

January 3rd 2019

Ironton Unit

Wayne National Forest management plan revision, phase one.

Report of the Culture and Heritage Working Group

Contributors

Jill McCleese

Carol Davey

Committee Members

Jill McCleese

Rick McCleese

Carol Davey

Barbara Lund

Judy Dumke

Al Tonetti

Introduction

The Culture and Heritage working group based within Ironton Unit of the Wayne has spent the last several months delving into the significance of the forest as it relates to our shared narrative, our history, and our families. The group was formed through the revision planning process and consists of voices from a variety of interested parties including recreation, environmental, and business owners. Each member of the working group was drawn to collaborate on this project because of the importance of the Wayne not only to our economies, but to the identity of our communities. The Wayne is the place where so many of our memories, traditions, and prospects for the future are housed. The following is but a brief overview of why the Wayne is more than the sum of its parts.

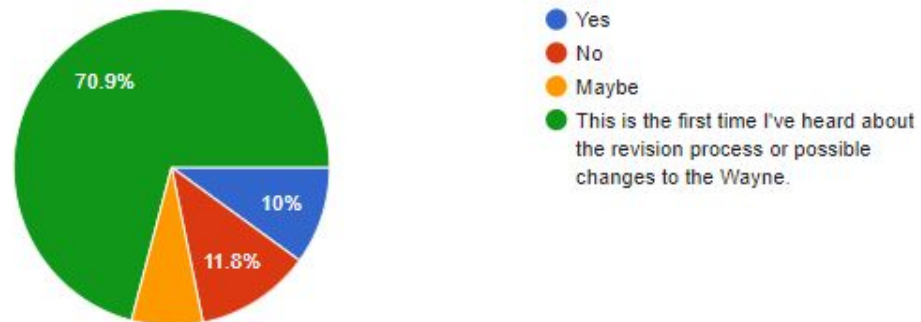
Questionnaire Results

The revision planning process offered this group the opportunity to not only share our own opinions and research, but to aggregate and lift the voices of our neighbors and friends. Working in collaboration with the Athens Culture and Heritage working group, we crafted a questionnaire specific to our unit of the forest. While the data should not be considered empirical or soundly scientific, the information gathered does lend more voices than just the four of us within the working group. The [questionnaire](https://goo.gl/forms/f0W9x5lhLqP1WKN72)¹ garnered 138 responses in a three week window. We believe this type of public engagement should be utilized by the forest service once the draft plan is released to gain insights into public opinion beyond those who attend or call into planning meetings. Furthermore, the working group believes that the forest service should utilize all the groups including recreation, air and water quality, culture, etc. etc to assist in crafting the questions and sharing the surveys within their networks. The graph of responses below shows that the majority of those who answered have no knowledge of the revision planning process.

¹ <https://goo.gl/forms/f0W9x5lhLqP1WKN72>

Do you feel informed of the Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Process?

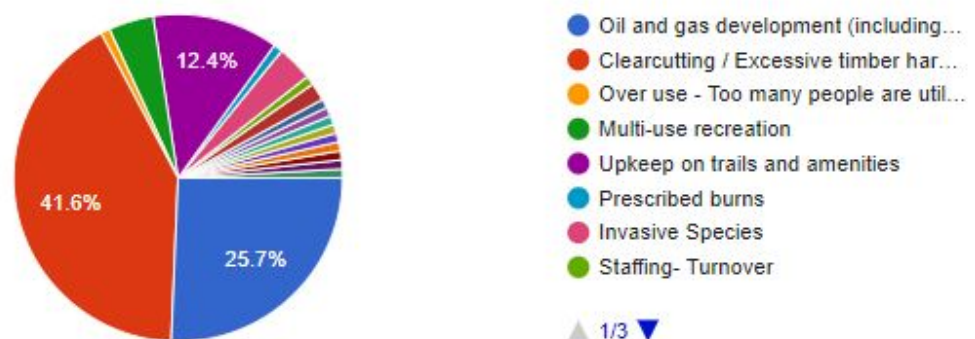
110 responses



The forest is an asset, on meant to generate funds through the selling of its resources. Forest management thereby is the delicate balance of profit versus sustainability, like a farmer forecasting his crop rotation for seasons to come, the forest service must also conduct their business with an eye on tomorrow and the thousands that follow. But they must also balance the price communities surrounding and within the Wayne are paying in exchange for the extraction of resources. From added stress to local infrastructure to public health impacts, the business of the Wayne has real world costs for communities. Amongst the most important-- the thriving eco-tourist economies that are dependent on the Wayne being seen as a place people wish to visit.

