

"J.S.Thomas" NOTE: had to copy in word document because of size of font

05/20/2011 11:24 AM

Subject: George Washing Forrest Gas Drilling + Windmills

I currently live in an economically depressed area, The Alleghany Highlands, we have been in recession for over 30 years due to plant closings ect. The GW Nat Forrest takes up a great percentage of the area in which we live , but it is also our lively hood. We use the trees for making many various wood products. I have read much literature about fracking and Shale Gas reserves of PA and to me it offers one of the best potential economic boosts our area has seen in a long time. Folks don't have jobs they leave, The major complaints that have revolved around fracking the water table near neighborhoods , well we have vast amounts of wilderness in the GW and to put a blanket policy over the Forrest for 15 years or more is irresponsible. It doesnt have to be next door to people but designated areas can be set for landowners who adjoin.

As you know we have tall mountains here too that create vast Wind areas perfect for harboring electric. Our Local college Dabney S Lancaster has created a program for students to learn about the benefits of Wind Farming and gain employment.

But with Policies such as these ...all we are saying is " not in my backyard" and "go somewhere else and find a job."

I would rather see Windmills and Horizontal Drilling going in the GW Wilderness area because it wont be private landowners who adjoin others...As I or them probably will never see them that way, If it goes private we will. Policy will only stop your area it will not stop the drillers.

Folks that have pushed this plan probably will never see the Alleghany Highlands , they wont feel the pressure of the out flow of people who dont have jobs and your kids leaving, But you will see is the nightly News and the next time you see or hear that troops in the Middle East getting killed over Oil, think about what you could do as an alternative would be? You have the power to change policy and if it helps us NOT be in a country because of "US interests" you just saved someones life or gave someone a job...think about it.

We need to save ourselves from ourselves sometimes I think , and this is one of those times. Please Reconsider the plan you have drafted.

Jeremy Thomas



Karl Miller

05/22/2011 10:51 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject "Fracking" in the GWNF

I writing to vehemently oppose any type of hydrofracing in the GWNF. Based upon the findings as noted in the proposed Forestry Update Plan, over 50% of the GWNF is a potential resource for natural gas via horizontal drilling. Hydrofracing and horizontal drilling will devastate the area's water resources as given ample evidence in Pennsylvania. Drilling companies have little concern nor fear of existing regulations which would penalize them for breaching existing regulations. Fundamentally, the "rewards" for the drilling companies are far more enticing than the penalties!

I am of the age group that remembers only too well, the devastation that coal mining (strip/mountain top, and deep mining) has been reaped upon our natural resources. Acid streams, top soil disruption, run off, mine sink holes, air pollution, etc. represent the legacy that we have left our children. Are we again going to repeat the environmental disasters of the past to appease some capitalistic corporations?

Please protect our natural resources that the so abundant natural resources in the GW/JNF's are protected from this threat. It is evitable that the politicians and greedy corporations will bring considerable pressure on US Forest Service; however, it is important that your agency sets the correct conservation policies NOW BEFORE the political pressure begins to arise from the muck and mire of our bribe-oriented "pay me" political system.

Karl Miller



Angela Dalmolin

05/31/2011 10:14 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@f s.fe
d.us

cc

bee

Subject NO FRACKING

Please put every effort to stop the process of hydraulic fracturing!!!!
This heinous practice is ruining people's lives and threatens to ruin our water. No water,
no LIFE.

Sincerely,
Angela Dalmolin



"Jim McCoy"
05/27/2011 10:36 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject GWNF Plan

Hello,

Here are a few comments on the future plan of GWNF. I have not read plan yet but attended several meetings a couple a years ago concerning this plan before it got put on hold.

1.) There needs to be more harvesting of Timber for the sake of the Timber and wildlife habitat.(At least harvest what the plan calls for and not a small percentage of it, make it easier for wood cutters to work with the government to harvest Timber. Management practices seem to work in the Private Sector okay.)

2.) We do not need any more wilderness areas. Unless someone can show scientific evidence to prove different. The wilderness we have is not used now to its capacity(according to information the Forest Service put out). There are a lot of wasted resources in these areas not to mention the Fire Hazard.

3.) Everyone should pay a fee for using National Forest not just Hunter's and Fishermen. You already have a stamp available. It should be no added expense to start asking everyone to purchase a National Forest Stamp that use the National Forest. All groups that I have heard speak on this subject are in favor of it.

Hopefully these suggestions help. I would say from what I know about the GWNF Plan, it needs to consider the Timber, Land, Water and Wildlife and be managed for all 4 at the same time. I belief there are several large tracts of land in the Western Part of Virginia that are managed for all 4 with success that you could use for a guide for the GWNF Plan.

Thanks

Jim McCoy



ellen nash

05/31/2011 09:35 PM

Please respond to
ellen nash

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

cc

bcc

Subject gas leases in national forest

I strongly OPPOSE the draft plan to allow oil and gas leasing in nearly 1 million acres of the GW National Forest.

I believe that forest land must be protected for the citizens for which this National Forest and other government park land was set aside and that it must be protected against actions that could in any way threaten and change it, such as oil and gas drilling. Creation of the national park system was not achieved easily (as described in The Big Burn) and I believe it is the responsibility of our government to maintain and protect it for future generations.

The draft plan does not allow for fracking for natural gas, for which I am grateful; however, other methods of gas extraction which would be permissible once gas leases are issued is totally against the purpose of the creation of the national forest. The proposal to allow oil and gas leases that do not have significant effects on the human environment seems subject to a wide variety of interpretations as to what "significant effects" may include, and it does not address the effects such activity could have on wildlife. I believe should permitting oil and gas leases in the GW National Forest become part of the final plan that it would open the door to very long-term, permanent and adverse effects, potential and real.

Other aspects of the plan, such as controlled burning, reduction of non-native plants, protection of most of the remote areas from timbering and road construction are positive but do NOT go far enough to protect the GW National Forest.

I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to not allow oil and gas exploration of any kind in the George Washington National Forest.

Ellen Nash



"Walton, Peter Christian -
06/21/2011 10:21 AM

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

bcc

Subject BAN Fracking

History:

 This message has been forwarded.

Dear GWNF,

The plan to Ban Hydro-Fracking is flawed. It states there will be a ban on Horizontal drilling, but vertical drilling will still be allowed. In some instances, it states that horizontal drilling will be used to obtain "hard to reach" pockets of gas. This is NOT acceptable. Both vertical and horizontal and vertical drilling methods are not safe for the health of Shenandoah Valley citizens and the wildlife in the area.

The air and water quality in this area is surely not as good as it could possibly be. So my question is this; How would the use of horizontal or vertical drilling improve the air and water quality for the citizens/ecosystem of the Shenandoah Valley?

The answer is obvious, it cannot. Therefore, ban Fracking of all sorts and invest in the future of this country by moving completely away from fossil fuels. I look forward to seeing a new plan.

Thank you,

Pete Walton
Spread the Love,
Cut the Frack



Darrell Schwalm

06/16/2011 08:28 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Draft management plan -- GW National Forest

Please accept my comments regarding the draft management plan for the George Washington National Forest (GW NF).

I am a concerned citizen who lives in Staunton, VA and frequently uses the GW NF for hiking, bird watching, and trout fishing. I am a stream monitor for the Friends of the NF Shenandoah River, the Friends of the Middle River in Augusta County, and the Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams program.

Thank you for preparing the management plan. It is an important tool to protect and restore this important natural resource. The forest plays a vital role in protecting the several watersheds that originate in the forest and the water that eventually flows to the Chesapeake Bay. As a kayaker and stream monitor, I find it distressing that there are many degrading impacts in the watersheds resulting from poor stewardship attitudes and failure to apply best management practices by many riparian landowners downstream of the national forest. Good management in the headwater streams is vital if restoration efforts in downstream segments through the TMDL program are to be successful.

In this regard, water supply and fishing uses of the waters are two areas with the most public support for strong management practices. I support the concerns expressed by the Friends of the NF Shenandoah River and recommend that all current and potential local drinking water supply areas be fully identified as priority watersheds.

Further, I recommend that the management plan enhance and expand on the management "standards" to be used to protect the priority watersheds, especially with regard to road construction which is an important degrading influence in the NF environment.

I am also concerned about the expanded natural gas exploration initiatives. There have been too many instances around the country of contaminated drinking water supplies and stream pollution events from discharge of the contaminated waters used in fracking. The practices must be tightly managed by Federal and state authorities. I also support the recommendations of the Friends of the North Fork Shenandoah River that additional restriction be included in the management plan on Vertical gas drilling. These restrictions should include a ban on drilling in local drinking water supply areas and other priority watersheds.

Darrell Schwalm



Frank Wernlein
06/21/2011 03:33 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject Public Comment for GWNF Public Use Plan

Frank A. Wernlein

June 21, 2011

Public Comment for GWNF Public Use Plan

I attended a meeting on the GWNF proposed Public Use Plan in Fairfax, Virginia on June 20th and deeply appreciate the effort of the USFS staff and all the many stakeholders who have worked on this critical effort. I also am grateful for the opportunity to comment briefly on the plan.

I am a 35 year user of the GWNF and treasure my many experiences over the years hiking, day visiting, camping and my use of the forest roads and ORV trails.

My specific areas of interest and/or concern are summarized below:

- I have significant concerns over the proposed areas open for natural gas exploration and extraction and wind turbine energy generation. Although in the past we have not seen any long term gas extraction, the future 15-20 years will involve new methods and market forces that make reliance “on the past” as a model for the future a grave risk. Gas exploration/extraction and wind turbines should not be considered in the GWNF area due to the environmental impact and the existence of alternate areas of significant private lands available for this activity.
- As an ORV enthusiast I use the maintained forest roads and the ORV trail areas. Within the area of the park the forest road system and specifically the ORV trails available for motorcycling are limited. I believe the ORV trail system for motorcycling totals only 45 miles as discussed in the meeting in Fairfax County. I would prefer that ORV/motorcycle trails not be reduced and that all due consideration be given to maintaining the present system with an open mind to expansion. For example, giving consideration that under the proposed plan the existing roads slated for “decommissioning” for environmental, funding or other issues be “reduced” to trail status for ORV's if at all possible.
- Finally, I also urge that the USFS further develop the “fee system” to allow direct internet purchase of ORV permits, camping permits, and use permits.

Thank you!



"Kemp, John
>
06/17/2011 09:15 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Timber harvest and Habitat development

Gentlemen,

I have reviewed the proposed plan and I am writing to strenuously urge you to dramatically increase the amount of timber harvest and habitat improvement in the plan. I have spent a great deal of time in the National Forest in Allegheny and Bath counties. The Forest is mature, homogenous and almost devoid of succession growth. I have able to compare this personally to private tracts that have and have had significant timber harvests in recent years. Those private tracts have dramatically more wildlife of all kinds present due to the vastly superior habitat. I own land in Allegheny and my property adjoins National Forest and walking 300 or 500 yards into the National Forest is almost like walking into a dead zone which is totally devoid of anything but large mature trees that completely block the sun from reaching the ground. I have seen national Forest tracts near my property that are marked up for timber harvest and put out to bid, but never bid upon. In talking with loggers, they indicate that the rules and requirements of the forest service practically guarantee that they would lose money if they win the job. This is in excusable given the state of our economy, timber harvests have the potential to dramatically improve economic conditions for everyone in these already depressed areas. Timber harvests would also create a great deal of improved succession habitat. The Virginia Department of Game and inland Fisheries has documented the decline of the deer herd in Highland, Bath and Allegheny county and the graph almost matches perfectly with the graph showing the huge decrease in logging in National Forest areas in these counties. Hunting is primary recreational activity in these counties, which can also significantly contribute to the economy.

In conclusion I will say the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are so immensely vast, that there are plenty of remote, steep and difficult to access areas that can remain as pristine wilderness. Therefore there is no compelling reason not to dramatically increase the amount of timber harvest (including making it easier for smaller loggers to make money in the bidding process) to positively impact habitat, game animal populations, recreation and the economic conditions in

those counties where National Forest is located.

Sincerely,

John P Kemp



Margot Bergman
06/05/2011 07:37 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject hydro-fracking

TO FOREST MANAGEMENT:

Please permanently ban all drilling for natural gas in GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST, hydraulic fracturing and vertical drilling. Do not be pressured into this; if you do, your mistakes will be known far and wide in the future. The environmental disaster of hydraulic fracturing will soon be public knowledge. Please safeguard our land, our air, and our water for the generations to follow. Invest in sustainable energy resources. No hydraulic fracturing or vertical drilling in the forest now or in the future. The forest is our national treasure, It must be PROTECTED.

Thank you.

Margot Bergman



Maha Devi
06/22/2011 10:31 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject forest plan comments

Dear Forest Services Planning Team,

I recently moved to this area and over and over again I've enjoyed seeing many beautiful areas and vistas and the George Washington National forest being one of them. I have hiked through the woods, walked in the streams and love to invite friends to the valley. I feel very protective of these beautiful lands, trees and streams. As you know many of us are concerned about natural gas drilling and I read that nearly 900,000 acres or so will be used for natural gas drilling and that you may use hydraulic fracturing in some cases.

I am deeply concerned about this plan for natural gas drilling. As you know hydraulic fracturing is a national issue now and I am shocked really at the Gas Company reactions to a growing number of reports of water contamination, groundwater contamination, public health problems, and pollution of air, streams and rivers. The response of these wealthy gas companies.....has been, "nothing can be proven that fracking causes contamination or pollution". Even our own EPA leader Linda Baker made the same comment and this is a government agency created to protect the environment and the public health of all our citizens. I am deeply disturbed by the response of the Gas Companies and lack of responsibility and liability in acknowledging the growing number of reports of problems with fracking and drilling for natural gas and how it has adversely affected our environment and in some cases ruined lives, with no compensation to these individuals.

I say all this because, I personally don't trust these large corporations, their track record of deception, being above the law, lack of disclosure, and improper dumping of their hazardous waste give me cause for great concern and it should you as well. Are these Gas companies truly interested in the welfare of the environment and its impact on citizens? I have strong doubts about this.

I applaud the fact you will ban fracking....but I see a loophole that in some cases you may allow it. I am absolutely opposed to this position....fracking is understudied and unregulated and we have no business in my opinion endangering our forest with this practice and the precious water supplies it provides for so many people. If New York and Maryland are so greatly concerned....why are not Virginia officials???

I also oppose vertical drillingit's unbelievable that we would drill for natural gas in nearly the whole forest and entrust the welfare of the forest to companies who have this kind of track record with fracking. I realize we need energy.....but water is much more vital and valuable than natural gas. When these companies demonstrate respectful, honest, ethical, safe and thoughtful practices only then would I consider any drilling, and certainly in a limited area...not 900,000 acres.

I thank you for taking my comments and as those entrusted with our National Forest I pray you will act in the best interests of the forest and the citizens to protect our rights and the rights of the forest as well.

MahaDevi Lundy, resident in New Market area



"Gage, Emma Anne -
06/18/2011 11:42 AM

To "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us"

<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

cc

bcc

Subject hydraulic fracturing

To Whom It May Concern,

June 18th, 2011

My name is Emma Gage and in the Fall, I'll be a junior at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. I have lived in this state for 10 years now and never have I been so upset by an issue as I have been with hydraulic fracturing.

It has come to my attention over the last four months that there is a plan to drill for natural gas in the Bergton area of Virginia, which is in Rockingham County; consequently, the same county in which JMU resides. Hydro-fracking has already occurred in many states like Ohio and Pennsylvania and there has been a plethora of documented evidence showcasing the horrendous impacts of this process. Things such as contaminated water, the death of natural habitats, and the spread of carcinogens and cancerous toxins into human bodies can't be ignored by our government if our politicians supposedly stand for what they say they do.

For too long now, the corporations in charge of hydraulic fracturing have done what corporations always do: they have bribed their way into being excluded from the Clean Air and Water Acts, they have paid our government to cover up their messes, and they have lied to the American people saying that drilling for natural gas will be the end to foreign oil. What patriotic American wouldn't want to support natural gas under the guise that it will end our dependence on foreign oil? Corporations are nothing but sly snakes that will swallow their prey after tricking them into thinking they were simply showing off their tonsils.

I am a citizen of the state of Virginia and of the United States of America. I pay taxes to the government and I pay tuition for a public university. I proudly use the water that comes out of my tap and I plan to continue to do so. I do NOT support hydraulic fracturing and never will.

Sincerely,

Emma Gage



james sparks hutcheson
06/09/2011 05:49 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject frackin'

hullo,

simply..you wouldn't want the [fracking]effluent in your water..and we don't want it in ours..

do unto others..

no amount of assurances will convince me that this is a good idea

sincerely,

james sparks hutcheson



Laurie E.
06/02/2011 09:26 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Hydraulic Fracking

Hello,

I am writing you today to calmly please ask that you reconsider hydraulic fracturing. I believe it is not a process that has fully been studied enough to know whether the consequential effects, no matter how "indirect" or "unrelated" they may appear to be, would harm our water supplies and essentially the health of beings around the earth.

Please consider a few things before you move forward:

1. Imagine having children, and really putting all of your love and hopes into them -- only to see that their lives would be cut short, as well as the lives of the ones they love, from the effects of water pollution due to hydraulic fracking.
2. Imagine how many more jobs would be created if we were to think up other ways of implementing efficient and safe energies as fuel.

I know it's not a huge argument when considering the immediate reaping of resources saved and money made due to hydraulic fracking, but remember that those effects may mean a slow and painful death to those around you, including yourselves as the hydraulic fracking idea has poisoned our water systems.

Thank you for your time,

Laurie E-M Eckert



Elizabeth Dallam
06/18/2011 12:11 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington National Forest Plan and Fracturing

Dear Forest Service Planning Members,

I understand that the George Washington National Forest Plan was just released and that it includes plans to drill for natural gas. I am pleased that Hydraulic Fracturing, a controversial drilling method that has posed serious threats to the safety of our drinking water, is banned from the forest plan for now. However, I am concerned that vertical drilling, which involves some fracking, is still being pursued in 900,000 of the 1.1 million acres of the national forest. The large amount of forest area to be drilled and the open door to use fracking on a limited basis is of great concern to me as a resident of this area. I urge you to reconsider your plan so that not include any fracking or vertical drilling in the George Washington National Forest due to the swath of destruction to the land, air, and water that drilling for gas has caused in states like Pennsylvania, Texas, and Arkansas.

Thank you for your consideration,
Elizabeth Dallam



Judy Mathwin

06/10/2011 02:46 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Protect the forests

As frequent visitors to these woods, my family and I hope that this area keeps its wilderness characteristics. Please keep development of the forests. We don't have many places like these left. Please protect them.

Sincerely,

John and Judy Mathwin

From:
To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject: George Washington Forest Plan
Date: Friday, May 06, 2011 12:28:00 PM

Maureen Hyzer,

I am writing to ask you to not allow hydrofracking in the George Washington National forest.

I have been looking at online photos of gas wells in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Some of them are on public land, such as in Loyalsock State Forest and Cross Creek Park. Virginia is a beautiful state. We don't want our public lands to look like that.

We have lost 156,000 acres to strip mining in our state. If the natural gas industry is allowed to drill wells, we could lose hundreds of thousands more.

My main concern has nothing to do with the landscape or loss of land. It has to do with clean water. I live in Staunton, and I have city water. Many people outside of town don't. My water supply and theirs could be in jeopardy. The possibility of contaminating drinking water for an unknown number of citizens seems like a huge risk. If you live in this area, please learn about what has happened to water supplies in other places where hydrofracking is being done, and then make the decision that you think is best for your family.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brooks



"Rick Wilks"
06/02/2011 10:45 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Comments

Dear Sir,

I would like to see more emphasis put on managing the forest for hunting. In particular for grouse, deer, turkey, etc which would entail more clear-cutting. The mature woods are pretty to look at but not ideal from a food and cover perspective for wildlife.

Regards, Rick Wilks



Sudhakar Naraparaju

06/18/2011 11:42 PM

Please respond to

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

cc

bcc

Subject Re: George Washington National Forest Plan and Fracturing

Dear Forest Service Planning Members,

I understand that the George Washington National Forest Plan was just released and that it includes plans to drill for natural gas. I am pleased that Hydraulic Fracturing, a controversial drilling method that has posed serious threats to the safety of our drinking water, is banned from the forest plan for now. However, I am concerned that vertical drilling, which involves some fracking, is still being pursued in 900,000 of the 1.1 million acres of the national forest. The large amount of forest area to be drilled and the open door to use fracking on a limited basis is of great concern to me as a resident of this area. I urge you to reconsider your plan so that not include any fracking or vertical drilling in the George Washington National Forest due to the swath of destruction to the land, air, and water that drilling for gas has caused in states like Pennsylvania, Texas, and Arkansas.

Thank you for your consideration,

Raj Naraparaju



Priscilla and Jerry Rainey
>
06/12/2011 11:49 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject Our WATER, Your Water

The battle for water is on. Our most precious supply . We naturally have it. We are among the "HAVES, not THE HAVE-NOTS". I ask you to do everything necessary to protect the supply of water in the National Forest. We outside the forest and you are so fortunate to have plenty of water, please keep it. No drilling, tree cutting, roads, bull dozing, thank you ,Priscilla Blosser-Rainey,



AnneFrances Martin
06/02/2011 09:09 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject No to any drilling for Natural Gas

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Please **IMMEDIATELY** ban any drilling for natural gas in GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST, hydraulic fracturing and vertical drilling. We must safeguard our land, our air, and our water for future generations. The earth is sacred. It is time to go after renewable, sustainable means of energy and stop messing around we these other methods that not only harm our earth but harm ourselves. No hydraulic fracturing or vertical drilling in the forest now or in the future. The forest is a national treasure, **IT NEEDS TO BE PRESERVED.**

Thank you.

Anne Frances Martin



R Samawicz
06/20/2011 04:28 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington National Forest Jefferson National Forest, Virginia

Dear USDA:

I don't understand why you have written an "alternative" plan for these lands at all. There was no need. Just as we have a duty not to leave a huge debt for our children to pay, we also have a duty for future generations not to ruin their land, but to preserve as much open space as possible, and care for our forests, streams and air quality. While I am gratified to hear of your suggestions for limiting fracturing, I cannot believe you do not support in the strongest ways possible the preservation of remaining roadless areas of these gorgeous forests. There are plenty of roads in the area already. Have you ever been on hiking trails in this area? It is rare enough as it is to be in these forests without hearing automobiles. The accompanying environmental destruction of road building and further forest exploitation in these fragile areas would be an assault from which the forests may not recover.

Fracturing of rock layers to allow access to gas and oil is a great idea and a necessary one for the present. However, shouldn't we the people through our agencies such as yours, Interior, Energy, and EPA have control of the land and work together with industry to limit the accompanying chemicals and substances that pollute our streams in this process? Isn't that your responsibility--to advocate for all the people and generations, not just a few powerful industries?

Sincerely,

Rebecca F. Samawicz



"Larry Framme"
06/14/2011 11:22 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Proposed Forest Management Plan

Gentlemen and Ladies:

I have used the George Washington National Forest for over 35 years. It is a wonderful experience. However, in recent years I have been disturbed by the lack of management for wildlife.

