Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale in Wayne National Forest

Dear Karen E. Mouritsen:
My name is Sarah Solomon and I'm a student at The Ohio State University studying evolution and ecology.
I have reviewed the internet-based lease-sale for parcels of land in Wayne National Forest, and hereby object to the sale put forth by the Federal government concerning over 1,600 acres of mineral rights beneath the forest. My objections refer to the 28 parcels of land attached to this letter, and I object for the reasons outlined in the remainder of this letter.

Reason #1: Implications and risks to drinking water

Fracking can impose a huge threat to our water resources as fracking fluid contains toxic chemical compouds including dilute acids, biocides, breakers, corrosion inhibitors, crosslinkers, friction reducers, gels, potassium chloride, oxygen scavengers, pH adjusting agents, scale inhibitors, and surfactants (Council 2009). Fracking has extreme consequences for water quality (Sovacool 2014). On site wastewater can permanently contaminate underground aquifers and private wells, which supply households with water (Argetsinger 2012). In addition to this, fracking requires large quantities of water. Using underground water resources to extract oil is a threat to 1.7 billion people who live in areas with a water supply under stress that may not be able to meet basic demands (Gleeson et al, 2012).

Reason #2: Consequences of equipment, noise pollution, construction on wildlife and their critical habitat

Wayne National Forest is home to a special kind of beauty we have no business interrupting. We cannot allow corporate greed to degrade the livelihood of this ecosystem. According to the forest website, the Forest Plan which was supposed to outline potential surface impacts has not been updated since 2006. This is not acceptable and after ten years, this should definitely be readdressed. Scientists not funded by those with oil interests should be employed to do research on potential impacts.

Reason #3: Environmental degradation
Fracking is associated with the degradation of water, air, and public health. Other huge concerns include the output of radionuclides, climate change, and blocking clean energy initiatives (Sovacool 2014). It is not yet clear to scientists how the toxic compounds affect ecosystems or how they degrade or fail to do so. (Sovacool 2014). More research must be done before we can allow companies to take these kinds of risks and threaten the longevity of human and non-human life that depends on Wayne National Forest.

Reason #4: Climate Change

The biggest threat to humanity is the effects of climate change. Fracking involves leaks that increase the amount of methane in the atmosphere. Methane is a greenhouse gas with a potency that exceeds carbon dioxide with 21-23 times as much heat trapped (Sovacool 2014). We absolutely cannot continue to rely on fossil fuels without facing the extreme consequences of climate change. Future generations depend on us to switch to clean energy now. Fracking supports an industry that will raise sea surface temperatures that will cause huge declines in oceanic diversity, as animals cannot cope under these conditions. Increased carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere as a result of burning fossil fuels has and will continue to decrease our livelihood.

References

Argetsinger Beren. (2012) The marcellus shale: bridge to a clean energy future or bridge to nowhere? Environmental, energy and climate policy considerations for shale gas development in New York State Pace Environ Law Rev ;29:321–43.

Council, G. W. P. (2009). *Modern shale gas development in the United States: A primer.* na.

Gleeson, T., Wada, Y., Bierkens, M. F., & van Beek, L. P. (2012). Water balance of global aquifers revealed by groundwater footprint. *Nature*, *488*(7410), 197-200.

Sovacool, B. K. (2014). Cornucopia or curse? Reviewing the costs and benefits of shale gas hydraulic fracturing (fracking). *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, *37*, 249-264.

As a scientist using scientific literature to come to conclusions, I do not support the sale of these precious parcels of land. I have been a resident of Ohio for my entire life and I have seen the endless beauty of southern Ohio, the foothills of this nations wonderful Appalachian Mountains. As a national forest, this area should be protected at all costs as Ohio loses more and more land to agricultural purposes. Please consider seriously this protest and halt the internet-based lease-sale for parcels of land in Wayne National Forest.

Sincerely,

Sarah Solomon
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Orient, OH 43146
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LIST OF PARCELS FOR SALE IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST

11/5/2016 **Total # of Parcels:** 28

Total Acreage: 1,622.11 acres

ES-003-12/2016 OHES 058185 ACQ

Lee Township, Monroe County Section 8, SENW, S2SWNE. **60 acres**

ES-004-12/2015 OHES 058186 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Section 14, NESE, Pt. SESE **47.00 acres**

ES-005-12/2016 OHES 058187 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Section 19, W2SE **79.15 acres**

ES-006-12/2016 OHES 058188 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Section 20, S3/4 NESW **30.03 acres**

ES-007-12/2016 OHES 058189 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Section 25 **94.72 acres**

ES-008-12/2016 OHES 058190 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Section 26, NESW, Pt. NWSW **78.25 acres**

ES-009-12/2016 OHES 058191 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Section 27, SENW **40.00 acres**

ES-010-12/2016 OHES 058192 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 31, NESE

38.96 acres

ES-011-12/2016 OHES 058193 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 31, SESE **38.96 acres**

ES-012-12/2016 OHES 058194 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 32, Pt. W2SW **64.30 acres**

ES-013-12/2016 OHES 058195 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 33, NESW **40.13 acres**

ES-014-12/2016 OHES 058196 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 34, Pt. SENE **15.12 acres**

ES-015-12/2016 OHES 058197 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 34, Pt. NENW **30.23acres**

ES-016-12/2016 OHES 058198 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 34, Pt. NWNW **22.14 acres**

ES-017-12/2016 OHES 058199 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 35, Pt. SENSWSWE **30.64 acres**

ES-018-12/2016 OHES 058200 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 35, Pt. W2SWSW **0.86 acres**

ES-019-12/2016 OHES 058201 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 19, Pt. SW, Pt. NW

73.25 acres

ES-020-12/2016 OHES 058202 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 15, Pt. SWNE **2.53 acres**

ES-021-12/2016 OHES 058203 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 20, NENE **40.08 acres**

ES-022-12/2016 OHES 058204 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 20, NENW **40.00 acres**

ES-023-12/2016 OHES 058205 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 20, NWNE **40.00 acres**

ES-024-12/2016 OHES 058206 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 21, S2SE, E2SW **157.44 acres**

ES-025-12/2016 OHES 058207 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 34, NESESE **10.16 acres**

ES-026-12/2016 OHES 058208 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 30, SESE **39.98 acres**

ES-027-12/2016 OHES 058209 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 30, Pt. N2SE **64.72 acres**

ES-028-12/2016 OHES 058210 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 36, SESW, Pt. W2SW

39.65 acres

ES-029-12/2016 OHES 058211 ACQ

Jackson Township, Monroe County Sec. 36, NENE **40.22 acres**

ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE **28.00 acres**

ES-031-12/2016 OHES 058213 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 6, Pt. NE **56.00 acres**

ES-032-12/2016 OHES 058214 ACQ

Green Township, Monroe County Sec. 1, SWSW, Sec. 7, N2SE, SESE **158.62 acres**

ES-033-12/2016 OHES 058215 ACQ

Washington Township, Monroe County Sec. 18 Pt. W2NE, Pt. NW **58.14 acres**

ES-034-12/2016 OHES 058216 ACQ

Wayne Township, Monroe County Sec. 3, NWNW **40.24 acres**

ES-035-12/2016 OHES 058217 ACQ

Liberty Township, Monroe County Sec. 29, Pt. S2SESE **1.17 acres**

ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ

Perry Township, Monroe County Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE **28.00 acres**