

From: [Marilyn Bauchat](#)
To: [FS-objections eastern region](#)
Subject: Buffalo Springs Restoration Project
Date: Sunday, October 27, 2024 10:25:38 PM

Submitting a PDO to the USFS-Hoosier National Forest, Tell City Ranger District, Christopher Thornton, District Ranger
Attn: Buffalo Springs Restoration Project #60940
Submitted by Marilyn Bauchat, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter volunteer leader
Home address: (b) (6)

Thank you for considering my objections. I object to the Final Environmental Assessment of the Buffalo Springs Restoration Project (BSRP) - Hoosier National Forest (HNF) on these points that were not addressed by the USFS to my satisfaction in their response to my original public comment for the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA). Below is my PDO response to the USFS stated considerations to my original comments submitted in December of 2022.

Comment:

By using an out of date forest plan formulated in 2006, it seems impossible that it could "be informed by the best currently available and relevant scientific information." Please consider the comments written by your stakeholders who passionately care about our natural spaces and the future of our world. Much work has resulted in a Citizens' Alternative Plan that would be more acceptable to those who want to conserve the Hoosier National Forest. To sustain a healthy ecosystem in the Hoosier National Forest more care should be given to protect the plants, wildlife, seeps and existing diversity. Data regarding this should be updated and used carefully. Please consider the Citizens' Alternative Plan or a No Action Alternative, so this national heritage site can be preserved and enjoyed by all of us and future generations. You could also be setting an example for other national forests and the rest of the world.

Agency Consideration:

Project level analyses is tiered to the Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, but the latest relevant science is considered as projects are analyzed. Alternatives must meet the purpose and need ((36 CFR 220.7 (b)(2)). The "Citizen's Preferred Alternative" does not meet the purpose and need set forth in the Buffalo Springs Restoration Project

proposal and would not fulfill Forest Plan direction associated with the goal of maintaining and restoring sustainable ecosystems.

PDO Response:

I don't understand how the "latest relevant science is considered as projects are analyzed." The latest relevant science dictates that mature and old growth trees across the globe should be allowed to keep growing. Forests have been doing this for thousands of years without human "restoration." That is why we have the diversity of plants and animals that still exist in places that have been allowed to develop naturally. National and state public lands should not become timber farms, and should exist for those who own our public lands. That includes allowing the trees to sequester carbon and allowing the forest to support many species whose existence is threatened by logging and burning. This includes the human species.

I urge you all to watch the documentary, "Crown Jewels" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tl2RFcvTuqQ>), to learn more about long term effects of massive projects such as the proposed Buffalo Springs. Since my original comments I have listened to many folks whose quality of life has been or will be affected by logging and burning near their homes in state and national forests. Some of these people have health issues that will likely worsen because of this proposal. I hope you will consider the quality of life folks who have homesteaded adjacent to public lands to experience the solace of the forest, along with the taxpayers who fund OUR PUBLIC LANDS.

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Marilyn Bauchat

Hoosier Chapter ExCom Volunteer

Chair of Uplands Network (serving Monroe and surrounding counties)

Acknowledging and honoring the Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi, and Shawnee people, upon whose ancestral homelands we tread.

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