



**Kevin Maresca**  
<marescakevin@yahoo.com>

09/08/2008 09:59 PM  
Please respond to  
marescakevin

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Wilderness proposals

Please consider my opposition to the proposed wilderness area conversion in the George Washington National Forest. Wilderness area designation excludes too much non-destructive recreational activity and makes land less accessible to potential users. I currently enjoy National Forests for my mountain biking (non-motorized) and would like to see my ability to do that preserved. The 1964 Wilderness act is dated and was not written for much of today's recreational uses and should be reconsidered. Until that is done, please use the wilderness designation sparingly.

Thank you,  
--Kevin Maresca, Washington, DC



**Douglas Pepelko**  
<pepelkod@hotmail.com>

09/09/2008 01:06 PM

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

Please do not shut down the forest to mountain bikers.

While I agree that there should be areas/trails that are hiking only, I think blanket rules that apply to huge swaths of land are not the solution. Cyclists have more in common with hikers than ATV/Motocross riders. Mountain bikers also expend more time and effort per capita on trail building and maintenance than almost any other user. Lastly there are a number of studies that show that bikes do no more harm to trails than hikers do.

We can share this land.

-Douglas Pepelko: A responsible mountain biker.

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Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/09/2008 01:16 PM

Submitted by: Hans Lellelid<br>At: hans@velum.net<br>Remark: As a mountain biker in the northern Virginia area, I strongly oppose the plan to restrict mountain bike access to the George Washington national forest. There are so few places to mountain bike as it is, and this is an area that is known to be some of the best mountain bike riding on the east coast. As testament, BIKE magazine just devoted several articles of their latest issue to the trails of the GW national forest. I know that studies have shown that biking has no more ecological impact than hiking; I\'m sure the planning commission is aware of these studies.

Please don\'t take these trails away from us!

Sincerely,  
Hans Lellelid<br>



**"Mike Frantzen"**  
<frantzen@w4g.org>  
Sent by:  
mike.frantzen@gmail.  
com

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
CC:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/09/2008 03:31 PM

I am a backpacker and hunter of the GWNF and JNF. I am opposed to designing more of the National Forests as Wilderness because it limits the use of Mountain bikes. I have been planing for two years to spend a few days scouting remote hunting spots in the NF on a mountain bike.

The designated Wilderness areas also feel much more like the National Parks. I love how the National Forests are much more free. I can build a small fire when cold. I can let the dog off the leash when we're off trail. I can hunt. I am worried that in the future Congress will "reinterpret" the Wilderness restrictions to further reduce use of the lands like the National Parks do.

Please don't further regulate or restrict the National Forests  
Mike Frantzen  
2310 14th St N #002  
Arlington, VA 22201



**Ian Spivack**  
<[gte534j@hotmail.com](mailto:gte534j@hotmail.com)>  
m>

To: <[comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us)>  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/09/2008 03:14 PM

To:  
Dave Plunkett, Planning Team Leader  
Ken Landgraf, Planning Staff Officer  
JoBeth Brown, Public Affairs Officer

Re: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

I would like to submit my comment on the George Washington Plan Revision. I support the International Mountain Bike Association and would like to designate the area as "National Scenic Area." This will allow bike usage and occasional chainsaw usage for trail repair. I also support a small fee charge for continued development and use of this land for biking.

Thanks,  
Ian Spivack  
9900 Longford Ct  
Vienna, VA 22181  
703-200-4519  
[gte534j@hotmail.com](mailto:gte534j@hotmail.com)

---

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"Eric S Crawford"  
<ecrawford@rkk.com  
>

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc: <joe.letke@verizon.net>  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/09/2008 09:38 PM

US Forest Service:

I writing due to my concern over the George Washington National Forest Forest Plan Revision materials posted on the web <<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/forestplan/revision/meetings.shtml>>. Regrettably I am unable to attend the public meetings.

I would like to make it known that my family of four and a friend's family of 5 travelled to Luray, Virginia during the summer of 2008 for a camping vacation at a local privately held campground. The only reason we considered the location for our co-vacation was the ability to ride mountain bikes in the area identified in your Map of Potential Wilderness Areas <<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/forestplan/revision/mtg-updates-2008/map-of-potential-wilderness-areas.pdf>> as Massanutten North.

In addition my family has traveled to and from our home in Baltimore, MD to Clifton Forge, VA ( affected area Beards Mountain ) at least 3 times, Harrisonburg, VA ( affected areas, Ramsey Draft Addition & Jerkentight ) at least 4 times and Franklin, WV ( affected area High Knob ) more times than I can recall over the past 15 years. Every location was visited with cycling in mind, usually the primary purpose of the trips.

