

October 12, 2011

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SUBJECT: Comment on Energy Resources in the 2011 George Washington National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

Dear Supervisor Hyzer,

I would like to comment on Energy Resources in the 2011 George Washington National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

Biomass Incineration: Because of the huge volumes of fuel-trees-and water necessary and the large amount of air pollution-fine particulates and CO₂-that accompany biomass incineration, *the GWNF should not allow timber sales that fuel biomass incinerators.*

Wind Energy: The mountain ridges of the George Washington National Forest are flyways for birds and bats and are home to many rare species and Special Biological Areas. For their protection, and to prevent the disruption of natural systems, views, and recreational uses entailed by wind farm infrastructure, *industrial scale wind energy should not be allowed in the George Washington National Forest.*

Gas and Oil Extraction-I support the proposed ban on horizontal drilling in the Forest. *But the ban should be extended to prohibit all oil and gas drilling in the GWNF.* Hydraulic fracturing (used in both vertical and horizontal drilling) is potentially dangerous to water and natural habitat. The recent explosion and blowout in BP's Deep Water Horizon debacle demonstrates that *supposedly advanced technologies of resource extraction are vulnerable to disastrous surprises.* The natural gas industry has plenty of extraction opportunities outside the GWNF, so there's no need to set this ecologically and recreationally valuable area at risk for minor economic benefit. Also, the infrastructure accompanying wells, platforms and wellheads would compromise recreation, scenic and biological resources. The forest should not make any further leases available and existing leases should be removed from lease availability when they expire.

Please make necessary changes so that the Final Land and Resource Management Plan for The George Washington National Forest does not allow for fuel for biomass incineration, industrial scale wind energy, or further gas and oil leases on the forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.