What issues do you feel poses the biggest threats to the Wayne National Forest?

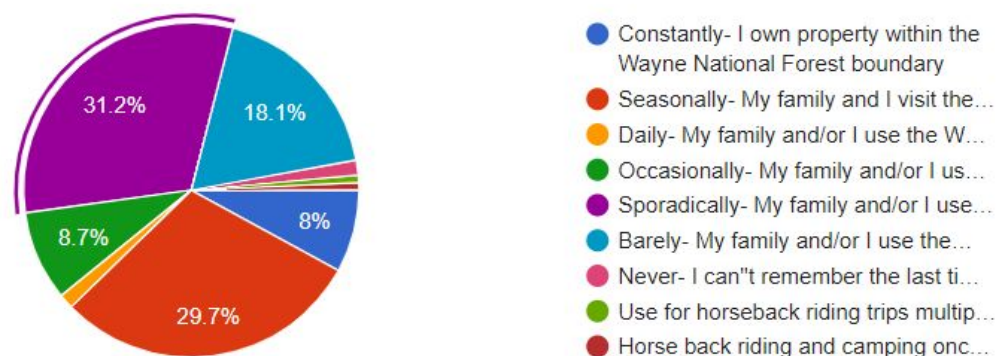
113 responses



Cultural Significance

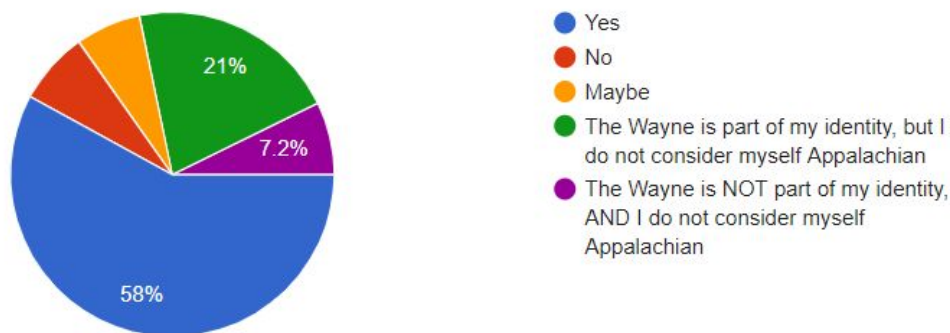
How often do you visit or use the Wayne for recreation, health, spiritual, or togetherness (such as reunions) purposes

138 responses



Do you feel the Wayne is part of your identity as an Appalachian?

138 responses

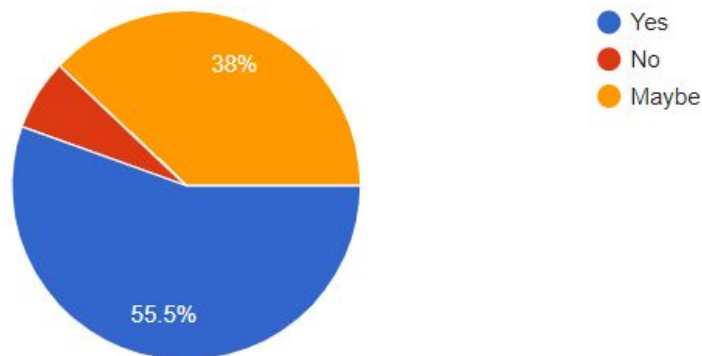


The questionnaire responses above show something interesting about our community. 80 of the 138 people who completed the questionnaire said the Wayne was a part of their identity, while the majority of people said they frequented the Wayne on a sporadic or less basis. Meaning there are a number of people who may not live within or visit the Wayne heavily, but the forest is a part of their culture and identity. Moreover, the culture of what it means to be Appalachian is intrinsically tied to the public lands, lush forests, and beautiful landscapes that make up our

mountains and foothills. Appalachians not only wish to keep the forest within their backyards, they wish to keep it protected. See the graphs below as to how the people of the Ironton Forest Unit support both Wilderness and Recreation designation, with almost unanimous support for the wilderness designation.