As you know, most wildlife, including deer, bear, turkey, grouse, woodcock and songbirds, require sections of early succession forest adjacent to mature forest as ideal habitat. Unless the forest service plan includes more planned burning, wildfire use or clear cutting, the early succession areas will continue to decline with an accompanying decline in wildlife. I have great regard for those who wish to preserve forests without cutting. However, they do a great disservice to wildlife by severely reducing habitat. It is vital to wildlife in the forest that their habitat not be eliminated by continuous mature forests.

Perhaps the best example in the GWNF is the decline in grouse population. Grouse REQUIRE early succession forest adjacent to mature forest on order to breed and protect themselves from predators. The cover of vines, berry bushes and other hallmarks of early succession forest are vital to their survival. The decrease in early succession forest in the GWNF in recent years has negatively impacted all wildlife, but especially grouse.

For these reason, I urge you to provide more wildlife habitat in your updated plan and especially prescribed burns, wildfire use and clear cutting to create significantly more early succession growth throughout the GWNF.

Thank you.

Lawrence H. Framme III

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06/24/2011 12:29 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject My thoughts on proposals for 'G-Wash.Jefferson National Forests

I fully support the ban on fracturing gas drilling in the National Forests. I am 86 yrs old and still hunt exclusively in the National Forests and mostly trout fish there. I have been hunting and fishing in the Nat. Forest for 50yrs, primarily because of my love for the vastness and lack of "NO HUNTING SIGNS". In fact, if a ban on hunting were ever enacted for the National Forests I would cease hunting, even if 50 private landowner gave me permission to hunt on their land. In my lifetime I have killed my share of deer, so the decline in the N.F. deer herd is no problem for me. Anymore, hunting is just an excuse to get out there and prowl around my beloved Mtns. and forest. Next to hunting and fishing, my favorite recreational pursuit is hiking Mtn. trails in the N.F. The area that I am most familiar with extends from Frederick Co. Shenandoah Mtn. range to include the Massanutten Mtns south approximately 150 miles , also portions of the G.W. Nat. Forest in W.VA. This includes the counties of Shenandoah, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Bath and Highland. I doubt that anyone knows this area of the National forest as well as me. Even though I realize that clearcutting may provide forage for the wildlife I still don't like to see it, especially when trees like white oak bearing trees are cut. Acorns provide much of the food for wildlife. Perhaps more access to the forest would ,also, help.

Your attention to the above would greatly be appreciated.

William L. McDonnell



"Patrick White"

06/25/2011 01:58 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington National Forest Draft Management Plan.

History:

 This message has been forwarded.

I am alarmed to find no provisions for the use of motorcycles listed in the plan. I am requesting that provisions for the continued use of motorcycles in regards to any proposed plan be added immediately. I am requesting confirmation of these motorcycle use provisions immediately, so I can make plans for actions should these motorcycle use provisions be overlooked. In addition to my home in Prince William County, I hold land adjoining the National Forest. While I'm sure the oversight of no mention of continued motorcycle usage was accidental, I am far too invested to allow this plan to move on without correction.

I await your response, requesting you do so by email, so I can forward the response on to other concerned constituents.

Yours;

Patrick J. White



"Greg"
Sent by:
greg.dembeck@netzero.net

06/23/2011 07:37 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject Riding in GWNF

Hello, although I have not ridden there yet, access to these lands should be sustained, not restricted by arbitrary road and trail closure. I want this place to be open/accessible when I do decide to recreate there.

I like how Washington State has a bunch of off road riding trails, maybe your state could also.

Regards, Greg D.



Eileen Frueh
06/24/2011 08:52 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on GW Natl Forest Forest Plan Revision

To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of the draft Forest Plan Revision to prohibit horizontal drilling and the associated process of hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest. In fact, I would like to see a total ban on all energy drilling in the forest.

Sincerely,

Eileen R. Frueh



Andrew Rosenberger

06/24/2011 09:25 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Please more cutting in the MGT plan

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to request that the Forest Service revise their current draft management plan to include more timber harvesting on the National Forest. If you look at the landscape you will see that Virginia is not suffering from a lack of mature timber both on private and public land. Please stop treating the National Forest as a National Park. These lands were not set aside to become parks, they were set aside to preserve the timber products for the national good. I believe that the Forest Service has lost their path and direction by giving in to special interest groups. The result has been the severe decline in cutting and a severe decline of many wildlife populations. Please add more timber operations to your draft plan.

I believe that the individuals that work for the Forest Service understand the importance cutting has for diversity. However, I also believe that despite knowing better the Forest Service has given up and is rolling over for those who are ill informed and believe cutting is a bad thing. Please use your degrees that you worked hard for. I know that the staff knows better. The medical industry has fought the individuals that believe vaccinations are bad for humans and have not changed or caved in based on public outcry from individuals that believe otherwise. They rely on their education, research, general knowledge, science, and ethical obligations to back their decision. I ask that the professionals of the Forest Service do the same.

Sometimes decisions can be difficult to defend to some that believe preservation by lack of management is the right thing to do. However, this does not mean that just because it may be difficult that it is wrong. Stand up for what you know is right as a professional. Your positions are not solely to listen to who yells the loudest. Your positions are to protect what is best for the public. If you take what is best for the public good and marry it with the true purpose and intent of National Forest lands then I can not see how you would come up with the decision to further reduce forest management through cutting. If you choose otherwise then I propose that you designate it all old growth, lock the gates and relinquish your positions because at that point your services are no longer needed.

Thank you

Andrew Rosenberger



Todd Burton

06/24/2011 12:14 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject

Please cut MORE timber and plan for more prescribed burns. The forest is not producing suitable habitat for wildlife and as an outdoorsman I love spending time in the mountains both hunting game and simply seeing game animals. I don't always have to kill them to appreciate them and game animals are ghosts on large tracts of old growth forests my father and grandfather once hunted with superb success.

Todd Burton



06/25/2011 12:44 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Management Plan Comments

My name is Edward Bradley and I live at 3839 Winding Way Rd; Roanoke, VA 24015. For over 40 years I have had the opportunity to hunt and fish the George Washington National Forest. I primarily fish for trout and hunt grouse.

In your current process of preparing GWNF Management Plan, I would encourage you to include the development of more wildlife habitat. I strongly urge to allow more responsible timbering, creating more open spaces and wildlife habitat.

Thank you for allowing me to comment. Ed Bradley



Sandy Garst
06/23/2011 10:33 PM

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

I oppose adding any more land to the National Forest for any reason. It is unacceptable for the government to own so much land. This is an unnecessary land grab. It is also unacceptable for you to prohibit hydrofracking on any land. We need to explore all energy sources for energy independence.

Sincerely,
Sandy Garst



"Scarborough, Jon"
06/23/2011 12:51 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Comments

Hello,

My family and I ride/race dirt bikes. We drive 8 hours one way to go down to GA to ride and 3+ hours to Hatfield McCoy trails because the trails in VA are very lacking. VA is missing out on tourist dollars.

We avoid the trails in GWNF because they are terrible and dangerous. The trails offer nothing in the way of single track for dirt bikes and the 4 wheelers fly on the 2 way trails making it way to risky for my son.

EXPAND the trails in VA!

Regards,

Jon Scarborough and Family



Roberta Clark
06/22/2011 05:54 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject Comments: Draft strategic plan and EIS

I have skimmed through portions of the plan for the GW National Forest, and the corresponding EIS.

The planners and researchers appear to have done a good job, except perhaps with respect to the balance of possible uses for the forest.

My preference would be: less OHV and ATV use and more passive forest use.

Thank you.

Roberta Clark



"Shelby Hollar"
07/08/2011 09:40 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Forest Plan revision proposal

To Whom it may concern:

I would like to see the George Washington and ALL National Forests stay as they are.
No mining of any type or hydro electric mills. I would like to see timbering, but only select cutting.
Thank you.

Mike Hollar,



Jennifer Hoover
07/12/2011 03:56 PM

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

Subject: GWNF Comments

History:  This message has been forwarded.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GW National Forest Plan.

Augusta County Service Authority, located in Verona, Virginia, provides public water and sewer services to citizens of Augusta County. The Authority currently maintains the Coles Run Dam located in the Big Levels area of the George Washington National Forest and supports the identification of drinking water supply areas and the expansion of protective buffers on streams and reservoirs.

The watershed within the Forest provides a wonderful recharge area due to the absence of pollution sources found in the other watersheds where we currently have developed public water sources. Augusta County recently passed a Sourcewater Protection Ordinance which limits and/or requires preventative measures for certain uses in areas outside of the Forest. Many uses, which may have environmental impacts are allowed near our sources. With the Forest providing a natural watershed protection buffer, a public municipal well within the Forest could be assured of protection from contamination for use of the common good of many.

Therefore, Augusta County Service Authority requests an addition to the Forest Plan Revision to allow the development of municipal public water wells on National Forest Property. The Authority is willing to participate in and would encourage discussions related to this matter in an effort to provide a reasonable approach to the permitting process that provides protection to the natural resources and also provides an equitable approach to well development and utilization of this renewable resource. The Authority has developed wells across the County and takes a number of precautions to ensure that other water resources are not impacted by the development of these municipal wells. The National Forest provides a natural watershed protection buffer and if properly utilized could provide a source of drinking water for the public while meeting the other objectives of the forest management plan.

Thank you very much,

Jennifer Hoover
Augusta County Service Authority

CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATION: This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please erase this e-mail immediately and advise the sender (by return e-mail) that you have received this e-mail by mistake. Thank you. County of Augusta.



"Dan Bieker"
07/05/2011 07:47 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on George Washington Plan Revision

Dear Forest Service Representatives,

In regards to the pending George Washington Forest Plan, I support "Alternative C" as listed in the draft.

While the Forest Service has done much to protect this forest held in public trust, abuses have occurred, and threats continue. Wild lands where natural processes are allowed to develop undisturbed are rare, yet vital to the well being of ecosystems, native plants and animals, and the human spirit. I urge you to afford maximum protection to the wild nature of this national treasure.

Thanks for the opportunity to voice support for "Alternative C" in the George Washington Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Dan Bieker



HOLLEY JOHN
07/08/2011 10:55 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Headwaters Watershed Protection in George Washington Natl. Forest Areas Containing Marcellus Shale Deposits

I am writing in support of the most restrictive plan provisions regarding natural gas extraction by horizontal drilling and hydro-fracturing. The portions of the George Washington National Forest in Virginia that have Marcellus Shale are familiar to me from thirty years of fly fishing, hiking, and camping in this area. This area, especially the part in Rockingham County, is home to one of the few remaining intact reproducing populations of Brook Trout in the state. Brook Trout and the invertebrate life that they depend upon for food require cold water, and are especially sensitive to all kinds of water quality degradation. In addition to their intrinsic value, these trout are a kind of "indicator species" that tell us much about the quality of the water that flows down from this watershed and finds its way into municipal water supplies. Setting aside, for the moment, the raging controversy over the safety of horizontal drilling and fracturing, I would like to call attention to the water requirements of the fracturing process. The quantities of water required are so large that they cannot practically be brought in from the outside and thus must be taken from local streams, rivers, and groundwater. The streams in this area are mostly quite small and incapable of supplying the required amount of make-up water without sustaining severe damage to Brook Trout habitat, especially in the times of year when rain is scarce (increasingly unpredictable).

In addition to the water supply concern, I believe that the infrastructure requirements of natural gas extraction would degrade this fragile habitat sufficiently to endanger the survival of the reproducing population of native trout. Of importance in this regard are the roads that would be required to bring in heavy equipment, deforestation of the actual drilling sites, etc. All of these contribute to soil erosion and water quality degradation.

Finally, there is the question of what to do with the "fracking fluid" when drilling is completed. There is ample evidence that this cannot just be dumped back into the streams or sprayed onto vegetation (a recent study indicates that the fluid is an effective defoliant). Even if the fluid was not particularly toxic when it was pumped down into the wells, when it comes back out it carries all kinds of minerals with it that are not predictably safe to be introduced into the surface ecosystem.

For all of these reasons, I strongly favor finalizing this plan with a firm prohibition of horizontal drilling and hydro-fracturing.

John W. Holley, Ph. D.



07/05/2011 12:34 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject BLRI Comments on GWNF Revised Plan (PIN 34897)

History:

 This message has been forwarded.

Park staff has reviewed the Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Park Service Forest and have the following comments:

1. There appear to be no impacts to BLRI maintenance activities.
2. The preferred alternative does a nice job of complementing NPS objectives in that region. I am pleased to see that under that alternative no areas in the Forest will be available for horizontal drilling/Marcellus Shale development. Similarly, I appreciate the consideration given to the Blue Ridge Parkway as it is specifically listed in the No Action alternative in "areas off limits to wind development". Finally, the plan proposes several resource management actions which complement the activities being undertaken along the Parkway. The plan is well done and we appreciate the opportunity to comment, as well as your consideration of the Parkway and our goals and objectives in your planning efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Suzette Molling
Environmental Protection Specialist
Blue Ridge Parkway



john Roberts
07/05/2011 06:06 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us
cc
bcc
Subject plans

Sirs,

I strongly support option C which will serve the long term interests of the forest best.

John Roberts



"Jim Threatte"
07/11/2011 06:10 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Response to Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Plans for the George Washington National Forest

This correspondence is a reaction to the "Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement Plans for the George Washington National Forest."

I oppose "alternative G", which the Sierra Club also opposes. Among the reasons are that alternative G limits new wilderness recommendations to a mere 5 % of potential acreage (20,400 acres out of 372,000 acres in the Forest Service's list of eligible areas). It also allows road development and logging in parts of many unroaded areas. This alternative allows old growth logging in two of the Forest's major forest types and does not protect all of the Virginia Natural Heritage program sites recommended for protection in 1991, 2000, and subsequent biological diversity reports.

I am asking the Forest Service to:

- 1.) Plan for climate change by protecting core wilderness areas, reducing forest fragmentation and decreasing and eliminating non-climate stresses such as logging, road building and oil and gas leasing.
- 2.) Protect all areas identified in the Virginia's Mountain Treasures publication to the degree possible by designating them as unsuitable for timber harvest, new road building, and surface-occupying oil and gas drilling
- 3.) Protect all roadless areas, whether previously inventoried or recently identified, consistent with the provisions of the 2001 Roadless Rule
- 4.) Protect all existing Old Growth forest

Given the alternatives, my first choice among existing alternatives is Alternative C - the conservation alternative - modified so that it is consistent with the "Friends of Shenandoah Mountain" proposal. Alternative C addresses the four priorities above in a way that is far superior to the other existing alternatives.

Thank you.

Jim Threatte



Jeff Mundy

07/05/2011 11:20 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington forest plan comments

As a hunter & naturalist i've been disturbed by the decline of wildlife in VA's national forests over the last 20 years. The grouse have all but disappeared & the deer don't seem to be too far behind them. The decline of timber harvest & management has been the culprit & i'm disappointed to see a continued decrease of timber management in the new forest plan.

Plain & simple- this policy does not create a healthy & balanced forest. Please include more actual management in your forest management plan instead of letting the entire forest turn into blocks of old growth timber that are void of wildlife.

Jeff Mundy



Sterling Simmons
>
07/04/2011 05:35 PM

To "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

cc

bcc

Subject forest management plan

Please consider management practices that would benefit more game species in your plan. The lack of successional growth and a thick canopy make it difficult for grouse, rabbits, deer, quail, and other game and non game species to flourish. The deer harvest on national forest land in Virginia is paltry and without involvement from sportsmen and women in the future, the budget and demands of the forest will fall on deaf ears of so called environmentalist that would like to see no logging or human interaction. It that would be the case, then why have the forest at all if there is no reason to go there and roads to access it? I am a teacher and have studied wildlife all of my life. Why do we cater to so few in our forest management plan and turn our backs on the major supporters that are the real friends of wildlife? Please consider additional human intervention like logging, controlled burning, and road building and maintenance a major priority when drafting your new plan. People would love the forest that they could access and actually have a reason to visit other than saying those trees are pretty!

Thank you greatly for your time and consideration,

Sterling Simmons

Anne Nielsen NOTE: had to copy to word because font was too big in e-mail

06/26/2011 08:11 PM

Subject: GWNF draft plan, comments

Thanks for this opportunity.

My concerns remain the same as in my written comments from earlier this year and two years ago. Doing what can be done to minimize roads in the Forest--the primary entry area for invasive flora and fauna--as well as the invitation they offer for illegitimate uses of the forest by humans. More and more I see "camps" which look more like temporary homes, with old car seats and the like. Dumping of trash continues, and with the budget cuts you have endured for years, I know you haven't the personnel to deal with many of these challenges.

I note that public watersheds are by no means all protected. While this year's rains have been wonderful, last summer's drought certainly gave us advance notice that can change very quickly. Meanwhile, the populations of Winchester, Harrisonburg, Staunton and associated towns have increased dramatically, with no signs of slowing. I would like to see a higher level of watershed protection.

I'm disappointed as well that roadless area protection has increased only minimally, and very little increase in wilderness areas proposed. Of all the east coast national forests, Virginia has the least protection. I am perfectly aware that the current political situation makes increasing wilderness difficult, if not impossible. But if it isn't at least proposed, then it can't be carried forward to a more favorable time; Once those areas are roadless no longer, can it be done at all? Please consider increasing that protection.

Defrocking! It **MUST** be specified that hydraulic fracturing may not be used in the forest. Merely specifying vertical drilling does not rule that out. As you point out, the layers of the Marcellus shale within the forest are vastly folded anyway, so any attempt at gas retrieval is unlikely to use horizontal drilling in the strictest sense. The effects on water use and possible contamination alone should preclude hydrofracking at all. Once you have changed the channels underground with this violent and unregulated practice, it cannot be undone, and no one can yet predict how it may affect water supplies and quality many years from now. We all know that when \$\$ are on the line, if there are loopholes in the requirements, they will be found. There are many hungry lawyers associated with this practice.

On the other hand, I am delighted to see that more old growth forest will be retained. They are important as refugia for many species. Managing the forest for species migrations as climate change progresses is immensely important. It is happening now.

I am a biologist, retired college professor. In association with others in the Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Native Society, I was involved for years in volunteering to monitor invasive plants as well as prime populations of native plants deserving protection near roads through the GWNF in Rockingham and Augusta Counties. In many areas it is such a beautiful place, and native populations are thriving. In others, invasives are a major concern. I am very aware of the effect that economic and political pressures, as well as population growth, have on management of the forest. The bottom line should be "do no harm". As we sometimes don't know what that involves for decades after an action is taken, certainly erring on the side of caution can be urged.

Thank you, to each of you that have so painstakingly taken part in the planning process. Thanks to the several generations of foresters that have preceded you, taking land that frequently was denuded and abandoned, and helping to foster the living, breathing forest that we now enjoy and depend on. We have learned some things about the effects of forest management in the last century. It is my prayer that a century from now, our great grandchildren will think you did well in conserving the forest for them.

Sincerely, Anne W. Nielsen,



"J H"
07/17/2011 12:50 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on George Washington Forest

To the Forestry Service:

I am offering the comments below to preserve and protect the George Washington National Forest. So much of our forest area is being destroyed by industry of various kinds. Soon, there will be nothing left if we do not take all measures to keep it as pristine as possible.

- I support the ban on horizontal natural gas drilling proposed in Alternative G and other alternatives, and would like all hydrofracking banned on the Forest.
- I support the more scientifically sound definition of early successional habitats used in this Plan Revision that includes habitat created by natural disturbances, not merely logged areas of a certain acreage. The Forest Service, accordingly, should not log in areas where natural processes are already creating this kind of habitat.

Alternatives C does a far better job at protecting roadless areas, protecting special biological areas, protecting old growth, protecting water quality, and providing large backcountry area experiences that are very rare in the eastern US. The Forest Service should pick Alternative C, or a modified Alternative C, particularly one that is modified so that it is consistent with the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain proposal.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide in-put.

Jean Hornberg

Care2 makes it easy for everyone to live a healthy, green lifestyle and impact the causes you care about most. Over 12 Million members!

<http://www.care2.com>

Feed a child by searching the web! Learn how <http://www.care2.com/toolbar>



Lee Duke
07/18/2011 10:08 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington National Forest Draft Forest Plan

George Washington Plan Revision
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to help protect the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) by asking you to choose Alternative C rather than Alternative G in the Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the GWNF.

If you truly are intent on fulfilling the mission of the Forest Service "to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations," you should stop interpreting the concept of 'productivity' as meaning nothing more than exploitation of natural resources for commercial gain. Productivity can and, in this case should, refer to the benefits derived from the George Washington National Forest as a resource for all citizens. Productivity does not need to be understood as managing a forest so that the land is little but a long-term repository of logging and mining opportunities.

I ask you to implement programs consistent with the Proposal to Protect Shenandoah Mountain (<http://www.friendsofshenandoahmountain.org/>) developed by the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain. I specifically request that the National Forest Service:

- Protect all areas identified in the Virginia's Mountain Treasures publication to the degree possible by designating them as unsuitable for timber harvest, new road building, and surface-occupying oil and gas drilling.
- Protect all roadless areas, whether previously inventoried or recently identified, consistent with the provisions of the 2001 Roadless Rule.
- Protect all existing Old Growth forest.
- Plan for climate change by protecting core wilderness areas, reducing forest fragmentation and decreasing and eliminating non-climate stresses such as logging, road building and oil and gas leasing.

Sincerely,

Lee Duke

bruce ritchie:

07/15/2011 08:47 PM

Subject: GWNF 15 yr Management Plan Revision

Public Stewards of the GWNF,

The following links provide multiple case studies of contaminations and related problems with the use of high volume hydrofracking (horizontal drilling) to extract natural gas. Please examine these studies and understand their implications. Perhaps these studies might also go to the joint hearing subcommittees that are so critical of your moves to protect our precious forest. I support your plan "G" , and particularly the ban on horizontal drilling. I also support any continuation of undesignated but roadless areas remaining roadless. Thank you so much for your efforts to protect and nurture our forests.

bruce william ritchie

<http://www.riverkeeper.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/Fractured-Communities-FINAL-September-2010.pdf>

<http://gcmonitor.org/downloads/gassedreport.pdf>



karren ferguson
07/18/2011 07:35 AM

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

Subject hydrofracking in the George washington national forest

I would like to encourage you and all who are the ultimate decision makers to watch the documentary on hydrofracking called Gasland. Then consider the points below and the monumental repercussions of your impending decision on the subject.

1. There are some good aspects of the Plan Revision:

- I support the ban on horizontal natural gas drilling proposed in Alternative G and other alternatives, and would like all hydrofracking banned on the Forest.
- I support the more scientifically sound definition of early successional habitats used in this Plan Revision that includes habitat created by natural disturbances, not merely logged areas of a certain acreage. The Forest Service, accordingly, should not log in areas where natural processes are already creating this kind of habitat.

