

August 30, 2018

To Wayne National Forest Plan Revision Team, wayneplanrevision@fs.fed.us

RE: Initial assessment for new Plan

From: grassroots citizen groups, businesses, and individuals

Grassroots, state, and national environmental groups; public officials; drinking water authorities; academics; Ohio University; business owners, farmers, and hundreds of thousands of citizens have weighed in on Wayne management activities over the past two decades, since long before the 2006 Plan was adopted. Organizational objectors to the 2006 Plan and to Wayne projects before and since its adoption have included Athens County Commissioners, Athens City Council, Ohio University, Burr Oak Water District, Athens County Fracking Action Network, Buckeye Forest Council (now Buckeye Environmental Network), Athens Conservancy, Hocking River Commission, Heartwood, Keep Wayne Wild, Torch Can Do, FreshWater Accountability Project, Ohio Sierra Club, Ohio Environmental Council (OEC), Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Appalachian Mountain Advocates, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance, Radioactive Waste Alert, Columbus Community Bill of Rights, Guernsey County Citizens' Support on Drilling Issues, Frack Free Lake County, Sustainable Medina County, Ohio Allies, Frack Free Geauga, Network for Oil & Gas Accountability & Protection, Concerned Citizens Ohio, Friends for Environmental Justice, FaCT-Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable Future, Northwest Ohio Alliance to Stop Fracking, The Committee for the Youngstown Community Bill of Rights, Ohio Community Rights Network, Concerned Citizens of New Concord, Ohio River Citizens' Alliance, Ashtabula County Water Watch, Headwaters Defense, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ), Earthjustice, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Environment Ohio.

Your current list of partners in your planning process includes few of these entities or groups and absolutely *zero* grassroots environmental groups. This does not speak well of your stated intent to consider public input this time around or bode well for any change from the Wayne's consistent past disregard for community environmental and public health concerns.

The undersigned hereby register our concern with your process and urge the following be considered in all further steps of the new Plan revision process:

1. The team must do outreach and invite and listen to all those who have weighed in with objections to the 2006 Plan as well as to subsequent logging, burning, highway and ATV trail-building projects and to opening the Forest to deep-shale, high-volume horizontal drilling and fracturing by granting permission to the BLM to conduct deep-shale oil and gas lease sales.
2. The team must rigorously consider all of the material submitted previously to both USFS and the BLM relevant to the current planning process. This includes all legal protests, peer-reviewed and other substantive research and reports, the voluminous comments, and more than one hundred thousand petition signatures delivered to USFS/BLM over past decades concerning on-going activities on and under our state's only National Forest. The 2006 Plan has been used and misused to justify continuing industrial extraction and other practices that are destructive to our Forest, air, water, climate, and

communities' economic and public health, as decades of protest letters and legal efforts have detailed.

3. As mandated by NEPA, the team must use up-to-date science, economic and cultural data, and meaningful input from the broad community to conduct rigorous evaluation of all activities to be considered for inclusion in the new Plan. Such evaluation must consider the true economic, climate, air, water, ecosystem, and socio-cultural long-term and cumulative costs and benefits of all activities considered.

We hope you will listen to science and the public – to those not represented by industry or profit-driven spokespeople – this time around. We look forward to our voices and the science on forests, climate, and sustainable economies finally being considered in decision-making for our public forest.

**Signatories as of 8-30-18 (to be added to)  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

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## **FARMS, FOOD PRODUCERS, AND OTHER BUSINESSES:**

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