Misty A. Boos  
 Director   
Wild Virginia  
434-971-1553 (day and evening)

**Threats Only Increase with New Pipeline Route through the**

**George Washington National Forest**

Last week, Dominion changed its plans and rerouted part of the proposed path of the 450-mile Dominion Southeast Reliability Project pipeline. This new route through our public lands in the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) promises to be even more destructive than the first.

This more northerly route cuts through national forest lands traversing areas of outstanding ecological integrity here in Virginia, including Camp Ridge, Sulfur Springs Hollow, Signal Corps Knob, and Brushy Mountain. The entire route west of Staunton in Augusta County slices through the Calfpasture/Jennings Branch watershed, wherein lies Staunton's primary drinking water intakes, reservoirs and headwaters.

In recent presentations, Dominion was unable to demonstrate any substantive benefits to Virginia, while the negative impacts to our communities, properties and ecosystems are certain.

The Southeast Reliability Project pipeline will:

* Create a 150'-wide path of cleared and degraded land during construction.
* Leave a permanent 75'-wide swath of cleared land indefinitely.
* Destroy habitat of the Cow Knob Salamander, currently at a high risk of extinction.
* Create soil disruption and sediment that can contaminate our streams and drinking water.
* Permanently fragment the GWNF, the largest intact, contiguous forest remaining in the East.
* Provide a corridor for invasive species to enter our remote wild lands.
* Blast through our mountains and dig trenches through our farmlands and private properties.
* Create enormous, unpredicatable and perpetual risks of explosions and leaks to communities along the line.
* Increase pressure on the George Washington National Forest for further industrialization and hydrofracking activities.

Our lands, communities, drinking water and ecosystems are simply too valuable. Old route or new route, this pipeline has no place in our national forests.

Wild Virginia continues to fight to ensure that the moratorium on fracking in the GWNF is maintained or strengthened in the new forest management plan due out this summer.

Wild Virginia is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving wild forest ecosystems in Virginia’s national forests. For more information, contact info@wildvirginia.org or visit www.wildvirginia.org.

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