I have fully supported Wilderness Area designations in the past but these planned areas are unacceptable to me. To remove access to land that has been open for so long is ridiculous. Alternative measures exist to maintain an area's current status. National Scenic designations have been used elsewhere in the South of the Virginia.

I hope you will consider my opposition to a Wilderness Area designation for those lands that mountain bikes have had historic access to as you weigh your options for these areas.

Thank you for your time

Eric S. Crawford  
514 Shipley Road  
Linthicum Heights, MD  
21090



**Katie Pepelko**  
<skatevet@yahoo.com>

09/09/2008 11:04 PM  
Please respond to  
skatevet

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

Please do not turn the entire GW forest into Wilderness area. This would exclude users like me who mountain bike. A National Scenic Area is more appropriate. The specific areas I am concerned about are the Jerkemtight area which holds the IMBA epic "Southern Traverse" and the Ramseys Draft which is used in the Shenandoah Mountain 100 bike race with over 500 racers.

Thank you,  
Katie



**Shawn Punga**  
<s\_punga@yahoo.com>  
m>

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/09/2008 11:12 PM

As a mountain biker and semi-annual visitor to various areas of the GW forrest, I am dismayed at the Forrest Service's proposed plan to classify large sections of the GWF as Wilderness Areas. Particularly when many sections of trail are built and maintained by the mountain bike community. Mountain bike riders also serve as many sets of eyes, alerting authorities to trouble and other conditions in the field.

In lieu of Wilderness Area designation, I am requesting consideration of the National Scenic Area (NSA) designation for these lands and where ever else possible. Permitting mountain bikers and others to enjoy these amazing resources, while protecting the land from development, is key to ensuring these lands will have many advocates from around the country and survive the test of time. As a new father, I hope to share these lands and the trails that run through them with my daughter some day.

Regards,

Shawn Punga  
Maryland at-Large Member  
Board of Directors,  
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts



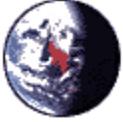
"Leitner, Stephen"  
<stephen.leitner@mir  
ant.com>

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on GW plan revision

09/10/2008 09:41 AM

I am writing to voice my concern with some parts of the George Washington National Forest being designated Wilderness Areas. My family and I have trekked and biked on Massanutten Mountain, Great North Mountain and other areas of the Forest. We visit a few times a year and cherish our time together in the outdoors, with hardly ever seeing another soul. These places are beautiful, vast, and unspoiled without being designated Wilderness. I rarely encounter other human beings, neither on foot, bike or horse. To exclude cyclists from these areas by designating it Wilderness seems to me unnecessary. Why shield the natural beauty of our cherished forests from those who chose to see it from the seat of a bicycle as opposed to doing it on foot? Today more and more kids stay inside and occupy their time in front of the TV or computer. What better way to teach our children to respect our National Forests and to maintain healthy lives than to get them out into these areas and show them a good time! My daughter and I choose to roam the rocky mountainsides and grassy valleys of the National Forest on bicycles. Together we hope to continue to maintain and build new trails with the many other bicycle, equestrian and hiking advocates in the area. We hope a designation other than Wilderness, such as a National Scenic Area, will allow us to do so. We support any designation that would continue to protect the National Forest from modern development and industry while allowing cyclists to fully enjoy our public lands.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Leitner  
West River, MD



Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/10/2008 06:22 PM

Submitted by: bruce ritchie<br>At: mtnprivy@yahoo.com<br>Remark: I cannot attend the meeting at Turner Ashby high school, but wish to let you know of my concerns about the GWNF plan revision. I am a resident of 24234 german river rd. criders, va. I live adjacent to the Beech Lick Knob roadless area. I often visit these woods, and am concerned about the impact of logging and roads in this an other potential wilderness areas. I have read Mark Miller\'s book on Mountain Treasures, and think that many/most of these areas should be serously considered for wilderness areas.

I am also concerned that logging operations on these areas during the plan revision process would negatively impact many areas considered likely for wilderness designation. For this reason, no logging should be allowed until this plan revision process is completed. This is a very important detail. Also that no logging operations at below cost should be allowed, since this is both potentially negative for the environment as well as our finances.

Our forests have the potential to help save us from our own stupidity of burning and carbon dioxide production, and we must save the forest in order for it to save us. I think that anything which lowers organic matter in the forest soils should be avoided, including any logging which may do this. We cannot afford to allow our overconsumption of resources to ruin the forest. For the sake of our forests, we must turn around our consumption habits throughout our lives, and live more simply. Our new forest service plan must reflect this truth.

