



**File Code:** 1920  
**Date:** November 26, 2018

Roxanne Groff  
Chair, SEEFMCP  
1422 Marietta Run Road  
Amesville, OH 45711

Dear Roxanne,

Thank you for your letter regarding an extension of the timeline for working group submissions on the Forest Plan Assessment. After review and consideration of your request, the Forest Service will adhere to the established timeline and expects all working groups to submit any information or input they are able to provide by January 2, 2019.

We appreciate the interest you have shown and the work you have done towards the Wayne's Forest Plan Revision (FPR) effort. I recognize the sacrifice that you and others make to take time to be part of the management of your national forest and am grateful for your contributions.

The Forest Plan Revision Team (Team) and agency staff are working diligently to ensure the public is afforded every opportunity to be involved and share information in this process. The U.S. Forest Service first explained how to be involved in the FPR process at the initial public meetings held in March 2018 and public comments on the FPR process have been accepted since April 2018. For nearly nine months, the Forest Service has actively been seeking information from the public, partners, and stakeholders about what has changed since development of the 2006 Forest Plan.

In September 2018, working groups were formed across an array of topic areas. All were asked to provide input by the first week of January. Although information that is provided by all the groups by this date will be critical in drafting the assessment, it is important to note that *this is not the last date the groups will be asked to provide input* on the assessment.

The Team will begin the consolidation of the draft assessment in January with the expectation of releasing it to the public in February 2019. Following the release of the draft Assessment, there will be a 45-day comment period where additional information can be shared with the Team. The public will be able to continue providing input and information through March 2019 when the "final assessment" and "need for change" documents are released.

Even after these documents are released, there will be additional opportunities for input. The Assessment is a rapid evaluation of the best available science, but it is not the last opportunity to provide scientific information. The Forest Service will consider all information that comes forward throughout the planning process. **During the plan development phase, the Wayne National Forest will be asking the working groups to help us develop plan components and**



alternatives. Public collaboration and involvement are integral components of the Forest Service 2012 Planning Rule and core values of the Wayne National Forest, and we intend to uphold these values throughout the planning process.

Again, many thanks to you and the SEEFMCP working group for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jonathan P. Kazmierski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "K".

JONATHAN P. KAZMIERSKI  
Acting Forest Supervisor