2. Alternative G, the Forest Service's preferred alternative, has some problems that should be fixed:

a. Alternative G limits new wilderness recommendations to a tiny fraction of potential acreage, despite a shortage of wilderness in this forest. The Forest Service would add only one new stand-alone wilderness. There is a need for more wilderness throughout the Appalachians, and the George Washington National Forest has some of the best potential areas in the region.

b. Alternative G allows road development and logging in significant portions of newly inventoried roadless areas and Virginia mountain treasure areas. Core areas such as these should be maintained free of logging and roadbuilding - to provide more resilient ecosystems, to enhance carbon sequestration, and to help ensure that water sources remain clean and abundant in the face of climate change.

c. Alternative G targets old growth forests - allowing logging in two of the forest types where old growth is most likely to be found. Old growth forests comprise only 0.5 % of the forests of the southeast. Because of its rarity, all remaining tracts should be protected.

d. Alternative G does not protect all of the Virginia Natural Heritage program sites recommended for protection in 1991, 2000, and subsequent biological diversity reports. This puts rare natural communities at risk.

e. Nearly half of the forest (48%) would be designated Prescription Area 13 (Mosaics of Habitat.) a prescription that allows widespread logging and roadbuilding. This prescription area includes many areas of significant ecological or recreational value.

f. All public drinking watersheds within the national forest are identified, but less than a third of the land area within them are considered Priority Watersheds.

g. Horizontal drilling is not allowed in the Forest under the preferred alternative, but virtually all of the Forest is open for conventional gas drilling. Gas drilling can fragment habitat and degrade water quality.

3. **Sierra Club** recommends **Alternative C**:

Compared to Alternative G, ***Alternatives C does a far better job at protecting roadless areas, protecting special biological areas, protecting old growth, protecting water quality, and providing large backcountry area experiences that are very rare in the eastern US. The Forest Service should pick Alternative C, or a modified Alternative C, particularly one that is modified so that it is consistent with the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain proposal***

Sincerely,

Karren Skuba



Martha Hills
07/17/2011 08:13 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject National Forest

Is nothing sacred anymore? I was told when I was a child park lands would be protected for future generations to enjoy...untouched by human intervention of any kind. What shall I tell my grandchildren? Ok, it was protected but they changed their minds for greed sake? What about solar energy, wind energy and the power of bio fuels. It is not too late to clean up how we think about a self sustaining environment. Virginia does not even recycle! How far in the future are you thinking? How will this plan, the chain of events and destruction impact our children generations in the future? One oil pipe, one fuel filled ship one blast to the center of the Earth...or two, or three. How long will it take for our voices to be heard. Stop the distruction. Make a better plan by walking, raising your own food, recycle and change they way you are treating the Earth.

Martha L. Hills
Me & Martha
Shenandoah Valley Mountain Music Makers Trail
Sponsored in part by the Virginia Commission for the Arts
& the National Council for the Arts
www.shenandoahvalleymusic.org
www.meandmartha.com
266 Inglewood Court
McGaheysville, Virginia 22840

"The earth has music for those who listen." ~ William Shakespeare



jmaur jmaur
07/17/2011 10:54 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington Forest Plan revision

I understand that the Forest Service's current preferred alternative is plan G. BUT Plan G, while not all bad, does have some problems that it seems really should be fixed:

- a. Alternative G limits new wilderness recommendations to a tiny fraction of potential acreage, despite a shortage of wilderness in this forest. The Forest Service would add only one new stand-alone wilderness. There is a need for more wilderness throughout the Appalachians, and the George Washington National Forest has some of the best potential areas in the region.
- b. Alternative G allows road development and logging in significant portions of newly inventoried roadless areas and Virginia mountain treasure areas. Core areas such as these should be maintained free of logging and roadbuilding - to provide more resilient ecosystems, to enhance carbon sequestration, and to help ensure that water sources remain clean and abundant in the face of climate change.
- c. Alternative G targets old growth forests - allowing logging in two of the forest types where old growth is most likely to be found. Old growth forests comprise only 0.5 % of the forests of the southeast. Because of its rarity, all remaining tracts should be protected.
- d. Alternative G does not protect all of the Virginia Natural Heritage program sites recommended for protection in 1991, 2000, and subsequent biological diversity reports. This puts rare natural communities at risk.
- e. Nearly half of the forest (48%) would be designated Prescription Area 13 (Mosaics of Habitat.) a prescription that allows widespread logging and roadbuilding. This prescription area includes many areas of significant ecological or recreational value.
- f. All public drinking watersheds within the national forest are identified, but less than a third of the land area within them are considered Priority Watersheds.
- g. Horizontal drilling is not allowed in the Forest under the preferred alternative, but virtually all of the Forest is open for conventional gas drilling. Gas drilling can fragment habitat and degrade water quality.

A better option would be ALTERNATIVE C. Compared to Alternative G, Alternative C does a far better job of protecting roadless areas, protecting special biological areas, protecting old growth, protecting water quality, and providing large backcountry area experiences that are very rare in the eastern US. The Forest Service should pick Alternative C, or a modified Alternative C, particularly one that is modified so that it is consistent with the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain proposal.

Sincerely,
Jeff Maurer

--

Author: "A Faerie's History of Caledonia" (A concise history of
Scotland, with a twist.)

Link to the e-book:

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/34462>

authorpage:

<https://www.smashwords.com/profile/view/jeffmaurer>



"Kenn Nilsen"
07/18/2011 08:59 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Forest Plan

Just say "NO" to fracking. Period. Protect our drinking water. No to fracking.

+++++

Kenn Nilsen
Shenandoah Second Wind
www.ssw-woodwork.com

+++++



Sue
07/16/2011 03:44 PM

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

Subject Draft Forest Plan for GW Nat'l Forest

I have been a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club for decades. While I have not gotten out on the trails lately, as my late husband was in declining health, I have many wonderful memories of hiking in this forest and working on the trails there.

I understand that this is the comment period before you will develop and approve a final Forest Plan for GW National Forest in late 2011 or early 2012, and that your draft plan would pick Alternative G, which the Sierra Club opposes. Among the reasons: Alternative G limits new wilderness recommendations to a mere 5 % of potential acreage (20,400 acres out of 372,000 acres in the Forest Service's list of eligible areas). Alternative G allows road development and logging in parts of many unroaded areas. This alternative also allows old growth logging in two of the Forest's major forest types. And it does not protect all of the Virginia Natural Heritage program sites recommended for protection in 1991, 2000, and subsequent biological diversity reports.

Please---

- 1.) Plan for climate change by protecting core wilderness areas, reducing forest fragmentation and decreasing and eliminating non-climate stresses such as logging, road building and oil and gas leasing.
- 2.) Protect all areas identified in the Virginia's Mountain Treasures publication to the degree possible by designating them as unsuitable for timber harvest, new road building, and surface-occupying oil and gas drilling
- 3.) Protect all roadless areas, whether previously inventoried or recently identified, consistent with the provisions of the 2001 Roadless Rule
- 4.) Protect all existing Old Growth forest

Choose Alternative C, the conservation alternative, modified so that it is consistent with the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain proposal. Alternative C addresses the four priorities above in a way that is far superior to the other existing alternatives.

Thank you for your attention.

Sue Porter Beffel



"Warren, Jim"

07/15/2011 03:58 PM

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

cc <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

bcc

Subject Fracking

Dear Forest Service Professionals,

I write to voice my strong support for the Forest Service's ban on horizontal drilling in the George Washington National Forest, and I thank the Forest Service for working to ensure the protection of my drinking water.

James P. Warren
S. Blount Mason Professor of English
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, VA 24450



John Pollock
07/13/2011 05:59 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Better Wildlife Habitat in National Forests

To Whom It May Concern:

This email address was provided to me in an online article I found in the Roanoke Times written by Bill Cochran. I am thankful for Bill and his practical attitude and thoughts regarding all things outdoors. I grew up on a rural farm ever since I was 6 years old and have enjoyed returning to hunt this family farm each fall and spring. Eighty-Five percent of the timber was harvested off of this farm approximately 25 years ago turning a once mature-timber forest into a thick wildlife haven. Although younger and not possessing the perceptive hunting skills I have today, I still remember multitudes of trees 5+ inches in diameter being horned down to bare wood, turkey flocks numbering in the 30s+ with some over 50, and flushing 4 to 5 grouse each time I entered the woods. The clear cut effect on a spread of only about 70 acres did tremendous things for the wildlife population in terms of being able to sustain larger, healthier herds. Unfortunately, the dense and rich wildlife populations that once roamed this tract have faded in the time that the timber has started to show maturity. I rarely if ever see a grouse, maybe one every other year, turkey flocks are few and usually in the single digits, and deer density and quality has sharply decreased. I have witnessed first hand the massive benefits that clear-cutting can have on wildlife populations and I don't think that is the topic of debate.

What the national forest needs is more wildlife habitat so hunters can once again reap a bountiful harvest from the lands that we the people actually OWN. The time to act is now and the timeline for these activities should be infinite, regular, and widespread. Obviously money is a factor in any action being taken place and with our federal government's proven (ahem!) ability to handle money I can imagine getting approved funds for the said activities will be a challenge. Whether outside consultants are hired or studies are performed within the organization a practical approach with the maximum value of available funds must be at the forefront. Personally, I appreciate all of the efforts the USFS makes to maintain our resources and it would be a great enhancement of those resources to enact a practical, direct, and prompt program aimed at restoring habitat and once again making the national forest a place of great bounty. Thank you for your time.

Best Regards,
John D. Pollock



"Finger, Lareta"

07/18/2011 07:25 PM

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

cc <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

bcc

Subject no fracking

To whom it may concern:

I have just now read about the George Washington National Forest Plan and the Shenandoah Valley Network Forest Plan.

I strongly support the prohibition against fracking in this area. I want to drink clean water. We must instead put our national efforts into energy efficiency and into renewable forms of energy. I support the identification of drinking water supply areas and the expansion of protective buffers on streams and reservoirs.

I support the SVN's suggestions that "all local drinking water supply areas to be identified as priority watersheds" and that there should be 'more defined management "standards" to protect priority watersheds, particularly limits on road construction, which degrades water quality.'

Thank you for your attention to this,
Lareta Finger



"Dave Fredley"
07/19/2011 10:37 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF Draft Plan Comments

History:  This message has been forwarded.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft forest plan for the George Washington National Forest.

My name is David Fredley and I have worked with the oil and gas industry both as a consultant and expert witness, and also during my tenure with the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service.

President Obama has stated that we need to “invest” in infrastructure to – “Win the Future.” The Forest Service has an opportunity to promote and encourage the development of the **oil and gas** infrastructure needed for our economic and national security. This infrastructure development will occur with private capital. And, as an added fiscal bonus, production of the federal mineral estate will provide returns to the US Treasury.

In addition to my specific comments below, please consider the attached US Senate Hearing testimony of David Neslin, Director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, and Jeff Cloud, Vice Chairman of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, concerning hydraulic fracturing and ground water.

Horizontal Drilling “Moratorium”

I have a general comment on the “ban” of horizontal drilling on federal oil and gas leases. Forest Supervisor Hyzer testified before the Committee on Natural Resources - Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources and the Committee on Agriculture - Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry, that the draft forest plan was “space-based.” The same can be said for oil and gas development. However, in the case of oil and gas the space is 3-dimensional planning and development, as opposed to the 2-dimensional Surface Use Plans. The best time and place to do that 3-dimensional space-based analysis is when and for what area an Application for Permit to Drill is submitted. That APD will identify specific information including the geographic location, subsurface geology and potential water zones, casing and cementing specifications, circulating fluid characteristics, directional design, anticipated pressures, testing procedures, etc.

These “down-hole” design factors are in addition to the Surface Use Plan designed to protect surface resources. As Onshore Oil and Gas Order #1 states: “For NFS lands, the FS will establish the terms and Conditions of Approval for both the Surface Use Plan of Operations and any associated Surface Use Authorization.” The Forest Service approval of that SUP, combined

with the analysis of the drilling information submitted to the BLM as required by Onshore Oil and Gas Order #2 and other Orders will enable the BLM to make a decision whether or not to approve the APD.

A wholesale “space-based” plan to ban horizontal drilling on almost 1 million acres of federal mineral estate is arbitrary and capricious and is made without the site specific 3-dimensional information identified above. Moreover, the site specific subsurface information submitted as part of the APD is more properly analyzed by the professional petroleum engineering expertise of the BLM.

Horizontal drilling has been recognized as having less impact upon surface resources than conventional vertical wells due the increased number of wells that can be drilled from a single location. The Director of the BLM testified at the above referenced Hearing that they, in fact, had no ban on horizontal drilling.

Finally, the Forest Service states in the draft plan that successful horizontal drilling on private mineral estates could lead to a “reconsideration” of the ban on federal mineral estate. This is false hope and deception because this “reconsideration” of the ban would require plan amendment, further environmental analysis, appeals, and possible litigation. That reconsideration process is really complex, time consuming and is likely to take years to effect.

Timeframes

The Management Approach at Chapter 3, page 23 states, “Energy-related Federal leases, licenses, and permits are processed within 120 days. Energy-related outstanding and reserved mineral rights operations are processed within 60 days.”

These 2 standards should be specifically identified and added as Forest-Wide Design Criteria in the “Federal Leasable Minerals – Oil and Gas”, and “Reserved and Outstanding Minerals” sections on pages 4-22 and 4-23.

Lands and Special Uses

Design Criterion FW-246 at page 4-24 states, “Do not authorize new individual well/spring permits. Phase out existing uses when possible, as this is usually a need that can be met on private land.”

I suspect that this criterion was developed concerning use of wells and springs for bottled water or use of water for off-forest use. The criterion, however, needs to be clarified with respect to water needed for development of private mineral ownership that has both specific deed rights as well as implied rights. In addition, use of water by federal mineral lessees should be determined and approved during the APD approval process.

Dave Fredley

"The miner should not start mining operations in a district which is oppressed by a tyrant, but should carefully consider if the overlord there be friendly or inimical"

- Georgius Agricola

1556

US Senate Testimony of David Neslin.doc US Senate Testimony of Jeff Cloud.doc



"Katharine Layton"
07/18/2011 10:50 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject Jefferson National Forest Plan

Dear Sirs,

Please accept my comment about the Plan. I have attended several meetings in Woodstock over the past couple of years, and applaud what I have seen.

Water is an extremely important resource that is already becoming scarce in parts of our country. Water quality and availability will be more critical over the next 20 years. Most of our streams and rivers are impaired, and that is something we need to reverse. Chemicals that we are not capable of removing are building up in our water supplies. We must protect the quality of our water from the source to the rivers. Certainly on public lands this must be a priority.

Please limit all activities in the George Washington National Forest (and all of our Public Lands) that may impact the water that all living things are dependent on.

Sincerely,

Katharine Layton.

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Lenovo.com



Bill Shirley

07/18/2011 10:23 PM

Please respond to

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

<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

cc

bcc

Subject

I urge the Forest Service to stay with Alternate Plan A and make no changes.

Bill Shirley



Grant Collier
07/18/2011 04:13 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject GWNF Comment

Hello,

The following is my comment that I wish to be read among those making the decisions for the George Washington National Forest Plan:

Virginians, I have one topic of which I wish everyone to consider with heavy consciousness, and that is Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing. The first image that comes to mind when I think of this method of extraction is the actor Daniel Day-Lewis's face from the movie- There Will Be Blood; "Here you have a milkshake and I have a milkshake, and I have a straw you see? You Watching? And my straw reaches acroooooooss the room, and starts to drink your milkshake. I.... Drink.... Your..... Milkshake... I drink it up!"

Our collective milkshake is the GWNF, and our currently clean drinking water. The straw is the gas companies permission to extract through Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing. We are the would-be victims in this scenario. This cannot become our reality. We must protect our forest and water resources through the precautionary principle and with good reason. Further, the extraction economy is on its way out. It is not sustainable and there is no future in it for Virginia, or the United States. Let us be leaders and show wisdom by not allowing our land to be exploited.

There are many youth, and many James Madison University students who agreed wholeheartedly with my purpose and need to be considered as well. We know from our studies that the devastation inherent in the wake of loose environmental regulations that allow for foolhardy extraction of fossil fuels. The benefit of protecting these areas far outweigh the temporary monetary gains of natural gas extraction.

Thank You.

--

Grant Collier

James Madison University
Geographic Science
GreenPeace Student Network Coordinator



Robert Van de Castle
07/18/2011 06:06 PM

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

Subject George Washington National Forest Plan

1. There are some good aspects of the Plan Revision:

I support the ban on horizontal natural gas drilling proposed in Alternative G and other alternatives, and would like all hydrofracking banned on the Forest.

I support the more scientifically sound definition of early successional habitats used in this Plan Revision that includes habitat created by natural disturbances, not merely logged areas of a certain acreage. The Forest Service, accordingly, should not log in areas where natural processes are already creating this kind of habitat.

2. Alternative G, the Forest Service's preferred alternative, has some problems that should be fixed:

a. Alternative G limits new wilderness recommendations to a tiny fraction of potential acreage, despite a shortage of wilderness in this forest. The Forest Service would add only one new stand-alone wilderness. There is a need for more wilderness throughout the Appalachians, and the George Washington National Forest has some of the best potential areas in the region.

b. Alternative G allows road development and logging in significant portions of newly inventoried roadless areas and Virginiamountain treasure areas. Core areas such as these should be maintained free of logging and road building - to provide more resilient ecosystems, to enhance carbon sequestration, and to help ensure that water sources remain clean and abundant in the face of climate change.

c. Alternative G targets old growth forests - allowing logging in two of the forest types where old growth is most likely to be found. Old growth forests comprise only 0.5 % of the forests of the southeast. Because of its rarity, all remaining tracts should be protected.

d. Alternative G does not protect all of the Virginia Natural Heritage program sites recommended for protection in 1991, 2000, and subsequent biological diversity reports. This puts rare natural communities at risk.

e. Nearly half of the forest (48%) would be designated Prescription Area 13 (Mosaics of Habitat.) a prescription that allows widespread logging and road building. This prescription area includes many areas of significant ecological or recreational value.

f. All public drinking watersheds within the national forest are identified, but less than a third of the land area within them are considered Priority Watersheds.

g. Horizontal drilling is not allowed in the Forest under the preferred alternative, but virtually all of the Forest is open for conventional gas drilling. Gas drilling can fragment habitat and degrade water quality.

3. Sierra Club recommends Alternative C:

Compared to Alternative G, Alternatives C does a far better job at protecting roadless areas, protecting special biological areas, protecting old growth, protecting water quality, and providing large backcountry area experiences that are very rare in the eastern US. The Forest Service should pick Alternative C, or a modified Alternative C, particularly one that is modified so that it is consistent with the Friends of Shenandoah Mountain proposal

Sincerely,

Robert L. Van de Castle



Comcast
07/19/2011 06:57 AM

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

Subject GW National Forest Land Use

As a concerned citizen of Virginia, I ask you to make no changes to the current Alternate plan A.

Additionally I support allowing access for natural gas by way of horizontal hydrofracking.

Sincerely,

Doug Tait



Mark Rooker

07/18/2011 08:11 PM
Please respond to

To "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
cc
bee
Subject NO Fracking!

Common sense dictates that even a small possibility (and research indicates there is much, much more than a small possibility) of damage to water, air or soil in an area with high population is a huge mistake. Let the frackers take their operations out west. PLEASE do not be bought off by these folks. Now is not the time to further damage housing prices either; currently people want to live in the valley. Fracking will drive too many away. There are so many reasons NOT to allow it, and so few (mainly driven by greed) to allow it. **It** makes no sense.

Sincerely,
Carol Rooker



07/18/2011 10:23 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington National Forest

I have read that the Forestry Department is considering allowing fracking and logging in the GW National Forest???? Can this really be true? What the hell is the point of having a national forest if you are going to allow this type of activity? Please leave these few natural areas that are left for us alone. How about doing NOTHING in the way of commercial activity in our forests?

Jane Williamson
Albemarle County, Virginia



Robbie Miller
07/20/2011 09:54 AM

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

bcc

Subject U.S Forst Service's 15-year management plan for the
George Washington National Forest

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge your opposition to hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest. Mounting evidence indicates the environmental effects of this process are simply too dangerous to risk the irreparable harm it could bring to this natural treasure. Please protect and preserve the George Washington National Forest for current and future generations by prohibiting hydraulic fracturing in all parts of the forest.

Thank you,

Robbie Miller



dennis botkin
07/21/2011 09:59 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us
cc
bcc
Subject

Gentlemen,

I would like to see the George Washington National Forest basically left as is with no add
Wilderness, and would like to see timber harvesting as well as Natural Gas development
would come under your Alternate Plan A guidelines.

Cordially Yours,
Dennis Botkin



"Mary Tait"

07/19/2011 10:31 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Plan for forest

I support Plan Alternate A because I understand this is least change in present status of forests
I would also like to see the forest used to find and obtain our natural resources, especially energy
resources.

Mary Tait



Karen B
Overcash/R8/USDAFS
07/20/2011 03:15 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@FSN
OTES

cc

bcc

Subject Comment via Phone

I spoke with Johnny Clark on the phone on July 20, 2011 and he would like to submit the following comments on the Draft George Washington National Forest Plan :

As a long-time resident of Bath County and the Shenandoah Valley, he is very much opposed to hydrofracking. It is way too much risk for the benefits it would provide. It has no place on the National Forest.



07/20/2011 07:33 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject forest plan

I live on tilghman road. I do not want to see anymore wilderness on GW. I really don't want any behind my house! The GW forest already has so much we can't use anymore. So many trails/roads have been closed. The wilderness we have now is hard to use and keep cleaned up. The ohv area people use is closed from 33 causing people not to use it. The forest is supposed to be used by the people and it can't be with wilderness.

please don't add anymore wilderness to GW. If anything open more access to the people!

The Garsts NOTE: We had to put into word document because font in e-mail was too large

07/19/2011 01:30 PM

Subject: I Support Plan A

Dear Foresters,

I support plan A, if only for the fact that it is the least restrictive to humans being able to utilize this public land and its untapped, abundant resources to some capacity.

Please do everyone a favor and declare the District of Columbia and Northern VA your wilderness habitat area. Like your old growth forests, maybe the career politicians can just sit around, die off and rot away as well. I imagine they would make great mulch.

For your information, man is not causing climate change. It's called "weather." Thanks for touting this bunk as science at the meeting in Verona last night. Very offensive.

Michael Garst



Magi Shapiro
07/20/2011 09:29 AM

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

The choice between natural gas exploration by fracking and the long term damage it does is a no-brainer. Please don't permit this proven horror to be visited on our public lands. Thanks.....magi

Magi Shapiro



Karen B
Overcash/R8/USDAFS
07/21/2011 02:30 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@FSN
OTES

cc

bcc

Subject Phone comment from Walter Lupachino

On July 21, 2011 at 2:25pm, I received a call from Walter Lupachino who would like to make a comment for the revision of the George Washington NF Plan. He moved here from Pennsylvania 10 years ago and has seen and hates what hydrofracking has done to PA. He said we should protect water quality more than anything. He and his family are frequent users of the Forest through hiking, camping and fishing and he loves the Forest. His address is:

Walter Lupachino



Sue Ward
07/20/2011 12:04 AM

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

I would like to express my opinion on the plans presented at the Verona meeting regarding the changes proposed for GW Forest. I would like things to remain as they are presently and not set aside any more land for wilderness. I think that the first thoughts should be given to the humans and their enjoyment of the recreational aspect of the forest.