sincerely,  
Bruce ritchie  
24234 german river rd  
criders, va. 22820

<br>



**Greg Leister**  
<gleister@triad.rr.com>  
m>

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/10/2008 09:00 PM

Good Evening, My name is Greg Leister and I live in Burlington NC. It has been brought to my attention through numerous dedicated east coast mountain bike websites that there might be some issues around the continued use of public trails in the George Washington and Jefferson Forest. I am writing in support of continued use for all public activity whether it is hiking, horseback riding and my recreation of choice mountain biking. You might wonder why someone out of state is concerned with the affairs of Virginia's forest access. It is simple, the public land in Virginia is some of the prettiest, most rugged and unique forest around. We have visited Virginia six times to access the trail systems this year alone. We contribute a considerable amount of money to the local economy of Virginia during each and every visit. Our interest in visiting Virginia would certainly dry up if the trails we love are made unavailable to mountain biking. There are hundreds if not thousands of North Carolinians that feel the same way. Please consider this before a decision is made in this matter. Thank you for your time.  
Greg Leister



Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/11/2008 09:01 AM

Submitted by: Tom Sager<br>At: tesager@email.com<br>Remark: Please continue to keep the roadless area of GWNF open to off-road cyclists. The GWNF is an unvaluable resource and should continue to be accessible to bicycles. Off-road cyclists are some of the most active stewards of this area and with partners like the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA)we can continue to build partnerships and provide education to keep natural resources like the GWNF available and sustainable for generations to come.

Thank you,

Tom Sager  
123 Penderbrook Ct.  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
540-030-1165<br>



Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/11/2008 09:07 AM

Submitted by: Tom Sager<br>At: tesager@email.com<br>Remark: EDIT:

Please continue to keep the roadless area of GWNF open to off-road cyclists. The GWNF is an invaluable resource and should continue to be accessible to bicycles. Off-road cyclists are some of the most active stewards of this area and with partners like the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) we can continue to build partnerships and provide education to keep natural resources like the GWNF available and sustainable for generations to come.

Thank you,

Tom Sager  
123 Penderbrook Ct.  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
540-030-1165  
<br>



"Jay Holt"  
<jaymholt@gmail.com>  
m>

To: "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us"  
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc:

09/11/2008 12:24 PM

Subject: Comments on George Washington Plan Revision

I would like to comment on the George Washington national forest plan revision. I have a few key concerns. There are two decisions I would like to see avoided. The first being additional Wilderness Designation. I am opposed to wilderness designation for several reason. The second being allowing any additional road construction, or ecologically inconsistent fire management, and restoration treatments.

1. The area currently has multi use single track type trails which include use by hikers, mountain bikes and equestrians. The mountain bike community is willing to assist with trail maintenance and construction, wilderness designation will logically revoke such support, and force mountain bikes into other areas in greater numbers. Economic impacts are unstudied but will occur rather studied or not.
2. The mountain bike community simply does not support wilderness, but is not opposed to the road less rule, or to seeking other designating of small key habitats that exclude trails all together, especially for species protection, and particularly endanged species. Wildlife reserves and other designations may be a desirable outcome.
3. Wilderness designation may allow for fire use fires that is to say that land managers may decide that naturally started fires are producing desired effects and should be allowed to burn. In reality two things happen regarding fire use in wilderness areas. Managers are reluctant to allow fire use because of lack of prior fuels treatment, lack of access, and restricting suppression to hand tools and costly aerial suppression. Additionally when complications do occur and a fire use fire threatens the public, regional foresters are often willing and do remove restrictions that allow the use of bulldozer line, because roads have been obliterated or are no longer usable. For this reason roads should remain, even if closed to the public. Further more restrictions on activates in wilderness and fears of more likely catastrophic fires lead to less fire use in wilderness.
4. As I am sure you are aware, federal funding for forest managment is dwindeling and land managers all over are imposing user fees. Wilderness designation limits the tools that can be used in management by making it more difficult to impose user fees.. If a serious shortfall in funding occurs management for any area designated wilderness will likely suffer the most, because cost saving mechanized tools are not allows and wilderness designation does not guarantee additional funding.
5. While very little of George Washington National forest is currently wilderness designating Wilderness will break up continuity for mountain bikers seeking back country experiences and multi day primitive camping trips. Opportunities in the area are for such use are rare.
6. Any timber sales conducted need to be consistent with the forest type, even if much of the public does not understand or opposes it, its inline with NEPA. I believe that broad leaf deciduous forests are gap replacing forests, so a cut should try to mimic this by intensive cutting, even clear cutting but only in small and scattered patches. Public opposition for clear cutting is wide spread, but cutting large areas and leaving old growth trees behind does not allow for gaps in the canopy and is unnatural.
7. Wilderness designation often turns political. Groups will form in support of or against the wilderness and in order to pass a bill for wilderness designation the wilderness boundaries and intent of the wilderness act will be compromised, often severely. Ideally a wilderness boundary would be drawn based on ecology, topography, or watersheds. This is not what actually happens. In ares like the Redrock/ Secret mountain wilderness in Sedona, Arizona, the wilderness act has been manipulated. In this example the wilderness boundary was moved and set at an an arbitrary elevation contour and square anomalies on the boundary were created and later the Forest Service was pressured into selling them. These wilderness proximate land sale plots quickly sky rocketed in value after being sold cheap to a developer. A wilderness surrounded by private resorts which inhibit access to the wilderness is what resulted, hardly consistent with the wilderness act. Urban proximate and wilderness do not belong in the same sentence but that is exactly what happened. Being so close to Washington DC this could become a polarized and political debate here. Such a debate ends any real discussion of land management and land use planning. A well organized ATV user group with support from the mountain bike users could compromise a wilderness bill by bringing a senator on board so heavily that a new OHV area, offer

