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First name: Richard

Last name: Lutz

Organization: Buckeye Trail Association

Title: Trail Preservation Coordinator

Comments: The Buckeye Trail construction, maintenance, promotion, preservation and BTA Volunteer Program are our highest priorities referenced in our Wayne National Forest and Buckeye Trail Association MOU.

It is critical to the Buckeye Trail Association that the Forest Plan addresses a designated Management area for the North Country National Scenic Trail/Buckeye Trail. The Memorandum Of Understanding mentioned in this Draft Assessment document between US Forest Service Eastern Region, National Park Service Midwest Region, and the North Country Trail Association specifically establishes that USFS shall "as Forest Plans are revised or amended, include the Trail as a discrete Management Area, to afford the Trail with the appropriate status and planning action required as a federally designated entity" This language in the MOU is also supported by the direction of the 2012 Planning Rule.

The aforementioned MOU also outlines that "NPS, BTA and NCTA will be invited to fully participate in those components of the forest planning process pertinent to the Trail." We look forward to a continued working relationship with the Wayne National Forest throughout this planning process to ensure the Forest Plan addresses the nature and purposes for which the Buckeye Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail was established.

As a landowner within the proclamation boundary we look forward to hopefully working with the Forest Service on managing our land along with adjacent WNF as one continuous forest and continuous management area along the North Country National Scenic Trail/Buckeye Trail.

As for recreation uses, the assessment needs to recognize the conflict between ATV use and other users of the Forest areas. The assessment needs to recognize the impacts of increased usership to other users and ecological resources, and that conflicts will need to be considered in the Forest plan decision making process.