

# County of Shenandoah

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## OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

VINCENT E. POLING  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MARY T. PRICE  
ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

## RESOLUTION FOR DRINKING WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GEORGE WASHINGTON FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

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; and

WHEREAS, one of the six goals identified in the U.S. Forest Services' agency wide strategic plan is to "improve watershed condition"; and

WHEREAS, the availability of clean, safe drinking water is one of the primary benefits that the George Washington National Forest provides to the communities that surround it; and

WHEREAS, approximately 44 percent of the land in the George Washington National Forest lies within watersheds that make available public drinking water to more that 260,000 Virginia residents in 22 adjacent communities, by means of reservoirs and surface waters; and

WHEREAS, the watersheds of surface waters that flow from the George Washington National Forest into the North Fork of the Shenandoah River serve an estimated 8,452 residents in the Shenandoah County Towns of Strasburg and Woodstock; and

WHEREAS, there can be threats to water quality within the George Washington National Forest from ground disturbing activities, such as timber harvesting and road construction, which result in erosion and sedimentation if not properly managed by the Forest Service staff or contractors thereof; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors supports the following actions to implement an objective as a part of the George Washington National Forest Management Plan to promote the quality and quantity of drinking water sources within the forest boundaries:

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- The U.S. Forest Service identify the watersheds serving the surface water resources within the George Washington National Forest that feed the North Fork of the Shenandoah River;
- The U.S. Forest Service establish management objectives that support the health of the drinking watershed and which encourage conditions within the watershed that maintain, protect and enhance drinking water quality;
- The U.S. Forest Service continue to permit ground disturbing activities in these areas; however, such activities shall be properly managed and controlled by the Forest Service to protect the health of the watershed;
- The U.S. Forest Service gather sufficient information to assess watershed conditions, develop a plan to systematically monitor water resources programs, and obtain data pertinent to water quality and watershed conditions, in cooperation with other agencies, organizations, local communities and volunteers;
- The U.S. Forest Service communicate in a timely manner with the localities that obtain drinking water from sources within the George Washington National Forest to ensure that the drinking watersheds are managed effectively, appropriately and for the public good;
- The U.S. Forest Service shall work with local communities, agencies and the larger public to establish policies and develop management plans for the drinking watersheds to properly maintain, protect and enhance drinking water quality.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors recommends that, the U.S. Forest Service retain all best management techniques and options in the approved Forest Management Plan that are necessary to protect the drinking water quality, and

FURTHER, that the Shenandoah County Board of Supervisors recognizes that trail-based recreational activities in the George Washington National Forest are valuable and wholly compatible with water quality management.

Approved on a motion and second by Supervisors Helsley and Morris  
and a 10-0 vote at the May 12, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Attest:

  
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Vincent E. Poling, Clerk

  
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David E. Ferguson, Chairman