referred to appropriately as a sacrificial zone would be created some where else in exchange for the wilderness area.

One odd ball approach that should be considered is proposing wilderness designation but never actually going thru with it. This allows forest managers to use heavy handed management tactics, and to exclude motorized vehicles, and still reserve tools like mechanized fire suppression, and can still allow for mountain bike use given its non motorized nature. Its a compromise approach that allows us to have our cake and eat it too.

Thank you

Jay Holt



"Treece, Erin"  
<ETreece@eKemper.com>

09/11/2008 04:59 PM

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc: <btreece@bananabanner.com>  
Subject: Please preserve the trails for mountain biking

Greetings,

I am a mountain bike enthusiast as well as a trail maintenance volunteer with MORE and a volunteer ranger with the Maryland DNR. I would like very much to see the trail system in the George Washington National Forest preserved in it's current state and to continue to permit mountainbiking on it's trails. Studies have proven that mountainbiking has minimal impact on trails and certainly no more than the impact of hikers. In my experience in the George Washington National Forest I rarely see another hiker or biker but when I do it has always been a positive experience and friendly encounter. The trails are suitable to be enjoyed by both user groups and appreciated by all. I implore you to retain the existing trail system as it is for all user groups to enjoy for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and attention given this matter.

Sincerely,

Erin Treece  
Staff Appraiser III  
Kemper-A Unitrin Business  
2430 Whitehall Park Drive  
suite 100  
Charlotte, NC 28273  
703-799-6500 (direct)  
703-475-1724 (cell)  
703-799-6400 (fax)  
[etreece@eKemper.com](mailto:etreece@eKemper.com)  
[www.eKemper.com](http://www.eKemper.com)

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**Joe Whitehair**  
<[joewhitehair@yahoo.com](mailto:joewhitehair@yahoo.com)>

To: [comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us)  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/12/2008 01:15 PM

I submit the following comments in regard to the upcoming discussion of potential Wilderness areas in the George Washington National Forest.

I have been coming to the GWNF for over a decade to mountain bike in this valuable natural resource. As a large user group, mountain bikers have put in large numbers of hours to build and maintain trail in the forest and support it in as many ways possible. While I want to see the forest continue to remain in it's natural state, I do not support Wilderness designations to do this in the areas that are currently open to mountain biking. IMBA as well as local mountain bike advocacy groups support alternative designations to Wilderness (such as National Scenic Areas) that allow us continued access while providing protection to the land. These alternative designations are what I support going forward for forest management.

Thank you,  
Joe Whitehair  
200 E. 8th Street  
Frederick, MD 21701



**"Cheung, Calvin H Mr  
CIV USA AMC"**  
<calvin.cheung@us.ar  
my.mil>

09/12/2008 01:37 PM

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

To Whom It May Concern:

As a mountain biker, the Wildlife plan for George Washington National Forest will have a major impact on the accessibility to trails in the area. I live in MD, just outside DC, but do visit the area a few times a year. Annually, there is a 100-mile mountain bike race, The Shenandoah Mountain 100, that runs through the forest. This past year, we had over 500 participants, ranging from the professional level racer, to the casual rider, looking to enjoy the 100 miles of trail offered. Specifically, the race runs through near Dowell's and Braley's Pond. This was my fourth year, and hopefully not the last.

In addition to this race, I also make a trip out to Jerkentight area, which is part of a well known "IMBA Epic ride" called the "Southern Traverse."

Having this vast trail network is beyond comparison to the local trails in the DC area. Obviously, land is of short supply here, so having extensive trail access within a few hour drive is a treat many of us enjoy. We would all be at a loss if these trails for no longer accessible.

Please feel free to contact me if you want any more details, or would want to simply discuss my feeling, and I think I can safely say, the feelings many of my fellow mountain bikers share, further. Thank you.