Keep Plan A... as is.

**thank you, sue ward
staunton,va.**



Tim Davis

07/19/2011 07:56 PM

Please respond to
Tim Davis

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments to the Plan

Dear Planners,

There are three comments I would like to make regarding the existing proposed plan offered in "Alternative G:"

1. I support the ban on horizontal natural gas drilling proposed in Alternative G and other alternatives, and would like all hydrofracking banned on the Forest. It is not regulated by the clean air and water act and there have been many problems reported with water and air quality associated with hydrofracking.
2. Further I would like to see all oil and gas drilling eliminated in the park. Presently one million acres are allotted for gas drilling, though very little of it has been used in the past. Further, it is known that gas drilling of any sort involves hydrofracking and therefore is a threat to water quality which, as stated by the "Weeks Act," opposes the number one priority of the National Forest Service's primary goal which advocates, above all else, the protection of water quality. If you are true to your stated purpose, you will abolish ALL gas drilling in the park.
3. I support the more scientifically sound definition of early successional habitats used in this Plan Revision that includes habitat created by natural disturbances, not merely logged areas of a certain acreage. The Forest Service, accordingly, should not log in areas where natural processes are already creating this kind of habitat.

Thank you for receiving my comments and I hope they will be taken under serious consideration.

Yours truly,
Rahn Timothy Davis



ty forde
07/19/2011 04:59 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject Alternate plan A

I encourage you to use Alternate plan A with no changes for the land useage. I also encourage you to allow horizontal hydrofracking. Thank You

Ty Forde



Dale Hungerford
07/25/2011 08:49 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF Wilderness/hydrofracking Issues

I am concerned with creating more wilderness area in the GWNF. I strongly favor Alternate Plan A as it leaves the most land open to the most uses. I also believe horizontal hydrofracking should be allowed. *It has been done for many years and should continue until reality, not hypothetical consequences, prove otherwise.*



Sherman Bamford
11/09/2010 09:10 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
Subject Example of a State-Wide Wind Power Suitability Report

Sherman Bamford

Nov. 9, 2010

Maureen T. Hyzer, Forest Supervisor
ATTN: George Washington Plan Revision
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019–3050

comments-southern-georgewashingtonjefferson@fs.fed.us

Dear Supervisor Hyzer:

I wanted to add a link to a Wyoming report that I think is a good example of a state-wide wind power report.

<http://www.voiceforthewild.org/WindPowerReport.pdf>

This report, of course, is not perfect, and could be improved upon, but I think it shows examples of the types of wildlife, cultural, recreational, etc. screens that could be used on the GWJNFs. I understand that a statewide analysis has been completed for Virginia, but I think that analysis could be improved and I know that members of some of the subcommittee had differences with the findings of that report.

I think such a systematic analysis is important.

Sincerely yours,

Sherman Bamford



Christine Short
07/24/2011 05:56 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject drilling in the forest

Hello!

I would like to express my concern for the current discussion about land use in the National Forest. I think that the current use and amount of land in the forest is sufficient. I do not want the Federal Gov't acquiring any more Virginia land. I also think that there is insufficient data to exclude hydrofracking, done in a responsible way, to be carried out in the forest. We need to be more energy sufficient in the USA.

Chris Short
Middlebrook, VA

--

"Got time to breathe, got time for music."
Briscoe Darling



"Waynesboro Tool &
Machine Works, Inc."

07/26/2011 10:36 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF Plan

I support the plan with the least restrictions on land use which I understand is alternative plan A. We should exploit our public lands for the natural resources that society needs and we can do that in an environmentally responsible manner. One of those resources is the recovery of hydrocarbons- oil and gas. I support the latest recovery technique commonly know as hydrofracking which has been used for decades and is proven technology. Designating portions of GWNF as wilderness may sound noble, but does not benefit society. We can use land and preserve it at the same time; sounds contradictory but it happens all the time.

Stew Thomas

Waynesboro, VA



"Jason Ball"
07/25/2011 12:41 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GW Forest mgmt plan comments

Sir or Madame,

In review of your Management Plan for the GW National Forest, I have a concern I'd like to share.

The exact portion of the plan is: **Identify a sustainable road system that anticipates the decommissioning of about 160 miles of road.**

In 2009, I discussed the closure of Peavine Trail in the Glenwood district with Congressman Bob Goodlatte's office and the District Ranger's office. The claimed reason for closure of the trail was "Illegal Off-roading", and was linked to one event – a man in a 2WD pickup tried going around a rut and was stuck in the woods, received a ticket, and then made a complaint. Myself and other complainants were led to believe that one man's stupidity cost everyone else the privilege to drive through this trail. I know understand from the management plan we were took for fools and the ultimate goal was closure of these roads, and restriction of use to the selected few.

This section is fairly inaccessible without vehicles, and while I understand the preservation of forested areas I fail to understand how limiting the few people who venture into the forest can protect it. If there were mass flocks of people abusing the forests, I would understand the concern however the Glenwood district has little road access currently and few people using it in comparison with the shear size. I vehemently oppose closure of the roads in the George Washington National Forests, primarily because they are established PUBLIC right-of-ways owned by tax-paying citizens who have given the Park Service authority to protect them – NOT the authority to take the land away from our access.

Thank you,

Jason Ball

Mechanical Engineer



1222 Corporate Park Dr.
Forest, VA 24551
434-525-3390 ext 215
434-525-8512 (fax)
<http://www.interconinc.com>

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being incorporated through an intermediate process into another product without the prior written approval of the US Department of State.



Tom Hoffman

07/25/2011 01:38 PM

Please respond to

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject No more fracking anywhere

Although the ban on horizontal fracking outlined in the Draft Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is a welcome step in the right direction, ALL fracking should be banned in the George Washington National Forest.

Even more conventional forms of natural gas drilling (non-horizontal fracking) can deplete and contaminate local water, damage the environment and threaten public health. Fracking is exempt from key federal water protections and overwhelmed state regulators largely oversee the practice.

Even if the laws on the books were strengthened, fracking poses an unacceptable risk to our pristine national forests, tourism and agriculture industries, and public drinking water to entrust effective and rigorous regulatory oversight to these officials. All fracking should be banned from George Washington National Forest.

Tom Hoffman



Landgraf/R8/USDAFS
07/27/2011 11:42 AM

To Karen B Overcash/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc
Subject Fw: Good Overall Summary/Discussion on Fracking

plan comment

Ken Landgraf
Acting Forest Supervisor
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
(540) 265-5118
e-mail: klandgraf@fs.fed.us

----- Forwarded by Kenneth Landgraf/R8/USDAFS on 07/27/2011 11:34 AM -----



George Neall
>
07/26/2011 11:21 PM

To
cc
Subject Good Overall Summary/Discussion on Fracking

The attached pdf file has some interesting facts.

Just doing some rough calculations of water volumes and fracked wells in PA & TX, it appears that approximately 1 cubic mile of water (about a trillion gallons) has been injected into deep shale formations! I would like to "dig up" figures for the total number of horizontally fracked wells that have been drilled in the U.S. and in other countries and do a similar calculation for all wells.

Questions:

1. Could this volume of water precipitate a major earthquake or tectonic plate shift?
2. Will the loss of this amount of fresh water from the hydrologic cycle affect things like the world climate and salinity of the oceans?
3. Since "produced water" is high in salinity, what effects will this have on our ocean water and fresh water?

See the following link for a good summary of fracking issues:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydraulic_fracturing_in_the_United_States



Fracked Well Statistics.pdf



Pete Walton
07/25/2011 09:21 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject BAN on Fracking in GWNF

Dear Park Service,

I would like to reiterate that Hydro-Fracking, and all types of gas drilling, need to be banned in the Park Plan. These methods are not safe. The only way to deal with the environmental disasters they cause, is to never allow them to happen in the first place.

After attending a Congressional Hearing on the subject on July 8th, I am even more worried for the safety of the Valley. It seems Congress is pulling all the strings they know of to make fracking happen. They appear to show no concern for the Lives of people in the Valley, and only care about the economy. When people's drinking water is destroying their health and well-being, and that of the entire ecosystem, the last thing we should worry about is the economy.

I would also like to say, I currently have a petition with close to 200 signatures of people who oppose Hydro-Fracking. I am expanding on this number, and would be more than happy to bring it to upcoming meetings.

Please consider the following in the Plan:

1. There are some good aspects of the Plan Revision:

- I support the ban on horizontal natural gas drilling proposed in Alternative G and other alternatives, and would like all hydrofracking banned on the Forest .
- I support the more scientifically sound definition of early successional habitats used in this Plan Revision that includes habitat created by natural disturbances, not merely logged areas of a certain acreage. The Forest Service, accordingly, should not log in areas where natural processes are already creating this kind of habitat.

2. Alternative G, the Forest Service's preferred alternative, has some problems that should be fixed:

- a. Alternative G limits new wilderness recommendations to a tiny fraction of potential acreage, despite a shortage of wilderness in this forest. The Forest Service would add only one new stand-alone wilderness. There is a need for more wilderness throughout the Appalachians, and the George Washington National Forest has some of the best potential areas in the region.
- b. Alternative G allows road development and logging in significant portions of newly inventoried roadless areas and Virginia mountain treasure areas. Core areas such as these should

be maintained free of logging and roadbuilding - to provide more resilient ecosystems, to enhance carbon sequestration, and to help ensure that water sources remain clean and abundant in the face of climate change.

c. Alternative G targets old growth forests - allowing logging in two of the forest types where old growth is most likely to be found. Old growth forests comprise only 0.5 % of the forests of the southeast. Because of its rarity, all remaining tracts should be protected.

d. Alternative G does not protect all of the Virginia Natural Heritage program sites recommended for protection in 1991, 2000, and subsequent biological diversity reports. This puts rare natural communities at risk.

e. Nearly half of the forest (48%) would be designated Prescription Area 13 (Mosaics of Habitat.) a prescription that allows widespread logging and roadbuilding. This prescription area includes many areas of significant ecological or recreational value.

f. All public drinking watersheds within the national forest are identified, but less than a third of the land area within them are considered Priority Watersheds.

g. Horizontal drilling is not allowed in the Forest under the preferred alternative, but virtually all of the Forest is open for conventional gas drilling. Gas drilling can fragment habitat and degrade water quality.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing what steps you take to ensure the safety for the wildlife and people of the Shenandoah Valley.

Peter C. Walton
Spread the Love, Cut the Frack

"We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them." –Einstein



"F. S. Downs"
07/24/2011 05:49 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us,
cc
bcc

Subject Forest use

I would encourage you to maintain Plan A as far as forest use goes. This land belongs to all Americans, & should be enjoyed by them . I have fought for my Countries Liberty & I would hate to think that you maybe contemplating on taking it away from us . I would also encourage Horizontal Hydrofracking, as this Country has abundant resources ,the only problem seems to be that our Government does not want us to use them.

Respectfully

Submitted Frederick S.Downs



Mary Tait

07/24/2011 02:42 PM

Please respond to

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

<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

Subject 15 year Ban on fracking

I do not think you should have a 15 year ban on hydro-fracking! I would like to see the research that shows it is so bad for the environment. I think the forest should be for the wealth of our country as well as recreation! Eliminating the need for imported energy products should be the goal of the United States.

I understand there are a number of wells in Virginia and the impact on the environment has been minimal.

Sincerely,
Mary Tait

bruce ritchie

07/28/2011 01:31 PM

Subject: Revision of Management Plan GWNF/ DEAD ZONE grows in the Bay.

Dear All,

While I have been concerned about hydrofracking and other water quality issues that are confronting the GWNF at this time, the following article was sent to me from a friend. Please consider the impacts already apparent in the Chesapeake Bay at this time from our ever expanding populations with all their inherent bad habits. Then add the measured and conjectured effects from pulling up so many elements/compounds sequestered thousands of feet below, and mixing these things with our precious water from the surface. This will impact much more than just our Valley, or our state alone.

Thank you for all your efforts to keep our national forest healthy, and please DO NOT let any horizontal drilling (high volume) fracking happen in the forest, and monitor very heavily the gas drilling that does occur, with baseline tests ahead of the drilling.

Bruce Ritchie

Criders, va.

Chesapeake Bay 'dead zone' grows

Jul 26, 2011 |
4 Comments



Efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay's seafood industry, like this one in Gloucester Point last November to create new oyster reefs with continues to expand. / The Associated Press

Written by
The Washington Post
FILED UNDER
News
Local News
Chesapeake Bay

ADS BY PULSE 360

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A giant underwater "dead zone" in the Chesapeake Bay is growing at an alarming rate because of unusually high nutrient pollution levels this year, according to Virginia and Maryland officials.

They said the expanding area of oxygen-starved water is on track to become the bay's largest ever.

This year's Chesapeake Bay dead zone covers a third of the bay, stretching from the Baltimore Harbor to the bay's mid-channel region in the Potomac River, about 83 miles, when it was last measured in late June. It has since expanded beyond the Potomac into Virginia, officials said.

Especially heavy flows of tainted water from the Susquehanna River brought as much nutrient pollution into the bay by May as normally comes in an entire average year, said Bruce Michael, director of the DNR's resource assessment service.

Nutrient pollution from chemicals such as fertilizers provide a feast for bay algae, which blooms and dies in a rapid cycle.

The algae decompose into a black glop that sucks oxygen out of deeper waters.

Oysters and other shellfish are doomed in dead zones. Fish and crabs can skitter to surface waters where there's more oxygen, but some don't make it, Michael said.

No one knows how many marine creatures perish in dead zones, "because we just don't know what goes on down there," Michael said.

Donald Boesch, president of the Center for Environmental Science at the University of Maryland and an expert on dead zones, said this year's water flow will rank at least among the five largest, a result of heavier-than-normal rains and snow melt mixed with high amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.

Dead zones are a yearly occurrence caused by pollution in water that runs off cities and farms. They form in summer and usually dissipate in fall, sucking oxygen from deep waters and leaving dead oysters, clams, fish and crabs in their wake.

Dead zones run the length of the Atlantic Coast. Environmentalists say they are a testament to reports that pollution loads from ever-expanding cities and suburbs are growing and, in some cases, creating a monster.

In December, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized a "pollution diet" for the bay to dramatically reduce the levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment that states can allow in the bay from municipalities and farms.

But the American Farm Bureau Federation is arguing in a court challenge that costly conservation requirements could drive farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed out of business, and that states — not the EPA — should determine pollution limits.

Will Baker, president of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, an environmental group, said the size of this summer's dead zone "is clear evidence that the bay is still in trouble" and that the EPA's get-tougher approach to lowering pollution is the best way forward.

[View Comments \(4\)](#) | [Share your thoughts »](#)



B Rezvan
07/28/2011 02:21 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject Fracking in Jefferson and GW National Forest

Greetings,

Based on evidence that I have observed firsthand in Bradford County, PA, there is a real need to be cautious about gas drilling on the nation's forest lands. I highly recommend that your members take a trip to Bradford County. The technology/engineering has not developed to support the hypothesis advanced by the oil and gas industry that this is a safe practice. In fact, there is evidence building every day of the devastation to farms, individual property, health, water supplies, and local infrastructure. If you need a guide show you the real picture of this unsafe industrialization in Pennsylvania, please contact me and I will arrange for a tour for your members.

Very truly yours,
Brenda Rezvan (older undergrad student)
Virginia Tech

ralph bolgiano

07/29/2011 09:12 AM

Please consider my comments concerning the GWNF Plan, attached.

Ralph W. Bolgiano

I am writing to comment on the GWNF Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative.

1. Recreation: I support the dropping of the Archer Run ATV/OHV area. I feel that monitoring of illegal ATV use is woefully inadequate at present and until enforcement is improved there is no justification for any increase in the areas where it is allowed. Trail maintenance by volunteers should be increased as much as possible. I also support no new developed recreation sites. Not only should ALL of the inventoried semi-primitive acres be maintained but they should be increased. Perhaps there should be a **permit and fee** for ATV use as it does more damage to the forest than all other recreational uses combined.
2. Water, soils, riparian, aquatic diversity: The GWNF should place far greater emphasis on mapping, assessing, stabilizing and restoring drinking watersheds. It is not simply “a number of communities” that depend on water from the GW, as stated in the introduction, but some four million people and growing. Clean drinking water is quickly becoming one of, if not **the, most important** ecological service the GWNF provides.
3. Access: I support the “no net increase in open road miles” and an increase in road **decommissioning**. Personal experience has shown me that many GWNF roads are eroding, abused by ATVs, litterers and/or provide a path for invasive species and poachers, and should be closed.
4. Terrestrial Diversity, Fire: Reduce emphasis on grassland, shrub, and edge habitats. Private lands provide plenty of these; the GWNF is not an appropriate location to produce grassland, and edges contain many threats to migratory songbirds and other forest interior species. The primary function of mountainsides is to provide forests, preferably old-growth where natural processes of gap dynamics are allowed to operate to regenerate native species as has been going on for millennia.
5. Wilderness/Roadless: Wilderness designations are pitifully few. I support designating all of the areas identified in the publication, ***Virginia's Mountain Treasures*** as Wilderness. Areas designated Potential Wilderness should be managed in the same way as Inventoried Roadless Areas, not “allocated to a variety of management prescription areas” which in many cases will remove them from Wilderness consideration.

6. Timber Harvest: I would like to see small-scale, local firewood vendors and individuals given much more acreage as part of crop tree thinning, fuel reduction, and Timber Stand Improvement programs. At a modest cost, timber stand cruisers could mark those trees to be thinned for stand improvement. Small scale firewood harvesters are perfect for applying “**Worst First**” harvests.
6. Old Growth: Increase it instead of planning the harvest of stands that are within 2 or 3 years of regional old growth definitions – a trick too often played by district rangers to **ensure that “there isn’t any old growth left”**. When European settlers arrived, timber records from Appalachian harvests in the late 1800s-early 1900s show many tree diameters from ten to 17 feet. Now you seem to want to harvest **everything** over 20 inches DBH.
7. Ridge top Wind: No ridge tops are suitable for industrial wind turbines, nor is it appropriate to “improve” FS roads to **interstate width standards** in order to truck the massive blades up to the top. Not only do Appalachian ridge top industrial turbines kill more bats and birds than turbines anywhere in the world (well-documented), but the deforestation, road building and industrialization required to place ridge top turbines contradict the mission of national forests. Those high ridge tops are the least disturbed part of the forest. It’s about as awful as mountain top removal. The amount of electricity produced runs about 30% of what is claimed by the proponents, and does not justify the destruction required. Reject ridge top industrial turbines completely.
8. Oil and Gas: I applaud the prohibition of horizontal drilling, and I know the GWNF is under intense pressure from the gas industry to revoke this position. However, I support the prohibition of ALL hydraulic fracturing, including vertical fracking, due to the significant potential for water and air pollution that can impact millions of people, and the industrialization of gas well sites, including new pipelines. Ban fracking altogether!
9. Economics and Local Community: Support small-scale, local timber, firewood, and non-timber products producers instead of large corporations. Monitor plants in demand such as ginseng and decorative ornamentals to assure sustainable harvests.
10. Fire: You all had your local “**Prescribed fire**” this past March. Little to no data exists to support such wide-scale prescribed burning as 12,000 -20,000 acres/year. The on-going death of the hemlock component of the forest presents an opportunity for TOP OUT fires to occur. I haven’t seen any mention of this threat. Anyone who has even started a camp fire with WET hemlock twigs knows that they burn like kerosene and hemlocks hold their lower branches down where the “ground” fires sweep through..
11. Climate Change: There is no acknowledgement for the need to research into the carbon sequestration capabilities of mature forests, and the loss of carbon to soil disturbing activities such as commercial timbering. According to many scientists throughout the world, preservation and ecological restoration of existing forest is one of the best natural insurance policies against climate change, both for carbon sequestration and to allow

movement of wildlife in response. Most countries around the world have agreed (at various international conferences) that preservation of forests should be a primary objective in any strategy to cope with climate change. I am concerned that the fake “science” proselytized by the coal, oil, and gas industries has muzzled the GWNF planners.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Ralph Bolgiano, retired Biologist, former Tree Farmer and Landowner on the border of the GWNF



"A KEENE BYRD"
07/29/2011 08:15 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF PubWorkshop27JUL2001BATHCO

#1. Sustain the Oak& Popular growths. Increase the prescribed burns which create more space & sunlight so these timbers can expand.

#4. We must guard against squandering forest resources for short term gains. The GWNF must adopt the plan which results in a sustainable forest. That plan should be verifiable by an independent globally respected organization.

If our children and their children can not enjoy what we experience today, we are condoning exactly what has lead to our national debt crisis.

This is a chance for one of the great services agencies of the US Government to set an example of living within our means.

A Keene Byrd



Landgraf/R8/USDAFS
07/27/2011 11:42 AM

To Karen B Overcash/R8/USDAFS@FSNOTES
cc
Subject Fw: Good Overall Summary/Discussion on Fracking

plan comment

Ken Landgraf
Acting Forest Supervisor
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
(540) 265-5118
e-mail: klandgraf@fs.fed.us

----- Forwarded by Kenneth Landgraf/R8/USDAFS on 07/27/2011 11:34 AM -----

"



07/27/2011 02:19 AM

To "

Subject Re: Good Overall Summary/Discussion on Fracking

In Denver, the earthquakes started and were doing slight damage. A local geologist proposed it was the waste water being pumped into the fractured formations and lubricating the rocks which were then slipping; ergo earthquakes. The Army denied it. Then people began tracking the pumping activity and earthquakes and found they coincided. Finally, they formally test pumping vs. earthquakes, and the geologist was proven correct and a new geologic concept was born. From gas well fracturing, North Texas and Arkansas have experienced tremblers through fracking and the injection that occurs.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/hundreds-arkansas-earthquakes-linked-natural-gas-injection-wells/story?id=13431093>

From a balance standpoint, injection wells keeps the salinity in balance, but the original potable water becomes an underground "sea". I believe with enough areas relieved of cohesive strength and "lubricated", there could be mini-tectonic movement of "blocks" of areas no longer anchored to bedrocks = severe earthquakes and ground shifts as a result ever present stresses and strains in the crust. Any activity of that nature creates new faults and could release producing gas zones into above formations and water tables.

U.E.

<http://www.rma.army.mil/cleanup/facts/deep-wel.html>:



Deep Injection Well Fact Sheet

Deep well injection for liquid waste has been safely used for many years at sites throughout the United States without documented damage to human health or the environment. After an extensive study of deep injection wells across the country by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it was concluded that this procedure is effective and protective of the environment.

