



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

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# News Release

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## Wayne National Forest Will Extend Comment Period on Sunny Oaks Project Due to Partial Government Shutdown

**NELSONVILLE, Ohio** (Jan. 31, 2019) – Due to a lapse in federal funding that caused a partial government shutdown, the Wayne National Forest has extended the deadline for public feedback for the Sunny Oaks Project on the Ironton Ranger District in southeast Ohio.

The project is located east of State Route (SR) 93, west of SR 141, north of the community of Aid, and south of the community of Oak Hill. The project area is located in parts of Jackson, Gallia, and Lawrence Counties.

Because the government was partially shut down when the comment period was set to end, District Ranger Tim Slone has decided to extend the period to February 14<sup>th</sup>. "Leading up to the original end of the comment period there was no staff here able to take calls or answer any questions the public may have had about the project," said Ranger Slone. "In order to remedy the difficulty the public may have faced in submitting meaningful comments, I've decided we will continue to take comments on the environmental assessment for Sunny Oaks through February 14<sup>th</sup>. Those that submit comments by February 14<sup>th</sup> following the procedures already established in the original legal notice announcing the comment period will be considered as having submitted timely comments." The original legal notice was published in the Ironton Tribune on December 13<sup>th</sup> and can be found by clicking on the Sunny Oaks Project title at the web link below.

Information about this and other projects being developed and analyzed can be found online at the Wayne National Forest website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/wayne/landmanagement/projects>.

For more information about the Wayne National Forest, visit our website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/wayne>. Follow us on Twitter: [@waynenationalfs](https://twitter.com/waynenationalfs) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/waynenationalfs).

The U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a mission of sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service's Eastern Region includes twenty states in the Midwest and East, stretching from Maine, to Maryland, to Missouri, to Minnesota. There are 17

national forests and one national tallgrass prairie in the Eastern Region. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/R9](http://www.fs.usda.gov/R9).

The U.S. Forest Service manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/).

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