Calvin Cheung  
Electronics Engineer  
U.S. Army RDECOM-ARDEC Fuze Group  
COM: 301-394-0737 DSN: 290-0737  
calvin.cheung@us.army.mil



**Este Fisher**  
<bluedogs@ntelos.net>

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Wilderness

09/13/2008 07:28 AM

Under no circumstances do you need to increase the amount of wilderness areas in the G-W, Jefferson National Forest unless you want them to DIE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Este Fisher



Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/13/2008 11:25 AM

Submitted by: randy mongold<br>At: ratmongold@ntelos.net<br>Remark: I oppose any efforts to make any national forest lands into wilderness areas. This land has been set aside for all americans to enjoy. If you designate these areas as wilderness you have effectivly eliminated handicapped access, motor vehicle access, which many people us for camping and wildlife observation. Hunters would be extremly affected by this which would dramatically effect businesses sales. I am tired of fighting for what should be accessible to all equally. I along with fellow sportsmans organizations, delegates, boards of supervisors, congegssman and citizens, are about to ignite a onslaught of comments and if have to be litigation to OPPOSE any such actions that would Designate wilderness areas in Western Virginia. This is our land, set aside by our government, constutionally protected from any such designation. Leave it alone or try to make it better, dont destroy what is now a good thing because!

of enviromental and I stress the mental part, wackos who cant see a good thing when its in front of their face. i AM SURE YOU WILL BE HEARING MORE SOON!!!!<br>



**Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s**

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/13/2008 09:13 PM

Submitted by: Coby Leathers<br>At: jacobileathers@yahoo.com<br>Remark: yes I  
would like to have a job or to help out with the National parks. please e-mail  
me back. thanks alot.<br>



Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/14/2008 08:59 PM

Submitted by: Rick Layser <br>At: rglayser@earthlink.net<br>Remark: I am an Executive Board member of the Virginia National Wild Turkey Federation. The NWTf is a 580,000 member organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and its habitat, and preservation of the hunting tradition.

Do not include areas that have historically had wildlife management activities on them. Areas that have been previously clearcut, have openings, prescribed burns, water structures, ect., should not be considered for wilderness designation. Areas that could in the future have wildlife management activities on them should be excluded. <br>



Planning.comments.f  
orm@svinet2.fs.fed.u  
s

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject:

09/14/2008 10:48 PM

Submitted by: Barbara Anne am Ende<br>At: no\_spam@deepcaves.net<br>Remark: I have great concerns about the potential WAs under consideration. I am a mountain biker because my knees hurt so much I can\'t hike (downhill, especially) any more. My only chance to get significant exposure to the out of doors is on my bike.

I support plans to protect our public lands, but I am not in favor of official Wilderness Areas. The Wilderness Act has banned too many low-impact activities, while simultaneously allowing much more impacting activities.

In particular, I urge you to designate the land in your studies in a way that allows mountain biking. I have ridden repeatedly at the Elizabeth Furnace (Bear Wallow and associated) trails. I\'ve also ridden at Catherine Furnace, and Mud Pond Gap. I have a personal goal to ride at Braley Pond, as well.

I have friends who are especially concerned about these trails in particular: Shawl Gap, Sherman Gap, Veach Gap, Stoney Creek, Mill Mountain, Big Schloss, Mine Gap, Kennedy Peak, Scothorn Gap, Little Stony Creek, Three Ponds, and the perennial favorite, Bear Wallow.

Mountain bikers do an incredible amount of trail advocacy. We are stewards of the land. It would not just be a significant detriment to us, but to the forest lands as well if we are shut out by an unnecessary designation. Please consider alternatives to Wilderness Area designation. Perhaps \"National Scenic Area\" would provide good protection for the areas while allowing historic, low-impact uses such as mountain bikes.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Barbara Anne am Ende, Ph.D.<br>



**Steve Krichbaum**  
<loki4@rica.net>

09/15/2008 09:00 AM

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us,  
mhyzer@fs.fed.us, klandgraf@fs.fed.us, dplunkett@fs.fed.us

cc:

Subject: gwnf wilderness - plan revision

i am sorry i could not attend the meetings last week, but i didnt want  
to make you sick (well, part of me did) - attached are written  
comments - sk



potential Wild. com. FS SK.doc





**Maureen Hyzer**

09/15/2008 11:58 AM

To: "Steve Krichbaum" <loki4@rica.net>,  
comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@FSNOTES,  
Kenneth Landgraf/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, David  
Plunkett/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES

CC:

Subject: Re: gwnf wilderness - plan revision 

Thanks Steve.  
Maureen T. Hyzer  
Sent from my BlackBerry Handheld.

