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Organization:

Title:

Comments: public comments

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment on your new forest plan, revising the 2006 forest plan. It is important that you have environmental group or groups as your partners as you revise the plan for our only state forest. It is also important that you do outreach to the many who weighed in with objections to the 2006 plan, and that you rigorously consider all of the material submitted previously to both USFS and the BLM that has not been addressed and is relevant to the current planning process. This includes all legal protests, peer-reviewed and other substantive research and reports, all comments and petition signatures. I personally object to the prioritization of logging, burning and ATV use at the expense of forest health, wildlife, water and air quality and low impact recreation. I vigorously object to fracking, which destroys the ground water quality and is a health hazard in the surrounding area.

I expect you to listen to science and the citizens who own this forest when you decide the priorities for forest management, rather than to industry and special interest groups. Forests are increasingly important as climate change causes extremes in temperature, stronger and more frequent storms, and impacts wildlife. Maintaining the forests, not cutting them, is a public health and global climate issue. Forests maintain good air quality, and provide crucial habitat for wildlife, including the bobcat and other endangered species which are recovering. They are important in maintaining habitat for predators, which control the population of prey animals, some of which act as reservoirs for diseases like lyme disease, which is a growing public health issue. The bobcat is a major predator of the white footed mouse, which is a reservoir for lyme disease. Forests protect water quality. Forests provide important health benefits to visitors, some physical, and others psychological. It is important to maintain a low noise level in forests--Ohio citizens should be able to hike in Wayne National forest without hearing the drone of motor vehicles, including ATV's. ATV trails should be limited, as these impact other visitors and wildlife.

Forests have economic value beyond extraction. They are worth much more standing than if you extract all of the timber and frack them. Their ecological importance should be reflected strongly in your revision plan. The state forests belongs to the citizens of the state of Ohio, not the oil and gas companies, not the timber companies, and not the ATV interest groups.

Sincerely,

Debra L. Brinker, M.D.

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