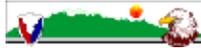
The Rocky Mountain Arsenal deep injection well was constructed in 1961, and was drilled to a depth of 12,045 feet. The well was cased and sealed to a depth of 11,975 feet, with the remaining 70 feet left as an open hole for the injection of Basin F liquids. For testing purposes, the well was injected with approximately 568,000 gallons of city water prior to injecting any waste. However, when the Basin F liquids were actually introduced, the process required more time than anticipated to complete because of the impermeability of the rock. The end result was approximately 165 million gallons of Basin F liquid waste being injected into the well during the period from 1962 through 1966.

The waste fluid chemistry is not known precisely. However, the Army estimates that the waste was a more dilute version of the Basin F liquid which is now being incinerated. Current Basin F liquid consists of very salty water that includes some metals, chlorides, wastewater and toxic organics. From 1962 -- 1963, the fluids were pumped from Basin F into the well. From 1964 -- 1966, waste was removed from an isolated section of Basin F and was combined with waste from a pre-treatment plant, located near Basin F, and then pumped into the well. The waste from the pre-treatment plant was generally a solution containing 13,000 parts per million sodium chloride (salt), with a pH ranging from 3.5 to 11.5. The organic content of the solution was high but is largely unknown.

The injected fluids had very little potential for reaching the surface or useable groundwater supply since the injection point had 11,900 feet of rock above it and was sealed at the opening. The Army discontinued use of the well in Feb. 1966 because of the possibility that the fluid injection was triggering earthquakes in the area. The well remained unused for nearly 20 years. In 1985 the Army permanently sealed the disposal well in stages. First, the well casing was

tested to evaluate its integrity. Any detected voids behind the casing were cemented to prevent possible contamination of other formations. Next, the injection zone at the bottom 70 feet of the well was closed by plugging with cement. Additional cement barriers were placed inside the casing across zones that could access water-bearing formations (aquifers). The final step was adding Bentonite, a heavy clay mud that later solidified, to close the rest of the hole up to the ground surface.

[\[Cleanup Fact Sheets\]](#)[\[Arsenal Cleanup\]](#)



[\[Home Page\]](#)

11.29.01

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

From:

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 9:21 PM

Subject: Good Overall Summary/Discussion on Fracking

The attached pdf file has some interesting facts.

Just doing some rough calculations of water volumes and fracked wells in PA & TX, it appears that approximately 1 cubic mile of water (about a trillion gallons) has been injected into deep shale formations! I would like to "dig up" figures for the total number of horizontally fracked wells that have been drilled in the U.S. and in other countries and do a similar calculation for all wells.

Questions:

1. Could this volume of water precipitate a major earthquake or tectonic plate shift?
2. Will the loss of this amount of fresh water from the hydrologic cycle affect things like the world climate and salinity of the oceans?
3. Since "produced water" is high in salinity, what effects will this have on our ocean water and fresh water?

See the following link for a good summary of fracking issues:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydraulic_fracturing_in_the_United_States

From:
To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comments from Janet Wright
Date: Friday, July 29, 2011 9:07:00 AM

As a land owner in Fulks Run, and a concerned citizen, I fully support the comments below in regard to the Alternative G George Washington National Forest Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan:

1. Access: I support the "no net increase in open road miles" and road decommissioning at a minimum of 16 miles/year. Personal experience has shown me that many GWNF roads are eroding, abused by ATVs, and/or provide a path for invasive species and poachers, and should be closed.
2. Water, soils, riparian, aquatic diversity: The GWNF should place far greater emphasis on mapping, assessing, stabilizing and restoring drinking watersheds. It is not simply "a number of communities" that depend on water from the GW, as stated in the introduction, but some four million people and growing. Clean drinking water is quickly becoming one of, if not THE, most important ecological service the GWNF provides.
3. Recreation: Having seen the devastation caused by ATVs only too often, I support the dropping of the Archer Run ATV/OHV area. I feel that monitoring of illegal ATV use should be increased; it is practically non-existent now. Trail maintenance by volunteers should be increased as much as possible. I also support no new developed recreation sites. Not only should ALL of the inventoried semi-primitive acres be maintained but they should be increased as Americans are encouraged to do more walking, hiking, and biking to lose weight.
4. Wilderness/Roadless: Wilderness designations are pitifully few. I support designating all of the areas identified in the publication, **Virginia's Mountain Treasures** as Wilderness. Areas designated Potential Wilderness should be managed in the same way as Inventoried Roadless Areas, not "allocated to a variety of management prescription areas" which in many cases will remove them from Wilderness consideration.
5. Timber Harvest: I would like to see small-scale, local firewood (FW) vendors and individual FW cutters given much more acreage as part of crop tree thinning, fuel reduction, and Timber Stand Improvement programs. Firewood is a prime source of energy independence for many residents around the GWNF. Firewood is a much more appropriate use for energy production than commercial biomass, which is likely to take potential timber trees with large, ground-disturbing equipment, with all the disadvantages that accrue thereto.
6. 6. Terrestrial Diversity, Fire: Reduce emphasis on grassland, shrub, and edge habitats. Private lands provide plenty of these; the GWNF is not an appropriate location to produce grassland, and edges contain many threats to migratory songbirds and other forest interior species. The primary function of mountainsides is to provide forests, preferably old-growth where natural processes of gap dynamics are allowed to operate to regenerate native species as has been going on for millennia.

7. Old Growth: Increase it instead of planning the harvest of stands that are within 2 or 3 years of regional old growth definitions – a trick too often played by district rangers. Eastern forests renew themselves thru gap dynamics, and were doing pretty well when European settlers arrived, as timber records from Appalachian harvests in the late 1800s-early 1900s show, with many tree diameters from ten to 17 feet.
8. Ridgetop Wind: No ridgetops are suitable for industrial wind turbines. Not only do Appalachian ridgetop industrial turbines kill more bats and birds than turbines anywhere in the world (well-documented), but the deforestation, roadbuilding and industrialization required to place ridgetop turbines contradict the mission of national forests. Concrete turbine pads 10 feet and more deep will forever reduce biological capacity in that area. The amount of electricity produced runs about 30% of rated capacity, and does not justify the destruction required. Reject ridgetop industrial turbines completely.
9. Oil and Gas: I applaud the prohibition of horizontal drilling, and I know the GWNF is under intense pressure from the gas industry to revoke this position. However, I support the prohibition of ALL hydraulic fracturing, including vertical fracking, due to the significant potential for water and air pollution that can impact millions of people, and the industrialization of gas well sites, including pipeline laying, that contradicts the mission of national forests. Ban fracking altogether!
10. Economics and Local Community: Support small-scale, local timber, firewood, and non-timber products producers instead of large corporations. Monitor plants in demand such as ginseng and decorative ornamentals to assure sustainable harvests.
11. Fire: Prescribed fire and restoration activities should be based on research on the ecological history of areas within the GWNF. A good bit of such data can be obtained from the land records in each district office. Little to no data exists to support such wide-scale prescribed burning as 12,000 - 20,000 acres/year – but it's better than clearcutting.
12. Climate Change: I am disappointed that no acknowledgement is given to the need to research and document the carbon sequestration capabilities of mature forests, and the loss of carbon to soil disturbing activities such as commercial timbering. According to many scientists throughout the world, preservation and ecological restoration of existing forest is one of the best natural insurance policies against climate change, both for carbon sequestration and to allow movement of wildlife in response. Most countries around the world have agreed (at various international conferences) that preservation of forests should be a primary objective in any strategy to cope with climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to

comment. Sincerely,

Janet Wright



"Lee Perlinn"
07/30/2011 11:25 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

SIRS; PLEASE DON'T ALLOW FRACKING IN THE NATIONAL FOREST. WE ARE ON WELL WATER
AND READ WHAT IT CAN DO TO WELL WATER. PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES, PLEASE.
LEON W. PERLINN,

From:
To: comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
Subject: Comments from John MacRae
Date: Friday, July 29, 2011 9:10:00 AM

I fully support the following comments in regard to the GWNF Draft of Revised Land and Resource Management Plan:

1. Access: I support the "no net increase in open road miles" and road decommissioning at a minimum of 16 miles/year. Personal experience has shown me that many GWNF roads are eroding, abused by ATVs, and/or provide a path for invasive species and poachers, and should be closed.
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4. Wilderness/Roadless: Wilderness designations are pitifully few. I support designating all of the areas identified in the publication, **Virginia's Mountain Treasures** as Wilderness. Areas designated Potential Wilderness should be managed in the same way as Inventoried Roadless Areas, not "allocated to a variety of management prescription areas" which in many cases will remove them from Wilderness consideration.
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6. 6. Terrestrial Diversity, Fire: Reduce emphasis on grassland, shrub, and edge habitats. Private lands provide plenty of these; the GWNF is not an appropriate location to produce grassland, and edges contain many threats to migratory songbirds and other forest interior species. The primary function of mountainsides is to provide forests, preferably old-growth where natural processes of gap dynamics are allowed to operate to regenerate native species as has been going on for millennia.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

John MacRae

"C. Robert Dickerman"

07/29/2011 12:57 PM

Thank you, Mr & MS Forest Service, for caring a great deal about our beloved GWNF. I am fortunate enough to live on a farm in Buffalo Gap surrounded by the forest. Like my neighbors, I care a great deal about how it is managed. My urgings on the Plan, best stated by a friend, are attached.

C. Robert Dickerman

I am writing to comment on the GWNF Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. Specifically, the remarks below address Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative.

1. Access: I support the "no net increase in open road miles" and road decommissioning at a minimum of 16 miles/year. Personal experience has shown me that many GWNF roads are eroding, abused by ATVs, and/or provide a path for invasive species and poachers, and should be closed.
2. Water, soils, riparian, aquatic diversity: The GWNF should place far greater emphasis on mapping, assessing, stabilizing and restoring drinking watersheds. It is not simply "a number of communities" that depend on water from the GW, as stated in the introduction, but some four million people and growing. Clean drinking water is quickly becoming one of, if not THE, most important ecological service the GWNF provides.
3. Recreation: Having seen the devastation caused by ATVs only too often, I support the dropping of the Archer Run ATV/OHV area. I feel that monitoring of illegal ATV use should be increased; it is practically non-existent now. Trail maintenance by volunteers should be increased as much as possible. I also support no new developed recreation sites. Not only should ALL of the inventoried semi-primitive acres be maintained but they should be increased as Americans are encouraged to do more walking, hiking, and biking to lose weight.
4. Wilderness/Roadless: Wilderness designations are pitifully few. I support designating all of the areas identified in the publication, *Virginia's Mountain Treasures* as Wilderness. Areas designated Potential Wilderness should be managed in the same way as Inventoried Roadless Areas, not "allocated to a variety of management prescription areas" which in many cases will remove them from Wilderness consideration.

5. Timber Harvest: I would like to see small-scale, local firewood (FW) vendors and individual FW cutters given much more acreage as part of crop tree thinning, fuel reduction, and Timber Stand Improvement programs. Firewood is a prime source of energy independence for many residents around the GWNF. Firewood is a much more appropriate use for energy production than commercial biomass, which is likely to take potential timber trees with large, ground-disturbing equipment, with all the disadvantages that accrue thereto.
6. 6. Terrestrial Diversity, Fire: Reduce emphasis on grassland, shrub, and edge habitats. Private lands provide plenty of these; the GWNF is not an appropriate location to produce grassland, and edges contain many threats to migratory songbirds and other forest interior species. The primary function of mountainsides is to provide forests, preferably old-growth where natural processes of gap dynamics are allowed to operate to regenerate native species as has been going on for millennia.
7. Old Growth: Increase it instead of planning the harvest of stands that are within 2 or 3 years of regional old growth definitions – a trick too often played by district rangers. Eastern forests renew themselves thru gap dynamics, and were doing pretty well when European settlers arrived, as timber records from Appalachian harvests in the late 1800s-early 1900s show, with many tree diameters from ten to 17 feet.
8. Ridgetop Wind: No ridgetops are suitable for industrial wind turbines. Not only do Appalachian ridgetop industrial turbines kill more bats and birds than turbines anywhere in the world (well-documented), but the deforestation, roadbuilding and industrialization required to place ridgetop turbines contradict the mission of national forests. Concrete turbine pads 10 feet and more deep will forever reduce biological capacity in that area. The amount of electricity produced runs about 30% of rated capacity, and does not justify the destruction required. Reject ridgetop industrial turbines completely.
9. Oil and Gas: I applaud the prohibition of horizontal drilling, and I know the GWNF is under intense pressure from the gas industry to revoke this position. However, I support the prohibition of ALL hydraulic fracturing, including vertical fracking, due to the significant potential for water and air pollution that can impact millions of people, and the industrialization of gas well sites, including pipeline laying, that contradicts the mission of national forests. Ban fracking altogether!
10. Economics and Local Community: Support small-scale, local timber, firewood, and non-timber products producers instead of large corporations. Monitor plants in demand such as ginseng and decorative ornamentals to assure sustainable harvests.
11. Fire: Prescribed fire and restoration activities should be based on research on the ecological history of areas within the GWNF. A good bit of such data can be obtained from the land records in each district office. Little to no data exists to support such wide-scale prescribed burning as 12,000 -20,000 acres/year – but it's better than clearcutting.

12. Climate Change: I am disappointed that no acknowledgement is given to the need to research and document the carbon sequestration capabilities of mature forests, and the loss of carbon to soil disturbing activities such as commercial timbering. According to many scientists throughout the world, preservation and ecological restoration of existing forest is one of the best natural insurance policies against climate change, both for carbon sequestration and to allow movement of wildlife in response. Most countries around the world have agreed (at various international conferences) that preservation of forests should be a primary objective in any strategy to cope with climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chris Bolgiano, Environmental Researcher and Writer, and Landowner on the border of the GWNF



"Jim McCoy"
08/07/2011 02:39 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject: George Washington National Forest Plan

To whom it concerns,

I was not able to access you summary of the plan but here is a summary of what I hope you all are considering.

1.) You need harvest more timber. I believe you have the knowledge to know that much of the timber on the GWNF is way past maturity and needs to be harvested with a management plan that will help strengthen the forest and wildlife habitat. My understanding is that no where near what your plan calls for gets harvested(WHY?). We all know trees are a renewable resource, so lets use them. I believe we do need some Wilderness areas and I BELIEVE WE HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH IN PLACE(My understanding here is that the Wilderness we have does not get used any where near its capacity). SO NO MORE WILDERNESS, WHAT IS THE NEED?

2.) While managing the timber you need to be concerned with managing wildlife. Wildlife needs to have a very good mixture of habitat. Most information that has been gathered by research will show that you need to have a good mix of forest in all age brackets and you need to have at least 10% in open ground(fields and or food plots, which does not exist on GWNF).

3.) Why is the fisherman and the hunter the only people who have to purchase a stamp to use the National Forest. This absolutely makes no sense. Don't tell me you can not implement this. All you need to do is make it a requirement for everyone who goes on National Forest to have a stamp. This would create extra revenue at no additional cost except the printing of more stamps. Pretty sure most people would buy it with out any resistant's, but you need to make it mandatory for anyone who plans to use the National Forest to have a stamp.

Please make sure you really consider the word **MANAGEMENT** when

adopting this plan for the FOREST and WILDLIFE'S SAKE!!!

Thanks

Jim McCoy



Karen B
Overcash/R8/USDAFS
08/08/2011 09:18 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@FSN
OTES

cc

bcc

Subject Comments

I received a phone call this morning from Mr and Mrs Richard P. Lewis who wanted to comment on their support of the hydrofracking ban. The radio and tv ads are ramping up with how wonderful this is but they are not telling what the environmental impacts are. New Jersey has outlawed this and Connecticut is considering doing the same. They are landowners and farmers in Augusta County and want to protect their water. The companies' honesty is about as good as BP's.

Mr and Mrs Richard P. Lewis



J Murray

08/02/2011 06:12 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Natural gas fracking

I am very concerned about plans that might change the position and allow fracking in/near George Washington National Park. Really, I'm concerned about fracking anywhere. There are some very powerful people pushing for fracking. I hope you'll protect the land. Please do water testing early so that if fracking does happen, you'll at least have good data from the start.

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/02/138820966/worries-over-water-as-natural-gas-fracking-expands>

Thank you,
Jill Murray



Dennis Kenney
08/07/2011 04:18 PM

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

No hydrofracking in Virginia! Water is more precious than any natural gas that might be extracted.



"Randy Williams"

08/05/2011 06:48 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject: George Washington National Forest Management

To whom it may concern:

Please consider increasing the acreage within GWNF for harvesting lumber, thus creating new growth which benefits the future health of the forest and also the wildlife. Continued suppression of lumber harvesting and forestry management negates all progress and beneficial management that made GWNF the wonderful place that it was in the past. The lack of harvesting and management in recent years is quite visible and the wildlife statistics are also showing the negative effects of current management philosophy and processes.

Thank you for considering the future of this create piece of God's creation,

Sincerely,

Randall S. Williams
Member Halifax Area Chapter
National Wild Turkey Federation



08/06/2011 06:53 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject George Washington Forest Plan Revision

I am writing to object to the inclusion of wind energy into the forest plan. Wind has no place in our national forests or wilderness areas. There is absolutely no scientific evidence that wind has reduced climate change or carbon in the atmosphere. They are inefficient and intermittent. By reducing the amount of carbon absorbing trees and other fauna in our forested areas for wind, we may well expedite climate change. Wind turbines are a great threat to all wildlife due to habitat fragmentation, increased use of pesticides, disturbance of watersheds, and invasion into airspace for flying objects. These will be killers of migratory and resident birds and bats year after year after year. If you wish to use renewable energy, choose the more appropriate solar panels, which are much less environmentally invasive. That way, you can still satisfy your boss but do the most appropriate for birds, bats and butterflies.

Vicci Weeks



"Martha Marchand"
08/08/2011 08:17 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject against fracking

Please add **my support against fracking in any of our National Forests or Parks**. The potential and threat of damage to our water sources calls for a stand. After seeing a show on fracking, the damage to the environment and the total disrespect and disregard for any surrounding properties, nature, the environment or personal property.

Martha A Marchand
Strasburg, Virginia 22657

This e-mail, including any attachments, is intended solely for the personal and confidential use of the sender and recipient(s) named above. This message may include advisory, consultative and/or deliberative material and, as such, would be privileged and confidential and not a public document. Any Information in this e-mail identifying a client of Grafton School Inc. (Grafton) is confidential. If you have received this e-mail in error, you must not review, transmit, convert to hard copy, copy, use or disseminate this e-mail or any attachments to it and you must delete this message. You are requested to notify the sender by return



madison brown
08/05/2011 04:19 PM

To gw-j-nf usfs
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Management Plan Comments

Dear FS. Thanks for all your work especially on the Management Plan. PROTECTION, PROTECTION, PROTECTION. That is what we need for our national forests. Our national forests and all the flora and fauna in them are too valuable for any use but their presence as our heritage, ecological importance for air and water quality, and recreation. That is my general concern. Specifics follow:

I recommend banning drilling and industrial wind development. As with logging, private lands may be devoted to these purposes for the present.

I recommend supporting the Shenandoah Mountain Natural Scenic Area designation with the boundaries of the present stakeholders. This is one of the if not the largest relatively uninterrupted stretches of our forests. It needs protection. The recreational potential is that great and will be lost without protection.

I recommend wilderness designation for Beech Lick Knob, Rich Hole, Rough Mountain, Three Ridges expanded (one of my favorite day hiking and backpacking destinations for twenty years), St. Mary's West (another favorite of my family's), Three High Heads, Little Allegheny Mountain, Laurel Fork (some of the very best fishing in the East!), and Three Sisters.

I recommend National Scenic Area designation for Big Schloss and Northern Massanutten Mountain.

PROTECTION, PROTECTION, PROTECTION!!!! Loss of and damage to these areas through destructive uses (extractions of various sorts and development) is irreversible. These may be lands of many uses as long as these uses are not damaging. We have come to understand this motto in new ways we did not contemplate at its coinage.

Thank you again for all your good work.

Sincerely,

Madison



08/01/2011 08:03 PM

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

Subject comments on the draft Forest plan

Dear sir,

I would like to comment on the draft Forest Plan.

I would prefer the Alternative C plan. Alternative C assumes that all of the potential wilderness and special biological areas in the forest could and should be protected as such. It recognizes the value of clean water & air, wildlife habitat and recreation in the forest while limiting the logging, mining, and drilling that can be so destructive. Most importantly, this protection happens with a SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED BUDGET that protects the best values of the forest for the future and for us all.

Wilderness Recommendations-

The draft plan is extremely disappointing in this regard. The proposed wilderness study areas include only 1 new wilderness area and 3 additions to existing wilderness areas, for a total of only 20,300 acres of possible future wilderness. When combined with the existing wilderness areas, this would be less than 6% of the ENTIRE national forest in wilderness or wilderness study area- far below what is needed.

Hydraulic Fracturing -

I support the prohibition against this type of drilling anywhere on the forest, which will protect drinking water resources and prevent industrialization of public forest lands. I would ask for (1) a more thorough study of the impacts of vertical gas drilling, which would be allowed on nearly all of the forest and (2) additional restrictions on vertical gas drilling including a ban on drilling in local drinking water supply areas, priority watersheds, and sensitive natural, scenic, & recreation areas.

Limits on Wind Energy Development-

I support the ban on industrial wind projects on sensitive ridgelines in the forest, including the Shenandoah Mountain Crest and remote backcountry areas. I ask for the ban to be expanded to include drinking water supply areas and key natural heritage areas, where industrial-scale windturbine facilities and road construction can degrade water quality, wildlife habitat, and recreational uses.

Public Drinking Water Protection_

I support the identification of drinking water supply areas and the expansion of protective buffers on streams and reservoirs, which will almost double in width up to 100 feet. I ask for (1) all local drinking water supply areas to be identified as priority watersheds and (2) more defined management "standards" to protect priority watersheds, particularly limits on road construction, which degrades water quality.

Roadless Area Protection-

All inventoried Roadless Areas in the forest are proposed to be managed consistently with the 2001 Roadless Area Rule. Only about one third of newly identified roadless areas in the forest will be afforded the same level of protection. We believe all roadless areas (potential wilderness areas) should be managed according to the 2001 Roadless Area Rule.

In conclusion, I support Alternative C, which saves money and protects our forests, air, water, the creatures living there, and of course the people now and for future generations.

thank you,

Mike Smith
Elkton, Va.



"Bolgiano, Christina -
bolgiace"
08/01/2011 02:09 PM

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

Subject: Comments on Draft Land Use Plan

I am writing to comment on the GWNF Draft Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. Specifically, the remarks below address Alternative G, the Preferred Alternative.

