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**To:** Ban Fracking in George Washington National Forest  
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Although the ban on horizontal fracking outlined in the Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is a welcome step in the right direction, ALL fracking should be banned in the George Washington National Forest.

Even more conventional forms of natural gas drilling (non-horizontal fracking) can deplete and contaminate local water, damage the environment and threaten public health. Fracking is exempt from key federal water protections and overwhelmed state regulators largely oversee the practice.

Even if the laws on the books were strengthened, fracking poses an unacceptable risk to our pristine national forests, tourism and agriculture industries, and public drinking water to entrust effective and rigorous regulatory oversight to these officials. All fracking should be banned from George Washington National Forest.

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