

# APPENDIX B

## WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST STANDARDS

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## WAYNE NAT'L FOREST STANDARDS

Numerous laws and regulations provide direction for management of National Forest System land. Specifically, the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act requires that national forests be managed “for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish purposes.”

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires environmental information to be made available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken on a proposed project. Essential NEPA processes include accurate scientific analyses, expert agency input, and public involvement. Per NEPA, environmental analysis is required before construction can begin on any proposed mountain bike trail system.

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that National Forest System land be managed for a variety of uses on a sustained basis to ensure in perpetuity a continued supply of goods and services to the American people; creating and implementing a Forest Plan is a requirement of NFMA. The 2006 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) guides all natural resource management activities for the Wayne National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. It describes desired resource conditions, resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability of suitable land for resource management. The 2006 Forest Plan and Management Area Maps are available on the Wayne National Forest website ([http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/wayne/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsm9\\_006005&width=full](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/wayne/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsm9_006005&width=full)). Within the Forest Plan, the following standards and guidelines should be considered when designing the Master Trail Plan.

### **Soil Resources:**

**GFW-WSH-10:** Modify resource management practices according to soil characteristics and slope to protect soil productivity and minimize erosion and sedimentation. Refer to soil map unit descriptions and appropriate interpretive tables in the Wayne National Forest Soils Inventory (based on the USDA County Soil Surveys).

### **Riparian Corridors:**

**GFW-ARR-1:** Prior to implementing any project activity, establish the site-specific boundaries of the riparian corridor. The riparian corridor includes the riparian area and upland areas within the flood-prone area, or 100 feet from the edge of the aquatic ecosystem or wetland, whichever is greater.

**GFW-ARR-4:** Where possible, do not construct new facilities (such as roads, trails, campsites, and buildings) within riparian areas. Where such facilities must be located in riparian areas, construct and maintain them to minimize adverse impacts to ecological function.

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## WAYNE NAT'L FOREST STANDARDS

### **Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species:**

**GFW-TES-9:** Retain all shagbark and shellbark hickory trees > 6 inches dbh, unless removal is necessary to protect human safety or to avoid adverse impacts to steep slopes, erodible soils, floodplains or wetlands.

**SFW-TES-10:** During the non-hibernation season (April 15th –September 15th), do not cut, unless they are a safety hazard:

Trees of any species 6 inches dbh or greater that are hollow, have major splits, or have broken tops that provide maternity habitat.

Snags 6 inches dbh or greater that have Indiana bat roost tree characteristics. Consider any tree with less than 10 percent live canopy to be a snag.

When removal of hazard trees is necessary in a recreation area during the non-hibernation season (e.g., developed recreation sites, access roads, trails), conduct emergence surveys at the identified hazard trees that possess the characteristics identified above, and at any hazard trees that possess large areas of loose bark providing maternity habitat.

**GFW-TES-14:** Provide water sources that promote aquatic insect production and provide drinking sources for Indiana bats along suitable flight paths, especially in upland areas, and off/away from recreation sites, and designated trails and roads.

### **Forest Health and Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS):**

**SFW-FH-1:** Incorporate NNIS risk assessments in project planning, and include NNIS prevention and treatment in project development, analysis, and implementation.

**SFW-FH-8:** Forest contracts and permits shall include appropriate clauses for the prevention and/or treatment of NNIS.

**GFW-FH-15:** Encourage the construction and use of NNIS cleaning stations at trailheads.

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# WAYNE NAT'L FOREST STANDARDS

## Recreation:

**SFW-REC-4:** When choosing location of recreational developments, give priority to:

- Correcting health and safety problems
- Protecting the environment
- Complementing prescribed recreation opportunities
- Meeting public demand
- Availability of suitable access
- Cost of construction, operation, and maintenance.

**GFW-REC-5:** Consider adjacent State or local recreation facilities, their uses and long-term objectives, before proposing any new recreation development.

## Trails:

**SFW-REC-16:** OHV, mountain bike, and horse trails are open (unless posted closed) for riding from April 15th through December 15th. Close these trails (except for foot travel) during the winter period (December 16th through April 14th) to minimize environmental impacts and maintenance costs. Exception: Trails may be used for administrative purposes and operation/maintenance of approved oil and gas facilities.

**GFW-REC-19:** Construct, maintain, and sign trails to Forest Service standards and in accordance with the Forest's sign plan.

**GFW-REC-20:** Manage trails to comply with the management area's Recreation Opportunity Spectrum objective.

**GFW-REC-21:** Unless a site is interpreted, plan location of trails so that known heritage sites are not readily visible from the trail corridor.

**SFW-REC-26:** Allow mountain bikes and horses on hiking trails only where designated and signed.

**SFW-REC-27:** Construct and maintain trails and associated facilities to be cost-effective and minimize user conflicts.

**GFW-REC-29:** Discourage construction of new trails within riparian areas. Where trails are located in riparian corridors, construct and maintain them to minimize adverse impacts to the ecological function of the area.

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## WAYNE NAT'L FOREST STANDARDS

**GFW-REC-30:** Maintain hiking and mountain bike trail tread with natural surfacing to a width of 18 to 24 inches.

**GFW-REC-33:** Favor loop and two-way trails for hiking, horse, and mountain bike trails.

### Scenery Management:

**GFW-SM-5:** All structures and materials, including signs, bridges, fish and wildlife improvements, and other facilities, should be consistent with the guidelines developed in the Built Environment Image Guide and the Forest Service Sign Guide.

**GFW-SM-6:** New structures should be compatible with valued cultural features in the landscape such as historic structures. See the landscape character description for identification of the valued cultural features and the Built Environment Image Guide.

**GFW-SM-7:** Material selection, color, and shape of administrative and recreation facilities should minimize contrasts and blend with natural surroundings and landscape character.

**GFW-SM-8:** Emphasize the use of native materials.

**GFW-SM-49:** Whenever possible, use naturalized contours for cut-and-fill slopes rather than straight lines.

**GFW-SM-51:** When possible, new roads and trails should be located along the periphery of large open areas to maximize opportunities for scenic views from trails and recreation sites.

**GFW-SM-95:** Enhance visitor experience by locating new recreation sites and trails at or near large attractive trees (for shading), unique topographic features, scenic vistas, cultural sites of interest, and/or large bodies of water.

**GFW-SM-96:** Utilize natural materials and colors when constructing new or maintaining existing recreation sites/facilities.

The Bailey's tract is within the Historic Forest Management Area. The emphasis of this management area is the restoration and maintenance of the oak-hickory ecosystem through a combination of mostly uneven-aged timber harvest and frequent prescribed fire. The Desired Future Condition of this management area is a mix of vegetation more nearly resembling the historic range that existed prior to 18th/19th century settlement and development. Moderate amounts of non-motorized recreation opportunities are provided, with trails providing access for non-motorized activities in some areas. There is low to moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of people. Forest visitors experience a moderate feeling of independence, closeness to nature, and tranquility. Recreation facilities fit the natural appearing landscape and are based on site activity, type, and capacity. Motorized trail use is not permitted in this management area.

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