

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2019 4:44:23 AM

First name: Rebecca

Last name: Pollard

Organization: Keep Wayne Wild

Title: Co-founder

Comments: The Marietta Unit of Wayne National Forest is rich with wildlife, and because the area, unlike the Ironton and Athens Units, does not have acid mine drainage, there is potential for a wider range of aquatic species to thrive there.

Little data on the species present in the Marietta Unit exists, so it is difficult to adequately assess the potential impacts of activity such as unconventional hydraulic fracturing and commercial logging.

In 2018, volunteers documented wildlife in the Marietta Unit using iNaturalist. Keep Wayne Wild organized a series of bioblitzes in partnership with Ohio State University's Graduate Evolution and Ecology Students group. Volunteers also added observations on their own while hiking in the area. Over the course of the year, nearly 600 species have been added to the Keep Wayne Wild 2018 Bioblitz project, including 30 species that iNaturalist lists as threatened.

We recognize that some of the data requires further verification in order to be of use in making decisions, but we believe it demonstrates the need for more research on how changes to this habitat might impact sensitive species that are present. We think it's especially important that trained professionals be brought in to look for additional threatened and endangered species, including bats and mussels, that are likely to be present.

All observations that have been added to our project to date can be viewed here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/keep-wayne-wild-2018-bioblitz>