

Subject: FW: ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (ER) NEW POSTING NOTIFICATION: ER 07/137
PostedDate: 02/20/2007 01:37:20 PM
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
CopyTo: <Vijai_Rai@ios.doi.gov>

The Office of Surface Mining in the U.S. Department of the Interior has no comments on the WashingtonNational Forestbecause it does not encompass any major coal field; therefore, we have no comments on the proposed revisions to the management plan for that forest. Thanks for the opportunity review.

Vermell Davis

Regulatory Analyst

202-208-2802

gvdavis@osmre.gov

"George Alderson" <george7096@comcast.net>

02/20/2007 02:53 PM

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

cc:

Subject: Form posted from Microsoft Internet Explorer.

username=George & Frances Alderson

emailaddress=george7096@comcast.net

remark=Please put us on the mailing list for the GWNF plan revision, via email to: george7096@comcast.net. Our postal address is: 112 Hilton Ave., Catonsville MD 21228-5727.

We learned of your plan revision in a newsletter we receive from a Virginia citizens' group. We would like to hear directly from the Forest Service about future opportunities for public participation. Thank you.

PostedDate: 02/22/2007 10:31:01 AM
From: jean public <jeanpublic@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: public comment on federal register of 2/15/07 vol 72 pg 7390
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 02/22/2007 10:33:07 AM

i have attended such meeting. i know the guys who get the MONEY are always there. ALWAYS. THEY ARE USUALLY THE ONLY ONES THERE. it is rare for people to come out if they arent getting something out of it.

i also want my comments to be included in the public record regardless of whether you agree with them. i write what i see and find. i am not getting one penny out of this and in fact am paying for the lax administration and protection that i find going on. So are a lot of other hapless americans.

b. sachau
1 5 elm st
florham park nj 07932

comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us wrote:

> We would also encourage you to come to our public involvement workshops to share your views to your fellow American. We would also encourage you to explore the internet on the discussion of logging in America. Needless to say the agency disagrees with your views. Our scientists, biologists, and foresters are highly educated individuals dedicated to environmental protection and wise use of our natural resources. So not all Americans share your views. We hope you will consider joining us at our workshops.

>

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

>

>> Subject: Re: public comment on federal register of

> 2/15/07 vol 72 pg 7390

> 02/20/2007 02:31PM

>

> i oppose this entire plan. i believe the logging is being done for money - its all about money and your agency is trying to find reasons to justify the quest for MONEY. i believe the taxpayers, who own this land will not even get the money, but rich lumber barons will be the only ones making the money from this environmental destruction of logging.

>

> it is clear that logging causes much environmental havoc. it makes homeless birds and wildlife - so that they DIE. it causes severe erosion and it causes stream and lake pollution. the burning as outlined below causes air pollution with fine particulate matter that causes lung cancer, heart attacks, strokes, pneumonia, allergies and asthma. it is clear that our forest personnel do not even seem to understand the health impacts of fine particulate matter yet. that may be because in every bibliography of documents that i have seen that they have consulted the documents are from 1970 or so, before fine particulate matter was even discovered as a severe health problem. it is time to make sure when we make plans for the future that all recent discoveries are part of those plans, otherwise the plans are obsolete before passed.

>

> i think this agency needs to go back and update before issuing any plan. i think the taxpayers of this country, who own that land, are not saving it so it can be a lumber yard for rich lumber barons.

> b. sachau

> 15 elm st
> florham park nj 07932
> ---
>
comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
> wrote:
>
> > Hard copies are not available. U may retrieve documents via the WWW
> >
To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
> >
> > Subject: public comment on federal register of
> > 2/15/07 vol 72 pg 7390
> > 02/15/2007 10:47AM
> >
> > revision of lmp with prescribed burning - loading the air with fine
particulate matter which settles in american bodies and causes lung cancer,
heart attacks, strokes, allergies, asthma, pneumonia among other ailments and
deaths.
> > please send me a paper copy so that i can more fully comment on plans for
this area.
> > b. sachau
> > 15 elm st
> > florham park nj 07932

DeliveredDate: 03/04/2007 09:34:11 PM

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please produce a management plan for the George Washington National Forest that will focus on protecting clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, old-growth forests and remote, wild areas, as well as prime recreation spots. Please provide more opportunities for public involvement, including Washington area meetings to accommodate the thousands of recreational users who visit our National Forest every year from the Metro DC region.

Forests provide a multitude of health benefits, prevent erosion, and increase the health of a community.

The National Forests are America's greatest and most unique monuments. Please help protect this precious resource.

Sincerely,

Rachel Rosenberg

1734 N. Taft St., Apt. 733

Arlington, VA 22201

DeliveredDate: 03/06/2007 02:25:40 PM

I would like to encourage you to produce a plan that will focus on protecting clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, old-growth forests and remote, and wild areas.

Please provide greater opportunity for public involvement, including Washington area meetings to accommodate the thousands of recreational users who visit our National Forest every from the Metro DC region.

Sincerely,
Brenda L. Dunlap
26 5th St., NE
Washington, DC 20002
202-546-4483

DeliveredDate: 03/06/2007 03:05:13 PM

Dear Planners,

My major interest, as a representative of Virginians for Wilderness, is the establishment of more wilderness. I am particularly interested in the proposed Ernie Dickerman Wilderness. This 65,000 acre wilderness, which would be the largest National Forest wilderness in the Eastern U.S., would include the existing Ramsey's Draft Wilderness. The ecological importance of big wilderness is well established and the forest tract for which it is proposed is one of the few large enough to create such a wilderness. It thus present a unique opportunity for planners and I suggest that it be included in an alternative for the Revised Plan. Particulars of this proposed wilderness, with a map, may be found on the Virginians for Wilderness Web Site (Google). I hope that the Forest Service has the foresight and courage to introduce this ecologically meaningful proposal for public consideration.

Robert F. Mueller Ph. D.
727 Stingy Hollow Road
Staunton, Virginia 24401
(540) 885-6983

DeliveredDate: 03/06/2007 09:05:44 PM

National Forests are a shared treasure of all citizens. No land should be sold off, no mineral rights sold, nor should the trees be sold for lumber or other use. We all need the oxygen they put into the air. Wildlife needs the food & homes they provide. Forests belong to us all, and no one group should benefit financially from their destruction. People need them to remain as a place of peace(no 4-wheelers to make erosion) where we can hike and commune under their magnificent shade.

Any revisions of the management plan should be towards the above goals.

Thank you for preserving our national forests.

Sincerely, Barbara Pickett

From: "michael bucci" <buccill14@starpower.net>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
Subject: comment on george washington revision
PostedDate: 03/06/2007 09:27:44 PM
DeliveredDate: 03/06/2007 09:28:28 PM

As a life long resident of the Washington DC area, I have taken many opportunities to use the local National Forests-hiking, backpacking, taking groups of Scouts, students.I ask that the GW Forest be given the highest level of protection for wild areas,clean water, habitat protection and recreation opportunities. A resource like this cannot be created-it must be protected. As the Native Americans say, "Think seven generations..."
Thanks

From: John Pacovich <jpacovich@hotmail.com>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
PostedDate: 03/06/2007 09:57:33 PM
DeliveredDate: 03/06/2007 09:58:03 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

Recently I read about a change in the the proposed management plan for the much-cherished GW National Forest. I am concerned that this change may result in the less-than-adequate care for this beautiful gem of a natural resource. Being an avid outdoor enthusiast, I often travel to GW National Forest to enjoy all that it offers. It would be a grave loss for our children and our childrens' children to not have this treasure to cherish as I, and so many others, do. Lifting the need for environmental impact studies to be performed prior to development is a move in the wrong direction - we should be doing more to ensure that what few, undamaged natural habitats that remain, are protected.

I urge you to hold another public meeting at a locale closer to the Washington, DC, area, as many of the patrons and guests of the forest travel from here. This is an issue that requires the utmost care and widespread participation.

Thank you.

Best Regards,

- John Pacovich

=====
2800 Quebec Street, NW #744
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 251-9589

PostedDate: 03/07/2007 05:39:09 PM
From: Christine Gyovai <christineg@virginia.edu>
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
DeliveredDate: 03/07/2007 05:54:04 PM

Greetings Forest Service committee:

I am writing to encourage the Forest Service to produce a revision to the George Washington Plan that will focus on protecting clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, old-growth forests and remote, wild areas, as well as prime recreation spots. Specifically, I request that the Forest Service:

- | Fully protect all rare, threatened and endangered species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage.
- | Fully protect and buffer rare and sensitive habitat conditions such as springs, seeps, rocky slopes and outcrops, steep slopes, sensitive soils, so-called "low productivity sites," and rare forest types.
- | Create recovery and reintroduction plans for native species no longer found on the GW, for example, potentially the blight-resistant American chestnut when fully developed. Take vigorous action to protect native species on the GW, particularly hemlocks which are at serious risk from the woolly adelgid, an invasive pest. | Halt below-cost logging that loses millions of American taxpayers' dollars.
- | Identify and recommend all areas that qualify for Wilderness Study Area and Wild & Scenic River designation.
- | Management objectives should be guided by "A Citizens' Call for Ecological Restoration: Forest Restoration Principles and Criteria" (Ecological Restoration, Vol. 21, No.1, 2003).
- | Address the encroachment of non-native invasive species. Restore remote interior forests to help stop the influx of invasive species by closing unneeded roads that cannot be properly maintained and that act as corridors for many of these invasive species.
- | Only when absolutely necessary, use logging to open cleared, shrubby areas used by certain wildlife, and locate any such areas, called "early successional habitat," close to existing roads and existing open areas on private or public lands to lessen the impacts of forest fragmentation across the landscape. If early successional forest must be maintained for some species, then re-cut sites that have been recently logged.
- | Avoid using "prescribed" burns in moist areas and other areas where they are not appropriate, and allow lightning ignitions to burn in a contained manner.
- | Fully recognize the vital role lightning ignitions and other natural disturbances play in promoting biological diversity and new growth and maintaining forest health.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and don't hesitate to contact me at 434-244-3239 for more information.

