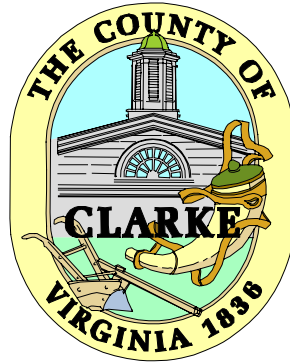


# Clarke County Board of Supervisors

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## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN No. 08-27R

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service is in the process of revising its 1993 Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service's agency-wide strategic plan seeks to achieve six goals, including "Improve watershed condition."

**WHEREAS**, the provision of clean safe drinking water is one of the primary benefits that the George Washington National Forest provides to the communities that surround it.

**WHEREAS**, it has been estimated that approximately 44 percent of the land in the George Washington National Forest lies within watersheds that provide public drinking water to more than 260,000 Virginia residents in 22 adjacent communities, by means of reservoirs and surface waters.

**WHEREAS**, the watersheds of surface waters that flow from the George Washington National Forest, such as the North River and the North and South Forks of the Shenandoah River, provide drinking water to an additional 165,000 people in communities including Bridgewater, Broadway, Front Royal, Harrisonburg, Middletown, Strasburg, Winchester and Berryville.

**WHEREAS**, under the 1993 George Washington National Forest Management Plan most of the land in drinking water reservoirs watersheds (72 percent) is managed without ground disturbing activities and U.S. Forest Service data appears to indicate that water quality in the reservoir watersheds is substantially better than in surface watersheds in other parts of the George Washington National Forest.

**WHEREAS**, the 1993 George Washington National Forest Management Plan permits ground disturbing activities on most of the land (64 percent) in surface watersheds that provide drinking water through river intakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the undersigned hereby support the following revisions to the George Washington National Forest Management Plan to ensure the quality and quantity of drinking water sources within the forest boundaries:

- The U.S. Forest Service shall formally identify all the drinking watersheds serving reservoir and surface water resources within the George Washington National Forest.
- The U.S. Forest Service shall establish management objectives that encompass the health of the entire drinking watershed, in order to ensure that conditions within the watershed will maintain, protect and enhance drinking water quality.
- The U.S. Forest Service shall continuously gather the information required to assess its performance against its watershed objectives and send summaries of the performance data to all affected localities on at least an annual basis.

**ADOPTED** this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2008

**CERTIFICATION** I hereby certify that this is a true and correct Resolution approved by the Clarke County Board of Supervisors.

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David L Ash, Clerk  
Clarke County Board of Supervisors