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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.

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. Not only is this critical for the region's ecosystems, water quality and supply, and natural beauty, but also for its economy. Hikers, campers, fishermen, bird-watchers, and other ecotourists bring much needed jobs and revenue to the area.

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.

Thank you for your time, dedication, consideration, and cooperation on this critical conservation issue.

Sincerely,

Vikram Seetharaman