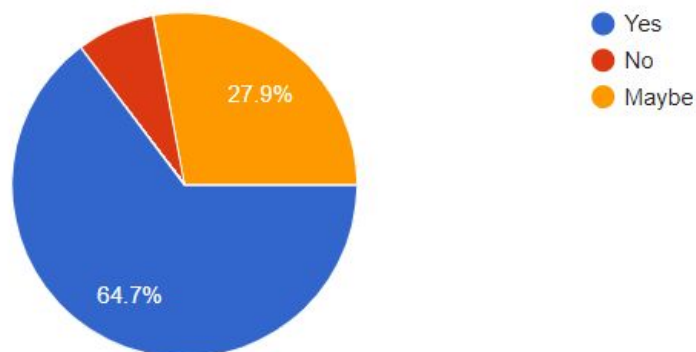
Would you support a portion of the Ironton Unit of the Wayne being designated a Wilderness Area? (Designation would come with special protections for the area)

137 responses



Would you support a portion of the Ironton Unit of the Wayne being designated a Recreation Area? (Designation would come with special protections for the area)

136 responses



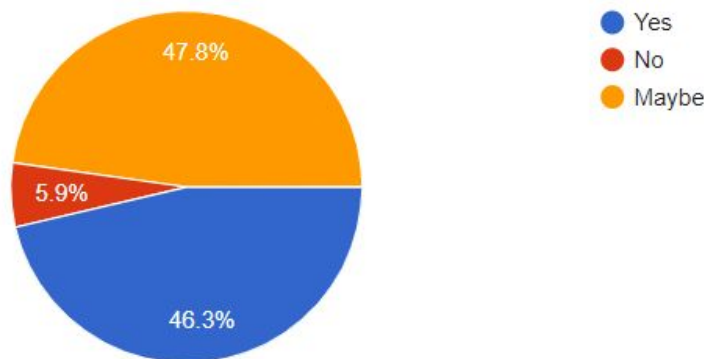
Beyond how the forest affects our identity, there are many other cultural intersections between the Wayne and our community. Many people couple their trips to the region for local events with a trek to the forest. Families host reunions and watch their children grow within the forest. Parents teach survival skills, organizations use the forest to teach science, life skills, and build the next generation of Appalachians. Businesses rely on the forest from lodging to liverys, rentals to recreation. Camps and ranches, farms and homesteads- countless businesses would be forever changed if the beauty and bounty of the forest were threatened or destroyed. The Wayne is tied to every fiber of our collective identity and our culture would be forever shifted if the Wayne were not longer seen as a place of respite and recreation.

Historical Significance

As stated above, the Wayne is integral to our collective identity, which was formed over generations. Just as the forest houses our families stories, it houses our regions as a whole as well. From iron furnaces to historic cemeteries-- the forest is dotted with the legacy of extraction, and of existence. Our shared history that has taken place within the Wayne is one that needs preservation. We asked the people who frequent the Ironton unit to share their views on the forest service and their reverence to historical people- their responses are graphed below.

Do you feel the Wayne respects the culture and heritage of historical occupants of the area? This would include but is not limited too: Early settlers, indigenous folks including Native Americans, and people of color.

136 responses



Conclusion

The submission put forth by the Athens Wayne Culture and Heritage Working Group is but a sample of the information needed to convey the cultural and historical importance of our forests to our communities. As mentioned above, we hope the Wayne continues to collaborate with the newly established working groups and collectively, we can utilize a survey mechanism when the draft plan is released. The questionnaire we conducted should not be seen as empirical, but it does show there is considerable work to be done in terms of outreach and public education. Furthermore, if the forest service wishes to have public buy-in on the draft plan, they need to allow the general public the opportunity to voice those opinions in more accessible ways.

LOCAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

TOPIC/ACTIVITY:	Honoring the Legacy of those that have contributed to increasing the knowledge of the botanical resources of Ohio's only National Forest
COMMENTER:	Jo Huff, 1316 County Rd 124, Chesapeake Ohio 45619, Local Culture and Heritage Outdoors.jjh@gmail.com
ECOSYSTEM SERVICE	
<p>•<u>What is a benefit that the Wayne National Forest provides or could provide?</u> Many botanists (both past and present) have made great contributions to botany in Ohio and the WNF.</p>	
SCOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT	
<p>•<u>How is this benefit valued? What role does it play in the community? Why is it important to us?</u> Sharing with the public the contributions botanists have provided to Ohio and the WNF include research, published books, and other scientific and informative documents. This information contributes to the ongoing management of Ohio's forests that are impacted by invasive plants, protection and propagation of rare threatened and endangered plants, understanding the medicinal use of plants, how plant disease is managed, impacts of forest fires and other activities that can harm resources, etc. Sharing this information adds to the public's knowledge and appreciation of the WNF and provides useful networking and contacts that can assist in the management of forests located on private lands as well.</p>	
DRIVERS OF CHANGE	
<p>•<u>What sort of factors & stressors have affected our ability to manage for that benefit?</u> This topic was not addressed in 2006.</p>	
<p>•<u>Were they addressed in 2006?</u> Not addressed in 2006.</p>	
<p>•<u>To what extent has climate change affected those factors or exacerbated those stressors?</u> I've noted that on some horticultural maps, the southern tip of Ohio, location of the Ironton Ranger District, is now listed as Zone 7, which is a southern climate. The importance of <u>research</u> as climate change becomes a 'management criteria'.</p>	
DRIVERS OF CHANGE	
<p>•<u>What has changed in the best available science, technology, or public preferences pertaining to that benefit?</u> A serious threat is invasive plants, a benefit is the use of plants for pharmaceutical benefits, plants as food, historic uses as medicine, importance of native plants in gardens and protecting these botanical treasures on public lands. Another issue is the expansion of disease and damage to forests from some recreational activities, timbering and oil/gas exploration.</p>	
NOTES:	
<p>Handouts can be produced with links to books, research, websites, and other publications available to the public for study, sharing, for college research, HS research, for landscapers, native plant growers, etc. Botanists can be included in interpretations during nature hikes or tours, during ceremony, or in the classrooms. Can provide a list of botanists for hire, for research, for classroom activities. Feature the contributions on the WNF website under the Heritage Tab.</p>	
<p>If we want the public to help protect and be passionate about the survival of our forests, they need to understand the complexity, benefits and threats facing forests today.</p>	
REFERENCES:	
<p>Botanical contributors: Lucy Braun, Ronald Stuckey, Floyd Bartley, Leslie Pontius, Edward Thomas, Francis Pennell, Harold Robinson, John Schaffner, Clara Weishaupt, William Starling, Sullivan, Tim Walters, (too many to list).</p>	
<p>WNF botanists Cheryl Coon and Chad Kirshbaum received Eastern Region Honor Award in 2008.</p>	
<p>Book, Women Botanists of Ohio Born Before 1900, Ronald L. Stuckey, published May 1992.</p>	
<p>Ohio Naturalist, Volume 1, No. 3, Plant Names Commemorative of Ohio Botanists, Clara Armstrong, January 1901.</p>	
<p>Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, OH; history and science of plant based medicine, pharmacy and chemistry. The collection focuses on botany, pharmacy, history of medicine, ethnobotany, herbal medicine, exploration and travel, and horticulture. Botanical illustrations, manuscripts, photographs, artifacts, etc.</p>	

LOCAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

TOPIC/ACTIVITY	Apples – fruit industry - fruit research
COMMENTER:	Jo Huff, 1316 County Rd 124, Chesapeake Ohio 45619, Local Culture and Heritage Group
ECOSYSTEM SERVICE	<p>•<u>What is a benefit that the Wayne National Forest provides or could provide?</u> Preservation and diversification of heirloom and antique apple varieties of southern Ohio. Provides suitable habitat for ‘volunteer’ apple trees that expand the diversity, provide food for wildlife and preserve heirloom and antique apple varieties.</p>
SCOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT	<p>•<u>How is this benefit valued? What role does it play in the community? Why is it important to us?</u> According to the <i>Lawrence County Soil Survey</i> produced by the <i>Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)</i> in 1998, “orchard crops have historically been an economic resource for the county including apples, pears and peaches. Lawrence County was a leading producer of apples in Ohio until disease and insects caused a decline.....” (USDA, Soil Survey 1998). Lawrence County apple growers were well known for the award of premiums at the <i>Ohio State Fair and Industrial Exposition</i> and at other state and national apples shows. Many varieties developed by these historic growers may never be known outside of Lawrence County. The <i>Daily Register</i> (Ironton, 1900 – 1925) published an industrial section of the paper which described briefly the <i>Apple Show and Old Home Coming</i> held in Ironton in 1914 (Library of Congress, Daily Register).</p> <p>The Ensee apple originated on the farm of Nelson Cox in Lawrence County, Ohio (current property and home owned by Mary Ann Ater located on Greasy Ridge and previously owned in 1847 by Roswell Gardner) and began to bear good crops as early as 1895. H. N. Gillett from Proctorville OH, discovered the Rome Beauty Apple in Joel Gillett’s orchard. Gillett brought the Rome Beauty to the attention of the <i>Ohio Convention of Fruit Growers</i> in 1848 as published in the <i>Ohio Cultivator</i> in 1849. The Rome Beauty is a nationally known apple variety still grown and marketed today.</p>
DRIVERS OF CHANGE	<p>•<u>What sort of factors & stressors have affected our ability to manage for that benefit?</u> The apple trees were not addressed in 2006</p> <p>•<u>Were they addressed in 2006?</u> Apple heritage was not addressed in 2006</p> <p>•<u>To what extent has climate change affected those factors or exacerbated those stressors?</u> NA</p>
DRIVERS OF CHANGE	<p>•<u>What has changed in the best available science, technology, or public preferences pertaining to that benefit?</u> 1)The ‘perfect apple’ was sought after in historic times and today by growing seeds from a multitude of apple trees and grafting scions of the favorite trees to clone more of that favorite variety. In all the historic literature, the number of apple varieties being produced by farmers across Ohio was astounding and in that day and time the sharing of that information and sharing tree scions and plants was rapidly expanding the diversity of the apple in Ohio with outstanding and not so outstanding varieties. Apples though, are one of the few fruits with a multitude of uses, so a not so outstanding apple (or ‘spitter’) may be a great cider apple or used for making apple butter.</p>

LOCAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

TOPIC/ACTIVITY	Apples – fruit industry - fruit research
COMMENTER: Jo Huff, 1316 Cty Rd 124, Chesapeake Ohio 45619, Local Culture and Heritage Group	
<p>2) Apple trees can teach many lessons in the K-12 classroom. Schools can utilize for hands-on lessons in diversity, genetics, pollination, identification, photosynthesis, food culture, culinary use, history, seeds and flower identification and terminology, observation skills, art, research journaling and more.</p> <p>3) Decades or centuries ago, apples were used for eating, baking, cider, feeding to livestock, making apple butter, and more; such as they are today. These same antique and heirloom apple varieties with different tastes and textures can provide added income for today's farmers that distinguish themselves in the marketplace by growing those special varieties that no one else grows. This can be achieved by finding, preserving and growing the old varieties or by growing and producing new varieties.</p> <p>4) The antique and heirloom varieties may also be of interest to apple breeders that use traditional breeding and other techniques to improve the fruit. Today, <i>Cornell University, Department of Horticulture</i>, located in New York State, is one of the most well-known horticulture teaching and research facilities in the United States. The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station became operative in 1882 and in 1887 began evaluating fruit. The station became a part of Cornell University in 1923. Over 700 acres of land are devoted to test plots, orchards, and vineyards.</p>	
<p>ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS</p> <p>•<u>How have the drivers of change altered the condition or capacity of the landscape to provide that benefit?</u></p> <p>1) Locally, old abandoned orchards are those that are no longer managed for human consumption or no longer grown for commercial purposes. The old orchards were planted in cleared areas providing ample sunlight and air circulation around the trees. As people eventually moved off the land and stopped farming, many orchards were abandoned and quickly grown over with taller woodland trees. The remaining apple trees and remnants of old orchards were no longer maintained for fruit production.</p> <p>2) Internationally, origins of the apple were traced to Kazakhstan, the home of the apple forests. The biological importance of these forests is in the diversity and genetics of the different varieties. These forests are continuing to decline due to development and other uses of the land in that region. The reason for saving the older varieties of apples is the same as saving the apple forests of Kazakhstan: to expand and maintain diversity (Pollan 2002). The widespread use of uniform apple varieties and the shrinking of the wild apple forests of Kazakhstan can cause reduced genetic diversity, particularly since the cultivated apple is the second most consumed fruit in the world and domestic apples are plagued by pests and disease.</p>	
<p>SUSTAINABILITY</p> <p>•<u>Are we already doing something differently we weren't doing in 2006?</u> The heirloom and antique apple trees were not a topic in 2006.</p> <p>•<u>Can we exert any control or mitigation for the intended benefit?</u> Depends on what the benefit is; whether tourism, history sharing, educational, research, planting and diversification, etc.</p> <p>•Is WNF management sufficient in providing that benefit or is there a Need for Change? Current management of heirloom and antique varieties was not included or discussed in 2006. The no action alternative would simply be providing the habitat for continued diversity of apple trees without management although the trees may eventually decline as the larger forest expands.</p>	

LOCAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK

TOPIC/ACTIVITY	Apples – fruit industry - fruit research
COMMENTER:	Jo Huff, 1316 Cty Rd 124, Chesapeake Ohio 45619, Local Culture and Heritage Group
REFERENCES:	<p>Daily Register (Ironton, 1900 – 1925) Apple Show and Home Coming, Ironton http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87075117/. Library of Congress, Chronicling America.</p> <p><u>The Ohio Cultivator</u>, (Mar 1849). A semi-monthly Journal, Volume V, No. 5.</p> <p>Pollan, Michael. <u>The Botany of Desire</u>, Random House Trade Paperbacks, New York, 2002.</p> <p>USDA/NRCS (1998). <u>Soil Survey of Lawrence County Ohio</u>. National Cooperative Soil Survey.</p>

LOCAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE FRAMEWORK including LAND ACQUISITION

TOPIC/ACTIVITY:	Acquisition of Paradise Park Property (private in-holding)
COMMENTER:	Jo Huff, 1316 County Rd 124, Chesapeake Ohio 45619, Local Culture and Heritage Topics Outdoors.jjh@gmail.com
ECOSYSTEM SERVICE <u>•What is a benefit that the Wayne National Forest provides or could provide?</u> Paradise Park {PP} operated during the turn of the century and is located adjacent to and bordering the Vesuvius Recreation Area off of Route 29 with access off the Main WNF Loop Road that leads to the WNF maintenance buildings. A private in-holding surrounded by WNF land at the Vesuvius Recreation Area. What made the historic 'park' unique enough for visitors during that era is the topography with unusual geology/rock formations on the site including the deep stone gorge that connects to a small approximate 4 acre lake, the balancing rocks known as Twin Sisters, and numerous rock shelters which are likely of archeological significance. To my knowledge there has never been a botanical survey conducted on PP property and as research has noted there is a geological and botanical connection which could lead to significant botanical finds. Additionally, rock formations may harbor wildlife such as the Alleghany Wood Rat whose habitat is associated with rocky areas such as cliffs, rocky outcrops, caves, etc. and the Timber rattle snake among others.	
SCOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT <u>•How is this benefit valued? What role does it play in the community? Why is it important to us?</u> Paradise Park is a part of Lawrence County's history but more importantly it is an area with a unique geological topography. PP is a private in-holding that once acquired would reduce unintentional trespass by visitors. The proximity to the Vesuvius Recreation Area would make it a valuable contribution to the unique experience of visitors to the area since it is the boundary between two Physiographic Regions. The acquisition would give the USFS control over the approximate 4 acre lake with an earthen dam that is a part of the watershed managed by the USFS. The PP property and surrounding FS lands may contain substantial botanical attributes given the generous native plant species located within the Vesuvius Recreation Area and may be habitat to threatened and endangered wildlife.	
DRIVERS OF CHANGE <u>•What sort of factors & stressors have affected our ability to manage for that benefit?</u> This topic was not addressed in 2006. <u>•Were they addressed in 2006?</u> Not addressed in 2006. <u>•To what extent has climate change affected those factors or exacerbated those stressors?</u> NA	
DRIVERS OF CHANGE <u>•What has changed in the best available science, technology, or public preferences pertaining to that benefit?</u> Landforms and rock types produce the unique geographical distributions of plants in an area. The geology-plant interface creates a reciprocal relationship between geology and other environmental influences, geomorphology and its connection with plant life, lithology as a potent selective agent for plants, and the physical and biological influences of soils. Paradise Park is a private in-holding surrounded by WNF lands and is the boundary for two physiographic regions. It is unknown whether the FS lands surrounding PP have undergone adequate botanical or wildlife surveys particularly prior to construction of a horse trail several years ago. The land surrounding PP has the same characteristic rocky terrain. Botanical inventories should have been accomplished for the entire area beyond the confines of the horse trail. Conservation strategies for rare plants if present should be coordinated with efforts to control invasive exotic species, along with developing best management practices such as closing the horse trail and eradication of any invasives brought by horses that could expand and threaten ecological processes and cause biodiversity losses. There are more appropriate areas of the forest for high impact and highly damaging recreation activities created by horses. The ancient Teays River that once flowed from south to north routing just east of Portsmouth deposited the glacial sediments in this area. The advance of ice sheets eventually dammed the Teays resulting in the formation of glacial Lake Tight, which is named after William George Tight, professor of geology and botany at Denison University. Tight	
Continued.....page 2 of 2	

