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Organization:

Title:

Comments: No more fracking in 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.

Recently the Bureau of Land Management has been leasing parcels of Wayne National Forest for fracking. This is a terrible use for the forest. There is plenty of fracking on private land in Ohio. There is no reason to put the unique ecosystem of the Wayne at risk of toxic chemical spills, leaks, and explosions, not to mention the risk to our water, and the exacerbation of the climate crisis from methane emissions. The BLM is not going to stop fracking. Right now only USFS can do the right thing for the Wayne.

People from across the state use the Wayne National Forest for hiking, fishing, camping, bird-watching and other forms of recreation. So it's also critical that the Forest Service involve these people by publicizing and hosting meetings in places like Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Toledo, Akron and Dayton.

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,

Cathy Cowan Becker