

Speaking in Kansas in 1910, President Roosevelt said “I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us.”

And yet the proposal to permit and expand fracking on public lands is precisely such a waste. There are three principle reasons Fracking on public lands is not in the public interest.

### #1 Fracking threatens our air, water, and climate

Because of the so called “Halliburton loophole” fracking has been allowed to proliferate without clear disclosure of chemicals used and their impacts on public. But even in the absence of this essential data, numerous health and environmental impacts have been clearly documented. A compendium of dozens of research studies by Concerned Health Professionals of New York documented 15 separate risk areas.<sup>i</sup> A study commissioned by the State of Maryland concluded:

*“Based on our evaluations of the limited data available from UNGDP impacted areas, we conclude that there is a Moderately High Likelihood that UNGDP’s impact on water quality, soil quality and naturally occurring radioactive materials will have a negative impact on public health in Garrett and Allegany Counties”<sup>ii</sup>*

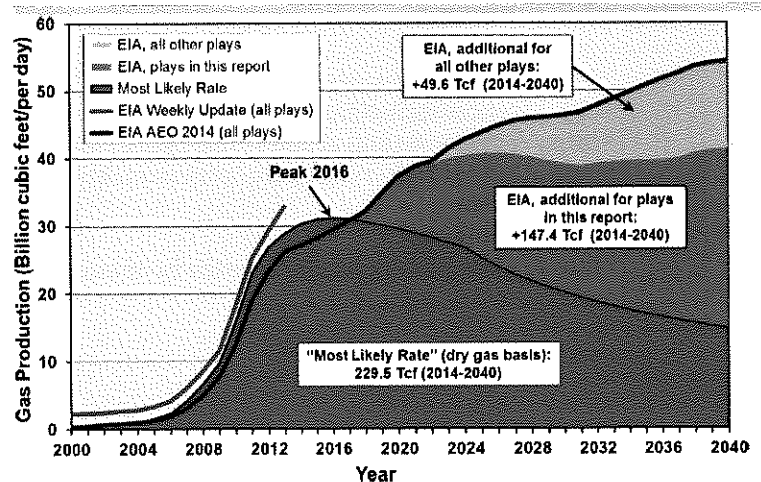
And a recent report concluded that due to methane leakage, which is occurring at a far greater rate than estimated by the EPA or self-reported by the drilling companies, fracked gas may be just as bad for climate change or WORSE than coal.<sup>iii</sup>

### #2 Fracking and tight oil are not long term energy solutions

Even if we accept the use, and risk, of subjecting our public lands to dramatically increased energy production, this will not create a sustainable, long term base of jobs or energy for the U.S. Consider this from the recently published *Shale Bubble* report from the Post Carbon Institute<sup>iv</sup>:

*The reality is that the government’s long-term forecasts—the ones everyone is relying on to guide our energy policy and planning—are overly optimistic. An exhaustive, county-by-county analysis of the 12 major shale plays in the U.S. (accounting for 89% of current tight oil and 88% of current shale gas production) concludes that both oil and natural gas production will peak this decade and decline to a small fraction of current production by 2040.*

*Shale plays suffer from high decline rates and declining well quality as the “sweet spots” run out, meaning that ever more wells will have to be drilled just to keep production flat—until even that*



*is no longer achievable. Continued drilling requires massive amounts of capital, which can only be supported by high levels of debt or higher prices.*

#3 Boom town created by extreme energy extraction are rife with crime and violence  
Finally, there is a social cost – beyond the environmental and Economic concerns – to using public lands to create temporary (very temporary, according to the data in #2) boom-towns around extreme energy extraction.

In her on-going series “America By the Numbers” Award winning journalist Maria Hinojosa visited the Native American boomtown on the Fort Berthold Reservation. She wrote that



*“[The] Reservation’s 1,000-plus oil wells have brought in money and jobs for some.*

*But the oil has also brought danger—organized crime, hard drugs, traffic fatalities—and other problems. We speak to tribal members about the benefits—and consequences—of the boom.”<sup>v</sup>*

When I joined Ms. Hinojosa and other activists on a live twitter chat just before the episode premier, we heard terrible stories of people killed, families torn apart, property values and communities destroyed. All in the rush to develop fracked gas and oil for the profit of a few large companies.

#### Conclusion

Given the substantial harms to the environment, climate, public health, community safety; and given the absence of a long term benefit to our economy or energy supply, we think it is clear that fracking has NO place on public lands, and should be banned as a practice inconsistent with the public’s interest.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://concernedhealthny.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CHPNY-Fracking-Compendium.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://environmental-action-research.org/?q=node/10>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/09/methane-fracking-obama-climate-change-bill-mckibben>

<sup>iv</sup> [Shalebubble.org](http://Shalebubble.org)

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/america-by-the-numbers/episodes/episode-104/>