



Ground Water Protection Council
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Dedicated to protecting our nation's ground water.

March 27, 2008

Gail Kimball, Chief
US Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250
Email: akimball@fs.fed.us
FAX: 202-205-1765

Dear Ms. Kimball,

The Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) is a national association of state ground water and underground injection control agencies whose mission is to promote the protection and conservation of ground water resources for all beneficial uses, recognizing ground water as a critical component of the ecosystem. The GWPC provides a forum for stakeholder communication and research in order to improve governments' role in the protection and conservation of ground water. Our members include Ground Water and Source Water Protection programs in each state.

We are writing to express our appreciation for the Forest Service efforts towards ground water protection and to request that the draft Forest Service ground water directive be made available for public comment as soon as possible.

GWPC has been working with the Forest Service ground water program since 2006 and invited input from the agency on the Recommended Actions in the GWPC Ground Water Report to the Nation: A Call to Action. The ground water program is featured as a successful, up and coming, case example in the Land Use section of the Report, page 5-16 (Please see attached excerpt). The full Report can be viewed or downloaded at www.gwpc.org/CallToAction.

Our state members are increasingly interested in coordinating their ground water and source water protection efforts with those managing National Forest lands within their states. Dialogue between GWPC and the Forest Service over the past few years has benefited state programs and we hope that these exchanges and opportunities for input will continue at the national level in addition to any coordination activities that may be occurring within each state or National Forest.

The May 2007 USDA Forest Service publication, Technical Guide for Managing Ground Water Resources, is an excellent document, especially in explaining ground

water-dependent ecosystems and emphasizing their importance. We applaud your agency on that effort.

We understand that an internal policy directive concerning ground water is being completed. We are interested in discussing the details of this new document and state ground water and source water programs anxious to provide input as soon as possible. Please provide us with an expected timeline for releasing the document for public comment so that we may pass that information to our state members. Again, thank you for your efforts to protect ground water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Paque". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Paque" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Paque CAE
Executive Director
Ground Water Protection Council

cc: Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief
Scott Kell, Ohio DNR, GWPC President