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Comments: I am writing as a citizen concerned with the Forest Service maintaining and abiding by environmental protections. I understand that the Forest Service working on capping orphan oil and gas wells from abandoned mines in the Wayne National Forest is seeking to do this without abiding by major environmental guidelines required under its Forest Plan, the legal document that guides all Forest actions.

Currently the project proposal gives no information on number, location, or condition of wells that were previously slated to be plugged under the 2006 Plan or any information on the locations, emissions levels, or accessibility of wells now proposed to be plugged. The Forest Service gives NO data on projected environmental costs and benefits of the Project.

There needs to be timely and transparent consultation with the public before particular wells are prioritized and selected for intervention. The public must be given an opportunity to weigh in before decisions are made.

Information that should be available to the public for comment includes answers to these questions:

1. How many wells have been capped/plugged under the current plan? What is their condition? What was the cost of each? Has the capping/plugging been effective? How much disturbance of soil, wetlands, and vegetation (quantified by carbon emissions, acreage, tree volume, species, and number) was required to achieve these results?
2. How are the wells slated for intervention being prioritized? What are the environmental costs and benefits (including greenhouse gas emissions, destruction of habitat and wetlands, logging, road building, and soil compaction) of each intervention?
3. How will the public get to weigh in to assure that destruction of "mature" and old-growth trees, bat and other sensitive species habitat, and wetlands will not occur, since the Wayne has exempted itself from obligation to protect these Forest resources?

According to the U.S. Forest Service website, "The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." I urge you to follow this mission and require the Forest Service working with the Wayne National Forest to abide by the environmental standards and provide information for public comment.