

**From:**  
**To:** [comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us)  
**Subject:** We Support the Ban on Horizontal Gas Drilling  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 16, 2011 12:12:00 PM

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Aug 16, 2011

U.S. Forest Service

Dear Forest Service,

We are writing in support of a ban on horizontal natural gas drilling in the George Washington National Forest, as proposed in the U.S. Forest Service "preferred alternative" draft management plan.

This sensible proposal would go far to protect drinking water resources for more than 260,000 Shenandoah Valley area residents, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, and retain the remote rural quality of the forest that hosts almost a million visitors each year.

We encourage the Forest Service to heighten scrutiny of vertical gas drilling, which would be allowed on nearly one million acres of the forest under the preferred alternative management plan.

The Forest Service should conduct a more thorough study of the impacts of vertical gas drilling (which also can use hydrofracking) before making a decision and, at a minimum, consider making local drinking water supply watersheds, other priority watersheds, and sensitive natural, scenic and recreation areas unavailable for drilling.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vernon and Mary Joyce Dixon