

Bureau of Land Management
Eastern States State Office
5275 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

Letter to Protest September 2026 Lease Sale Expressions of Interest,
Wayne National Forest, Monroe and Washington Counties in Ohio
NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-Eastern States-M000-2026-0003-DNA

My **full name** is _____, my **full address** is _____
My **personal statement** about Wayne National Forest is as follows:

I am writing to formally protest the Bureau of Land Management's lease sale for oil and gas extraction of the following parcels in Wayne National Forest:

OH-2097-01-0100	OH-2097-01-0062	OH-2097-01-0073	OH-2097-01-1612	OH-2097-01-1731
OH-2097-01-0015	OH-2097-01-0065	OH-2097-01-0074	OH-2097-01-1614	OH-2097-01-1732
OH-2097-01-0054	OH-2097-01-0066	OH-2097-01-0101	OH-2097-01-1615	OH-2097-01-4405
OH-2097-01-0055	OH-2097-01-0067	OH-2097-01-0102	OH-2097-01-1617	OH-2097-01-4882
OH-2097-01-0056	OH-2097-01-0068	OH-2097-01-1579	OH-2097-01-1624	OH-2097-01-6266
OH-2097-01-0058	OH-2097-01-0069	OH-2097-01-1581	OH-2097-01-1627	OH-2097-01-6267
OH-2097-01-0059	OH-2097-01-0070	OH-2097-01-1601	OH-2097-01-1628	
OH-2097-01-0060	OH-2097-01-0071	OH-2097-01-1602	OH-2097-01-1629	
OH-2097-01-0061	OH-2097-01-0072	OH-2097-01-1604		

As an Ohio resident, I am firmly against leasing Wayne National Forest for oil and gas extraction. Our forests play a critical role in cleaning air, sequestering carbon emissions, mitigating flooding, and providing habitat for wildlife. As a citizen of Ohio, I pay for and utilize our public lands, and demand they remain protected. The Environmental Assessment made by the Bureau of Land Management was not adequate, and the environmental review process remains incomplete and legally disputed. A **full Environmental Impact Statement** is required.

The Environmental Assessment is inadequate for the following reasons:

- The Bureau of Land Management's own estimates show this project could erase the equivalent of Wayne National Forest's carbon sequestration capacity for the next 30 years.
- The Bureau of Land Management has failed to analyze impacts to air quality and left Washington County out of its air pollution estimates based on the assumption that parcels there would not be included. However parcels in Washington County are included in the list slated for auction in September.
- The Bureau of Land Management has not adequately addressed risks to the Little Muskingum River and surrounding waterways from fracking near sensitive streams and forested watersheds. The extreme water withdrawals needed for fracking will affect the entire river system, whether or not withdrawals come directly from this river.

Further, the Bureau of Land Management has not updated the National Land and Resource Management Plan for Wayne National Forest since 2006. The plan you are working from does not reflect current science, environmental conditions, or years of public input. In 2021, Judge Michael Watson of US District Court found that the 2016 Environmental Assessment finding no significant impact to fracking Wayne National Forest was inadequate, and ordered the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to do a revised analysis. The judge also enjoined the Bureau of Land Management from conducting any new lease sales or drilling on any leased parcels until the agency has completed another NEPA analysis. Yet the Bureau of Land Management is now moving forward with a lease sale before ensuring its second Environmental Assessment has corrected the deficiencies that led the court to throw out the first Environmental Assessment in 2016. For all these reasons, the Bureau of Land Management must halt the September 2026 lease sale until the courts find that the second Environmental Assessment is adequate or order the Bureau to complete a full Environmental Impact Statement. To charge forward with a lease sale now, against virtually all public comments and legal proceedings is abhorrent, dishonorable, and is in direct opposition to the values of a democratic nation.

As a citizen of Ohio I demand that my voice be considered, and will not tolerate the negligent actions of The Bureau of Land Management. Thank you.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)