

To Whom it May Concern:

The Graduate Student Sustainability Council at Case Western Reserve University is a graduate and professional student organization at Case Western Reserve University with a mission to preserve and restore the natural environment for the benefit of humans and other species. This letter is intended to summarize our position regarding the use of the Wayne National Forest.

We support the use of national forests, including the Wayne National Forest, for recreation, wildlife habitat, absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide, preserving groundwater reserves in the area, and preventing erosion. We do not support its use for harvesting timber, extracting oil or gas, mining, or certain destructive activities recreational activities such as off-road vehicle use. While noting the forest service's policy of multiple use for national forests, we maintain that multiple use does not necessarily include extracting minerals or timber. We refer the Forest Plan Revision Team to the International Monetary Fund working paper "How Large are Global energy Subsidies," which examines, among other things, the enormous negative economic externalities associated the use of hydrocarbon fuels. The forest service is responsible for approving multiple uses for forests insofar as they benefit the public, but negative externalities of fossil fuel extraction considerably outstrip any benefits, and therefore the Forest Service should not approve any new exploration for or exploitation of these commodities. We also note that most trees provide greater economic benefit (climate change alleviation, erosion control, air cleanliness, etc.) when they remain living than if they are felled and used for timber. The best multiple-use policy regarding forest trees is that they be allowed to continue growing.

We shall provide additional details regarding our position in the coming month. We thank the Forest Service and the Forest Plan Revision Team for its efforts and look forward to continued discussion on the future of the Wayne National Forest.

Sincerely,
John Turner
President, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Graduate Student Sustainability Council (GSSC)