TOPIC/ACTIVITY:	Acquisition of Paradise Park Property (private in-holding)
COMMENTER:	Jo Huff, 1316 County Rd 124, Chesapeake Ohio 45619, Local Culture and Heritage Topics Outdoors.jjh@gmail.com
DRIVERS OF CHANGE (continued)	published an article entitled “Drainage modifications in southeastern Ohio and adjacent parts of West Virginia and Kentucky” in 1903. The lake covered 7000 sq miles and existed between 730,000 and 900,000 years ago. The river and lake had an impact on the biology of the region with isolated patches of southern plants far to the north of their native ranges that have become acclimated to the southern Ohio climate. This acclimation alone is valuable for climate studies. The origins of these plants are believed to be from deposition as seeds were carried from their original habitat prior to the glaciations (Ohio Department of Natural Resources). The ancient river is also credited for isolating endangered species of cave beetles in Ohio, where they are the only known specimens north of the Ohio River. Areas of Vesuvius along Route 29 across from the property in question contain orchids, mountain laurel, southern Oaks, native azaleas and a host of native woodland plants. It stands to reason that the WNF properties surrounding and including Paradise Park may also include these same species and more.
NOTES:	Paradise Park parcels 04-042-1400.000, 04-060-1000.000
REFERENCES:	<p>Linking Ohio Geology and Botany. <u>Papers by Jane L. Forsyth</u>, Ohio State University, Published January 2003, modified March 2015.</p> <p>Hansen, Michael C., 1987, <u>The Teays River, Ohio Geology Newsletter Summer 1987</u>, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey.</p> <p>Hansen, Michael C., 1995, <u>The Teays River, GeoFacts No. 10</u>, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey.</p> <p>Tight, W.G., 1903, <u>Drainage modifications in southeastern Ohio and adjacent parts of West Virginia and Kentucky</u>: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 13.</p> <p>Shoemaker, K.A., and Erjavec, J., 2015. <u>Early impoundment history of Pleistocene Lake Tight: New insights from subsurface study of the Teays Formation, Pike County, Ohio</u>: Geological Society of America National Meeting, Baltimore MD.</p> <p>Note: Dr. Kurt Shoemaker is a Professor of Geology in the Department of Natural Sciences at Shawnee State University.</p> <p>Bailey, T.S., Bishop, Z.V., and Shoemaker, K.A., 2014. <u>Two distinct shorelines of Pleistocene Lake Tight in south-central Ohio</u>: Geological Society of America Southeastern Section Meeting, Blacksburg VA.</p>



Photographer: Adam Wilson



Ohio Forestry archives