



File Code: 1920

Date: March 7, 2010

Dear Planning Participant:

Thank you for your continued patience during the past year as we waited for direction to continue with the revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest. We have just issued our Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement and Revised Forest Plan. We will be following the 1982 planning regulations to complete the revision. This NOI begins a 60 day comment period when we are asking for your comments to further refine the scope of this analysis. We hope that you will take the time to visit our website (www.fs.fed.us/r8/gwj/forestplan/revision) to review how we have used the previous work we have done together as a starting point for future discussions. We have scheduled public meetings next month to examine these ideas and facilitate your comments. The meetings are scheduled as follows (all meetings will be from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm):

Monday, April 12, 2010
Valley Elementary School
98 Panther Drive
Hot Springs, VA

Wednesday, April 28, 2010
Woodstock National Guard Armory
541 Hoover Road
Woodstock, VA 22664

Wednesday, April 14, 2010
East Hardy High School
Baker, WV

Thursday, April 29, 2010
Augusta County Government Center
18 Government Lane
Verona, VA

Monday, April 19, 2010
Rockbridge Co. High School
143 Greenhouse Rd.
Lexington, VA 24450

We will update you on the planning process and discuss issues and alternatives. We would like to build on the work that was started at our previous public meetings.

We have posted several documents on our website that may help you in providing us comments during scoping. These include:

- Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS – The formal initiation of the process to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and revised forest plan.
- Evaluation of the Need for Change – Analysis of the implementation of the current plan in relationship to the desired conditions of the Forest Plan.
- Summary of the Needs for Change – Summary of what we have identified as needs for change based on our analysis and the discussions we have had with stakeholders over the



past 3 years.

- Identification of and Evaluation of Potential Wilderness Areas
- Desired Conditions –Description of forest-wide desired conditions proposed to address the needs for change.
- Objectives and Mapping of Management Prescription Areas – Brief identification of some objectives and locations of management prescription areas proposed to address the needs for change.
- Forest-wide Standards and Management Prescription Area Direction – List of standards and management direction adapted from the Jefferson Forest Plan that could be used in revising the GW plan.
- Description of a preliminary alternative that places more emphasis on remote recreation and remote habitats
- Various inventory maps

This information has been posted to help you focus your comments on what issues need to be addressed, what alternatives should be evaluated and what direction you would like to see in the draft forest plan. We are requesting that you submit scoping comments by May 7, 2010 to be most useful in helping us draft the plan and EIS.

Thank you for your past efforts at helping us identify the management needs for the Forest and we hope that you can join us at one of these meetings.

Sincerely,



Henry B. Hickerson
Acting Forest Supervisor