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First name: Karen

Last name: Aston

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Expand Public Outreach, Protect the Wayne National Forest

Dear Supervisor Tony Scardina,

I am writing to request that you give Wayne National Forest strong environmental protections. I am an Ohio resident and protecting our only national forest is important to me. I enjoy having access to this forested area and the immeasurable peace of nature that it offers, and I don't want it to be disrupted by mining, logging, and fracking. These forested areas are rarer than I would like and are incredibly important to our citizens' physical health and emotional and mental well-being.

It would be good if the Forest Service hosted 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.

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,

Karen Aston