



Partners Step Forward to Help on the Wayne NF

The National Wild Turkey Federation presented the Forest with a grant to develop a barrier-free archery trail at Lake Vesuvius.



NWTF members present Ironton District Ranger Gloria Chrismer with a check for \$34,250.

As an unexpected bonus to the Wheelin' Sportsman event this year, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) presented the Wayne National Forest with a check for \$34,250.

"The NWTF continues to provide incredible support for many of our efforts on the district," said Ironton District Ranger Gloria Chrismer. "Their efforts have significantly increased the access that sportsmen with disabilities have on the Wayne and, with this money, we'll be able to do even more."

Buddy Fry, past president of the Ohio Chapter of NWTF, said he was very pleased that Ohio received the first grant under the new national program.

"The Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF Matching Grants Program is a great way to help get people with disabilities outdoors," said Kirk Thomas, Wheelin Sportsmen national coordinator. "We think it will encourage projects that provide access for everyone. We've had great success with events in Wayne National Forest, so to have our first project there made sense."

The grant was awarded for the construction of a new half mile barrier-free archery trail and range on the Ironton District. The grant will help construct two boardwalks and purchase signs, benches and gravel.

"Even if people aren't into archery, they can still enjoy the trail," said Chrismer. "This grant gives people the chance to get outside who otherwise might not be able to. We really appreciate the work of Wheelin' Sportsmen. It's great to have the support of organizations like the National Wild Turkey Federation."

Projects benefiting individuals with disabilities are eligible for funds through Wheelin' Sportsmen NWTF. To be eligible, projects must provide individuals with disabilities opportunities to participate in and enjoy outdoor activities. In addition, they must

promote education, good health, good character, sportsmanship, recreation, self-esteem and disability awareness.

The archery trail is currently under construction with a completion date planned for summer 2008. The trail will have eleven archery points. Wayne forest technician Eddie Park believes the trail will be a real asset to sportsman in the area.

"There has never been an archery area here before and we've heard for years that people wanted to see one provided," said Park. "With the draw that Lake Vesuvius provides, it is a fun activity that people can do as a family or work on their individual skills as an archer."

Park said the archery trail likely would not have been possible without the help of partners like the NWTF.

For more information contact Teena Ligman at 812-277-3579