

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/12/2025 2:27:47 AM

First name: Karan

Last name: Bailey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: While the Draft Environmental Assessment presents the possibility of expanding oil and gas leasing within Conecuh National Forest, I urge the Forest Service to reconsider this direction and instead select Alternative C, which would result in no new leasing at this time.

Although expanding oil well leases may appear to offer short-term economic benefits, the long-term consequences for the forest's unique ecosystems, recreational value, and local communities outweigh these gains. Conecuh National Forest is a sanctuary for rare species, including the imperiled gopher tortoise, and is cherished for its tranquil landscapes, diverse trails, pristine wetlands, and clear streams. Increasing oil leases would introduce greater industrial activity, heightened road traffic, and the potential for environmental harm-risks that are inconsistent with the forest's purpose and the values of those who treasure it.

By choosing Alternative C, the Forest Service would be affirming a commitment to conservation, responsible stewardship, and the preservation of public lands for future generations. I respectfully recommend that you prioritize the enduring health of Conecuh National Forest and decline to open additional acreage for oil and gas leasing at this time.