Thank you,
Christine Gyovai

Christine Gyovai
1122 Broad Axe Rd
Charlottesville, VA 22903

From: "Casey Williams" <cwilliams@auduboninternational.org>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
PostedDate: 03/07/2007 05:50:04 PM
DeliveredDate: 03/07/2007 06:00:31 PM

Greetings Forest Service committee:

I am writing to encourage the Forest Service to produce a revision to the George Washington Plan that will focus on protecting clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, old-growth forests and remote, wild areas, as well as prime recreation spots. Specifically, I request that the Forest Service:

- | Fully protect all rare, threatened and endangered species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage.
- | Fully protect and buffer rare and sensitive habitat conditions such as springs, seeps, rocky slopes and outcrops, steep slopes, sensitive soils, so-called "low productivity sites," and rare forest types.
- | Create recovery and reintroduction plans for native species no longer found on the GW, for example, potentially the blight-resistant American chestnut when fully developed. Take vigorous action to protect native species on the GW, particularly hemlocks which are at serious risk from the woolly adelgid, an invasive pest.
- | Halt below-cost logging that loses millions of American taxpayers' dollars.
- | Identify and recommend all areas that qualify for Wilderness Study Area and Wild & Scenic River designation.
- | Management objectives should be guided by "A Citizens' Call for Ecological Restoration: Forest Restoration Principles and Criteria" (Ecological Restoration, Vol. 21, No.1, 2003).
- | Address the encroachment of non-native invasive species. Restore remote interior forests to help stop the influx of invasive species by closing unneeded roads that cannot be properly maintained and that act as corridors for many of these invasive species.
- | Only when absolutely necessary, use logging to open cleared, shrubby areas used by certain wildlife, and locate any such areas, called "early successional habitat," close to existing roads and existing open areas on private or public lands to lessen the impacts of forest fragmentation across the landscape. If early successional forest must be maintained for some species, then re-cut sites that have been recently logged.
- | Avoid using "prescribed" burns in moist areas and other areas where they are not appropriate, and allow lightning ignitions to burn in a contained manner.
- | Fully recognize the vital role lightning ignitions and other natural disturbances play in promoting biological diversity and new growth and maintaining forest health.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and don't hesitate to contact me at 240-994-2206 for more information.

Thank you,
Casey Williams

Casey Williams
820 E High St, #13
Charlottesville, VA 22902

RON SPILLERS <mrschematic@yahoo.com>

03/05/2007 07:20 PM

To: Mailroom_R8_George_Washington_Jefferson@fs.fed.us

cc:

Subject: public meeting-forest revision plan

I wanted very badly to get to your meeting but could not get there in person, therefore I have written this letter (as an attachment). Thankyou for your hard work and inclusion of the public on these issues.

Sincerely
Ron Spillers

Sharon Mohnney/R8/USDAFS
03/08/2007 11:19 AM

To

"Jackson Gerry" <gjackson01@fs.fed.us>, "Mohnney Sharon" <smohney@fs.fed.us>, "Schiffer, Cindy" <cschiffer@fs.fed.us>, "McPherson, Al" <amcpherson@fs.fed.us>, JoBeth Brown/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Kenneth Landgraf/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, David Plunkett/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Patrick R Sheridan/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Lorraine Thomas/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Sheryl L Lyles/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Ted Coffman/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc

Subject

Forest Plan Comment from West VA Scenic Trails Assoc - Doug Wood - Alleghany Trail, Great Eastern Trail issues

Here's a written comment to the GW planning process from Doug Wood. For those of you who don't know Doug, he is an energetic representative of the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association, the group that maintains the existing route of the Alleghany Trail on National Forest, and hopes to complete the missing sections. On the James River District, a long section of the proposed route is missing for three reasons:

1. South of Jerry's Run and I-64 in the western part of Alleghany County, the route must cross a railroad grade. I've been told that the railroad will not give a ROW for this (they own the land) due presumably to liability concerns, despite the fact that the crossing point would be over a tunnel.
2. South of the railroad crossing, the proposed route traverses some private land along an existing road. To my knowledge, the FS has not made an effort to gain a ROW from the owner(s). I don't know if the WVSTA has made contact with them.
3. At the other end of the segment, the proposed route is now stymied by the ongoing issue regarding public access over FSR 175 (Peters Mountain Road).

I don't have any information on our past efforts to address issues 1 and 2 - just statements I've heard at meetings with the WVSTA. I also don't know anything about the section(s) on the EDRD.

I've looked hard at the maps and can't see any viable, reasonable alternative to the proposed route.

At a meeting of the Virginia Bicycling Federation last weekend, someone told me they had heard that a group was working to indemnify Virginia's railroads from liability regarding trail crossings. I'll follow up and try to find out more about that.

See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/rwt/section4.htm> - find "Virginia - an existing statute?"

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/rwt/appendixb.htm>

He doesn't expressly request a response, and I know we don't want to get in the habit of responding to a lot of these comment letters, but he is a valuable cooperator and this is a looming issue with the Great Eastern Trail angle becoming more prominent. Anyone think we should respond?

Sharon E. Mohney, Recreation Forester
James River Ranger District
810-A Madison Avenue
Covington, Virginia 24426
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
phone 540-962-2214
email smohney@fs.fed.us
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/jamesriver/>

----- Forwarded by Sharon Mohney/R8/USDAFS on 03/08/2007 08:50 AM -----

"Doug Wood" <CHINGWE@peoplepc.com>
03/07/2007 08:01 PM

To
"Jackson Gerry" <gjackson01@fs.fed.us>, "Mohney Sharon"
<smohney@fs.fed.us>, "Schiffer, Cindy" <cschiffer@fs.fed.us>, "McPherson, Al"
<amcpherson@fs.fed.us>
cc

Subject
Forest Plan revision attachment

Hello Sharon, Gerry, Cindy, & Al;
I saw on the Forest website that you have a public meeting tomorrow in
Covington. I will be unable to attend, but I wanted to send along a comment.
I will send a letter on letterhead stating essentially the same thing later.
Please inform how we can continue to work toward completion of the Allegheny
Trail on the districts and the Forest. Thanks.
Chingwe/Doug Wood

attachment "GW-Jeff NF Plan revision comments.doc"

From: "Sherry Boyd" <sherry@virginia.edu>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
CopyTo: "Sherry Boyd" <sherry@virginia.edu>
Subject: Revised Forest Plan
PostedDate: 03/08/2007 02:37:26 PM
AM,MIME-CD complete at 07/02/2007 07:13:02 AM

I would like to comment on the George Washington Forest Plan and to urge you to please provide full protection of all roadless areas as petitioned by Governor Kaine and to protect all watersheds that provide our drinking water.

In addition I am particularly concerned about full protection of all old growth areas and the 111 biologically significant areas identified by the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage. It is important that we continue to have backcountry opportunities and wild trout streams as our urban areas rapidly encroach upon what wilderness is left.

And lastly I would appreciate it if this plan would include identification and recommendation of all areas that qualify for Wilderness Study Area and Wild & Scenic River designation.

I cannot stress strongly enough that I want this plan will protect our COMMON WEALTH and not give it away to special interests.

Sherry Boyd
1629 Mason Lane
Charlottesville, Virginia 22903
434-924-2612

From: "Benjamin_T Brown" <btb_lskb@lycos.com>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
Subject: comments on George Washington plan revision
PostedDate: 03/08/2007 05:22:11 PM
DeliveredDate: 03/08/2007 05:23:32 PM

Dear US Forest Service, March 7, 2007
I was not able to attend the local meeting on the new management plan for the
George Washington National Forest.

I approve of plans to increase logging as long as it is not done with hardly
any road building, and not in Wilderness or recreational areas. I used to
work for the Pedlar District, and I was impressed by how thoroughly they
prevented eyesores and erosion problems.

I strongly disapprove of any plans to close recreational areas. The
environment and the citizens need more, not less of them.

I also disapprove of exempting Forest Service planning from the National
Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When the FS headquarters say that they
would rather make decisions "on the ground," what they really mean is that
they want high level anti-environmental decisions made by Republican
appointees to flow smoothly from the high level to the "ground" without
public input. Bad idea. Keep the public involved in Forest Service planning
within NEPA.

email is btb_lskb@lycos.com
Ben Brown
3687 Turnpike Road
Lexington VA 24450

From: <bobrannigan@fatherdevelopment.net>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
Subject:
PostedDate: 03/08/2007 05:25:09 PM

Please do everything possible to protect and preserve the forest in its most
pristine conditions. Thanks,
Robert Rannigan 5825 Lexington Lane, Earlysville, Va.

Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision"
PostedDate: 03/09/2007 11:33:16 AM
From: "Jim Bounds" <jbounds@LOGIS-TECH.com>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>

I am an avid mountain biker and immensely enjoy my biking excursions into the George Washington National forest. Please continue to have access to the backwoods trails for mountain bikers. As a group, we do much to support the trails with volunteer trail work time. Thank. You.

Jim Bounds
Logis-Tech, inc.
9450 Innovation Drive
Suite #1
Manassas, VA 20110

www.logis-tech.com
Main: (703) 393-0122
Direct: (703) 393-4840, ext. 139
FAX: (703) 393-4858

Received: from romulus.evms.edu ([157.21.200.99]) by FLINT.evms.net with
Microsoft SMTPSVC(6.0.3790.1830); Fri, 9 Mar 2007 15:56:59 -0500
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
PostedDate: 03/09/2007 03:54:33 PM

Please think of Clean Water and Diverse Wildlife Habitat when producing your revised plan. Virginia's wild areas contain Old-growth forests and prime recreation spots and I use/visit the forests annually. Please protect them, including trout fishing streams and hiking trails. We don't want them mined or logged or sold off to the highest bidder. Thanks, Judy Hinch
424 Shorebird Lane, Chesapeake, VA 23323

Judy Hinch
EVMS - Safety Specialist
757-446-7928

PostedDate: 03/10/2007 09:41:04 AM
From: Shirley.E.Napps.Adv85@Alum.Dartmouth.ORG (Shirley E. Napps Adv85)
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

Please include the following items in the revised plan for the GWNF:

*Full protection of all roadless areas, as petitioned by the Governor of Virginia

*Enhanced protection of all watersheds, as the source of public drinking water and numerous wild trout streams

*Full protection of all 111 biologically significant areas identified by the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage

*Full protection of all old-growth areas

*Greater emphasis on recreation, especially backcountry opportunities

*Identify and recommend all areas that qualify for Wilderness Study Area and Wild & Scenic River designation

The GWNF draws many visitors to our area every year. It is a vital part of the VA economy. It also provides clean drinking water for many communities. There are some species found there that are not found anywhere else but the far northern boreal forests.

