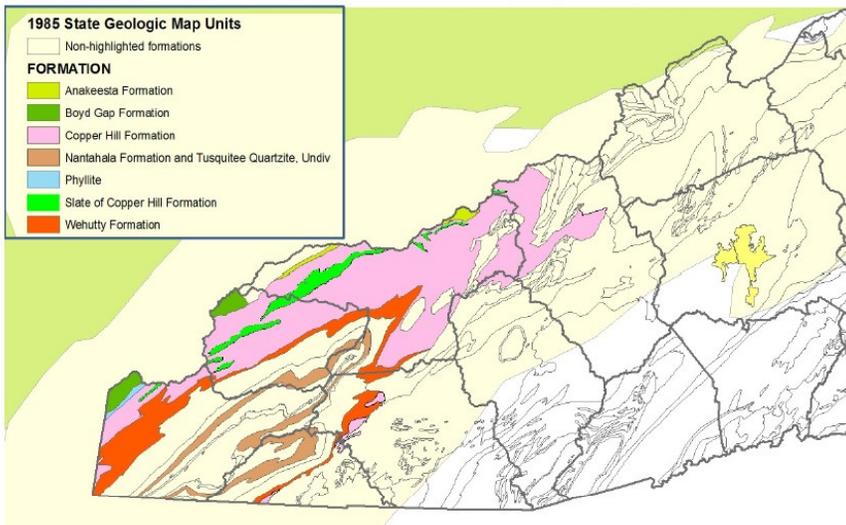


# Could Fracking come to western North Carolina?

Carbonaceous- and sulfidic formations: Western, North Carolina rift basin



The formations in color on this map are the ones the state is interested in testing (this does not include the city of Asheville, colored in a light-yellow to the east of the other formations, for reference) .

The state of NC allocated money to explore certain rock formations in western NC for natural gas potential. They are interested in testing parts of **Haywood, Swain, Graham, Cherokee, Clay, Macon, and Jackson Counties.** Geologic testing of these areas was to begin in 2014, but the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) decided to hold off for now, due to budgetary reasons. The original funding approved by the General Assembly for exploring WNC was **\$11,725**, out of a total of \$550,000 for the state. DENR may decide to explore next year, or may hold off indefinitely.

## ***What we know (and what we don't):***

- ◆ Fracking is now legal in North Carolina, and drilling could begin in the central part of the state—the Deep River basin—by 2015.
- ◆ We don't know the likelihood of natural gas or oil in the mountains of NC. Though some geologists have expressed skepticism that there is any significant amount, state geologist Ken Taylor thinks it is a possibility.
- ◆ If initial tests show that there could be shale gas, the state will come in for further tests. It will take hundreds of thousands of dollars, and likely several years, to determine this.
- ◆ If there is enough shale gas in the mountains, the state will likely encourage fracking companies to come.
- ◆ Much of the land that could possibly be fracked in WNC is public land—state and national forests. Residents of WNC won't gain money from mineral rights leases, but will be negatively impacted by the process.
- ◆ Fracking for natural gas cannot be done safely, in ways that effectively protect North Carolina residents, communities, and groundwater, in any part of the state.
- ◆ the mountains pose additional risks for fracking: truck traffic and road repair will be worse, steep slopes would make this industrial process even less safe, and the tourism to WNC could be negatively affected.
- ◆ No industrial activity in our state has the potential to impact so many residents' right to use and enjoy their land, their right to health, safe water and air, and quality of life as fracking and intensive gas development.
- ◆ *Remember, whether or not fracking comes to the mountains, western NC will feel indirect statewide impacts from fracking in NC, from infrastructure and pipeline development, cost of road repairs, wastewater disposal, and more.*

**The sooner citizens of Western North Carolina show that we are against fracking coming to the mountains, the more likely we can stop it!**

## Fracking is dangerous to communities, health, water, and our economy

- ◆ fracking would use millions of gallons of freshwater, leaving it extremely polluted and with no good method of treatment or disposal
- ◆ fracking threatens drinking water wells, and over 3 million people in NC rely on private wells for their drinking water
- ◆ the supply of natural gas in NC is so small, it does not make the investments needed in infrastructure worth it
- ◆ the brief surge in jobs would lead to a bust, and a less diversified economy
- ◆ large landowners could profit, but only at the expense of small landowners
- ◆ all landowners in shale regions would be vulnerable to predatory mineral rights leases
- ◆ NC's shale gas basins have the highest population density of any region proposed for fracking
- ◆ industrialization of the landscape could impact tourism, quality of life, across the state
- ◆ NC's geology has shale formations that are closer to the surface and to groundwater used for drinking water, increasing the risk of movement of toxic chemicals from frack sites into water supplies.
- ◆ The cost of road repair alone could outweigh any income to the state from fracking
- ◆ Because NC has no gas development industry, most investments would be spent outside the state

### Fracking on public land and National Forests...

\* Fracking would require industrialization of the landscape, including potentially hundreds of miles of access roads and pipelines, acres of bulldozing for well pads and waste disposal; all of which would have a **huge footprint in the forests**.

\* Our National Forests have some of the cleanest water in the state, but **water contamination** could occur from accidental spills of fracking fluids, and our complex geology could lead to groundwater contamination.

\* Infrastructure and development from fracking would be **damaging to many species of wildlife**, from erosion and sedimentation into the streams, noise level and activity of drilling development, and any spills of fracking fluids. Aquatic species would have the highest risk in the event of a spill.

\* methane leaks associated with faulty well casings and pipelines would **increase climate change**, which could require many species to migrate to find suitable habitat and would undermine the ecological integrity of the forest by increasing climate instability.

\* Fracking could harm the **ecological integrity** of the forest by fragmenting wildlife travel corridors with development of roads and well pads and by degrading water quality and ecosystem function in stream through erosion or spills.

### ***What you can do:***

-**join our update list** for WNC fracking news and events. Simply go to this website, and enter your email address:

<http://www.cwfnc.org/what-we-do/hydraulic-fracturing/frack-updates/>

-**contact your legislator**, and express concern about fracking coming to WNC.

-**hold an informational event** in your community; share information and concerns with your friends and neighbors. We can help! Contact [info@FrackFreeNC.org](mailto:info@FrackFreeNC.org)



**More info available at:**

**[www.frackfreeNC.org](http://www.frackfreeNC.org)**

**Questions?**

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