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First name: Maureen

Last name: Lorenz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Expand Public Outreach, Protect the Wayne National Forest

Dear Supervisor Tony Scardina,

I am writing to request that you and the Forest Service host assessment, scoping and other meetings about the Wayne's land management revision process in all major metropolitan areas in Ohio.

People from across the state use the Wayne National Forest for hiking, fishing, camping, bird-watching and other forms of recreation. So it's critical that the Forest Service involve these people by publicizing and hosting meetings in places like Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Akron and Dayton. Our temperate forests serve as critical infrastructure against the continuing effects of climate change. More than ever, these forests represent so much more to our way of life than is ever captured on a 'benefits' list. We need water protection not fracking which is limited and one-way. Water is Ohio's lifeblood.

It's also important that the Forest Service be proactive and searching in its efforts to identify information about the potential harms that fracking, mining and logging could bring to the Wayne's forests, streams, watersheds and biodiversity.

Toward that end, I urge you to consult with regional and national experts in the fields of conservation biology, landscape ecology, climate science and environmental toxicology. And I urge you to identify and synthesize summaries of the scientific literature, so the public is fully informed about the impacts of various land uses, especially fracking.

Sincerely,

Maureen Lorenz