We have an opportunity here to create what will be a lasting oasis of pristine land for our children and grandchildren. Once a species is extinct or an old-growth forest cut, we cannot bring it back. Please make full use of this opportunity by protecting the GWNF from further infiltration by logging companies, ATVs, and other destructive forces.

Thank you!

Shirley Napps
1619 Mason Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22903-5114

PostedDate: 03/11/2007 12:34:30 PM
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
From: Heidi Dhivya Berthoud <heidil08@braintransplant.com>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>

Hello!

As a citizen of this lovely planet and of Virginia, please count me in as a concerned voice. I urge you to produce a plan for the George Washington National Forest that will focus on protecting clean water, diverse wildlife habitat, old-growth forests and remote, wild areas, as well as prime recreation spots. How smart is that! And makes lots of good economic sense! Doing the bidding of a few pushy private consumers does not a bright future make! Did you not have a dream when you first got into this business - of being a caretaker for this planet (versus a Taker?). How did you lose that?

Of course you should want to hear the will of the people, and thus I am dismayed to have to ask you for greater opportunity for public involvement. This land was set aside for the greater public - NOT to line to pockets of a few special private interests!

Thanks for doing the right thing. Heidi Berthoud, Buckingham, Va

Date: Mar 5, 2007 5:13 PM
Subject:
To: peggiann@gmail.com

Submitted by: Ronald E Spillers D.D.S.
At: mrschematic@yahoo.com

Remark:

March 5, 2007

Dear Forest Service,

I would briefly like to write with concerns regarding the George Washington Plan Revision that is being discussed in public forums this week. I was unable to leave my patients in Richmond, otherwise I would have been at the public meetings in a heartbeat.

I am a dentist in Richmond Virginia who will be relocating to the area in May. I was fortunate enough to be offered a job in Augusta county to provide medicaid dental care to under-served children in the region, but originally learned of the area through visiting forest such as George Washington. Both health care and the beauty of the forest brought me here.

As a conservationist, I am concerned with the long term preservation of this beautiful treasure, but as a park user, I am also concerned about long term access issues, in particular, that of cyclist.

Recently my hip was shattered in an automobile accident which unfortunately left me with a permanent limp, an artificial hip, and an inability to hike long distances. Ironically, I can still ride a bicycle with no impediment whatsoever. Since my accident, my mountain bike in many ways has become my wheelchair, and it has become a way to still visit and enjoy such areas. I am also a nature photographer, and since I can no longer carry heavy photographic equipment on my back, need to be able to carry camera equipment in bags mounted on the bike. I also feel photography is a perfect way to document and educate about the prize these forest are.

In a very real sense, mountain bike access makes the difference between me being able to use the parks for fitness and photography, or having to stay out.

For the past several weeks I have been in a state of learning about how wilderness designation benefits the wilderness, but have been concerned about it's exclusion of non-motorized vehicles such as bicycles. Although (to the best of my knowledge) the current forest revision plan doesn't recommend any new wilderness study areas other than the St. Mary's addition, I feel it is important to note that there are groups pushing for the inclusion of area's such as Kelly Mountain, Ramsey's draft addition, and the Little River district. These areas are all beautiful areas that I learned about through cycling, and want to document through photography. If in the future they were proposed before congress as wilderness areas, under current laws, I would simply lose access to them.

Basically, although this letter does not address any particular issue written in the current forest plan draft per-se, I do want to take the time to thank the forest service for allowing cyclist in the current areas, and if future re-designations of land status do occur, to encourage inclusion of "scenic areas" to preserve biking access as well as protecting land. In this sense, the current bill regarding Jefferson National forest is a success, and

I would like to see that type of cooperation in the future (if not a rewording of the wilderness's current exclusion of bicycles-which would solve the entire issue). I feel that cycling is a low impact activity that distributes forest users over a greater section of trail (as opposed to short distance hikers getting bottlenecked at/overusing the trail head), and allows people who cannot hike long distances (such as myself) to enjoy the forest without having to resort to maintaining and transporting horses (and the subsequent high carbon dioxide releasing trucks and trailers necessary to haul them to the forest). I have also noticed that at least in Richmond, cyclist are some of the most volunteer orientated of the park users, and are willing to donate extensive amounts of time and effort to forest upkeep. In short, cyclist are a low impact, environmentally friendly resource that will help the common cause of preserving this land. I have decided to move here and provide health care in large part because of the forest. Please include cyclist in the future of George Washington National Forest. My access literally depends on it.

Sincerely,
Ron Spillers D.D.S.

Date: Mar 13, 2007 10:25 AM
Subject:
To: peggiann@gmail.com

Submitted by: James Burris
At: james26b@hotmail.com
Remark: I appreciate that the Forest Service is out trying to see what its users need and want. With that I will tell you that I am an avid mountain biker and Hiker so of course I would love to see more loop type trails that connect to other trails that are bench cut contour type trails. I live in Staunton, VA and a lot of people drive all the way to Charlottesville or Richmond to ride trails that are rolling or contour trails.

Almost all the trails that I ride in GWNF are very steep with long climbs and long descents. These are great fun for an all day epic type ride or are excellent for foot travel, but beginner and intermediate cyclists need places to ride trails that are manageable to them.

I know that the FS is trying to cater to a huge number of different types of users, but that is one of the few things I would like to see happen that is very possible. The area south 250 between 250 and Coalpit knob and Crawford Knob would be an ideal area for such a trail, but there are many others out there as well.

I also appreciate seeing forest roads closed to motor vehicle traffic during the winter months that they would be very torn up. I do however see some places where ATV's have found ways around roadblocks and have rutted existing trails or blazed themselves new ones through the woods.

I do think the GWNF does a great job of keeping trail access open to all users and I would like to see that continue.

I know that the GWNF is dealing with a limited budget and that patrolling rangers are very expensive, but I see a need for more Rangers to patrol popular dumping areas and campgrounds. There are lots of places that are easily identified as a popular place for people to dump trash. These ugly eyesores should be taken care of if at all possible.

I believe that GWNF offers everyone something for everyone and should continue into the future to do so.

Thank You

Date: Mar 12, 2007 6:57 PM
Subject:
To: peggiann@gmail.com

Submitted by: Nick Kruczynski
At: pythag2k@yahoo.com
Remark: Hi, my name is Nick Kruczynski. I\'m an avid road and mountain biker and am grateful for access to the trails in the George Washington National Forest. I moved from Richmond, VA, to Mobile, AL, about a year and a half ago and have bragged incessantly about the riding at Big Levels to all my local riding buddies. There is a shortage of high quality riding in many parts of the country... especially the deep south. Western Virginia is accessible as a weekend trip and offers challenge and solitude to riders. I absolutely support the protection of this land and its ecosystems. I also want other cyclists to be able to have the same pleasure of riding it that I have been blessed with over the past several years. Thanks for keeping the forest beautiful for us to enjoy... I hope it remains that way!!

PostedDate: 03/13/2007 05:44:01 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
Submitted by: Annette Breeden
At: pedalpower6771@outdrs.net
Remark: To whom it may concern:

I like that the current plan allows cyclists to enjoy a primitive backcountry trail experience.

- o \"I could ride all day in remote areas and see maybe one other person.
- o I like the 12c prescription in the Jeff plan because it allows for trail cycling in \"wilderness-like\" area\", yet still allows chainsaw use and trail management without roads.

I like how the Local ranger districts have embraced partnering with volunteers on trail management.

- o Provide chainsaw training and certification
- o Volunteer agreements

I like riding my bike in the Shenandoah Mountain Roadless areas between 250 and 33.

- o This area includes one of the largest roadless areas in the East
- o It provides one of the top three backcountry riding locations east of the Mississippi.
- o Contains important habitat for black bear and a wide variety of other species, some rare
- o Has outstanding scenic and recreational values
- o Encompasses key watersheds, including the watershed for Harrisonburg's Skidmore Fork reservoir.
- o This area is the reason many of us have chosen to live in the Valley.
- o This area is so special it deserves special protection of at least a 12c nature or be designated a National Scenic Area.

I like the economic benefit of trails

- o Tourism -hikers, trail runners, cyclists, birders, hunters, and fisherman travel hundreds of miles to recreate in the GW. They contribute thousands of dollars to the local economies.
- o Improved quality of life increase the ability of local business to recruit high quality employees. Ex. SRI, Merck
- o Increased property value
- o Damascus is a great example of the economic benefit of trails.

I like the emphasis on shared use trail opportunities.

Dislikes

- o \"I Dislike the lack of funding for outdoor recreation, when it is an important economic engine for local economies\"
- o Studies of other mtb destinations show an average of \$200 per visitor spent during an overnight stay.
- o A recent survey indicated that 80% of mtb enthusiasts participate in at least one overnight destination mtb trip a year.
- o The survey respondents indicated that scenery, challenge, and exercise were the main reasons for travel

I dislike the lack of trail loop opportunities. I would like more loop opportunities. There are many places where a short one or two mile connector would create a much larger loop using existing roads and trails.

I dislike how the trails are permanently altered by fire management.

- o Hand built singletrack trails have been bulldozed into 8' wide fire breaks with no restoration. Ex. Hone Quarry, SMT
- o Trails are a facility and if damaged during fire management they should be restored to their former or future desired condition. This cost should be considered part of the cost of fire management be attributed to the fire management budget.
- o Trails have a construction cost of \$15,000 to \$30,000 per mile.

I dislike that many of our trails have unsustainable alignments and use old extraction routes. These do little to showcase the landscape of the forest and often result in resource damage from erosion caused by poor design. Please replace these unsustainable trails with sustainable shared trails that reduce maintenance cost and provide a higher quality recreation experience. Build more sidehill singletrack

Recommendations

Any recreation facilities, including trails, damaged during fire management ops should be restored to previous or desired condition with fire management funds. This cost should be part of the fire management cost analysis. (see dislikes)

Increased shared use loop opportunities.

Increased novice or least challenging trails on forest edge to provide positive front country trail experiences.
Health benefits

Focuses use on edge of forest, leaving core for primitive recreation.

Develop or relocate parking areas on edge of forest when possible to reduce vehicle traffic and shorten drive to forest. Reduce pollution.

Increase protection for the area between US 250 and US 33, east of Shenandoah mountain to protect its backcountry aspects while allowing shared use trail recreation. (see likes)

Manage all IRA (inventoried Roadless Areas) under the 2001 roadless rule.

Increase funding for recreation trails to reflect their benefit to the local economies.

Adopt GET (Great Eastern Trail) corridor as a shared use trunk trail that connects the western GW ranger districts.

