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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In general the Wayne NF is doing a good job.

Forest Products: I am in favor of a timber harvesting program, providing jobs to the local economy. Harvest should be on a sustained yield basis. The assessment discusses that over the last 10 years the amount of board feet harvested was only about 40% of sustained yield. The goal of the forest should be to harvest to maintain forest health. There are many issues including invasive species. Old growth is important, but it is more important to have a well-balanced forest management program that uses a variety of techniques to promote good biological diversity. The forest is short on early successional habitat, too heavy of pole and saw log stands. If you look back at what the Wayne was 100 years ago, with all the clearcutting and burning, that is what promoted the oaks. The practice of clearcutting should be used to bring back certain species. Woodcock and ruffed grouse need early successional habitat.

Recreation: In the assessment there was supporting documentation of fishing, but the numbers of hunting trips were not included, also trapping was not included. I have observed a number of out of state hunters from Oct-Nov, specifically bow-hunters. There is an incredible amount of use from the eastern US including out-of-state users from NY, PA, MI, NC, WV. I have observed this because I live adjacent to the Wayne NF. Hunting provides economic vitality to the region.

Oil and gas: The state of Ohio has outstanding oil and gas regulations. I believe there are places that with proper safeguards can be safely used for oil and gas extraction. I understand concerns about water, but oil and gas exploration if done properly should be allowed to continue in certain area.