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First name: Joe

Last name: Yurasek

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Citizen feedback re: Wayne National Forest

To Lori Swiderski.

Dear Lori,

I attempted to use a feedback form published in the various links, but found I was unable to use or save the PDF download. I tried three times and it ended up locking my computer, so it is basically unusable for me. Since planners have asked for public opinion, I offer the following:

I am by no means a "liberal tree-hugger." In fact, I've voted mostly Republican over that last 40 years and have endorsed what I've thought to be a balanced approach to public park and natural resource development. That said, I have supported the environmental protection efforts of Obama and others who look to the future of America and our children. Observations of increased threats to National Forests will inform my future vote.

I was born in Columbus in 1950, moved to Michigan in 1975, then returned to Columbus in 2017. As a boy, our family of six regularly made the drive to Hocking Hills, Lake Hope and other areas in the Wayne National Forest (WNF). I loved it. I remember that even as a young boy I understood the adults were really smart to save all the trees and natural areas for us kids. Now I'm certain our natural areas are at serious risk from over-development by powerful individuals and businesses who hold profits and self-enrichment as their primary goals; while cleverly cloak their greed with colorful marketing programs that deliver a false-message that their focus is on "development" for the public good.

My vision is "The WNF is a environmentally diverse area of woodlands, wetlands and prairies preserved as a naturally evolving ecosystem where people can enjoy, learn from and interact with nature."

I think there should be a de-emphasis on motorized four-wheelers and other machines that pollute the tranquility of nature and tear up the land. I understand there is cost related to maintenance of public property; I believe it and should be a public cost as we together as a 21st century society retain natural spaces for future generations to come. And I do understand, because of increasing demands on natural resources due to population increases and need for fuels to power our economy, that it is harder for us than those who came before. To me, this is not a partisan issue; it is about We the People of The United States...of Ohio.

Perhaps we are up to the challenge and people like you and those on the Revision committee will find a way to protect and preserve the WNF. Please include my thoughts in the dialogue and do please inform me if I am sending this to the wrong site. THANKS!

Sincerely,

Joe Yurasek