Provide viewshed protection for NRTs in GW. Ex Wild Oak trail Seasonal road closures during wet seasons or freeze thaw to reduce road maintenance costs.

All new trails or roads should be follow sustainable design principals. This includes following contour alignments, average grades under 10%, and frequent grade reversals.

- o This will result in reduced maintenance costs and reduced resource impact.

o This will increase the trails sustainable carrying capacity, improve accessibility, and create a higher quality recreation experiences.

Thank you,

Annette Breeden

Deborah Weinischke <fancifulfun@yahoo.com>

03/12/2007 04:37 PM

To: Mailroom_R8_George_Washington_Jefferson@fs.fed.us

cc:

Subject: George Washington N.F.

I am concerned about the integrity of the George Washington National Forest as the Forest Service considers revising its management plans. Obviously, our present administration has no regard or respect for wilderness and public lands. I do not want our national forests exploited, logged, mined, or sold off to the highest bidder. I do not want wildlife habitat compromised under new rules that could exempt our national forests from the rigors of an Environmental Impact Statement , thus adversely affecting wildlife, trout streams, old-growth forests, drinking water quality, hiking trails, and the overall ambience of the forest. Furthermore, I feel strongly that the National Forests are no place for ATVs, dirt bikes, snow mobiles and other such destructive annoyances. I have been unable to attend any public meetings, but I wish to make my views known. Thank you for considering my opinions.

Deborah Weinischke

Floyd, VA

Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
PostedDate: 03/15/2007 10:41:06 AM
From: "Jeremy Ehrlich" <JEhrlich@FOLGER.edu>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>

In making changes to the plan for the George Washington National Forest, I urge you to take every opportunity to protect the environment and keep it safe from mining, logging, or sale. This is a precious resource and one we need to protect for generations to come!

Sincerely,
Jeremy Ehrlich

Jeremy Ehrlich | Head of Education

Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003

202 675 0372 | www.folger.edu

PostedDate: 03/16/2007 10:04:01 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/16/2007 01:09:30 PM

Submitted by: Daniel Donohue
At: ltdan12a@gmail.com
Remark: This is a request for more \"high clearance\" OHV trails. The off-road clubs in the area I'm sure would be more than willing to help create and maintain them in relation with the Park Service.

PostedDate: 03/15/2007 04:02:02 PM

SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

Subject:

From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us

DeliveredDate: 03/16/2007 01:14:24 PM

Submitted by: Jeremy Graham
At: toyotanuts@aol.com
Remark: I think we need a ohv area like N.C. has. Tellico upper ohv area and uwharrie are great places. Their is to much trail closing going on and not enough trail acess. Or keep the trails u got now like 2nd mountain and make some harder trails right beside it through the rocks and mud and leave the easy trail. If people had harder places to ride, the easy stuff (trails we have now, besides dicum) we have now wouldn\'t get tore up! I drive 4 to 8 hours one way, once a month to leave this state and go to another cause the trails are not hard enough. thanks

PostedDate: 03/16/2007 03:27:44 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/16/2007 04:56:36 PM

Submitted by: Seth Haines
At: seth.haines@gmail.com
Remark: As a life long resident of Virginia I've always enjoyed exploring the beautiful National Forests available to us on foot as well as in a high clearance vehicle. It's been disconcerting over these past several years (10+) to see the number of trails designed for high clearance vehicles close or become graded for various reasons. While I understand the impact that some Virginians cause to the offroad trails, the vast majority of us \"Tread Lightly\" and wish to enjoy the outdoors with challenging vehicular driving. I'd very much like to see the number of high clearance vehicle trails increase, and would be willing to support trail cleanup and maintenance for the new offhighway roads.

Thank you for your time.

Seth Haines

PostedDate: 03/16/2007 02:22:17 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us

Submitted by: Dan Friedlander
At: hdrider15@yahoo.com
Remark: As a user of the GWNF, I am looking for more high clearance vehicle trails. A number of the trails that had been open in the past have been closed. As a responsible offroader, I would appreciate the opportunity to enjoy more access rather than more restrictions.

PostedDate: 03/16/2007 06:18:33 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/17/2007 02:25:36 AM
ReplySent: True

Submitted by: Alex Bailes
At: alexbailes@comcast.net
Remark: I would like to see more high clearance off-road trails open and current ones preserved.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 10:51:56 AM
From: "Susan Manes" <SMANES@mbakercorp.com>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Hi,

Hi,
My name is Susan Manes. I wanted to thank the Forest Service for allowing mountain biking on trails at Sherando. My favorite trail is Big Levels/Sherando Lake. I value being able to use this land and appreciate that mountain bike use is included in the Service's multi-use mandate. I support measures that protect the land AND allow cyclist's the ability to use it.

Sincerely,
Susan Manes
1202 Skipwith Road
Richmond, VA 23229

Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
PostedDate: 03/19/2007 12:09:19 PM
From: "Caliri, John" <JCaliri@firsthealth.org>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>

I would like to add my support to the National Forest System continuing, and increasing the Off Highway Vehicle access areas. as an avid off road driving enthusiast I am most interested in difficult, high clearance needed trails open to Jeeps, trucks and the like. I also am an avid mountain biker and would like to see this opportunity expanded as well.

Thanks,

John Caliri
910-715-1836

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 12:30:57 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 12:31:15 PM

Submitted by: Chris Sine
At: chris_sine@hotmail.com
Remark: I would like to see some of the trails that have been closed to OHV be reopened. It is unfair to punish all for the actions of the few. There are many clubs and organizations that would be willing to help with trail cleanup and clearing. I just ran Salt Shed this past weekend with a group of about 10 rigs and we all enjoyed our time in the woods. I know that this area is managed/maintained by the city but I would enjoy seeing more areas like this opened and designated OHV. Thank You

Chris Sine

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 11:49:13 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 12:58:10 PM

Submitted by: Shawn Waters
At: border1x@aol.com
Remark: I would like to see the OHV trails stay, maybe even add a few more trails for 4 wheel drive vehicles.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 12:15:25 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 12:58:21 PM

Submitted by: Joshua Bowser
At: jkbowser@gmail.com
Remark: Hello, I am a member of a local virginia jeep club, Capital Jeeps. Being a tread lightly! club, we like to see people staying on trail, obeying all regulations, etc. I have noticed that the trail blazes have not been remarked in quite some time and need to be brightened up a bit. We frequent the area often so we know what is on trail and what is not yet for those who are unfamiliar, they could be going off trail and destroying land. Is it possible for someone to go and remark these trails with the appropriate blazes, thus keeping the clubs and the enviornment happy. Thank you.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 09:13:39 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 12:58:23 PM

Submitted by: William Rogers
At: wmrogers@mac.com
Remark: I have been an avid off-roader for over 30 years and past president of both Jeep and Land Rover Vehicle Clubs. My desire for the plan revision would be to, at a minimum, maintain the high clearance vehicle trails currently available and it would be my hope that more of these trails could be cultivated throughout the Forest.

These trails are one of the very few ways left for a family to escape the urban area and allow our families to enjoy the beauty and serenity of the wilderness without possessing the physical ability to backpack many miles. Most of us \"old timers\" in the hobby of off-roading have spent countless hours volunteering to maintain trails and I will continue to offer my time as long as I am able.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 08:47:23 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 12:58:45 PM

Submitted by: David Mathison
At: mathison@speakeasy.net
Remark: I wont
take a lot of your time. I\`ll get to my point. Please make more OHV trails
accessable in the new plan. Specifically I am interested trials for high
clearance vehicles.

Thank You

David Mathison
410-338-9883

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 10:04:38 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 12:59:33 PM

Submitted by: Christian Rudio
At: crudio@gmail.com
Remark: Hello, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Plan Revision.

Would like to express my interest in opening more existing logging track roads to responsible vehicle use (4wd passenger vehicles). As an avid backpacker and environmentalist I appreciate the need to keep wilderness areas undisturbed to maintain water quality, animal habitat and to protect these areas for future generations.

It has been my experience that wilderness areas with expanded 4wd trail access typically have less congestion at central trailheads and more dispersed usage than locations that have closed all but a few central areas. An example of this is the Upstate NY Adirondack Park, where years of a \"Forever Wild\" doctrine have consolidated access points to several that now see thousands of visitors per year each. Camping sites within several days hike from these points are over-run and crowded and require frequent closings for land restoration.

I have hiked and camped in both the GW and Jefferson National Forests and appreciate the excellent job the rangers have done there. I urge consideration of expanding the back-country access points through opening existing 4wd roads.

Such access could be a revenue stream also, by issuing special permits for these roads.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Christian Rudio

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 11:05:18 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 01:00:25 PM

Submitted by: Ed Seckler
At: eseckler@maine.rr.com
Remark: I request that more roads be open to four wheel drive vehicles. I believe all old logging roads should be open to people who wish to drive into the back country. Not everyone is capable of walking into these areas. These roads don't have to be drivable by every Truck / SUV nor do they have to be maintained. Simply allow motorized vehicles onto the roads. I know there are clubs that would be happy to keep them clean.

Also it would be great if more OHV trails were created / opened. These trails would differ from the old logging roads in that they would require a well above average truck / SUV and may also include specifically created obstacles.

Seems to me there is plenty of room for both people who like to drive into the back country and people who like to hike in areas without vehicles.

Sincerely,
Ed Seckler
Casco, Maine
Frequent visitor to GWNF.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 12:57:24 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 01:05:30 PM

Submitted by: Philip Elisio
At: bigjeepthing@aol.com
Remark: I believe in multiple use of wilderness areas. There needs to be more OHV and high clearance vehicle designated trails. By adding more trails there would be less renegade abuse and responsible groups could help keep the area cleaner and help promote Tread Lightly programs. This would also bring more revenue into the area. Im am not opposed to a user fee as long as went directly to the area and not to some government fund.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 01:16:53 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 01:18:22 PM
ReplySent: True

Submitted by: steven pagani
At: stevepag@comcast.net
Remark: as an avid camper and off highway vehicle enthusiast i would like to see more trails available for vehicular use. its great to be able to trail ride all day enjoying the outdoors, stopping for a picnic and a hike. then at the end of the day, be able to make camp without leaving the park. there should be compromises made to accommodate people of various interests without having to severely limit any one niche.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 03:00:32 PM
\$MessageID: <200703191900.12JJ0WK159914@svinet2.fs.fed.us>
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 03:01:49 PM

Submitted by: Jimmy Shada
At: jimmyshada@gmail.com
Remark: Kindly keep
the OHV trails!

