

## Virginia's Region 2000

### Local Government Council

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#### **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT REVISIONS TO THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MANAGEMENT PLAN AND HEREBY IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF DRINKING WATER RESOURCES**

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

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Forest Service's agency-wide Strategic Plan for 2004-2008 seeks to achieve six goals, including "Improve watershed condition".

**WHEREAS**, approximately 44 percent of the land in the George Washington National Forest is within watersheds that provide public drinking water to more than 260,000 residents of western Virginia in 22 communities surrounding the national forest by means of reservoirs and surface waters.

**WHEREAS**, drinking water sources from the Pedlar Reservoir and watershed within the George Washington National Forest serve more than 100,000 residents in the City of Lynchburg, Amherst, Bedford, and Campbell Counties.

**WHEREAS**, degraded water quality in the George Washington National forest has been documented in the 2006 Water Quality Assessment report by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, which identified fifty (50) streams and six (6) reservoirs within the national forest that are impaired, including the Pedlar Reservoir.

**WHEREAS**, the greatest threats to water quality within the George Washington National Forest are ground disturbing activities, such as timber harvesting and road construction, which result in erosion and sedimentation.

**WHEREAS**, a 2008 report by the National Research Council (part of The National Academies) states that a sustainable supply of clean water is the most important product or commodity by our forests.

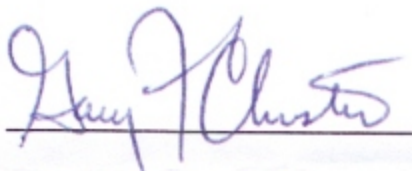
**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the undersigned hereby support the following revisions to the George Washington National Forest Management Plan to ensure the quality and quantity of drinking water sources within the national forest boundaries:

- 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 entire drinking watersheds, in order to ensure that conditions within the watersheds will maintain, protect and enhance drinking water quality.
- The U.S. Forest Service shall gather more information to describe and assess watershed conditions, develop a plan to systematically monitor resource programs and obtain all data pertinent to water quality and watershed conditions, in cooperation with other agencies, organizations, local communities and volunteers.
- The U.S. Forest Service shall seek to communicate more effectively with the localities that obtain drinking water from sources within the George Washington National Forest in order to ensure that the drinking watersheds are managed effectively, appropriately and for 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 permanently maintain, protect and enhance drinking water quality.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary is instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the U.S. Forest Service, the Amherst County Board of Supervisors, Amherst Town, Lynchburg City Council, Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District, and Wild Virginia in order to advise each of this action.

**Adopted: July 16, 2009**

**ATTESTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary F. Christie", is written over a horizontal line.

**Gary F. Christie, Secretary**  
Local Government Council