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First name: Anon

Last name: Anon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposed oil and gas exploration in our National Forests. Protecting these public lands should prioritize long-term ecological health and community well-being over short-term industrial exploitation. I urge the Forest Service to deny these exploration permits based on the following critical impacts: Watershed Degradation: Drilling infrastructure accelerates soil erosion, causing toxic runoff and severe sedimentation in local streams. Furthermore, operations risk permanent aquifer contamination from chemical leaks and spills. Habitat Destruction: Developing well pads and access roads fragments intact ecosystems. This industrial activity drives a severe loss of local biodiversity, permanently displacing sensitive wildlife and disrupting vital breeding patterns. Economic & Recreational Damage: Transforming pristine forests into industrial zones creates severe user conflicts for hikers, hunters, and campers. This landscape degradation directly threatens the outdoor recreation economy that local communities rely on. Climate & Carbon Sinks: Our national forests serve as essential carbon sinks. Expanding fossil fuel extraction directly undermines climate change mitigation goals and accelerates environmental decline. Loss of Public Voice: I strongly oppose recent policy shifts that reduce public oversight, restrict local input, and bypass site-specific environmental assessments. Public lands require public transparency. Our national forests are far more valuable left intact for clean water, wildlife, and future generations than they are opened up to fossil fuel degradation. Please reject these exploration proposals.