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 03:38:28 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 03:38:53 PM

Submitted by: David Martinek
At: davenjeip@comcast.net
Remark: I am a frequent user of the George Washington National Forest and appreciate being able to use the land that my tax dollars support.

Access is important to be able to use the resource of the forest. The beauty there is breathtaking and would be wasted if we were not able to get to it. Also, from someone who works around the hectic schedule of cities during the week, being able to access camping sites where we can have the freedom to be alone is important.

As important as anything else, we need more high clearance vehicle trails. Our options are severely limited on the east coast, and even more in this area. George Washington National Forest is the last opportunity I have to use my Jeep on public lands and experience what this piece of nature has to offer. Myself, and many others, are willing to do what it takes to access those places others might not be able to go, to reap the benefits of the size of the forest.

Thank you and please take this into consideration.

David Martinek

Member of TREAD LIGHTLY, United Four Wheel Drive Association, Virginia Four Wheel Drive Association.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 04:26:26 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 04:39:40 PM
ReplySent: True

Submitted by: Marcus Alsup
At: madmla21@sbcglobal.net
Remark: I would like to suggest that you add in more OHV trails for high clearance vehicles such as Jeeps. The old logging and fire roads make existing roads stay passable for visitors. These roads will bring in more visitors to help with money for building other necessities.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 04:42:19 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 04:49:23 PM

Submitted by: Chris Kann
At: cwkann@yahoo.com
Remark: I just wanted to voice my opinion. I thoroughly enjoy using GWNF for riding trails with both my Jeep and four wheeler. I am in several off road clubs and we help whenever possible to keep trails open. I would like to see the forest continue to be open for this type of recreation.

Thanks!
Chris

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 05:41:37 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 05:48:32 PM

Submitted by: Andrew Marino
At: rubicon0677@comcast.net
Remark: i would like to voice my opinion on the land use issues. While I am not a resident of your state , I as well as several of my friends do visit the GWNF twice a year for long four day weekends .We typically stay at the Brandywine capmground and love it there .There is always plenty of activities there to keep us busy .Along with spending some much needed R/R in the woods we also take part in 4wheeling on the appropiate trails . we are a responsible group that leaves the land better off when we found it .If it at all possible we would like to see the current trails that are open , remain open and maybe make a few new ones .If there is anything I can do please dont hesitate to ask

Thank You
Andrew Marino
Member , Delaware Jeep Association

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 07:06:57 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 07:13:01 PM

Submitted by: matthew garvey
At: redrubicon@myactv.net
Remark: i would like to see a few more off road trails for 4x4 vehicles. Maybe opening up some of the fire trails to do a dual purpose. keep roads open and have a place for us to ride.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 07:37:55 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 07:49:43 PM

Submitted by: Steve Ciarlo
At: Steven.ciarlo@andrews.af.mil
Remark: I would like to see more OHV trails at GWNF. I have a high clearance Jeep and like going off-roading. Please make harder trails to ride on and maybe a color coded system and maps for the users. Green trails = easy, going up in difficulty Blue trails, Black trails and then Red trails for the most advanced. Or just more trails in general would be great. There really is a huge group of users for these trails so anything is better than nothing.
Thanks

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 07:49:18 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 07:55:55 PM

Submitted by: steve bausum
At: stevieray1950@comcast.net
Remark: i
would like to see more offroad trails for high clearance 4wd vehicles, this
is pasttime my family & i enjoy. to get way back off the beaten path.

PostedDate: 03/19/2007 11:14:30 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/19/2007 11:14:52 PM

Submitted by: Sean Kilgore
At:
sean_kilgore@dell.com/sean_kilgore@yahoo.com
Remark: I believe there is way to much pressure on small areas of public lands due to time restrictions to venture further in without vehicle transport. I believe the further in you go the more difficult it should become to spread out the concentration of people.The logging roads could be used to separate out those who have stock vehicles and those who are willing to spend thier time and money to venture further with a better prepared vehicle. Even horse riding has it\'s limits as a time restriction. I believe this plan will allow the scars of over use, to better repair itself. Closeure only creates land scars. Any load works better spread out evenly.

PostedDate: 03/20/2007 11:05:06 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/20/2007 11:26:00 AM

Submitted by: Joe Johnson
At: bluebellyday@yahoo.com
Remark: My friends and I truly enjoy your park. We make the 5-hour trip to camp at a local campground and ride our Jeeps on your many roads. We respect your property and want to continue to enjoy your beautiful State.

Please keep trails and roads open and available to 4 wheel drive vehicles. If you need help opening new areas to trail riding our club will be glad to lend a hand.

Joe Johnson www.delawareja.com

PostedDate: 03/20/2007 12:00:33 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/20/2007 12:12:34 PM

Submitted by: Kevin Hamilton
At: khamilt4@dtcc.edu
Remark: More high
clearance OHV trails would be great....I visit the park atleast twice a year.
If more trails were opened up to high clearance OHVs then I would visit much
more often.

Thank you,
Kevin Hamilton

JELoesel@aol.com

03/20/2007 02:44 PM

To mhyzer@fs.fed.us
Cc hhickerson@fs.fed.us, klandgraf@fs.fed.us, dplunkett@fs.fed.us,
jobethbrown@fs.fed.us
Subject Comments on CER

Attached please find CTF comments on the Comprehensive Evaluation Report.
Please make these part of the official planning records.

James Loesel

[attachment "GWNF Plan Revision Comments 5.doc"]

PostedDate: 03/21/2007 09:42:24 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/21/2007 09:43:05 PM
ReplySent: True

Submitted by: Bill Swann
At: swanneext@comcast.net
Remark: Hello,I am a mountain bike/adventure racer who values the outdoors and the resources available to us here in VA. My favorite trails are in Carvens Cove, RK; Douthat State Park; Sherando Park.

I am very involved in trail management in Richmond Va and very serious about environmental issues as well as health access to the parks.

Please consider allowing bikes to use the trails as it is biking groups as well as IMBA that are the true stewards of the trails of the parks of US, the states, regions and localities.

Thank you for your work and for allowing us this forum.

Bill Swann
2613 Heartwood Road
Richmond, VA 23225
804.267.3388
swanneext@comcast.net

Subject: Mt. bikers in the George Washington -Jefferson NF
PostedDate: 03/22/2007 10:44:48 AM
From: "Billy Moffett" <BillyMoffett@prospecthomes.com>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>

Dear forest service,

Word has spread that a tragedy is about to occur in the Virginia National Forests. These trails have impacted my life in more ways than I can explain. If they are to become wilderness protected areas, with no trails, I would probably leave in a desperate attempt to find the quality and quantity of the trails in these national forests. As an avid mountain biker, and outdoor school counselor, and IMBA member, I fully understand the reason for using this land for other reasons, however, in this case we are not damaging the land in any way, shape or form. This is my plea to keep mountain bikers in these national forests.

Sincerely,

Billy Moffett

Billy Moffett

Prospect Homes
Estimator
804-965-9700 X211
Fax-804-377-1130

BillyMoffett@ProspectHomes.com

"Katharine Brown" <klbrown@ntelos.net>

03/22/2007 09:03 AM

To: <Mailroom_R8_George_Washington_Jefferson@fs.fed.us>

cc:

Subject: PAO web page feedback

Please, forward to Ranger Puckett and Plan Revision comments.

I urge you to emphasize greater protection of roadless areas, old growth areas, fish and other wildlife habitat, water resources and recreation opportunities, especially in backcountry areas. I urge you to reduce (if not eliminate) logging and road-building. Give private forests less competition for logging. Finally, I urge you to identify new places suitable for Wilderness designation.

I urge Congress to raise your funding.

And thank you for keeping the opportunity open for this kind of public comment.

Madison Brown

25 South Washington St

Staunton VA 24401-4260

PostedDate: 03/23/2007 11:09:21 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us

Submitted by: Scott Perkins
At: axleater2003@yahoo.com
Remark: In regard to the revision plan. I would like to see more High clearance vehicle trails open to the public. I am a member of the UFWDA and the VAFWDA and also participate in the voluntary trail patrol program. I am only one of the many people in the state who enjoy the outdoors and offroad driving.

DeliveredDate: 03/26/2007 01:30:24 PM
From: "Diana Parker" <erthshr@comcast.net>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
CopyTo: "'Dave Muhly'" <david.muhly@sierraclub.org>,"Chris Carney"
<chris.carney@sierraclub.org>,"'Charles Price'" <fewmit@comcast.net>,"'John
Zeugner'" <jjzeugner@comcast.net>,"Glen Besa, Reg Dir" <gbesasc@cavtel.net>
BlindCopyTo:
Subject: Falls of the James Group SC comments to Forest Plan Revision

George Washington Plan Revision
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke VA 24019-3050
comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

Dear Supervisor Hyzer:

Thank you for the opportunity to write on the proposed "Need to Change the Forest Plan" presented at 5 public hearings (one week) in the GWJ area. We regret that the Forest Service has not addressed the recognition of participants in the Tri-City Richmond area, seat of the State Government. I believe you'll find that there is considerable interest of recreational users of the forests throughout the Old Dominion. Our outings leader is hiking a group to "Big Schloss" tomorrow. Some of the documents (CER) were not timely available for download prior to the meetings. The short notice Federal Registry February 15, 2007 was not timely for best attendance, because we were unable to get the information to our Falls of the James Group Fall Line newsletter in advance, however we were able to update our website with the meeting schedule. It is gratifying that you drew an overflow crowd on the one Saturday open to public comment. We request that you extend your comment period and make a Saturday date available to the Capital Richmond area. We could work with you to establish that public forum.

Governor Kaine has petitioned for increased environmental protection of more than 380K acres of undeveloped roadless land in the GWJ. He says, "These roadless areas will continue to provide vibrant wildlife habitat, outstanding recreation opportunities, and clean drinking water for Virginians, now and into the future. I look forward to working with the Forest Service to develop rules that will achieve the strongest, long-term protection of the maximum amount of undeveloped acreage in our national forests." We must work together to draft a rule for conserving roadless areas. Your pdf maps show an unacceptable area that you permit roaded. We must not allow the devastation in and near our inventoried and uninventoried roadless areas to be opened to degradation of our headwater streams and the loss of the biodiversity of our habitat and flora and fauna. Additionally, these areas must not be opened for off road vehicles.

