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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Plan Revision - Wayne National Forest fo

Hello Members of the Forest Plan Revision Team,

As a citizen of the United States and a lifelong Ohio resident, I am completely against using my public lands in the Wayne National Forest for fracking or any kind of surface mining.

As the government's report from the Friday after Thanksgiving stated --

The Trump administration issued a scientific report on Friday that said oil drilling and coal mining on federally owned lands has a significant impact on the changing climate globally.

The first-of-its-kind report from the U.S. Geological Survey found that the extracting and burning of fossil fuels from federal lands made up nearly a quarter of all carbon dioxide emissions in the United States between 2005 and 2014.

But that USGS report was published the day after Thanksgiving, one of the busiest shopping days of the year when Americans typically don't follow the news, and on the same day as an even larger, inter-agency report outlining the severe economic toll climate change is projected to exact on the nation as the threats of coastal flooding and forest fires rise.

Although I am grateful that our nation has been able to use our own fuels to lessen our reliance on Mideast oil, I believe that any fuels in the ground of the Wayne National Forest are part of a public trust and should be held in reserve at this time when other sources of Ohio fuel are so abundant. The forest should be preserved in its current state.

Furthermore, I firmly believe we need to cut our reliance on fossil fuels, and I believe plans to turn Ohio fossil fuel into plastics is a terrible and frightening step backward for our state. Let's look to the future for energy sources and manufacturing jobs, not invest in short-range projects headed for obsolescence.

We need to use this forest plan revision as an opportunity to say yes, we were right to set aside these lands and we want to continue that wise policy. Let's not gut the Wayne to benefit a few today at the expense of all the rest of us today and in the future.

My husband and I are retired, live in Gahanna, Ohio and have three adult children. We all vote. We want you to know we feel strongly about this issue.

Melanie Oyster

Sent from my iPad