----- Original Message -----

From: Steve Krichbaum [loki4@rica.net]

Sent: 09/15/2008 09:00 AM AST

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson; Maureen Hyzer; Kenneth  
Landgraf; David Plunkett

Subject: gwnf wilderness - plan revision

i am sorry i could not attend the meetings last week, but i didnt want  
to make you sick (well, part of me did) - attached are written  
comments - sk



attb33y5.dat



"Johnson, SE  
\(Steve\)"  
<Steve.Johnson@roa.  
AkzoNobel.com>

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Comments on George Washington Plan Revision

09/18/2008 12:14 PM

I have a few comments regarding the future plans for the George Washington National Forest. I am an avid mountain biker and enjoy trail riding all around the southern districts of the forest. I believe wilderness designation should only be used if no other designation will work. Wilderness restricts access to all but a few who prefer to lock up all the roadless lands. From the map I saw it appears that a parcel of North Mountain between Lexington and Covington is being considered for wilderness. If that area is considered for wilderness, I would be very upset if the wilderness boundary includes North Mountain trail. That trail has long been a mountain bike route and should remain so. I also believe the Laurel Fork area should remain open to multiple use, not designated as wilderness.

Other concerns are:

I would like to see more trail maintenance done by the Forest Service – better signage, blazing, and brushing out. I realize money is tight, but I do not believe trail maintenance has ever been very high on the priority list for the Forest Service. Road maintenance has always received much more attention and funding. I also believe that trail users could also do a lot more trail maintenance also.

I mentioned to several Forest Service personnel at the Hot Springs planning meeting an idea for a trail system in the “Gasline Tract” between Roaring Run and Rich Patch near Clifton Forge and Eagle Rock. That area contains a lot of old clearcuts and logging roads. I believe that it would be the perfect place to showcase forest management practices with a trail system running throughout the area. With logging roads that are in place and some connectors it would be fairly easy to build trails in the area, especially with the shaley soil. I realize the area is heavily hunted, but the trails could be closed in hunting season to bikes and horses.

Thanks for considering our opinions

Stephen E. Johnson  
1899 Ball Park Road  
Eagle Rock, VA 24085



GREGORY SPRIGG  
<gregorysprigg@mac  
.com>

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Comments on GW Forest plan revision

09/20/2008 01:58 PM

I write to register the strongest possible opposition to the two proposals to build private, for-profit industrial scale wind turbine projects on public national forest land on the wilderness ridge top of Great North Mountain in the GW National Forest.

The proposal to build 131 enormous 45 story tall wind turbines on the ridge top would irrevocably ruin views of the mountain from beautiful, rural Shenandoah Valley (thereby destroying the character of both the ridge top and the valley), and degrade wildlife habitat for forest animals and for birds, bats and eagles - all for the private profit of a few out of state investors who want to use free public land - with no property taxes - to cash in on federal subsidies for a project that will produce little electricity only intermittently (when the wind blows) to be sold to people who don't even live in the valley.

The Great North Mountain ridge top is nearly pristine wilderness and worth careful stewardship and protection. Only 2 roads cross the mountain in the proposed project area; both are dirt and one is quite primitive. The mountain top is popular for recreational hiking and for hunting - consistent with intended public use of protected national forest lands. The proposed project would require clear cutting miles of ridge top to build access roads so that massive machinery for construction and maintenance can access the turbines, and clear cutting 5 or more acres per turbine for their bases. These roads would be permanent fixtures in the forest, would destroy the hiking path on the ridge top and likely would result in a vast diminution of deer and bear population as well as other forest animals. Hunting would be significantly disrupted if not outright destroyed. Finally, the wilderness character of the forest would be completely destroyed - a precious resource lost for future generations.

Massive industrial wind turbines are very disruptive and not appropriate for all locations. Wind studies affirm that ideal locations are the North American continental wind corridor from Texas north through Utah, and on each coast. In Virginia the coast represents over 80% of the ideal wind for power production, while Appalachian ridge lines contribute only moderate winds for industrial power productions. The only possible reason this project is proposed by out of state investors is that the land is public - so the investors don't have to buy it, and don't have to pay taxes on it, and it represents a quick and easy way for them to cash in on federal subsidies.

Americans are eager to find solutions to end dependence on foreign oil for transportation and coal for electric generation, and wind power is represented by developers as warm, fuzzy and green. But a closer look shows that while wind is likely to contribute part of the solution it is not completely benign and is no panacea. Wind turbines do not produce reliable power because by definition they only work when the wind is blowing. But they do reliably impact huge swaths of land where they are built. The proposed 131 turbine project in the GW National Forest will destroy precious wilderness landscape and animal habitat, will destroy recreational hiking trails and hunting - yet will produce intermittent electricity for very few households while enriching a few private investors - feeding on public forest land.

UVA environmental science professor Rick Webb notes that wind on the Appalachian ridge tops is so unsuited to power production that turbines would have to be built on virtually every Appalachian ridge top from Virginia to Georgia in order to produce the equivalent power of one coal plant. With the very small payback a project of this size will produce, combined with the enormous damage it will wreak on the wilderness forest the forest service would reject the proposals outright. This proposal is completely at odds with the stewardship purpose of national forests and a completely inappropriate use of public land for private profit.