1. Access: I support the "no net increase in open road miles" and road decommissioning at a minimum of 16 miles/year. Personal experience has shown me that many GWNF roads are eroding, abused by ATVs, and/or provide a path for invasive species and poachers, and should be closed.
2. Water, soils, riparian, aquatic diversity: The GWNF should place far greater emphasis on mapping, assessing, stabilizing and restoring drinking watersheds. It is not simply "a number of communities" that depend on water from the GW, as stated in the introduction, but some four million people and growing. Clean drinking water is quickly becoming one of, if not THE, most important ecological service the GWNF provides.
3. Recreation: Having seen the devastation caused by ATVs only too often, I support the dropping of the Archer Run ATV/OHV area. I feel that monitoring of illegal ATV use should be increased; it is practically non-existent now. Trail maintenance by volunteers should be increased as much as possible. I also support no new developed recreation sites. Not only should ALL of the inventoried semi-primitive acres be maintained but they should be increased as Americans are encouraged to do more walking, hiking, and biking to lose weight.
4. Wilderness/Roadless: Wilderness designations are pitifully few. I support designating all of the areas identified in the publication, *Virginia's Mountain Treasures* as Wilderness. Areas designated Potential Wilderness should be managed in the same way as Inventoried Roadless Areas, not "allocated to a variety of management prescription areas" which in many cases will remove them from Wilderness consideration. In addition, I fully support the Shenandoah Mtn. proposal for a National Scenic Area (if full Wilderness designation is not possible), as well as adding Skidmore Fork to the Wilderness designation list.
5. Timber Harvest: I would like to see small-scale, local firewood (FW) vendors and individual FW cutters given much more acreage as part of crop tree thinning, fuel reduction, and Timber Stand Improvement programs. Firewood is a prime source of energy independence for many residents around the GWNF. Firewood is a much more appropriate use for energy production than commercial biomass, which is likely to take potential timber trees with large, ground-disturbing equipment, with all the disadvantages that accrue thereto.
6. 6. Terrestrial Diversity, Fire: Reduce emphasis on grassland, shrub, and edge habitats. Private lands provide plenty of these; the GWNF is not an appropriate location to produce grassland, and edges contain many threats to migratory songbirds and other forest interior species. The primary function of mountainsides is to provide forests, preferably old-growth where natural processes of gap dynamics are allowed to operate to

- regenerate native species as has been going on for millennia.
7. Old Growth: Increase it instead of planning the harvest of stands that are within 2 or 3 years of regional old growth definitions – a trick too often played by district rangers. Eastern forests renew themselves thru gap dynamics, and were doing pretty well when European settlers arrived, as timber records from Appalachian harvests in the late 1800s-early 1900s show, with many tree diameters from ten to 17 feet.
 8. Ridgetop Wind: No ridgetops are suitable for industrial wind turbines. Not only do Appalachian ridgetop industrial turbines kill more bats and birds than turbines anywhere in the world (well-documented), but the deforestation, roadbuilding and industrialization required to place ridgetop turbines contradict the mission of national forests. Concrete turbine pads 10 feet and more deep will forever reduce biological capacity in that area. The amount of electricity produced runs about 30% of rated capacity, and does not justify the destruction required. Reject ridgetop industrial turbines completely.
 9. Oil and Gas: I applaud the prohibition of horizontal drilling, and I know the GWNF is under intense pressure from the gas industry to revoke this position. However, I support the prohibition of ALL hydraulic fracturing, including vertical fracking, due to the significant potential for water and air pollution that can impact millions of people, and the industrialization of gas well sites, including pipeline laying, that contradicts the mission of national forests. Ban fracking altogether!
 10. Economics and Local Community: Support small-scale, local timber, firewood, and non-timber products producers instead of large corporations. Monitor plants in demand such as ginseng and decorative ornamentals to assure sustainable harvests.
 11. Fire: Prescribed fire and restoration activities should be based on research on the ecological history of areas within the GWNF. A good bit of such data can be obtained from the land records in each district office. Little to no data exists to support such wide-scale prescribed burning as 12,000 -20,000 acres/year – but it's better than clearcutting.
 12. Climate Change: I am disappointed that no acknowledgement is given to the need to research and document the carbon sequestration capabilities of mature forests, and the loss of carbon to soil disturbing activities such as commercial timbering. According to many scientists throughout the world, preservation and ecological restoration of existing forest is one of the best natural insurance policies against climate change, both for carbon sequestration and to allow movement of wildlife in response. Most countries around the world have agreed (at various international conferences) that preservation of forests should be a primary objective in any strategy to cope with climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Chris Bolgiano, Environmental Researcher and Writer, and Landowner on the border of the GWNF in Rockingham Cty. VA



"joe allen"
08/10/2011 06:34 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject

Sirs, the answer is simple. The hunting season is too long. When I started hunting the GWNF, the season was two {2} weeks. No early black powder, late black powder. early bow, late bow. Gun season, two weeks and that was it. Deer were plentiful and was a great hunting experience. Let's get back to basics people!!! J. Allen, Yorktown



Hank Burchard

08/10/2011 08:54 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GW/TJ National Forest management plan

I live on an inholding on the eastern edge of the GW National Forest in Amherst County, and spend many days each year riding, hiking and hunting there. The riding and hiking are wonderful; the hunting is a joke. I see more wildlife in my yard than I see in the forest.

Nearly all of the area with which I am familiar is covered with dense stands of mature hardwoods and the odd over-age pine: prime and past-prime timber. There is very little underbrush and few thickets. What understory has not been shaded out has been browsed off. About the only food resource it offers wildlife is the brief and irregular autumn nutfall.

The forest is in sad need of serious timbering to create varied habitat and reduce accumulating windfall fuel. If it isn't logged on a rational -- and environmentally respectful -- basis I expect we may soon experience wildfires on a Western scale. We need to stop mindlessly hugging trees and start sensibly logging them.

Hank Burchard
Amherst



Earth Care House Church

Trinity Presbyterian Church
725 South High Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Ph 540.434.9556



August 5, 2011

George Washington Plan Revision
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

Dear Planning Team,

We are submitting comments on the draft plan on behalf of Trinity Presbyterian Earth Care House Church, which is based in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Our group has an interest in how the George Washington National Forest is managed because we see God's creation expressed in a very full sense in the wide variety of species (plant and animal) that call the George Washington National Forest home. We believe that it is our responsibility to take care of God's good creation and protect the habitat where these species thrive. Also, the GWNF is the source of our municipal drinking water, and we enjoy taking our youth and members of all ages on outings in the National Forest. Following is a list of our comments on the draft plan:

Shenandoah Mountain Proposal Our group has endorsed the Shenandoah Mountain Proposal, as has Trinity Presbyterian Church. While we appreciate your recommendation of Ramseys Draft Addition and Little River for Wilderness, we would like to see the proposal incorporated into the plan in its entirety including the following:

- Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area
- Skidmore Fork Wilderness
- Lynn Hollow Wilderness
- Laurel Fork Wilderness
- Kelley Mountain-Big Levels National Scenic Area

We like the way Friends of Shenandoah Mountain and other stakeholders, such as mountain bikers, conservation groups, hunters, and the timber industry worked together and came to compromises that take into account a variety of opinions and interests. We accept the adjustments that have been made to the boundaries of the proposed Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic area by the stakeholders group.

More Wilderness. The draft plan recommends only 20,000 acres out of 370,000 acres of Potential Wilderness Areas that are eligible. This is too low, and it omits some of our most outstanding wild places. As a minimum we'd like to see Beech Lick Knob (6,200 acres), Three High Heads (5,200 acres), and Little Allegheny Mountain (8,000) recommended for Wilderness. That would add another 20,000 acres, still very modest.

Hydrofracking – We applaud you for banning horizontal drilling in the draft plan. We have been paying careful attention to the hydrofracking issue and have spent the last 1½ years learning more about what is involved and possible unintended consequences. Keep the ban in your final plan. We cannot afford to risk our irreplaceable watersheds.

Gas Leasing – The draft plan would allow one million acres of the GWNF to be available for gas leasing. If the horizontal drilling ban should be dropped or overturned later by an amendment, our critical watersheds, habitat, and popular recreational areas would be vulnerable to the destructive effects of hydrofracking, which are well documented in other states as close as West Virginia. Please consider making municipal watersheds, the areas in the Shenandoah Mountain Proposal, and sensitive habitat areas unavailable for leasing, as you have done with Laurel Fork.

Watersheds – The plan does not really systematically provide protection for important watersheds. Please take a closer look at how you can strengthen the plan in this area.

Industrial Wind – Although our group strongly supports movement to sustainable alternative energy sources, we do not think the ridges of the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountains are appropriate for industrial wind development. Not only would it fragment the forest, endanger bats and birds, displace recreation, and diminish water quality, but it would not be that productive. Wind in the Central Appalachians is not very strong in the summer months when the need for electricity is greatest; therefore, wind development in the Appalachians will not be an effective alternative to fossil fuel. We would prefer to see industrial wind development offshore, where we can realize greater benefits, and hopefully, fewer harmful effects.

Climate Change – We believe we are already experiencing climate change. As we try to adjust to its effects, protection of core forested roadless areas with connectivity can be a real asset. These forested corridors allow migration of species up in elevation and north where they can find a cooler climate. The Appalachian Trail Corridor serves as an important connection of core forested areas. We would like to see the Great Eastern Trail Corridor protected from development, too, so that it can function as a wildlife corridor, as well as for a long, shared use trail. Healthy, mature forests will also sequester carbon and keep our water clean as we face the challenges to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

Sincerely,

Doreen Davis and Virginia Bethune
Mission Co-Leaders
Trinity Presbyterian Earth Care House Church



08/10/2011 07:22 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GW National Forest Plan

To whom it may concern:

As a sportsman, landowner adjacent to the GW National Forest, and a participant in Virginia's Forest Stewardship program, I read the draft plan for the forest with great interest.

I want to encourage you the select option(s) that allow for additional, appropriate timber harvesting in order to allow early succession habitat, maintenance of existing forest clearings in order to provide diversity in wildlife habitat and not establish any policy that would otherwise prevent scientifically sound wildlife habitat diversity.

Regards

Peter T Melchione



William Roberts
08/10/2011 04:47 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Fracking in VA

The answer is NO. You cannot approve the destruction of Virginia for the purpose of exploiting (stealing) resources because the banks and the powers that operate them are too god damn lazy to put money into clean safe energy. It appears a 'race to the bottom' is at hand here as poorer and poorer decisions are made by appointed bureaucrats bribed by the corporations that own the US government. A national forest is not for sale at any price.



Adam Cohen

08/10/2011 08:04 AM

Please respond to

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

cc

bcc

Subject Keep Fracking out of our National Forests

As you may know, the U. S. Forest Service is in the process of examining the George Washington National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, which they do every 15 years. As a part of that process the Forest Service is seeking comments concerning the future management of this area. Under the ground in this forest lies the Marcellus Shale, which is a layer of rock containing natural gas. This is a portion of the letter that the **City of Harrisonburg, VA** sent to the US Forest Service concerning the possibility of allowing hydro-fracking to obtain this gas.

“Nearly all of the George Washington National Forest on the western border of Rockingham County is underlain by the Marcellus shale geological formation, a potential source of natural gas that is mined by a drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing. Hydraulic fracturing requires significant amounts of water per well, combined with sand and numerous chemicals, to break up shale and access the natural gas. This process has been linked to surface water and drinking water contamination, air pollution and soil contamination in at least a dozen states. It has also been linked to other adverse environmental impacts, including massive water withdrawals, gas migration from new and abandoned wells, the inability of public treatment plants to adequately treat millions of gallons of gas mining waste water, underground injection of brine waste water, improper erosion and sediment control, improper cementing and casing of wells, over-pressurized wells, significant increases in truck traffic on rural roads, etc.”

The **City of Staunton** provided a resolution to the Forest Service which, after outlining their concerns states:

*“**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Staunton City Council requests that the U.S. Forest Service, in the revised management plan for the George Washington National Forest, act to aggressively protect drinking water resources by prohibiting horizontal hydraulic fracturing natural gas wells in the George Washington National Forest.”*

These comments are well-researched and express concerns that reflect the responsibility that these government representatives feel towards protecting the public. Hydraulic fracturing, or hydro-fracking has been shown in other areas of the country to be a dangerous activity. Water, chemicals and sand are pumped under great pressure into the rock to break it up, releasing natural gas. Arsenic, barium, benzene, cadmium, lead, toluene are some of the chemicals that have been mixed with water that is pumped into the ground. Benzene, formaldehyde, and sulfuric acid have been found in the “flowback” water. Water that has been pumped into the ground, and the flowback water have leaked into water tables. The potential is there for water pollution to extend for great distances, and to permanently contaminate water supplies in your county. Local farmers in PA and other parts of the country have had their wells contaminated, and suffered the loss of livestock who drank from ponds, wells or streams. Roads to drilling sites

are soon broken up, and the route is covered with dust from the heavy traffic. In addition spills and accidents at both drilling sites and on the roads have been so dangerous that hazmat crews are needed to respond, and many small communities do not have those resources within their fire and rescue departments.

Gas companies would like to use hydro-fracking in our westernmost mountains. **The County of Rockingham , The City of Harrisonburg, and the City of Staunton** have sent strongly worded letters opposing this to the Forest Service. I hope that Botetourt County will do the same, and quickly. The closing date for comments to the Forest Service is **September 1.**

Here are some resources for further information. Please look these over, and do some research on your own about this important issue.

- <http://www.shenandoahvalleynetwork.org/index.cfm/1,229,0,0.html/Marcellus-Shale-Gas-Drilling>
- http://cbf.typepad.com/bay_daily/2011/07/virginians-dont-want-fracking-in-the-forest.html
- <http://www.propublica.org/article/wastewater-from-gas-drilling-boom-may-threaten-monongahela-river>
- <http://www.propublica.org/article/officials-in-three-states-pin-water-woes-on-gas-drilling-426>
- <http://www.propublica.org/article/buried-secrets-is-natural-gas-drilling-endangering-us-water-supplies-1113>

Here are full copies of the letters that I quoted above.

<http://www.preserverockingham.org/ourissues/naturalgasmining.html>

--

Adam Cohen

Certified Passivhaus Consultant, LEED AP, NAHB Green Professional
Design/Builder of the First US Passivhaus Public School Building

Structures Design/Build, LLC

Web site: www.structuresdb.com

Passivhaus information: <http://www.passivehousedesign.us/>

More Passivhaus info: <http://www.viking-house.us/>



JAY WEBB
08/10/2011 08:07 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Forest

We really need a diverse habitat in the national forest. Even non hunters love seeing different landscapes and abundant wildlife. I am a hunter i would hunt there but i don't for the lack of sightings. I support logging and the money thats generated for the government.



Jimme Sykes
08/10/2011 12:03 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Just Say No to Hydro-Fracting!

I am adamantly opposed to the potential drilling (hydro-fracting) that is being proposed in the George Washington National Forrest. It is clear that this move would exploit our resources, destroy our water table, and leave our state with a wasteland as a reward. Therefore, I am requesting that this practice be stopped immediately.

Sincerely,

Jimme Sykes
Roanoke, VA



Dody Warner
08/08/2011 05:39 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject land use in George Washington Forest

I would like to comment on the proposed conditions for land use within these acres of the George Washington National Forest. While I understand wanting to preserve the beauty for generations to come, there is a medium between absolute untouchability and total razing of the land.

I'm no rocket scientist but surely supervised fracking can certainly be an answer to this delimma. Thank you,

Dody Stottlemeyer



Richard Newcomb
08/08/2011 02:36 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject: George Washington National Forest Plan

To whom it may concern,

As an avid sportsman, I have noticed the decline of deer and other animals within the George Washington National Forest over the last number of years since timber harvesting has been limited. With the maturing forest, animals that rely on timber harvest for a new infusion of browse and cover have been negatively impacted. So much so that these animals are becoming hard to find on national forest as many have moved off of the forest lands and onto private lands where landowners are actively involved in providing suitable habitat for wildlife.

I am in favor of any plan/Option that involves increasing the level of timber harvest throughout the George Washington National Forest to establish a more diverse timberland in order for wildlife to flourish and provide greater public opportunities for sportsman throughout the State.

Regards,

Richard Newcomb



"Ron Swisher"

08/11/2011 11:10 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF Plan Comments

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the proposed plan.

GW should work with conservation organizations (RGS, NWTF, QDM, and others you may belong to) to identify projects suitable for local involvement in these habitat improvement areas. RGS Drummer Fund with possible additional grant funding is an example of cooperative work. Some projects may not require monetary involvement just training or simply time involved.

Increased timber and vegetative management within this prescription area will increase the wildlife viewing opportunities by providing a balance of age and structure across the landscape. In doing so this increases the food availability and protective cover not only for ruffed grouse, but all species both hunted and non-hunted that use ESH during some stage of their life cycle.

All the best,
Ron



Edwin McCoy
08/11/2011 02:46 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject Comments on GW-Jefferson management plan

Re: George Washington Plan Revision

From:
Edwin L. McCoy

I am regularly in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests in western Virginia and have found over the years a disturbing trend--the decline in various wildlife species that need areas of sustained successional forest as part of their habitat.

In considering adoption of a final management plan I recommend:

• **Using science-based research to determine forest management practices that benefit all species of wildlife.**

• **Increasing the level of timber harvesting.**

Research shows increasing timber harvest levels well beyond current levels will provide more successional forest habitat in what has become an increasingly mature forest.

At the same time, it will have a positive economic impact on communities where the USFS is a prominent landowner. It could generate revenue for the USFS in these austere budget times. The successional forest also provides game animals such as deer, turkey and grouse better habitat, which will mean more opportunities for hunters. Attracting hunters to the national forest lands provides a direct benefit to local economies as well as providing outstanding recreational opportunities for those hunters.

I recommend the GWNF timber harvesting level be increased to a minimum of 5,000 acres annually to provide more young forest habitat.

• **Maintain existing herbaceous grass/forb openings and creating**

new openings

The GWNF management plan also should require that existing herbaceous grass/forb openings be maintained and new openings be created for brood range for wildlife species such as the eastern wild turkey and ruffed grouse, and non-game species that require this type of habitat in order to exist on the national forest land.

Many existing wildlife clearings are not being maintained properly and are succeeding into woody vegetation. They need to be maintained by the GWNF, in cooperation with state wildlife agencies or other organizations. The creation of new openings associated with timber sales (seeded skid roads, log landings, savannas, etc.) has been significantly reduced by the decline in timber harvesting on the GWNF; so creating new openings would be a beneficial side effect for increasing timber harvesting.

I recommend the GWNF plan revision require maintaining existing forest openings and create more forest openings with a goal that the forest eventually consist of five percent (5%) maintained forest clearings.

Sincerely,

Edwin L. McCoy



"Neal, Paul B.
08/11/2011 07:47 AM

To "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Habitat

To Whom It May Concern:

Has there been any consideration to allowing individual hunters signing up to manage a small tract of land in the GWNF under the supervision of the US Forest Service? The difference between public land and private land is the ability to improve the habitat for game species. The US Forest Service creates food plots in small numbers, which are heavily hunted. In fact these food plots, because there are so few and not managed for high value food, do not generate the nutritional value that others generate on farm lands and private land. Is it possible for individual hunters to sign up for small tracts of land to improve?

Thanks,
Paul (Rusty) Neal



08/11/2011 12:33 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject forest management plan

Please follow the recommendations of the Ruffed Grouse Society in formulating the forest management plan for the Washington & Jefferson National Forest.

DJ Williams



Greg Whitt

08/11/2011 09:56 AM

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

cc <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

bcc

Subject GWNF Management Plan

I agree with most stated objectives, specifically,

- Management for diverse habitat, with a recommendation for a significant increase in early successional habitats
- Agree with decommissioning for roads to improve water quality, reduce maintenance costs, and provide for a more remote setting.
- Caution against gas leasing due to environmental concerns for water quality and increased road networks.

Gregory L. Whitt

Environmental Group Manager

FROEHLING & ROBERTSON, INC.

1734 Seibel Drive, NE, Roanoke, Va. 24012 | USA

T 540.278.1849 | F 540.344.3657 | M 540.293.0200

www.FandR.com

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"Donald Roberts"
08/10/2011 09:06 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject: George Washington National Forest Plan Revision

As a sportsman and user of the national forest, I support increasing timber harvest, the new growth feeds game and supports wildlife.

I do not support any fees for the use of the forest, myself as a tax payer have already paid enough . The sportsman supports the state and federal government by the funds that are spent each year to buy FUEL, FOOD, and LODGING to hunt these forest .

WE the people own the forest not some and no restriction should be added to the use of this land for our recreation.

Donald Roberts



08/11/2011 10:43 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject Stewardship of George Washington National Forest

I support the Ruffed Grouse Society stand on this issue which below.

RGS's concern with this previous point is not the actual acreage, but rather the USFS' ability to achieve the timber management goal proposed. Rather than state solely the difference in average acres harvested from current plan and no change proposed for preferred alternative in the Oak Type and Woodland, we need to expand on how the USFS can realistically accomplish their goal in this ecologically important forest type to ruffed grouse and many other species of wildlife within the George Washington National Forest. Providing assistance in expediting the sale process in any manner (possibly in a stewardship role for RGS) and supporting the exploration of these mentioned ideas is the directional change we need to emphasize.

Thank you -

James P. Schwartz



08/11/2011 01:50 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject comments on the Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

As a hunter and wildlife enthusiast, I would like to see active management on the George Washington National Forest to benefit wildlife.

Harvesting timber is one of the most beneficial management strategies for managing wildlife habitats. Nearly 70 species of wildlife depend on young forest. Sportsmen have science and extensive research to support their claims and comments.

I believe we should increase the allowable level of timber harvesting on the GWNF. The level of timber harvesting in 1993 when the existing GWNF was approved was nearly 3,000 acres a year. This level has dropped to about 800 acres a year currently. This decrease has resulted in a substantial reduction in early successional (young forest) habitat on the forest and has shifted the age structure to a more mature forest. A recommended annual harvest of 4,000 to 5,000 acres annually will provide more young forest habitat. At 5,000 acres a year and a 100 year rotation, this would have a corresponding treatment of 500,000 acres or half the GWNF in 100 years.

The importance of maintaining the existing, and creating new, herbaceous grass/forb openings on the forest for brood range cannot be overstated. Since the beginning of the cooperative agreement between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the GWNF in 1938, many acres of wildlife clearings have been developed on the forest. Many of these forest openings are not being maintained properly for a variety of reasons and are succeeding into woody vegetation. Furthermore, the creation of new openings associated with timber sales (seeded skid roads, log landings, savannas, etc.) has been significantly reduced by the decline in timber harvesting on the GWNF. A goal of the GWNF plan revision should be to maintain existing forest openings and to create more openings on the forest. Our goal should be that 5% of the forest is ultimately maintained forest clearings.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie Harrison



"Sylvia & Bill Dalke"
08/11/2011 09:55 AM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on GH Plan Revision

COMMENT ON GEORGE WASHINGTON PLAN REVISION

Where logging is prescribed, are sustainable forestry logging techniques to be required in the GW Nat. Forest Plan Revision; e.g. selective crop release cutting for uneven, diverse forest; first successional wildlife areas that are not clear-cuts or near clear-cuts that allow for unnecessary blow-downs of remaining trees?

First successional wildlife cuts and burns should be restricted from view of at least the most scenic GW Forest Trails. The clear cuts now viewed from the Big Schloss Trail appear to be the result of unnecessary, sloppy logging techniques. If first successional openings are necessary in areas where the public can observe them, then use such as an opportune teaching moment. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and the beauty of first successional wildlife growth must be explained for wider appreciation.

