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Comments: Dear Forest Service:

Fracking must not be allowed near sensitive terrestrial ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and watersheds. When wastewater from oil and gas extraction is accidentally or illegally released into the environment, the ecological impacts can be immediate and readily visible. The longterm effects on ecosystems can be devastating, similar to the ritual of spreading salt on conquered cities to symbolize a curse on their re-inhabitation. Sodium chloride or brine is a major concern from spilled and leaked produced water. While the salt content varies greatly from one frack to another, salinity can be several times saltier than seawater.

Produced water may also contain toxic fracking chemicals and potentially toxic agents that occur naturally in the rock formation, including radioactive isotopes, organic compounds (such as benzene), ions (such as bromide, calcium, and chloride), and metals (such as cadmium, lead, and mercury).

Fracking must not be allowed in our wilderness and watershed to prevent long term devastation of the ecosystems, similar to the ancient practice of cursing inhabitants with the sowing of salt.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence F. Herbert