Sincerely,

Gregory Sprigg  
Crooked Run Road  
Basye, Virginia 22810



**Dave DeChristopher**  
<ddechri@yahoo.com  
>

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

09/22/2008 09:21 AM

Dear Dave Plunkett, Planning Team Leader, et al,

I'm a 4x4 recreation enthusiast and I have spent time in George Washington and Jefferson National Forests engaging in that activity. It's beautiful area and understand why more of the forest is considered for Wilderness designation. However, as I'm sure you know, recreational opportunities for our sport are declining all over the country at alarming rates. In fact, the trails that I enjoyed on my last visit many years ago are now closed. Designating these new areas as wilderness will close more of the favorite trails of the more frequent visitors. The force behind the environmental interests is hard to compete against, so I would propose not spending more resources fighting it, but instead, an exchange. I think the 4x4 community would be more willing to support the wilderness designations if the lost trail miles would be compensated for in other areas of the forest. 4x4 recreation enthusiasts support protection our natural resources, but it is tough to support measures that kill our sport like a smothering blanket. However, we can support cooperative solutions that exchange recreational opportunities in areas to be closed for regained access in areas that were closed. This exchange may not be based on a mile per mile basis as much as a challenge mile per challenge mile. Please consider creative solutions which allow us to support your effort to preserve the national resources for future generations. Please include me in any public mailings concerning the rulings in these areas.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Dave DeChristopher  
45 N Church St SW  
Ephrata, PA 17522

Dave DeChristopher \_\_\_\_\_ PA Jeeps, MAFWDA, UFWDA  
1962 Willys Pickup \_\_\_\_\_ 1979 CJ-7 daily driver/trail rig  
No matter where I go, there's "I AM" \_\_\_\_\_ South Central PA



"Sid Rappe"  
<srappe@brigh.com>

09/24/2008 11:23 AM

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us.>

CC:

Subject: Comments on George Washington Plan Revision

To Whom it May Concern,

As an avid mountain biker and a citizen in Virginia I want to let you know that I think closing sections of the GWNF is a mistake. I can understand the need to protect wilderness areas against growth and commercialism but closing this area to mountain bikers is just unfair to us as a group of users. Mountain bikers in the area take very good care of the trail system in the GWNF and we are advocates for responsible riding and trail maintenance. Please don't close these areas to mountain bikers. It would take away a large portion of the area we take care of and love.

Kind Regards,

Sid Rappe  
Account Executive  
Brigh Technologies  
301-538-1954  
srappe@brigh.com

Peter Irvine/R8/USDAFS  
10/16/2008 11:11 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc Karen B Overcash/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES,  
pirvine@fs.fed.us  
bcc  
Subject Comments from 9/11/08 GW Plan Revision  
Workshop-IRVINE

Dear GW Plan Revision Team:

Below are my comments from the September 11, 2008 George Washington National Forest Plan Revision Workshop on Potential Wilderness and Roadless Areas. I did not submit them in hand-scribbled form that evening. I intended to submit them sooner than now, and apologize for the delay.

1. The Wall Chart of "Other Resource Demands and Uses" for the Pedlar District contains several inconsistencies. In the category "Presence of Heavily Used Trails" the reference should be to the A.T., not the ATC. In the category "Presence of Level 3 or Higher Maintenance Trails". The answer should be YES for the A.T. in Three Ridges Addition North, Three Ridges Addition Southwest, and Three Sisters areas.
2. On that same chart, two additional categories should be added: First: "Presence of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail" (Yes or No, and number of miles). Second: "Presence of A.T.-related developed overnight sites (shelters)" (Yes or No).
3. The maps and charts should be posted on the Plan Revision website. It is very difficult to do a full, good review in a single meeting forum.
4. The forest needs to confirm whether or not the Three Sisters Wilderness boundary is the current A.T. Corridor Management Area boundary or not.
5. I am concerned with the maps presented at the meeting -- showing all of the 1993 Mgt Area boundaries on these maps is deceiving -- it leads people to think that those MA boundaries are intended to carry over into the new Plan Revision, which they are not. It was also fairly difficult to differentiate between current Wilderness and Proposed Wilderness as shown on the maps.
6. The GW Revision needs to retain an Appalachian National Scenic Trail Corridor Management Area, on maps and in the plan, with associated management direction, including Standards, and it should be very similar, if not identical to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail Management Prescription in the Jefferson NF Revised Plan of January 2004.
7. At the meeting, it was stated that the responsibility of staying informed and engaged belonged totally to the public by continually checking the GW Plan Revision portion of the GWJ public website. This does not show a good-faith effort by the Forest to enable public participation in the Plan Revision process, and I was glad to receive a postcard on 10/14 announcing the next pair of topic meetings. The Forest should continue to explore the e-mail notification option.
8. As I stated in the return postcard, I do wish to remain on the Forest Plan mailing list (with my address information corrected), and I do wish to receive postcards announcing upcoming workshops, and I do wish to be added to the email list, if it becomes available.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. PETE IRVINE



"Matt Hegemier"  
<matth@fsr1.com>

10/16/2008 12:41 PM

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
CC:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

I'm frustrated to hear the news of possible Wilderness designation for Adams Mountain and always very suspect of user groups who insist on limiting access to areas based on their own agenda.

