

Melinda Sketo

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October 25, 2024

Via Email

Reviewing Office
ATTN: Administrative Review Staff,
USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region,
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: Objection, Buffalo Springs Restoration Project

objections-eastern-region@usda.gov

We write to you today to express our concerns regarding the recent release of the Draft Decision Notice (DDN) and Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) for the proposed Buffalo Springs Restoration Project in Orange and Crawford counties in Indiana. We have followed the developments of this proposed action on the Hoosier National Forest. Our concerns for our health, our economy and infrastructure are as follows:

- Protecting roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructures from damaging Forest Service activities associated with the project,
- Promoting and protecting the vital water and natural resources and recreation components of our local economics,
- Recognizing the important contributions made by private landowners in producing high quality and high value wood products without undue competition from below cost timber sales from the Hoosier National Forest,
- Providing management assistance to private landowners to achieve conservation objectives,
- Coordinating management activities in the southern portion of the Hoosier National Forest with those in the northern half that are included in the new 3.5 million acre Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape, and
- Determining the proper role for publicly owned forest land in a time of climate disruption and changing public attitudes.

request and would be glad to speak with you to answer any questions you might have. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Melinda Sketo

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CC (via email):

Chris Thornton, Brownstown District Ranger Hoosier National Forest
Brownstown Ranger District
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