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Comments: For many years I have been grateful for your agency's involvement in the restoration of the degraded watersheds in our region. Your steady support to reclaim abandoned mines is commendable. What concerns many of us today is the process at play in your current "scoping" effort to cap orphan oil and gas wells as was previously proposed in your 2006 plan. It seems that the Wayne is proposing to not abide by major environmental guidelines required under its Forest Plan, a legal document that guides its forest actions. This exemption includes the protection of old-growth forests, the endangered Indiana bats, wetlands, and sensitive species habitats.

Surely you understand that the population at large is becoming increasingly knowledgeable about natural systems, including forest systems, largely because of climate disruption. In your past efforts you have had scores of citizens and scientists offer credible, valuable critiques to your efforts. You could be ever so much more effective if you were to more deeply involve these concerned citizens. Embrace their concerns. Provide opportunities for timely and transparent consultations with the public before wells are prioritized; allow the public to weigh in about the

labeling and use of mature and old-growth trees; carve out time for joint design sessions with the public. Please help change the information flow so that it is an open and timely information exchange.