from the Federal Corrections Institute of Ashland, KY assisted in planting the trees. Boy Scout Troop #38 from Proctorville, OH came out to lend a hand as well.

The American chestnut was nearly wiped out by blight in the early 20th century, and the surviving trees remain vulnerable to the fungus. However, through years of cross breeding with the Chinese chestnut, researchers have developed a blight-resistant hybrid that is 15/16th American chestnut. The Wayne hopes perhaps later this century the American chestnut will once again be common on our landscape.

The Forest will plant even more American chestnut trees in 2009.

Archery Trail Opens

The Wayne, in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation's (NWTF) South Hills Longbeard Chapter, developed a new half-mile archery trail with 18 field target sites. The "Longbow Trail" is located across from the boat dock in the Vesuvius Recreation Area. The trail provides unique opportunities for archers to test their skills in a forested setting.

The trail was financed with a NWTF Wheelin' Sportsman grant of almost $35,000, with an additional contribution of $65,000 from the Forest, which helped purchase and erect two prefabricated trail bridges, trail signs, and fund trail maintenance. Many local organizations and individuals also donated hundreds of hours assisting with the project. The Wayne and NWTF plan to have the trail extended in 2009 to provide additional parking and 8 fully accessible shooting targets.

Keith Brammer from Chesapeake, Ohio takes aim at a target on the new "Longbow Trail."

Wayne Completes Purchase of Cambria Tract

With help from The Nature Conservancy, the Wayne celebrated the successful completion of a partnership that added more than 4,100 acres of land to the Wayne National Forest in southeastern Ohio in October 2008.

In 2008, the Conservancy transferred 1,665 acres in Lawrence County and 514 acres in Gallia County to the U.S. Forest Service, completing a land protection project that began in 2004, when the Conservancy began buying the land from Mead-Westvaco Corp.

The entire tract was purchased by the U.S. Forest Service in four acquisitions over three years.

District Ranger Tim Slone, Acting Forest Supervisor Jerri Marr and Josh Knights, Executive Director of the Conservancy in Ohio.

Locally known as the Cambria tract, the property has historic value. The Underground Railroad was active in this area and the historic Pioneer Iron Furnace stack is located on the property. Numerous beaver ponds and picturesque sandstone rock outcroppings are scattered about the property.

Since 1989, The Nature Conservancy, a private conservation organization, has worked with the Wayne National Forest to protect several tracts.

Prescribed Burn Successful

Firefighters from the Wayne were pleased with the 2008 400-acre Young's Branch prescribed burn. The burn area is located in Decatur Township in Lawrence County and Vernon and Bloom townships in Scioto County.

The Wayne uses prescribed burning to manage habitat for wildlife by maintaining forest health and promoting the growth of beneficial plant species. It also reduced hazardous fuels (fallen trees) that were left behind from the historic 2003 ice storm, returning vital nutrients to the soil. This burn also helps re-establish oak and hickory trees, supporting wildlife habitat in the area.

Wayne NF firefighter Derrick Wilkerson uses a drip torch to ignite leaves along the fire line on the Young's Branch prescribed burn.

County Roads Benefit From Forest Highway Improvements

Forest highways provide access to the Wayne National Forest. The Forest Highway Program for Ohio is administered and funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Projects are cooperatively selected and managed by Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), FHWA and the Wayne National Forest. These funds may be used for the planning, design and construction of highways, roads, parkways, and transit facilities that provide access to or within National Forest System lands.

Ohio typically receives approximately $200,000 annually in forest highway funds, which require a 20 percent local match. The following chart shows the amount of federal highway dollars (total for 2006-2009 of $1.8 million) that have been or will be used for forest highways in Gallia, Monroe, Lawrence, and Washington counties.

Forest Highway Money For County Projects 2006-2009

Project	Total Dollars
Bridge Replacement,Fish Passage, State Hwy 26	$580, 000
Paddle Creek Bridge Replacement	$50,000
Bridge Replacement, Old Camp Road 88	$88,280
Bridge Redecking, Ring Mill/Benton Twp 575	$30,000
Bridge Replacement, Rinard Mills Rd 138	$383, 000
(3) Fish Passage Culverts, Peniel Road 68	$100, 000
Bridge Replacement, Stonehouse	$350, 000
Road Reconstruction, County Road 9	$215, 000

Rinard Mill Bridge was one of the projects funded with federal highway funds.

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Wayne National Forest 2008 Payments to Counties

In 2008, Ohio counties received $2.31-$5.66/acre (**average was $3.53/acre**) for NF lands within their counties. Although national forests do not pay property taxes for land managed by the federal government, these are funds paid in lieu of taxes to compensate local governments for the land taken off the tax rolls. Counties also benefited from the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act as part of Public Law 110-343. In addition, monies were also paid for road projects, cooperative law enforcement, and volunteer fire department support.

County	NF Acreage	PILT Payment	Secure Rural Schools Payments	Mineral Payments	Total Payment to County
Athens	18,632	$25,376	$50,100	$7,435	$82,911
Gallia	17,563	22,694	29,069	6,804	58,567
Hocking	26,002	47,746	56,324	2,897*	106,967
Jackson	1,701	3,130	4,315	679	8,124
Lawrence	73,368	132,358	9,568	27,839	169,765
Monroe	24,414	31,614	55,850	9,690	97,154
Morgan	3,328	6,167	11,369	1,328	18,864
Noble	694	1,174	2,431	277	3,882
Perry	22,270	40,934	60,791	8,840	110,565
Scioto	11,625	21,366	26,409	4,639	52,414
Vinton	1,869	2,409	6,567	746	9,722
Washington	39,511	50,145	65,773	15,706	131,624
TOTAL	**240,977**	**$385,113**	**$378,566**	**$86,880**	**$850,559**

** An overpayment in 2006 resulted in a reduced amount paid to Hocking County.*

Wayne
National Forest

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