



## New Technology Improves Boundary Management on the Wayne NF

*The Wayne NF invests in people and equipment to improve their Forest boundary line program.*



Mike Nicklow with the new equipment and signage for the Wayne National Forest.

"The Wayne National Forest has an ownership pattern that resembles a jig saw puzzle," said Lands Program Manager Rich Jones. Jones explained the Forest ownership is comprised of several large contiguous blocks and many smaller islands of public land intermingled with private lands.

The Wayne has one of the most complex ownership patterns in the nation, with more than 2,000 miles of property lines within 238,000 acres of public land stretched over twelve southeastern Ohio counties.

Realizing the complexity of the task of keeping up these 2,000 miles of property lines, Jones said the Wayne took two important steps. In 2005, the Wayne hired a full-time land surveyor and purchased a Robotic Total Station Surveying Instrument for his use.

Chip Chapman, now the Wayne NF surveyor, said this instrument is truly amazing in that it allows the surveyor to work independently on projects or at a minimum with one additional aid.

Chapman said, "With this equipment I can respond quickly to trespass and encroachment issues, provide superior project work and use the instrument in all kinds of weather."

Chapman has found no shortage of opportunities to use the equipment. The Wayne, like many other eastern Forests, has chronic trespass and encroachment problems. Many of the property boundaries are not marked to standard or have not been adequately maintained for many years.

"The public wants to know where their public land is. Having good land lines helps prevent adjacent landowners from trespassing when they harvest timber, build fences, or put up new homes," Chapman asserted.

Jones and Chapman agree that the Wayne needs to identify Forest ownership to better manage the land and provide a recognizable ownership pattern with well marked boundaries.

Today, with Chapman's expertise and his new surveying equipment the Wayne is moving forward, successfully, with the Forest's boundary management program to get the job done.

"End result," said Jones, "is that visitors will be better able to find their public lands and enjoy them."

*For more information contact Richard Jones at 740-534-6579*