I am very familiar with the Whetstone Trail in this area. The difference in the trail has been amazing since the mountain bike club has gotten involved. I have spent several work days improving the Whetstone Ridge Trail as well as performing regular maintenance when I travel it.

I have seen little from the Wilderness group performed on or in this area. I would guess that most of those proposing wilderness in the Adams rarely recreate there. I have never run into anyone enjoying the area who was not on a bike.

Benefits Since Bike Club Involvement- 386 Volunteer Hours of Maintenance by CAMBC since 2006 on Whetstone Ridge - Jewel of Adams Area

- Whetstone trail is now more accessible by all users
- the trail is regularly maintained, brushed and blow downs removed by the club, keeping users from cutting new trail
- erosion areas have been bench cut to allow for better water flow and sustainability of the soil/trail

This area needs to continue to be open to all users, including cyclists.

I see no advantage in this situation to turning the area into Wilderness. It appears the current management plan is sufficient.

Please feel free to contact me if you'd like to discuss further.

Thanks for listening,

Matt Hegemier  
434-962-5965



**Matthew Day**  
<matthewlday@hotmail.com>

10/16/2008 12:51 PM

To: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

Hello,

I'm writing to voice my concern that the Adams Mountain area will soon be designated as a Wilderness Area, which restricts mountain bike access on the land, namely on the Whetstone Ridge Trail.

As a member of the Charlottesville Albemarle Mountain Bike Club, I've contributed part of the 386 work hours we've put into this trail. The trail is an exceptional one, and an example of how volunteer work can reinstate a once deteriorating trail.

A Wilderness Area wouldn't allow using mechanical brushers, trimmers, or chainsaws to maintain this trail, which in my opinion would mean that the trail will once again fall apart and no one will be using it at all.

The current management plan allows for adequate maintenance and allows for different types of trail users to enjoy a beautiful piece of the Forest.

I ask you to NOT designate the Adams Mountain area as Wilderness.

Thank you,  
Matthew Day

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**Eric Anderson**  
<ericfanderson@yahoo.com>

To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

10/16/2008 12:55 PM

Dear Forest Service Official,

The Whetstone Ridge trail in the Adams Mountain area of the George Washington National forest is a treasure for mountain bikers. Because of its unique terrain, it has become a destination for riders as far as Harrisonburg, Richmond, Northern Virginia and even North Carolina and West Virginia. Whetstone Ridge trail was rediscovered by local mountain bikers from Charlottesville about 5 years ago. Since then, the Charlottesville Area Mountain Bike Club (CAMBC) has poured nearly 400 man hours of maintenance into the trail including a full brusher run of the entire 12 mile trail about two years ago.

When the trail was first rediscovered by area mountain bikers, several large sections were in states of severe disrepair. Since then, the trail has been transformed into a highly coveted mountain bike destination due to the effort of local mountain bike maintenance volunteers. However, the trail still has many problem areas that are giving way to forces of wind and erosion and it appears that it receives very little maintenance attention outside of the local mountain bike community. Please help us preserve this trail by keeping its multi-use status. The trail is extremely remote in places making access difficult for maintenance crews on foot. Mountain bikers can use B.O.B. trailers to haul maintenance equipment deep into the backcountry to get to problem areas very quickly. We brushed the entire trail in a single day two years ago by using B.O.B. trailers to haul motorized trimming and cutting equipment. If this trail were designated Wilderness, not only would we lose access via bicycle, but maintenance by motorized chainsaw and brushers would be eliminated. I'm afraid this spell disaster to many sections of Whetstone Ridge Trail. We have found that we need to clear large trees and brush many sections of the trail annually to keep up with downed trees and overgrowth.

=====

PETE IRVINE            *A.T. Coordinator, USDA Forest Service*

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APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL  
.....*pirvine@fs.fed.us*.....*ph: 304-535-6737*.....*fax: 6270*.....

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*NPS - Appalachian Trail Park Office*  
*P.O. Box 50 (252 McDowell St, Cook Hall)*  
*Harpers Ferry, WV 25425*

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*View "The REGISTER" , the AT's Stewardship*  
*eNewsletter, by visiting [appalachiantrail.org](http://appalachiantrail.org).*

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