The Worldwatch Institute Vital Signs 2007 says "that beyond their commercial value, forests provide myriad ecological services, including habitat for diverse species, erosion control, and regulation of the hydrological cycle. They are an important sponge for atmospheric carbon and therefore vital in the effort to stabilize the climate. As forested area contracted between 1990 and 2005, the carbon storage capacity of the world's forests declined by more than 5 percent." The Worldwatch Institute indicates global forest area contracted by 65 million hectares, a continuation of decades-long trend of forest loss in much of the world--offset by plantation forests and regrowth.

These plantation pines, cherry and other single-type do not provide the proper undergrowth, insects and birds to sustain a good balance for nature.

The Sierra Club is a proponent of "Ending Commercial Logging" in our National Forest and public lands. Ninety-five percent of the nation's native forests have been logged. Most of the remaining five percent lie on public lands, but are subject to taxpayer subsidized logging. This practice must end on public land. As we look at the economic values, the private landowner who holds timber rights on private lands should be ensured his return on investment, not see the timbering interests with subsidized purchases and forest service roadbuilding and restoration undercut the private mills. In the Southeast, subsidies make it difficult for private landowners to compete in the high-quality mature sawtimber market. As a result, chip mills, which produce material for wood pulp from trees of any age and are fed almost exclusively by private lands have proliferated. We have also noted large land sales of timber for speculation. Virginia does not have a Timber Severance Tax like West Virginia does (\$2.97M collected in 2002), so sales of timberland for speculation is more inviting. We have also seen the logging of endangered Southern River cypress, home to the endangered red cockaded woodpecker. This loss affects many neotropical songbirds and migratory fish. In the SC Falls of the James Central Virginia Region, counties of Dinwiddie, Prince George, Buckingham, Amelia, and Powhatan and Cumberland are within 75 miles of the new Westvaco Chip Mill Plant and also the Suffolk Mill. This has contributed to increased SPRAWL, degradation of Bay and Southern Rivers, and decreased Quality of Life. If the National Forests no longer sold timber, the restricted supply would increase the value of sawtimber. Private landholders would then have the economic incentives to use selection management on long rotations to produce solid wood products instead of turning over the land for development or for 3d party investment. Virginia Forest Export News suggests that local forest product companies need to consider the opportunities of engaging in the wine cooperage business utilizing growth of white oak, with 20% of the forest inventory in Virginia.

In Richmond as in the North West Pacific we are able to follow the export of raw materials and resources that are shipped from the Port of Richmond and by rail to Portsmouth to overseas or offshore for reprocessing. The Heartland Rail Corridor will see more of this exportation from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and other timber producing states.. Subsidized timbering of our Natural Heritage Forests for exportation has contributed to loss of livelihood of forest products such as Bassett, Rowe, and Lane Furniture have been closed due to cheap imports. Lumber veneer and log exports are the most significant wood product categories being shipped overseas. Virginia Forest Export News reports that 2006 is on pace to set records for Virginia wood exports. At \$134 million, the value of primary and secondary wood exports for the six months of 2006 is the highest export total ever tallied. Of wood exports in 2005, VA based companies were \$218.6M with the highest importers from Norfolk, Virginia District ports to China at \$82.8M, Italy at \$68.8, Spain at \$79.4. Logging of Virginia hardwood and old growth public lands should not be a part of this equation. They report that the Far Eastern Market Report indicates that by 2031 China will have used up the world's total forestry resources. While China strives to replenish it's depleted forests, they are beset by drought.

Our Falls of the James Group membership of 1780 is invested in the health of Central Virginia, Southern Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay as well as the mountains of the George Washington Jefferson Ranger Districts. We have

attended the Hoover Sale "Tour de Cut" and have been appalled by the lack of concern for old growth mesophytic forests and loss of our hardwoods, logging roads over our headwater streams, siltation and loss of our prime recreation fishing. The rights to log Hoover Creek were sold to Jayfor Logging Company for an average of about two thousand dollars an acre with an average of 450 board feet of lumber per tree. The sale was misrepresented by the FS as dry-mesic oak forest--whereas, scientists documented a diversity of species not typical of this type. The NEPA process used and the EIS were flawed. This process must not be streamlined and fast-tracked by the FS. Forest Service sales must continue to be an open process with input from many public sources.

Recreational Bass and Trout streams have been polluted in the Shenandoah Valley. We must have protections. We have reviewed the FS pdf on areas Suitable for Utility, Energy Corridor and Wind Energy and find this unacceptable on public lands.. We are in total opposition to the Healthy Forest Initiative, wherein top quality mature hardwoods are sacrificed to allow the loggers to make profit of the smaller, but not as profitable understory trees. In our hikes, our members have witnessed the fire-promoting slash that is left in the wake of the logging operations. We totally oppose this method of fire prevention. HFI must be applied to at risk forest communities, more suitable for Western states wherein the forests are not moist and diverse as in the Eastern States. Sales of public land within or near our noninventoried and inventoried roadless areas is totally unacceptable since it promotes at risk communities. Curtail these sales.

At FOJ, we promote the initiatives of the Citizens' Vision: A "good faith" voluntary moratorium on all logging and roadbuilding (except when needed for human safety and rare, threatened or endangered species) in areas identified in "Virginia's Mountain Treasures," existing old growth, and areas recommended by the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage for designation as Special Biological Areas for the duration of the GW plan revision process. Below are the talking points of this vision. The FOJG would like to be considered for any further public dialog as the Revision Plan progresses. Please keep us informed at the address sited below.

Sincerely,

Diana C. Parker

24 March 2007

Falls of the James Group of the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
10700 Chalkley Road, Richmond VA 23237-4048 804-748-
7842 erthshr@comcast.net

Attachments: Forests for the Future A Citizen' Vision for the George Washington National Forest

Hoover Creek Sale in George Washington: Sierrans gather for the "Tour de Cut" in George Washington National Forest's mesophytic old growth.

Please include the following points as the Vision of the Falls of the James Group:

make restoration and sound, ethical management a budgetary priority;

manage our GWNF, which are public lands, for values and resources that are not ordinarily available or protected on private lands;

identify all lightly roaded or mostly intact mature forest areas, old growth, uncommon forest types, special ecological areas and conditions, rare species locations, intact watersheds, drinking water sources, and trail

sites, and strictly protect them all from logging, road construction, drilling, mining, grazing, and other development;

manage for early successional habitat on public forest lands in a way that does not jeopardize the integrity of large, intact, older forest areas;

protect existing mature and old-growth forests from logging and other harm;

use natural disturbance regimes as models in managing forests for biological diversity and permit natural disturbance events where possible;

cut back on intentional burns and allow lightning ignitions to burn in a contained manner;

connect and enlarge mature forest patches wherever possible through road decommissioning and other restoration efforts;

protect all 65 identified Virginia Mountain Treasure areas from logging, road construction, gas drilling, and other forms of harmful development;

position managed habitats close to existing early successional land uses, such as on private lands, to lessen the impacts of fragmentation across the landscape;

if early successional habitat actually needs to be fabricated, recut sites that were cut in the recent past;

focus on providing habitat for species that require large home ranges, have limited ability to disperse, are sensitive to disturbances onsite, move between different habitats, or are incompatible with edge effects;.

close and obliterate roads, plant American chestnut, combat hemlock wooly adelgid and ailanthus; and

ensure that sources of clean water are strictly protected.

[attachment "Jarrett Chip Rail.pdf"]

[attachment "SC GWNT1ForstFS.pdf"]

[attachment "VFI LLC 82K for sale.jpg"]

[attachment "Insert Sep on AIR and HOOVER CREEK.pdf"]

PostedDate: 03/26/2007 08:55:01 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/26/2007 08:55:40 PM

Submitted by: Peter Barlow M.S.
At: petebarlow1@yahoo.com
Remark: I\'m a 25 year old life long resident of the Dayton area with an educational background in biology. I frequently visit the George Washington National Forest and would like to voice several issues that I feel are of utmost importance.

1:It is important to limit the expansion of roads in currently roadless areas in order to minimize the effects of habitat fragmentation.

2:Managing the George Washington National Forest for all species of animals i.e. cavity nesting birds, vulnerable amphibians and native trout populations instead of just game species is a much needed change to the current management plan

3:Sound scientific research is an essential part of a responsible management plan. Reduction of fuel load, invasive species eradication, and habitat facilitation for as many species as possible, regardless of hunting value, are all integral to a healthy George Washington National Forest for the future.

"Sarah Francisco" <sfrancisco@selcva.org>
03/27/2007 02:02 PM
To <klandgraf@fs.fed.us>
cc <mhyzer@fs.fed.us>, <dplunkett@fs.fed.us>
Subject comments re format & issues for public meetings

Ken,
It was good to talk with you by phone yesterday. Please find attached a letter from SELC and a number of conservation organizations regarding the format and issues for future public meetings. We look forward to talking with you about these and other issues as the planning process moves forward. Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Sarah

Sarah A. Francisco
Staff Attorney
Southern Environmental Law Center
201 West Main Street, Suite 14
Charlottesville, VA 22902
(434) 977-4090
(434) 977-1483 (fax)
SouthernEnvironment.org
[attachment "07-03-27 ltr re format & issues of mtgs.pdf"]

From: "Diana Parker" <erthshr@comcast.net>
SendTo: <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
CopyTo: "'Glen Besa'" <glen.besa@sierraclub.org>,"'Dave Muhly'"
<david.muhly@sierraclub.org>,"'Chris Carney'"
<chris.carney@sierraclub.org>,"'Charles Price'" <fewmit@comcast.net>
Subject: Comments for the Record GWJ Revision Plans from VA SAHE
PostedDate: 03/30/2007 10:24:59 AM
DeliveredDate: 03/30/2007 10:26:49 AM

George Washington Plan Revision
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
RoanokeVA24019-3050

comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

Dear Supervisor Hyzer:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Revision Plans for the GW&J National Forests.

Governor Kaine has petitioned for increased environmental protection of more than 380K acres of undeveloped roadless land in the GWJ. He says, "These roadless areas will continue to provide vibrant wildlife habitat, outstanding recreation opportunities, and clean drinking water for Virginians, now and into the future. I look forward to working with the Forest Service to develop rules that will achieve the strongest, long-term protection of the maximum amount of undeveloped acreage in our national forests." We must work together to draft a rule for conserving roadless areas. Your pdf maps show an unacceptable area that you permit roaded. We must not allow the devastation in and near our inventoried and uninventoried roadless areas to be opened to degradation of our headwater streams and the loss of the biodiversity of our habitat and flora and fauna. Additionally, these areas must not be opened for off road vehicles.