Thanks for the comment opportunity,

William Dalke



"Roby, Don
08/11/2011 07:38 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject: George Washington Plan Revision

Hello,

Please allow me to briefly comment on the George Washington Plan Revision. I would strongly encourage the improvement of plans to better manage the forest for improved wildlife habitat. I agree with the contentions of the National Wild Turkey Federation. There needs to be increases in the number of acres open for timber harvesting. As a private land owner who has harvested timber it is obvious the new forest that results is a dream come true for the greater majority of species living in the forest. I don't believe there is any scientific reason to have such a limited amount of acreage available for timber harvesting. Please, be sure the plan initiated is indeed based on sound science and not the emotional pleas of those who think any activity in the forest is some kind of sin.

Also, I think there should be effort put in to creating and maintaining wildlife clearings in the forest. When I first started spending time in the woods 30 years ago there were several of these in the forest. It was amazing to see how many critters were drawn to these to feed and forage. Now many of these have been neglected and allowed to transition back to woody growth. Needless to say, the benefit to the wildlife population is greatly diminished. Once again, it would seem that the science should trump the emotion in supporting these types of clearings.

Finally, I would like to see more of the forest opened up for ATV use. It would seem to me that some form of permit system could be established that could fund the creation and maintenance of trails. Perhaps old logging roads could be opened, on a rotational schedule, for a year or so. Then the permit funds could be used for restoration. It's just hard to believe that with the size of the forest it's not possible to find places where people could enjoy an ATV adventure without being environmentally destructive.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinions.

Sincerely,
Donald L. Roby



Leonard Harold gilliam
08/11/2011 12:48 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@f s.fe
d.us
cc
bee

Subject National Forests of Va.

I am an avid hunter and outdoorsman. I believe the National Forests are going to waste. They should be there for people to enjoy. I recommend harvesting old timber and planting new growth for wildlife . I also think there should be horse trails and atv trails and more primitive camping areas . The national forests are not benefiting any people or wildlife with the way they are being managed now. Thank You Harold Gilliam



Pam Richmond
08/12/2011 03:00 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fe
d.us

cc

bcc

Subject Fracking

Gas exploration is vital to our counties future and hydro-fracking has been used fr 20 plus years with NO ill effects. The horizontal drilling is at least 3000 feet below the water table and it is impossible for the water, sand and other contents to migrate 3000 feet through solid rock. It is essential that you do not put this prime field off limits to drilling.

Bruce richmond, Director SVTPP



"Bill and Mary"
08/13/2011 05:18 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject timber cutting

I am writing in regard to Timber cutting in all southern held Usfs land. Our wildlife populations as a whole are not doing so well on USFS held land thru out the southeast, due to a lack of timber cutting. Not only Grouse and woodcock but some species of migrant songbirds who depend on on a young sucesion forest for nesting habit.I have spent my whole life working and being in outdoors and wildlifes species of all kinds except Bears and Wild have dramatically declined in the South east due to a lack of forest management. The average age of the timber standing on USFS land in the South east is 58yrs old. I have seen first hand the lack of timber mangement back in early 2000 when the pine beetle destroyed aproximately 20 million board feet of pine timber just on the Chatahoochee National forest and the Forest service didn,t even due any salvage cutting what a waste of the tax payers money I also believe we don,t need anymore designated wilderness areas. The USFS likes that because then they do not have to do any work. You have to have diversity in the forest to have a healthy forest Thank you Bill Taxpayer (Remeber TImber is a renewable resource)



Donald Pedersen
08/12/2011 07:12 AM

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

bcc

Subject: Concerned about the future

I have been hunting in the George Washington national forest since 1998 and have seen a decline in the deer population. In review of the plan I see many things that will help the population but am concerned that the continued decline will cause the forest to be closed to recreational activities.

How do we get more involved to ensure that deer, turkey, bear and other animals around for future generations to enjoy either through hunting or simply with a camera.

Sent from my iPad



"Phillip R. Cobb"
08/12/2011 09:39 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject revised forest plan

Dear USFS:

I know the George Washington National Forest has to serve many masters and I commend the USFS staff for their efforts each and every year. You guys do a great job under very trying circumstances, and as we move into 2012-13, some or all of the Congressional Gang of 12 will undoubtedly want to slash part or all of the money that goes to national forests, parks, wildlife sanctuaries and the agencies that maintain them. Unfortunately these national entities are sitting ducks that will be very vulnerable to the wild eyed budget slashers.

My pet multiple use/cause in the GW Forest is growing the number and spatial distribution of ruffed grouse and the collateral increase of songbirds, small game, deer, bear, turkey, and other fauna and flora. When ruffed grouse habitat is increased and maintained, all these birds and animals greatly benefit. At every public meeting I attend on the GW Forest Plan I provide written comments on the need to grow and maintain ruffed grouse habitat. Of course the best way to help ruffed grouse is to cut timber in select areas and provide the successional vegetation that is mandatory and vital for ruffed grouse, local songbirds, Neotropical songbirds, turkeys, deer, rabbits, and bears.

When I attend a public meeting on the Plan there is always a vocal and committed group of people that want to keep the GW Forest just the way it is, with no or minimal timber harvesting. They look at the mature forest as the end point and just want preservation of these big woods. However, there has to be successional vegetation produced by timber harvesting to increase and maintain habitat that serves **ALL** the creatures of the GW Forest. There has never been one night in recorded history when a healthy, lucid grouse, bear, bobcat, turkey, et al says: "I think I'll just spend the night in this wide open patch of mature woods instead of this thick, overgrown, protective patch of understory produced by a clearcut/timber harvest. You can look it up.

One thing the FS may consider in the future is to have an actual public meeting in the GW Forest itself. You could pick certain areas in the forest and show them to the various multiple users to better demonstrate how timber cutting and prescribed burning really benefits ruffed grouse, song birds, and all other game species that have to have thick, protective cover produced by clear cutting. By the same token you could show open, mature forests that do not provide survival cover and food for ruffed grouse, songbirds, and all the other game species that inhabit the GW Forest.

One more way to increase and maintain ruffed grouse habitat is to take current day clear cuts that are 10 to 15 years old and modify them by simply rolling over the vegetation with a drum roller behind a small bulldozer, loader, or something similar. This would open up the clearcut by breaking off the dominant trees and understory to allow for new growth and regeneration. All the denizens of the forest would benefit and the day after the "drum rolling" grouse, turkey, deer, etc could immediately go back to this modified clearcut for food and protective habitat. The new growth and regeneration of these old clear cuts would be tremendous and beneficial to all game species in the GW Forest.

I live in Augusta County (Arbor Hill) and have a clear view of the recent clear cuttings produced by timber cutting on the eastern side of Little North Mountain. The clear cuts started out as looking scalped, bare and ugly, but, just like clockwork, the clear cuts are greener and more lush year by year. I have hiked up to some of the clear cuts while grouse hunting and in a few years they will be prime habitat for ruffed grouse, songbirds, deer, turkey and all the other game species that make a daily living in the GW Forest. The clear cuts are surrounded by open, mature, poor quality oaks and hardwoods that provide little food

or cover for the species that inhabit at the GW Forest.

As a soil scientist familiar with the soils in the GW Forest, they don't have much to offer to the flora and fauna in the forest. Many of the soils on steep slopes have formed in residuum and colluvium derived from acid shales and sandstones that produce soils with low site indexes for tree growth. The net effect is these mountain soils have a limited capacity for good tree growth. The only avenue for change on these poor to mediocre soils is to cut the timber where appropriate and allow for successional vegetation to take over. This will benefit all the animal species way more than the old growth trees growing on the mountain sides. Of course in the GW Forest there are good soils for tree growth, such as the soils in coves and on footslopes, and soils derived from limestone, dolomites, and mafic rocks and parent materials. These good soils and landforms for tree growth can be identified on the soil maps of the GW Forest and left to grow better quality trees for forest management.

I support the acreage, goals, and intent of the USFS in relation to limited clear cutting and timber harvesting in the GW Forest Plan. The bottom line: I'm advocating for successional vegetation and tree growth that is produced by selective clear cutting and timber harvesting, which provides quality and quantity habitat for ruffed grouse, local songbirds, Neotropical songbirds, deer, bear, turkey, rabbits, and all other species that inhabit the George Washington Forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the GW Forest Plan.

--phil cobb—



"Box, Doug"
08/12/2011 10:18 AM

To "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject National Forest

I would like to see additional logging occur in the national forest as this would increase revenue and help the wildlife population, especially deer, which seems to be in a death spiral. Please manage the forest for wildlife.

[Doug Box](#)
[Retail Bank and Card IT Horizontal Integration](#)

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Nancy Beall
08/12/2011 12:30 PM

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

please do not allow fracking.
please keep the water safe and pure.

thanks.



Daniel Beasley

08/13/2011 10:38 AM

Please respond to
Daniel Beasley

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

<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

cc

bcc

Subject ATV USE BY SPECIAL PERMIT IN THE TURKEY
PEN/CRISMAN HOLLOW TRACT

I have hunted in this area for over thirty years along with family members and close friends. We are all in our early to late 60s. In the 70s and 80s, the area was somewhat heavily hunted, with good numbers of out-of-state hunters. In the 90s, the numbers dwindled and in recent years, we rarely encounter another hunter here. The Turkey Pen area has been designated for use by handicapped hunters. Access is gained from Crisman Hollow Rd where the trail intersects. It is gated and driving access is for Forest Service vehicles only. There are several other access points, but they are not as easy for our group. We seldom hunt this area anymore because of our ages and the inability to walk the distances required to get to prime hunting spots. We confine most of our hunting to a small private tract (about 50 acres) that adjoins the Natl. Forest off of Moreland Gap Rd. In years past, we had access to the Turkey Pen area from the Moreland Gap Rd. through private property that fronts it. That access is no longer available to us. Would the Forest Service consider a 'special use' atv license for age 55plus or age 60plus for hunting purposes only, not recreational riding? Those in our group who own atv's are willing to pay a license fee for such a permit. A limit could be set for the number of permits that would be issued on a first come basis. Being able to use atv's has kept our aging group in the woods a bit longer, enjoying the wilderness and sport we have loved all of our lives. There are those who abhor the use of fossil fuel vehicles anywhere in the Natl. Forest. To a certain degree, I understand their concerns. However, there is always a balance to be considered when using and maintaining these resources. Allowing a limited number of senior/handicapped hunters to access this area by atv will not, in my opinion, have a harmful impact on the environment. It would open up opportunities for an aging population of sportsmen. I and other members of our group are willing to discuss this further if there is any interest. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Dan Beasley



Sean Strohm
08/12/2011 10:15 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments on GW and TJ national forest management plan

I believe the forest should be managed to increase deer, turkey and ruffed grouse populations. I would like to see significantly more timber harvest taking place, including clear cutting.

Thank you for consideration.



"Mike Shavis"
08/12/2011 06:36 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF Suggestion

I am a hunter that has hunted almost exclusively in the GWNF in Augusta County in the area of Todd Lake for the last 20+ years. This area can be considered deep woods hunting with no residential or agricultural lands within a 5-20 mile radius - depending on what direction you go.

I can confirm and attest to the recent concerns of decreasing deer populations in these settings and frequently go the full 14 days of general firearms season, without seeing the first deer. Not something to be taken lightly from someone that is usually out 12-14 hours a day. One of the primary reasons I believe this is happening is the lack of food. Obviously, deer living in this environment depend on the mass crop (acorns and other vegetation)that is frequently NOT available secondary to weather conditions throughout the year.

Many years ago, the U.S. Forest Service use to supplement the food supply by planting game patches in some of these very secluded areas. There were "clearings" established that were created during logging operations back in the 1940's, 50's and early 60's where these game patches were planted and maintained . Unfortunately, due to costs affiliated with that, this was no longer possible and the program was completely cut out sometime during the early 1970's. Surprisingly, although all grown over now, many of these clearings are still evident and could be easily bush-hogged, plowed and re-planted to revitalized some of these areas.

I would encourage your group to re-visit the possibility of resurrecting this program. I would be willing to take part in such a program and in fact could provide several volunteers to assist with such a program in the area of which I hunt. As mentioned above, there are still several of these old clearings in this immediate area - accessible by old logging roads and I would be willing to review them with the appropriate personnel for consideration.

Thanks for your time and anything you can provide to improve this situation. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.

J. Michael Shavis
Free Union, Va



Michele Mattioli

08/11/2011 03:14 PM

Please respond to

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

cc

bcc

Subject recommendations for the GWNF

Greetings,

Please recommend the following for the George Washington National Forest:

Shenandoah Mountain Proposal

- **Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area with embedded wilderness areas: Ramseys Draft Addition, Lynn Hollow, Little River, and Skidmore Fork (aka High Knob)**

Wilderness for Beech Lick Knob

Wilderness additions for

- **Rich Hole**
- **Rough Mountain**
- **Three Ridges**
- **Saint Mary's West**

National Scenic Area for Big Schloss with wilderness for Three High Heads

Wilderness for Little Allegheny Mountain

National Recreation Area for Northern Massanutten

Wilderness for Laurel Fork and Three Sisters

Please ban horizontal drilling and industrial wind projects on the national forest.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Michele Mattioli
Earlsville, Virginia**



08/16/2011 04:48 PM

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

cc klandgraf@fs.fed.us, cliffandoma@ntelos.net, Al.Bourgeois@dgif.virginia.gov, marek_smith@tnc.org, mmiller@rockbridge.net, john.hancock@mwv.com, bcc

Subject Comment on GW Forest Plan

Folks,

Thank you for preparing and updating a well-written Forest Plan that has incorporated a number of perspectives for public land use. I offer these comments as a Grouse and Bear hunter over the period of 1958 to current and from South to North on the GW.

National Forests across the US are very important to me and I have enjoyed them from Washington State to Virginia. The museum quality of National Parks/Parkways combined with the public use attentive National Forests are a wonderful combination of public trust. I write to support Alternative G in the GW Forest Plan as proposed with these seven comments:

1. Virginia has had the remarkable opportunity to bring together the "preservationists" with the "management" side of forest ecology and in this process, we have discovered some commonalities and some agreement. Regardless of that outcome, a subsequent phase of this collaborative may propose project development that merits favorable consideration by the FS and DOA.
2. Please increase GW timbering/logging within the best evidence (science) based practices to increase significantly the early successional habitat/forest growth (ESH) along the entire backbone of the GW.
3. Please limit permanent roads to the support of ongoing ESH habitat development.
4. Please take into consideration the four season habitat (shelter, escape, breeding, food, and water) requirements of game and non-game species (including song-birds).
5. Please assure sharing the forest among multiple users.
6. Please preserve and do not expand the very important core old growth areas beyond 50% of the forest.
- 7. If you all can muster to a 4,400 level of timbering, please DO. We need a 1% annual harvest of suitable and allowable acreage to reach the 100 year cut cycle on less than 1/2 of the GW acreage to support America's timber industry and the ESH game and non-game species and many of the multiple-use folks who go into the GW for economic, physical, and spiritual gain.**

Thanks,

Wayne Thacker

"The moon put her hand over my mouth and told me to shut up and watch."
Either Jim Harrison or Ted Kooser in Braided Creek



"Custis L. Coleman"
08/17/2011 02:41 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Comments Southern George Washington and Jefferson Federal Land

As an avid grouse hunter and hiker I prefer to see more timber harvested in the national forest. I prefer to see 4,000 acres harvested per year. To improve habitat for song birds, ruffed grouse the habitat needs greater variety. Burning, clear cutting and shelter cuts provide re-generation and creates habitat for more wildlife.

Maybe it would be best to outsource timber management to improve efficiency and greater diversity.

Thank you for listening,

Custis Coleman



"Elizabeth H. Cottrell"
08/14/2011 09:23 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc "
bcc

Subject Please support ban on hydrofracking in National Forest and other matters...

Dear friends,

My husband and I wish to express our support for the prohibition against horizontal drilling anywhere in the George Washington National Forest. We feel this prohibition is necessary to protect our drinking water resources.

Please continue to study the impacts of vertical gas drilling too and add restrictions, especially on drilling in local water supply areas, priority watersheds and all areas where there are scenic and recreational uses or areas with sensitive or fragile ecosystems.

In addition, we ask for your support of the identification of drinking water supply areas and the expansion of protective buffers on streams and reservoirs. Buffers should be much wider - up to 100 feet. We believe all local water supply areas should be identified as priority watersheds and that there should be more defined management standards to protect priority watersheds. Road construction is a particular concern since it degrades water quality.

Thank you for your consideration of these urgent matters.

Dr. John and Elizabeth Cottrell
Riparian landowners



Michael Opsahl
08/17/2011 09:14 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
bcc
Subject GWNF Plan

Sirs;

I am a 35 year member of the Ruffed Grouse Society. I have read the GWNF, and would like to state my support and respect for most of what you outline in your plan. I also want to commend you on your cooperative agreements with both Game and Fisheries and DNR. Those types of partnerships have brought great success to the forest management plans for the Superior National Forest in Minnesota, where I spent many days hunting partridge as a boy.

A couple of points of emphasis that I'd like to address.

First, the introduction or emphasis on converting to Pine forests will bring habitat loss to many forest game species, except maybe the red squirrel. Jack pine, white pine, red pine - whatever is planted will succeed and grow quickly, but virtually every forest game animal will not reside there, except to roost, as no food will be available. Mast created by hard wood trees is necessary, and the mixed coniferous stands usually are the most productive in terms of species diversity and breeding success. Gordon Gullion refers to this in many of his writings from multiple decades of research in Minnesota.

Second, I'd like to emphasize the importance of relying on others to help advise in reaching your timber harvesting goals. I'd suggest using RGS to help in this capacity.

I'm a big fan of active forest management. I've seen it first hand result in increased productive wildlife habitat, increased recreational usage, higher employment, and increased fire retardation. Just look at the BWCA / Quetico Wilderness Areas versus the Superior National or Chippewa National Forests.

Thanks for your continuing efforts in the GWNF

Michael Opsahl



STEPHEN BRIM
08/15/2011 11:12 PM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject hydrofracking and alternative A

keep alternative A as it was presented. We also need to drill for gas where there are sources. Environmentalist need to stay out of the way of progress.



Jerry McCarty
08/16/2011 04:18 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject Support for Alternative G in GWNF Management Plan

Dear GWNF Management,

As a frequent visitor to the GWNF and a member of the Roughed Grouse Society and other conservation groups focusing on habitat and water quality improvement on Federal, State, and private land, I am writing to express my support for Alternative G in the revised management plan for the GWNF. I believe that Alternative G is the best blend of management activities and goals to benefit the widest range of intended uses of the forest lands and fosters the partnerships and and cooperative agreements with USFS stakeholders and citizens.

Specifically, I believe that there is much evidence that forest management activities that support habitat needs of early successional species also have the greatest long-term benefits to the health of the forest and the diversity of environments that provide a multitude of benefits for users of these lands and the communities that surround them.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to comment on the proposed GWNF management plan and for your strong consideration of implementing Alternative G.

Sincerely,

Jerry McCarty
Arlington, VA



Rebecca Driver

08/17/2011 02:38 PM

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

cc

bcc

Subject Ban Horizontal Drilling in the Forest

Dear Sirs: I support the proposed plan which would ban horizontal fracking on a large part of the forest. Prohibition of this type of drilling anywhere in the forest will help to protect drinking water resources. I think there should be a more thorough study of the impacts of vertical gas drilling on any areas of the forest where this might be allowed. I would be in favor of additional restrictions on vertical gas drilling, including a ban on drilling in local drinking water supply areas, priority watersheds, and sensitive natural, scenic and recreation areas. I support the identification of drinking water supply areas and the expansion of protective buffers on streams and reservoirs. I would like all local drinking water supply areas to be identified as priority watersheds and have more defined management "standards" to protect priority watersheds, particularly limits on road construction, which degrades water quality. Thank you for your attention. Sincerely, Rebecca V. Driver



"Benzing, Thomas -
benzintr"
08/15/2011 09:29 PM

To "comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us"
<comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f

cc

bcc

Subject Comment on plan for GWNF

I am writing to express my support for the revised plan for the George Washington National Forest. As an angler, I wish to see the forest managed in a way that protects and restores brook trout habitat. I am particularly concerned about the threat that oil and gas drilling poses to coldwater habitat. I support the proposed ban on horizontal drilling for oil and gas development.

Thomas R. Benzing, Professor
Department of Integrated Science and Technology
701 Carrier Drive, MSC 4102
James Madison University
Harrisonburg, VA 22807



"Steve Johnson"
08/14/2011 11:52 AM

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

cc

bcc

Subject: Natural Gas Drilling in GWJ national forest

I am requesting that horizontal drilling for natural gas, also known as "fracking", be banned all the US forest lands, particularly George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

These areas are very rural, and residents rely mostly on wells for clean safe drinking water in these areas. There are no resources or monies available to get public water systems to these remote locations. Once the groundwater is contaminated, it is too late, and very costly and cumbersome to find another clean water source.

I am also concerned about the toxic chemicals being used in horizontal drilling. As a chemist, many of the chemicals used already have strict exposure plans in place for humans and animals. Shooting them into our earth and water seems very foolhardy, and even arrogant.

Please make sure the new plan prohibits horizontal drilling forever in one of our nation's treasures!

Sincerely,

Mary Teresa Johnson
Resident of George Washington National Forest



"John Deuso"
08/13/2011 05:31 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>

cc

bcc

Subject GWNF DRAFT PLAN

I am so glad to see the efforts being made to keep the National Forrest Healthy. As an outdoorsman and Hunter I have seen first hand the decline in the number of oaks, Chestnut and other mast bearing trees, as well as the number of game animals that require early growth for their sustinance. I also am sure that the Park service can use the income that selective harvest could bring, to offset budget restraints.
Sincerely, John Deuso



Susan Robb
08/23/2011 10:59 AM

To comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.fed.us
cc
bcc
Subject NO SUPPORT for Hydraulic Fracturing in George Washington National Forest

Good morning -

Please do not approve horizontal drilling/hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest. I've seen the damage and destruction that occurs.

Thank you,

Susan Robb



"Scott Stadelhofer"
08/23/2011 08:20 PM

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

cc <VAEnergyForum@gmail.com>

bcc

Subject Concerned Virginian

- The U.S. Forest Service should not close the door on the potential that shale gas has to strengthen America's energy security for generations, while creating jobs and growing our economy.
- Horizontal drilling is a recognized way to produce this gas safely, with minimal environmental impact, and without disturbing large surface areas.
- With proper government regulation and oversight and use of industry best practices, directed at protecting our water resources, we can safely produce the energy America needs.
- Do not support the proposed federal ban on horizontal drilling in the George Washington National Forest.

As technology has improved, we now have the ability - through hydraulic fracturing coupled with horizontal drilling - to safely recover vast supplies of natural gas that before were out of reach. And building on decades of shale drilling experience and lessons learned from every new well drilled, we continue to ensure the safest proven practices are applied to protect the environment.

