



JOSEPH S. PAXTON
County Administrator



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PABLO CUEVAS

Election District No. 1

FREDERICK E. EBERLY

Election District No. 2

DEE E. FLOYD

Election District No. 3

WILLIAM B. KYGER, JR.

Election District No. 4

MICHAEL A. BREEDEN

Election District No. 5

GEORGE WASHINGTON FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN RESOLUTION FOR DRINKING WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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 than 260,000 Virginia residents in 22 adjacent communities, by means of reservoirs and surface waters; and

WHEREAS, drinking water sources within the George Washington National Forest serve an estimated 53,000 residents in Rockingham County, the City of Harrisonburg and the towns of Bridgewater and Broadway; and

WHEREAS, the watersheds in the George Washington National Forest from the Switzer Lake Reservoir make available a source for drinking water for the residents of the City of Harrisonburg and some Rockingham County residents; and

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, also provide a source for drinking water to residents in the communities of Bridgewater, Broadway, Elkton and Harrisonburg and surrounding Rockingham County; 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, in the 1993 George Washington National Forest Management Plan most of the land in drinking water reservoir watersheds (72 percent) is managed without ground disturbing activities, and the U.S. Forest Service reports the water quality in the reservoir watersheds is substantially better than in surface watersheds in other parts of the George Washington National Forest; 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

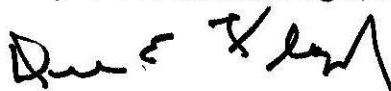
NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors supports the following actions to implement an objective as a part of the George Washington National Forest Management Plan to promote the quality and quantity of drinking water sources within the forest boundaries:

- The U.S. Forest Service identify the watersheds serving the Switzer Lake reservoir and the surface water resources within the George Washington National Forest that feed the North River and South and North Forks 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 resource 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 Rockingham County Board of Supervisors recommends that, the U.S. Forest Service retain all management techniques and options in the approved Forest Management Plan that are necessary to protect the drinking water quality, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rockingham 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.

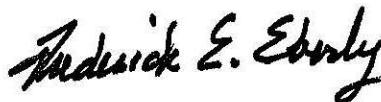
Given under our hand this 10th day of December
in the year two thousand eight, A.D.



Dee E. Floyd, Chairman
Supervisor, District 3



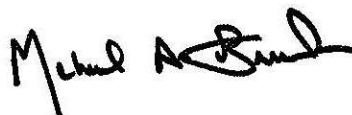
Pablo Cuevas
Supervisor, District 1



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William B. Kyger, Jr.
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Supervisor, District 5

Attest:



Joseph S. Paxton, County Administrator