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The Sierra Club is a proponent of "Ending Commercial Logging" in our National Forest and public lands. Ninety-five percent of the nation's native forests have been logged. Most of the remaining five percent lie on public lands, but are subject to taxpayer subsidized logging. This practice must end on public land. As we look at the economic values, the private landowner who holds timber rights on private lands should be ensured his return on investment, not see the timbering interests with subsidized purchases and forest service roadbuilding and restoration undercut the private mills. In

the Southeast, subsidies make it difficult for private landowners to compete in the high-quality mature sawtimber market. As a result, chip mills, which produce material for wood pulp from trees of any age and are fed almost exclusively by private lands have proliferated. We have also noted large land sales of timber for speculation.

Virginia does not have a Timber Severance Tax like West Virginia does (\$2.97M collected in 2002), so sales of timberland for speculation is more inviting. If the National Forests no longer sold timber, the restricted supply would increase the value of sawtimber. Private landholders would then have the economic incentives to use selection management on long rotations to produce solid wood products instead of turning over the land for development or for 3d party investment. Virginia Forest Export News suggests that local forest product companies need to consider the opportunities of engaging in the wine cooperage business utilizing growth of white oak, with 20% of the forest inventory in Virginia.

Subsidized timbering of our Natural Heritage Forests for exportation has contributed to loss of livelihood of forest products such as Bassett, Rowe, and Lane Furniture have been closed due to cheap imports. Lumber veneer and log exports are the most significant wood product categories being shipped overseas. Virginia Forest Export News reports that 2006 is on pace to set records for Virginia wood exports. At \$134 million, the value of primary and secondary wood exports for the six months of 2006 were the highest export total ever tallied. Of wood exports in 2005, VA based companies were \$218.6M with the highest importers from Norfolk, Virginia District ports to China at \$82.8M, Italy at \$68.8, Spain at \$79.4. Logging of Virginia hardwood and old growth public lands should not be a part of this equation. They report that the Far Eastern Market Report indicates that by 2031 China will have used up the world's total forestry resources. While China strives to replenish its depleted forests, they are beset by drought.

Our Chapter has sponsored hiking trips for our members to the Hoover Sale "Tour de Cut" and have been appalled by the lack of concern for old growth mesophytic forests and loss of our hardwoods, logging roads over our headwater streams, siltation and loss of our prime recreation fishing. The rights to log Hoover Creek were sold to Jayfor Logging Company for an average of about two thousand dollars an acre with an average of 450 board feet of lumber per tree. The sale was misrepresented by the FS as dry-mesic oak forest--whereas, scientists documented a diversity of species not typical of this type. The NEPA process used and the EIS were flawed. This process must not be streamlined and fast-tracked by the FS. Forest Service sales must continue to be an open process with input from many public sources.

Recreational Bass and Trout streams have been polluted in the Shenandoah Valley. We must have protections. We have reviewed the FS pdf on areas Suitable for Utility, Energy Corridor and Wind Energy and find this unacceptable on public lands. We are in total opposition to the Healthy Forest Initiative, wherein top quality mature hardwoods are sacrificed to allow the loggers to make profit of the smaller, but not as profitable understory trees. In our hikes, our members have witnessed the fire-promoting slash that is left in the wake of the logging operations. We totally oppose this method of fire prevention. HFI must be applied to at risk forest communities, more suitable for Western states wherein the forests are not moist and diverse as in the Eastern States. Sales of public land within or near our noninventoried and inventoried roadless areas is totally unacceptable since it promotes at risk communities. Curtail these sales.

The Sierra Club has co-sponsored the attached publication Forests for the Future: A Citizen' Vision for the GeorgeWashingtonNational Forest. We recommend a "good faith" voluntary moratorium on all logging and roadbuilding (except when needed for human safety and rare, threatened or endangered species) in areas identified in "Virginia's Mountain Treasures," existing old growth, and areas recommended by the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage for designation as Special Biological Areas for the duration of the GW plan revision process. Below are the talking points of this vision. The Sierra Club would like to be considered for any further public dialog as the Revision Plan progresses. Please keep us informed at the address sited below.

Sincerely,

Diana C. Parker, Virginia Delegate
Southern Appalachian HighlandsEcoregion
Virginia Chapter Sierra Club
10700 Chalkley Road, RichmondVA23237-4048
erthshr@comcast.net

27 March 2007

804-748-7842

Attachments: Forests for the Future A Citizen' Vision for the GeorgeWashingtonNational Forest

Hoover Creek Sale in George Washington: Sierrans gather for the "Tour de Cut" in GeorgeWashingtonNational Forest's meseophytic old growth.

Please include the following points as the Vision of the Virginia Chapter for the public record:

make restoration and sound, ethical management a budgetary priority;

manage our GWNF, which are public lands, for values and resources that are not ordinarily available or protected on private lands;

identify all lightly roaded or mostly intact mature forest areas, old growth, uncommon forest types, special ecological areas and conditions, rare species locations, intact watersheds, drinking water sources, and trail sites, and strictly protect them all from logging, road construction, drilling, mining, grazing, and other development;

manage for early successional habitat on public forest lands in a way that does not jeopardize the integrity of large, intact, older forest areas;

protect existing mature and old-growth forests from logging and other harm;

use natural disturbance regimes as models in managing forests for biological diversity and permit natural disturbance events where possible;

cut back on intentional burns and allow lightning ignitions to burn in a contained manner;

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protect all 65 identified Virginia Mountain Treasure areas from logging, road construction, gas drilling, and other forms of harmful development;

position managed habitats close to existing early successional land uses, such as on private lands, to lessen the impacts of fragmentation across the landscape;

if early successional habitat actually needs to be fabricated, recut sites that were cut in the recent past;

focus on providing habitat for species that require large home ranges, have limited ability to disperse, are sensitive to disturbances onsite, move between different habitats, or are incompatible with edge effects;.

close and obliterate roads, plant American chestnut, combat hemlock wooly adelgid and ailanthus; and

ensure that sources of clean water are strictly protected.

PostedDate: 03/31/2007 04:06:54 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
SMTPOriginator: webserv@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 03/31/2007 04:07:25 PM

Submitted by: JESSE SPROUSE
At: PESANDJES@NTELOS.NET
Remark: I DON\ 'T
BELIVE CLEARCUTTING SHOULD BE DONE IF NEEDED IT SHOULD BE IN A ROMOTE AREA
WHERE THERE ARE NO PUBLIC USE(HUNTING,HIKING ETC)TIMBER CUTTING SHOULD HAVE A
IMPACT STUDY BEFORE CUTTING IF IT IS USED A LOT BY THE PUBLIC THERE SHOULD BE
NO CUTTING IN THAT AREA WE NEED TO PERSERVE WHAT WE HAVE AND NOT LOOK BACK
YEARS FROM NOW AND SAY WE MADE A BIG MISTAKE WE CAN DO THIS RIGHT IF WE THINK
BEFORE ACTING.

PostedDate: 04/01/2007 10:10:08 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 04/01/2007 10:10:22 PM

Submitted by: MATTHEW SMITH
At: GSPDOGS@SHENTEL.NET
Remark: I use the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) mostly as a hunter, hiker, mtn. biker, bird watcher and general wildlife enthusiast. What I enjoy most when I am in the GWNF is seeing wildlife. Wildlife are suffering in the GWNF due to the ever decreasing forest management. More timber harvest is needed on the GWNF. Approximately 88% of the forest is over 70 years old, only 11% is under 60 years old, and mere 4% is under 20 years old. Logging in the last decade has not come close to meeting the goal set out in the previous GWNF plan. The timber in the GWNF continues to get older and older. The GWNF should strive for true biological diversity to accommodate as many species of wildlife as possible by providing the widest variety of forest age class as possible. There are no species of wildlife that require old growth forest, yet there are many that must have young forest (early successional - less than 10 years old) habitat to survive. GWNF plan should use the recent scientific research on various game and non-game species of wildlife to justify the need for early successional habitat.

The economic benefit from increasing timber harvest and increasing wildlife must be considered. The GWNF does not need \"wilderness areas\" designated. I have heard that less than 3% of visitors come to use wilderness area and they spend 80% less than non-wilderness visitors.

I think early successional habitat is beautiful. I would like the new GWNF plan to set a goal of 10-15% early successional habitat and stick to it.

Little trees need hugs too!

PostedDate: 04/03/2007 08:52:58 PM
DeliveredDate: 04/03/2007 10:00:39 PM
From: "Allen Edmondson" <allen48@gmail.com>
SendTo: "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us" <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
CopyTo:
BlindCopyTo:
Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

Please see the attached files which are my comments on the George Washington Plan Revision.

[attachment "New Forest Plan.doc"]

[attachment "Roads.pdf"]

PostedDate: 04/19/2007 08:39:11 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 04/19/2007 08:40:57 AM

Submitted by: Alan Thomas
At: anywhereat@aol.com
Remark: I am writing to request more high-clearance vehicle trails for recreational use in George Washington National Forest. Offroader land users in the Western Virginia area are by and large respectful of the forest and its infrastructure. I am sure the Forest Rangers see the worst side of trail users (and abusers), but it is the small minority that use the land disrespectfully. The majority of land users would utilize the trails responsibly.

Thank you,
Alan Thomas
20679 Settlers Point Pl
Stering, VA 20165

PostedDate: 04/26/2007 10:57:41 AM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 04/26/2007 11:06:49 AM

Submitted by: Ralph and Christina Bolgiano
At: bolgiace@jmu.edu
Remark:
10375 Genoa Road
Fulks Run, VA 22830
Phone: 540-896-4407

April 26, 2007

GWNF

Dear Sir or Madam:

In commenting on the proposed GWNF Forest Plan Revision, we are writing as adjacent landowners in northwestern Rockingham County. We have lived on our 100 acre woodlot on the border of the GWNF for more than two decades. Based on our experience as neighbors, our preferences for the guiding principles of the plan and their application to specific on-the-ground cases are as follows:

1. To emphasize conservation and ecological values over extraction and commercial values in every case.
2. To provide amenities and products that private land generally cannot:
 - a) Fund and emphasize opportunities for non-motorized, back-country recreational activities.
 - b) Because the GWNF is surrounded by early successional landscapes on private lands, inventory and protect old growth and potential old growth areas and link them with old growth corridors. It is incorrect to call the GWNF a mature or old forest, as we have heard many non-foresters do, when it is filled with tree species that can live 600 years or more. Most of the GWNF is more or less at the canopy closure stage, at approx. 75-120 years of age, and must continue to age beyond that to develop the gap dynamics that provide for scattered openings and habitat for many uncommon and low-abundance native species.
3. Reduce or eliminate timber competition with private lands by logging only for ecological restoration purposes or for specific timber stand improvement purposes, for ex. where previous clear cuts have already been made and need thinning. As woodlot owners, we have lost sales to subsidized national forest logging. Do not log at all on slopes greater than 15% for any reason.
4. Significantly reduce the amount of prescribed burns, now far, far larger than can be justified by any documented natural fire regime.
5. In every case, provide more rather than less protection to roadless areas to keep them roadless, provide more protection to watersheds from disturbance and thus water quality degradation, provide more protection to old growth and potential old growth areas, provide more protection to habitat for non-game wildlife especially migratory bird species, and provide more protection to special areas where unusual wildlife species or other conservation values have been documented, such as Shenandoah Mountain.