These resources have the potential to transform America's energy security for multiple generations, while creating jobs and growing our economy. In fact, experts estimate these reserves alone hold more than a century's worth of clean natural gas. It's America's energy, but our government wants to block this access. Let's unlock it for generations to come.

Scott Stadelhofer



Elly Swecker
08/22/2011 08:50 AM

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

I oppose efforts for drill for gas in our national forests as recently proposed by Governor Bob McDonnell. I encourage practices that protect our environment, water, and provide adequate recreational opportunities for our citizens. Logging as an environmental practice, I would support. Thank you for this opportunity. my main message is "no gas drilling"

Patricia Ellen Swecker

--

Elly Swecker



"Mark"
08/23/2011 01:41 PM

To <comments-southern-georgewashington-jefferson@fs.f
ed.us>
cc

Subject George Washington National Forest and our future

August 23, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I ask that you make it possible our state to create jobs and reach energy prospects for our future. Please allow for potential shale gas through hydraulic fracturing coupled with horizontal drilling in the George Washington National Forest. With proper regulation we can safely produce this important resource. Horizontal drilling can be used safely, without disturbing large surface areas, and without much environmental impact. We need to do everything we can to get off of foreign oil and this will do a lot bring this goal into reality.

Thank you,
Charlotte Willson
Chesterfield, VA

Robert Arner,

August 22, 2011

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on proposed the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) Proposed Management Plan. Present data and information provide evidence to support the Forest Service's Proposed GWNFP Management Plan that bans vertical fracking. In addition I suggest a full range of best environmental management measures.

Health care, and environmental protection are interconnected to our national security as is energy exploration. At ground zero, New York City invested \$1.5 billion to protect their watershed resulting in a net savings of \$4.5 billion dollars¹. Source water protection is fundamental in defending our nation from terrorism and other major national threats

With current lacking Forest Service managerial resources, the lack of adequate financial assurances and pollution controls any for hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest must restrict any of form natural gas drilling until a full neutral third party study is conducted. Also increased traffic, air pollution, sedimentation, impact on recreation, species, biological diversity, scenic resources and other activities are other serious consequences of such drilling. For example increased road usage creates enough physical stresses to increase the impairment of streams in the GWNF.

Also I encourage the USDA to explore a wide range of environmental best management practices including; pollution prevention, life cycle analysis and sound land use practices so to insure our forests our managed in most efficient and effective manner. The GW National Forest staff can emulate other sustainable federal environmental management programs so explore more ingenious ways to best conserve (see Appendix A).

Now just where I live the, water resources in the George Washington National Forest serve an estimated 8,452 residents within Shenandoah County.² The U.S.D.A. estimates that for one acre of trees produces enough oxygen for 18 people. Also when you factor the many other economic benefits of the GWNF provides.

My concern is that when the health and safety regulators both wear the same hat a serious disservice results. The prior operation of the Luray County Battlefield Landfill and the defunct Shaeffer System Wastewater Facility are just two recent examples I can provide you documentation with here in the Shenandoah Valley.

¹ Mates and Reyes 2006

²

Comments on Proposed Management Plan George Washington National Forest

My background from working over thirty years in the used oil recycling industry and over 15 years in environmental planning, resource management and watershed protection here in this region provide some environmental protection experiences and perspectives³.

Background

The George Washington National Forest (GWNF) acts as a buffer to the North Fork Shenandoah River Watershed. This dominantly agricultural region is in the northwestern part of Virginia and eastern West Virginia is a 661,821 acre watershed. With woodland covers about 62% of the Watershed how the Forest Service manages our public forest is in question.

45% of the GWNF are within local drinking water watersheds to nearby communities and twenty-two localities with more than one quarter of a million of residents of western Virginia obtain their drinking water from surface waters within (or originating in) this forest. Almost four million people downstream obtain their drinking water from this regional source¹.

Around the Shoemaker River is a subwatershed is mainly in Rockingham County, Virginia, with small portions of Shenandoah. Most of the 119,773 acres of woodland are part of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. The main streams in this subwatershed are Bennett Run, German River, Little Dry River, Slate Lick Branch, Shoemaker River, Runion Creek, Sours Run, and the North Fork Shenandoah River. Crab Run and Capon Run begin in Hardy County and extend into Rockingham County. There are 196.7 miles of perennial streams and 332.5 miles of intermittent streams. Due to the shale, siltstone, and sandstone geology, there are only three caves and three sinkholes identified in this watershed. Even in this relatively isolated area, land use conversion is a concern⁴.

Already the waters in our valley are seriously impaired. There are 2,606 miles of perennial and intermittent streams in the watershed. Of these, 272.5 miles fail to meet their designated uses due to fecal coliform bacteria, temperature, pH, or benthic macro invertebrate bioassessment impairments. Twenty-one TMDL studies have been done or are planned in the watershed. Since this watershed contributes to the drainage of the Chesapeake Bay, a Tributary Strategy Report has been developed to guide implementation of urban and agricultural water quality practices. The presence of nearly 1,800 sinkholes in the agricultural land contributes to the potential for pollution of the ground water. Also numerous hydrological studies confirm that ground water resources are quickly declining in our region.

The Virginia DEQ has identified 34.74 miles of the Little Dry River as impaired by pH and fecal

³<http://www.robarner.com> or goggle Robert Arner

⁴ ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/VA/Programs/watershed_info/NFork_Shen_Complete.pdf pg 29

sections are in the National Forest but pasture/hayland adjacent to the river may also make some contribution to the impairment.⁵

VADEQ 2006 data lists 6 reservoirs and 50 streams or rivers within the GWNF as impaired where 4 of the 6 reservoirs occurs within drinking water watersheds, with drinking water being directly drawn from two of them.

The GWNF is a source of drinking water for about 262,600 people in nearby Virginia communities, and shelters prime native trout streams in the James and Potomac river watersheds. I request the Forest Service to identify and protect of drinking water supply areas by expanding protective buffers on streams and reservoirs. Please first outline all local drinking water supply areas to be identified as priority watersheds and next more defined management “standards” to protect priority watersheds, particularly limits on road construction which degrades water quality.

Prevent All Hydraulic Fracturing or Fracking from the GWNF

Many of my comments wish to concentrate on SECTION D – FEDERAL OIL AND GAS LEASING AVAILABILITY.⁶ Make almost one million acres of the GWNF available for gas leasing with various levels of restrictions including a prohibition on horizontal drilling on all federal leases. Already private parties own mineral rights on about 16% of the Forest and how these rights are managed is of great concern. Who is going to monitor, enforce and insure our forest is not impacted? Previous fracking operations clearly impact our land, air, and water evident by various scientific studies and daily reports from the major news services. Also our limited scientific understanding of the hydro-geological impacts of natural gas drilling requires further examination by USGS, EPA, GAO and other organizations (i.e. Resources for the Future, etc). Recently in Arkansas drilling has thought to help increase earthquakes and other seismic activity.

EPA’s lack of adequate scientific information on oil and gas wastes and accounting for these by-products is apparent. Why has this accounting been left entirely to industry since the last Report to Congress from EPA was 1986 and since then the American Petroleum Institute provides such information. Congressional exemptions of oil and gas wastes have prevented any sufficient environmental impact analysis, along with the long history of providing the oil commerce with depletion allowances to stimulate drilling .

Hydraulic fracturing is exempt from most environmental laws and controls and there is no or extremely limited liability on the part of gas companies if something goes wrong. The need neutral third party and things are going wrong in the extraction of natural gas across the country. There are also an alarming number of reports of water, land and air contamination, illness in people and wildlife in and around fracking wells across the country. Also hydraulic fracturing

⁵ Ibid

⁶ http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5297835.pdf

coliform which restricts use for aquatic life and recreation. The majority of these impaired goes over a mile down into the earth pumping fluid at high pressures causing the rock to crack, simulating mini earthquakes that release natural gas for extraction. In Arkansas for example, there has been a sharp increase in the number of earthquakes in the areas where fracking is occurring.

In addition, fracking involves pumping 596 undisclosed chemicals and the use of 1 to 8 million gallons of water per frack, this creates 80 -300 tons of pressure going into the earth and could seriously deplete water supplies. Gas companies can frack a well up to 12 times other states are taking strong actions to ban fracking because of the growing number of reports that we are very unaware of the current and future implications of using a drilling method that is both understudied and unregulated.

As a former Soil Water Conservation District Supervisor, Watershed Coordinator and Pollution Prevention Specialist everyone in our valley should be concerned about water quality. Recent fish kills in the Shenandoah River and the search for the cause have raised awareness of the many potential sources of water quality impairments. Many of the chemicals found in the water originate from industrial discharges and waste water. Allowing fracking in our national forest will significantly increase the pollution of all environmental media.

Just from the water pollution perspective just one gallon of the fracking fluids used could pollute millions of gallons of water serving hundreds of local residents. Ground water contamination is in the valley is already rapidly increasing. Spring water has been tested and shown to be only 11 years old. Water in our valleys is trapped--no deep aquifers and poor drainage. Much of the country's hydro-geology is like Swiss cheese and highly sensitive to pollution.. There are nearly 1,800 observed sinkholes in the central part of the watershed. Many of the activities that cause surface water pollution can also affect ground water when pollutants are washed into sinkholes by overland flow.

The connection between ground water and surface water plays a major role in ground water recharge in the Valley and the Ridge, where streams often cross fault zones recharging aquifers. Wells in the fault zones have the greatest yields. Recharge also occurs through surface run off into limestone sinkholes, bypassing filtration through the soil. This can cause serious water quality problems since polluted surface water may be introduced directly into the ground water system.

Water quantity is a major concern from another perspective. We have insufficient surface water to meet the needs of the area by 2025. Also, the depth to water for drilled wells has increased by about 85 feet in the last 8-10 years indicating that the ground water is being removed faster than recharge can occur.

A Questionable Assumption- Environmental Protections in Federal Oil & Gas Leasing

While Federal oil and gas leasing is subject to a wide range of federal and state laws I question how well this is monitored and enforced. The recent Gulf Oil Spill documents how lax federal regulatory officials enforced environmental protections on oil and gas exploration and development. Just because the Department of Agriculture , Department of Interior, EPA have roles and regulations in administering the leasing laws what protections are there that the energy

firms conduct their operations in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, air, and water, to cultural, biological, visual, and other resources?

Both with federal, state budget cuts and other resource limitation how will the Forest Service be all to insure compliance with the Endangered Species Act, Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and all the other environmental protection laws?

Also what financial assurances are in place to insure if something does go wrong the taxpayers do not have to clean up the left mess? Presently financial assurances for underground storage tanks are gone and such requirements of other waste operations including hazardous facilities I challenge you to prove are adequate. Previously findings from the EPA's Inspector General reports provide ample evidence of the need for good third party monitoring and management.

Finally, what assurances there will be the necessary enforcement resources to vanguard GWNF or will this be just like what happen with our financial institutions where the fox gets to run the hen house?

Conclusion

If you wish to best managed our forest resources you require adequate staff, funding, enforcement and science to keep energy firms accountable. Closely observing the regulation and enforcement of oil and gas wastes in the United States for over three decades I witnessed many pernicious acts. My concerns come when regulators act as market participants. Do we allow the fox to watch the hen house? Below is a classic example

A recent directive by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requires oil and gas inspectors get approval from top officials before citing violations in drilling of the deep, dense and gas-rich Marcellus Shale.

The department says the rule is aimed at inconsistencies in enforcement, but there is concern "that the state's environmental inspectors can no longer act independently and that regulations could be overridden by the political whims of the state's new governor, Tom Corbett," reports Abrahm Lustgarten of ProPublica, the nonprofit, investigative news operation that has won awards for its coverage of the industry. "Corbett has made no secret of his support for drilling and has stated repeatedly that regulatory reforms can help spur job creation."⁷

Below is a lawsuit against you, the Forest Service for failing to do proper analysis of the environmental effects of the drilling as prescribed by the National Environmental Policy Act.⁸

⁷ <http://irjci.blogspot.com/2011/03/pa-gas-and-oil-inspectors-must-get-top.html>

⁸ <http://www.fseee.org/stay-informed/victories#Public%27s%20Right>

In the last five years, the Allegheny National Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania has seen an explosion of oil and gas development. To date more than 10,000 wells have been drilled in the Allegheny, more than in all the other 154 National Forests combined. The Allegheny is Pennsylvania's only National Forest.

Oil spills and the scars left on the landscape from drilling have destroyed many thousands of acres of forest, degrading water quality and eliminating native forest and wildlife habitat. About 93% of the subsurface mineral rights on the forest are privately owned, and until recently the Forest Service turned a blind eye to drilling, even though it resulted in substantial and permanent negative effects on the forest.

The Forest Service must ban fracking until you can fully study the liabilities of this drilling. States such as New York for example are preventing this kind of high volume hydraulic fracturing until their legislators can reach an informed decision about the risks. Our neighboring state Maryland who sits on one of the largest gas reserves in the world and stands to profit handsomely from natural gas drilling moved to place a moratorium on drilling until the Maryland Department of the Environment completes a two year study to determine whether it endangers drinking water and public health as some environmentalist claim. Maryland legislators stated, "We are not going to be like other states such as Texas, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas for that drilled first and asked questions later,

We are very fortunate here in Virginia that we have the opportunity to make an informed decision about hydraulic fracturing for natural gas-our future prosperity depends on this. Exactly 100 year ago we wisely established the George Washington National Forest to protect our drinking water.

Also nearly 90 percent of the Washington DC area depends on the Shenandoah River for clean drinking water. Why allow a hydraulic fracturing drill sight where the Shenandoah River begins affecting everyone downstream? The Shenandoah River also generates billions of dollars in agriculture, timber, tourism, and other environmental benefits. To run the risk of contaminating streams and the river could have enormous economic consequence.

There are many disturbing questions regarding checks and balances in place adequate insurance and consumer protection protect the rights of private homeowners. Such specific issues are:

1. Does horizontal drilling and hydrofracking pose an unacceptable risk to our drinking water and the quality of wells, groundwater, aquifers, ponds, streams, rivers? Also do such activity seriously impacts our air basin by toxic chemical emissions, and pollutants?
2. Does such drilling introduce over millions of gallons of undisclosed chemicals into our land, air and water, placing local residents, wildlife, and critical agriculture resources and watershed areas at risk.

3. Is it true communities where hydrofracking has occurred have experienced explosions, flammable drinking water, fracking fluid spills, stream contamination, fish kills, earthquakes, public health problems, and other factors?
4. Do we have the necessary emergency services for such disasters and the cost of having them in place would mean additional financial strain on taxpayers.
5. Will gas drilling in Virginia will involve construction of a massive infrastructure of wellheads, pipelines, compressing stations, and processing centers spread across much of rural Rockingham County and Hardy County, West Virginia. Drilling on this scale may turn our forest area into industrial wastelands.
6. Infrastructure development would likely involve extensive clearing of forest trees, 24-hour noise and light pollution, huge increases of truck traffic (over weight trucks, will such traffic increase erosion and sedimentation and/or increased storm water run-off), damage to roads, and disruption to a quiet lifestyle that attract people to live here. Also drilling and related development are incompatible with agriculture, tourism, recreation; that will significantly alter current economic development including severe stresses on roadways.
7. Insure citizens who own land, homes, and their health from the potential dangers of drilling for natural gas.
8. Augusta, Rockingham, Shenandoah County, and Hardy County as with both state and federal governmental governments are seriously understaffed and underfunded, and is in no position to regulate and effectively monitor drilling in or outside the GWNF.
9. Verify exactly how clean natural gas currently is advertized. Does it contributed to atmospheric CO₂ and Methane? Recent research by Cornell University found that shale gas has a greenhouse gas footprint comparable to coal.
10. Will fracking allow property owners who lease the mineral rights under their land so long as that use does not diminish the value of others' property. Hydrofracking should not be allowed if it results in injuring the rights of adjoining, nearby and downstream landowners, in ways described above.

In closing nearly 90 percent of the Washington DC area depends on the Shenandoah River for clean drinking water. The Shenandoah River also generates billions of dollars in agriculture, timber, tourism, and other environmental benefits. To run the risk of contaminating streams and the river could have enormous economic consequence.

The increased deployment of this technology has come under greater scrutiny in the United States for numerous reasons: increased water use, impact of the chemicals used, challenges of how to treat wastewater, and induced seismicity. At present the risks of fracking outweigh the

rewards since this gas drilling provides no safeguards from polluting our Shenandoah Valley. Yearly our GW Forest generates billions of dollars in economic and environmental benefits. For this reason I urge this plan to act to safeguard our natural resources in the GWNF so to best protect the public health and environment.

Appendix A-

Pure Water for Shenandoah Valley Developing Jobs, Commerce and Conservation

"I am not so concerned on the return on my investment rather than the return of my investment." Ben Franklin

Our valley acts as a huge water-treatment system cleaning water for our neighbors downstream. As water-treatment stocks have become very attractive investments can we make the connection to advance regional pollution controls so to foster new prosperity?

Nearly 90 percent of the Washington DC metro region depends on the Potomac and its major tributary, the Shenandoah for clean drinking water. Also the Shenandoah valley supplies billions dollars in agriculture, timber, tourism and other environmental benefits. One hundred years ago we wisely established the George Washington National Forest to help preserve this watershed. Over a decade ago, New York City's invested over \$6 billion dollars in the Catskills watershed to protect their drinking water, now the Shenandoah Valley can serve as model environmental economic development region to show that we all profit from pollution prevention not far from our nation's capital.

According to the Chesapeake Bay clean-up estimates, well over \$2 billion is needed to restore the Shenandoah River to meet clean water goals. To do this we must develop new jobs and outreach programs to meet these needs. More than 1,300 miles of rivers and streams in the Shenandoah watershed fail to meet Federal clean water standard because of excess nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants. To meet this challenge we must change our very attitude on how we do business from short term to long term profits and also account for how much we are willing to invest in the value of this watershed.

We must look how we can grow in an organic not inorganic fashion. Rapid growth leads to more roads, parking lots and roofs. These hard surfaces prevent rain from soaking into the ground naturally and result in significant increases in runoff with such things as automobile oil, lawn fertilizer and other pollutants.

We need to act now since there have been many fish kills of small mouth bass and red breasted sunfish populations in the last few years on the Shenandoah River.

How we develop in the Shenandoah Valley will impact our water, air and land.

Promoting improved technologies and programs can result in increased economic benefits through emerging "green" infrastructure requirements (e.g reduced runoff volumes and nutrient export from a site).

New innovations must be explored as we see these as beginning economic development tools for our valley since how we allow our land to be developed can be a win/win situation if we exercise prudence. How we respect our valley raises fundamental questions about what new jobs we can provide for future generations. Now nearly 75 years ago 2 billion trees were planted by Civilian Conservation Corps. Since the first camp began right in the middle of the valley, training the youth in conservation has historic implications.

New Advancements = New Jobs

The valley can become an advocate for new eco-employment opportunities and stimulated new businesses to come to this region to support this demand for green industry.

Design "With" Nature

Similar to how water runs down our roof down spouts it can be cleaned when plants absorb and recycle this spoiled water. Everyone has an opportunity to design a rain type garden to prevent pollution and water our plants and lawns since waste lots of money on watering and flushing with valuable drinking water instead of water reuse.

Such improved site design can also reduce the need to clear and grade the area increasing erosion control practices and can result in significant cost savings to builders. Much of the reduction in capital costs can be attributed to a reduction in impervious cover.

Non Point Pollution Prevention Measures

The greatest challenge in the environmental protection today is getting individuals to not do such things as litter, conserve water and energy, improperly throw away their toxic household by-products, fertilize their lawn, reduce their waste, and other sustainable measures. These directly or indirectly impact the Shenandoah Valley watershed is and such behaviors must be targeted and changed since this is the largest source of pollution, our collective selves.

Wastewater and Water Reuse Pollution Prevention Measures

How our well, spring, cistern, septic, alternative or municipal water/wastewater system operates and is managed plays a critical role on keeping our water clean. Failing systems, source water pollution and other problems all impact the watershed. Measures to address this infra-structure and development management tools are critical. Water reuse is going to be another key technology to develop.

Improved Best Management Practices, Pollution Controls, Training and Social Marketing

American's need to realize we face another form of serious terror, how we foul our environment. Just a simple act of throwing a can out of a car has an environmental impact. Collectively, how people change their car oil, or clean-up their animal waste or fertilize their lawn impact the Shenandoah River. People cause pollution and the source to control it. Without collective behavior change and improved good housekeeping measures the greatest source of our water impairment.

Air/Land/Water Impacts = More Pollution

The more we pollute or over regulate one medium without creating economic or incentives to change may result increasing environmental pollution to another area. This history of environmental regulation is good proof. Without integrated comprehensive planning numerous environmental conservations measures can be done in vain. If you improve conservation but allow for increased use it may be like bottle water situation of today. You have increased its package but not necessarily improved the product and created more plastic and cost. Expand Interstate 81 without alternative rail or greenway structures and it will be seen in 30 years as a major infrastructure blunder and it will cost future generations to rebuild.

Reduce First, Reuse Second and Recycle Last

More people recycle today then vote resulting in both a blessing and a curse. Reuse and reduction are far more favorable ways to better our environment then picking up grass and glass bottles at the curb. Maybe a better investment can be made in composting new top soil and creating reusable oil filters as best use of limited resources and dollars

Below is an entire summary of possible best management opportunities to promote future prosperity for Shenandoah Valley:

1. Integrated Watershed Green Technology into Agenda for Action - research and develop key employment training, technology, water quality improvement measures together into one economic development plan. Pull together income from fisheries, agriculture, industry, and recreation and tourism. Also show indirect drinking water treatment costs, health care costs, and other environmental economic benefits. Show prevention saving and document income from recreation and tourism and increased property values and show the natural capitalism from reduction in energy costs, health care costs, flood control and stormwater quality and pollution treatment costs.
 - o Wastewater (central and decentralized).
 - o Employment Opportunitis - work with colleges and develop specific training programs to develop workfaces to operate nutrient reduction technologies and computer systems
 - o Better Site Design - cluster development, impervious cover limits.
 - o Erosion and Sediment Control - channel protection, clearing and grading, construction site erosion and sediment contol. *
 - o Stormwater regulations, floodplain protection.
2. Wastewater and Water Reuse Pollution Prevention Measures
 - o How our well, spring, cistern, septic, alternative or municipal water/wastewater system operates and is managed plays a critical role on keeping our water clean.
3. Improved Best Management Practices, Pollution Controls, Training and Social Marketing People cause pollution and the source to control it. Without collective behavior change and improved good housekeeping measures the greatest source.
4. Reduce First, Reuse Second and Recycle Last
 - o More people recycle today then vote resulting in both a blessing and a curse. Reuse and reduction are far more favorable ways to better our environment then picking up grass and glass bottles at the curb. Maybe a better investment can be made in composting new top soil and creating other sustainable endeavors as best use of our dwindling resources and dollars.

ⁱ The State of Our Water, Managing Protecting the Drink Water Resources of the GWNF, Wild Virginia, 2008