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Comments: March 6, 2020

Wayne National Forest Supervisor's Office

Attn: Plan Revision

13700 US Highway 33

Nelsonville, OH 45764

Comments sent via online comment system (CARA)

Re: Comments of Ohio Farm Bureau Federation on the Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Draft Assessment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Draft Assessment. Ohio Farm Bureau Federation ("OFBF") maintains a non-profit organization representing agricultural interests at the state and local levels with members in every county in Ohio, including Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Noble, Perry, Scioto, Vinton, and Washington Counties.

OFBF's comments are guided by policy resolutions from Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's 2020 State Policies. OFBF employs an extensive grassroots policy development process which involves individual members, county Farm Bureau leaders, government officials, and businesses and community stakeholders. The policy positions which are ultimately approved at OFBF's annual meeting by elected delegates from each County Farm Bureau become the basis for action plans at local and state levels, often involving collaborative efforts over many years to address important issues. Annual evaluation of policy ensures that Farm Bureau's state and local efforts remain on target.

OFBF provides the following policy statements and comments that should be considered in the Plan Revision:

"We encourage Wayne National Forest to stay with the most recent 10-year plan regarding the harvesting of timber." Our policy recognizes the importance of staying within the parameters established through an appropriate timber management plan. When a timber management plan has been established, it should be followed and not exceeded.

"We encourage Wayne National Forest to utilize funds for the development of recreational facilities instead of the acquisition of additional land." The development of recreational facilities should be prioritized, as we are not supportive of the acquisition of additional land.

"Wayne National Forest should maintain line fences with adjoining property owners who are engaged in agricultural practices." The importance of properly maintained boundary line fences to agricultural producers, particularly those with livestock, cannot be overstated. All entities owning or managing property that borders agricultural property should be aware of the necessity to properly maintain partition fences and should strive to work cooperatively with neighbors in that regard.

"We believe that local, state and national forests and wildlife areas should be required to properly identify and maintain all property lines and their share of fences and, upon request of adjoining landowners, cut back trees and brush. We encourage individual private landowners to follow similar guidelines." As noted above, we encourage good neighbor cooperation with respect to line fence, boundary line, and vegetation maintenance.

Thank you for your anticipated attention to the policy considerations outlined above as the Plan Revision process proceeds to completion.

Sincerely,

/s/ Amy Milam

Amy Milam
Director of Legal Education &
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Ohio Farm Bureau Federation