6. Plan to end the next 10-15 land use cycle with less rather than more road mileage; that is, close roads and don't build any new ones to reduce and mitigate forest fragmentation and access to poachers and invasive exotic species.

7. Develop a multi-faceted plan to reduce invasive exotic species.

8. Develop rules for wind power projects that require, at a minimum, a year-long site study to determine potential impact of turbines on migratory birds, bats, and other wildlife.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ralph and Christina Bolgiano

PostedDate: 04/27/2007 03:24:04 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 04/27/2007 03:27:07 PM

Submitted by: Pamela C. Dodds
At: pamart@meer.net
Remark: I strongly oppose the construction of any industrial-scale wind turbine facilities in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Wind is an unreliable source of electricity because it is variable and because wind speeds are not strong enough in the Appalachians during the summer when electricity demand is the greatest. Most importantly, wind energy cannot be stored and there must be a backup of reserve margin and spinning reserve from reliable sources such as coal-fired plants and nuclear plants. Wind energy cannot serve as a backup source of electricity; therefore, wind energy does not reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants. Wind turbines use electricity from the grid in order to operate on a daily basis: specifically for the electric pitch system, yaw motors, oil heaters, oil pumps for bearings and gearbox, and cooling fan for the generator and turbine controller. Wind turbines have caused the death of thousands of bats and birds in the Appalachians, especially noted at Mountaineer site in West Virginia. The clearing of ridge tops for construction of wind turbines causes negative environmental impacts to headwaters and to life in the headwaters which serve as part of the food chain for organisms downstream. Reduction of the tree canopy at the ridge tops also reduces the process of groundwater recharge and increases stormwater runoff. This effectively reduces our overall groundwater and has the additional negative impact of creating flooding conditions. The Federal Tax Production Credit, the renewable energy production incentive, and the \"green energy\" business are the primary reasons why large companies are constructing wind turbine facilities: they make hundreds of millions of dollars at taxpayers' expense. The construction of industrial scale wind turbine facilities in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests would be the worst resource management process that the Forest Service could consider. !

Construction of industrial scale wind turbine facilities in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests would directly oppose the mission statements of the U.S. Forest Service.

Respectfully submitted, Pamela C. Dodds, Ph.D., Registered Professional Geologist, P.O. Box 217, Montrose, WV 26283

Subject: Comment on George Washington Plan Revision
From: ejthomas <ejthomas@shentel.net>
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
PostedDate: 05/05/2007 11:02:38 PM
DeliveredDate: 05/05/2007 11:02:54 PM

Dear Forestry Service Representative:

My family resides on 66 acres of Rockingham County, more or less embedded within the GW National Forest, bounded on all sides by the forest except for the private border at our entrance. We have lived here 13 years, and feel privileged to have such a close bond with the national forest.

My perspective of the role of those who manage the National Forest is that they should be predominantly guardians of a national treasure and essential global component. I do not perceive the job of the forestry service to be recreational sponsors, nor do I think their job is to work to make the national forest ever more accessible. First and foremost, the custodians should work toward retaining and encouraging the real health of the forest.

Specifically, I support these guiding principles in developing the GW National Forest Plan revision.

1. Emphasize conservation and ecological values over extraction and commercial values in every case.
2. Emphasize opportunities for low-impact back-country recreational activities and work to eliminate motorized intrusion into the forest.
3. Inventory and protect old growth and potential old growth areas and link them with old growth corridors.
3. Reduce or eliminate timber competition with private lands by logging only for ecological restoration purposes or for specific timber stand improvement purposes, for ex. where previous clear cuts have already been made and need thinning. Do not log at all on slopes greater than 15% for any reason.
4. Reduce the amount of prescribed burns.
5. In every case, provide more rather than less protection to roadless areas to keep them roadless, provide more protection to watersheds from disturbance and thus water quality degradation, provide more protection to old growth and potential old growth areas, provide more protection to habitat for non-game wildlife especially migratory bird species, and provide more protection to special areas where unusual wildlife species or other conservation values have been documented, such as Shenandoah Mountain.
6. Plan to end the next 10-15 land use cycle with less rather than more road mileage; that is, close roads and don't build any new ones to reduce and mitigate forest fragmentation and access to poachers and invasive exotic species.
7. Develop a multi-faceted plan to reduce invasive exotic species.

8. Develop rules for wind power projects that require, at a minimum, a year-long site study to determine potential impact of turbines on migratory birds, bats, and other wildlife.

9. Provide NO funding toward developing game species habitat. It is absurd to artificially enhance an environment for game above the consideration for all indigenous forest wildlife solely for the recreation of hunting sportsman.

10. ALWAYS take the long view. Whenever a decision is made on management of the forest, the weight should always be toward a choice that encourages the forest to continually grow and recover on its terms as though we want the best possible forest 1,000 or 10,000 years from now... NOT on what we can get out of it today.

Thank you so very much for considering my input. I feel honored to be part of a system that cares about something special to all of us.

Sincerely,
Ed Thomas
20059 Brushy Run Road
Bergton VA 22811
(540) 852-9302

PostedDate: 05/11/2007 03:49:33 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us

Submitted by: Richard Kellermann
At: Rick15Snow@hotmail.com
Remark: We would like to see more off road trails. I have enjoyed the ones that are already open, and would love to see more new ones. You must also keep in mind that more vehicle accessible off road trails means easier rescue and discovery of injured hikers. Thank you.

PostedDate: 06/06/2007 04:29:04 PM
SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject:
From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us
DeliveredDate: 06/06/2007 04:29:35 PM

Submitted by: Jonathan Meyer
At: dsusmc23@yahoo.com
Remark: I am writing in reference to the Plan Revision. I am eager for more high clearance off highway vehicle trails. There are few legal areas in which to enjoy the hobby of four wheel drive vehicles. This results in more people trespassing on property to find places to enjoy the sport. I do not condone this activity nor do I participate in illegal four wheeling. I would like to see more trails and more publicity in driving OHVs on your trails legally instead of trespassing and the importance of good ettiquete and housekeeping of the few trails Virginia still has to offer. Thank you for your consideration on this subject.

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Received: from ([199.128.173.130]) by svdcasmt001.wo.fs.fed.us with ESMTP id KP-BRCFZ.116071382; Wed, 15 Aug 2007 03:48:28 -0400

Received: (from webserv@localhost) by svinet2.fs.fed.us (AIX5.3/8.11.6p2/8.11.0) id 17F7mRS479462; Wed, 15 Aug 2007 03:48:28 -0400

PostedDate: 08/15/2007 03:48:28 AM

\$MessageID: <200708150748.17F7mRS479462@svinet2.fs.fed.us>

SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

Subject:

From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us

SMTPOriginator: webserv@svinet2.fs.fed.us

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Categories:

\$Revisions: 08/15/2007 03:48:38 AM

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ReplySent: True

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Submitted by: David Hopewell
At: h0pewell@aol.com
Remark: I am an avid user of the GWNF and a Virginia native. In my time in the forest I often spend time on my Dual Sport licensed motorcycle.

I would like to see more roads and trails opened to street legal motorcycles, and a clear distinction drawn between OHV (ie Jeeps & 4x4s) , ATV\'s (50+\'"), Dirt Bikes (Not licensed), and street legal Dual Purpose bikes. I would like to see more difficult roads with single track made available solely for motorcycles. Please open more forest road gates and if closed please make an explanation available online that is up to date.

Hopefully my comments will be heard in regard to the Plan Revision as well as the upcoming Transportation Plan. Thanks for letting me contribute and keep up the good work!

David Hopewell
Falls Church, VA

Received: from svdcasmtmp001.wo.fs.fed.us ([199.131.12.134]) by sv8wo.wo.fs.fed.us (Lotus Domino Release 6.5.4FP1HF140) with ESMTP id 2007092722334772-32101 ; Thu, 27 Sep 2007 22:33:47 -0400

Received: from ([199.128.173.130]) by svdcasmtmp001.wo.fs.fed.us with ESMTP id KP-BRCFZ.138922246; Thu, 27 Sep 2007 22:33:30 -0400

Received: (from webserv@localhost) by svinet2.fs.fed.us (AIX5.3/8.11.6p2/8.11.0) id 18S2XUB1851404; Thu, 27 Sep 2007 22:33:30 -0400

PostedDate: 09/27/2007 10:33:30 PM

\$MessageID: <200709280233.18S2XUB1851404@svinet2.fs.fed.us>

SendTo: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us

Subject:

From: Planning.comments.form@svinet2.fs.fed.us

SMTPOriginator: webserv@svinet2.fs.fed.us

RouteServers: CN=ENTWOA/OU=E/O=USDAFS,CN=ENTR8A/OU=E/O=USDAFS

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Categories:

\$Revisions: 09/27/2007 10:33:48 PM

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DeliveredDate: 09/27/2007 10:33:49 PM

ReplySent: True

\$UpdatedBy: CN=FS Application Development/OU=E/O=USDAFS

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September 14, 2005) at 09/27/2007 22:33:47,MIME-CD by Notes Client on David

Plunkett/R8/USDAFS(Release 6.0.2CF2|July 23, 2003) at 10/04/2007 02:10:32 PM,MIME-CD

complete at 10/04/2007 02:10:32 PM

Submitted by: mike bush
At: bushjeeps@aol.com
Remark: please include roads/trails for high clearance off highway vehicles(jeeps and trucks)
