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First name: John

Last name: Howell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Forest Supervisor Carrie Gilbert

The effort to cap old wells in the Wayne is to be commended. The plan for the Orphan Wells and Abandoned Mines Project however presents serious red flags. You indicate in the Athens Messenger announcement that your plan includes waiving four standards included in the 2006 Land and Resources Management Plan. I am deeply concerned that you don't tell us in the Messenger just what the standards are which you intend to waive. That is unacceptable.

I am a landowner in Athens County. I've planted many tree seedlings over the 40 years we have lived here and am very concerned about the loss of big trees through lumbering in the Wayne. Those trees are essential in absorbing carbon from the air and providing oxygen for us to breathe. Isn't breathing more important to us than harvesting fossil fuels?

Capping orphaned wells is a good thing but allowing further damage to the forest through waiving existing standards may well be an unacceptable price. What standards you intend to waive must be made public before you proceed.