

CAROLYN W. DULL
MAYOR

DIRECT DIAL 540.332.3810
FACSIMILE 540.851.4001



116 W. BEVERLEY STREET
P.O. Box 58
STAUNTON, VA 24402

January 3, 2018

VIA EMAIL IN PDF AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mr. Joby Timm
Forest Supervisor
George Washington and Jefferson National Forests
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, Virginia 24091

Re: Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area

Dear Supervisor Timm:

During the forest planning process, in 2012, the City of Staunton submitted the attached letter to the U.S. Forest Service, conceptually supporting the establishment of Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, but expressing concern about the inclusion in the scenic area of Elkhorn Lake, Staunton Dam and the areas immediately around them. The City's primary concern at the time was that that designation might preclude or inhibit maintenance or repair of the City's public water facilities.

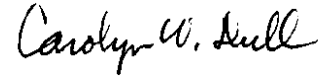
The City has reconsidered, and we now wish to voice support for the inclusion of both reservoirs and all of the North River watershed on Hankey Mountain and Elkhorn Mountain (roughly 3,000 acres) in the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, as proposed previously by Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, supported by the George Washington National Forest Stakeholder Collaborative shown on the attached map. Although the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest prohibits leasing of most of the forest for natural gas development, the City believes permanent congressional designation of such a scenic area will provide stronger, most lasting protection of the City's water supply.

Our support is conditioned on the preparation of legislation that sufficiently provides for the City's right to access, operate, maintain, replace and improve its existing water facilities in the proposed scenic area and, if necessary, to construct and maintain new water infrastructure. We look forward to working with members of Virginia's

Mr. Joby Timm
January 3, 2018
Page 2

congressional delegation and other stakeholders to ensure such protection of the City's interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn W. Dull". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Carolyn W. Dull
Mayor

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Tim Kaine (via email in PDF)
The Honorable Mark Warner (via email in PDF)
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte (via email in PDF)
Lynn Cameron, Friends of Shenandoah Mountain (via email in PDF)
Mark Miller, Virginia Wilderness Committee (via email in PDF)
Members of the Staunton City Council (via email in PDF)

1.10.10.03

Stephen F. Owen
City Manager

Birthplace of the
Council-Manager
Form of Government



116 W. BEVERLEY STREET
P.O. Box 58
STAUNTON, VA 24402

540.332.3812 (O)
540.851.4000 (F)

February 8, 2012

Mr. Ken Landgraf
Planning and Forest Ecology Group Staff Officer
US Forest Service
5162 Valleypointe Parkway
Roanoke, VA 24019

Dear Mr. Landgraf:

While the City of Staunton generally supports the concept of the National Scenic Area for portions of the George Washington National Forest, we believe that the areas immediately surrounding Elkhorn Reservoir and Staunton Reservoir, as well as the reservoirs themselves, should be excluded. Both reservoirs are critical to supplying water for the City of Staunton, as well as some parts of Augusta County. We do not want to end up in a situation, for example, if any of these impoundments required some sort of major maintenance, that this designation would preclude or inhibit any associated maintenance or repair activities.

The City does support bans on the drilling of Marcellus Shale for natural gas, as was previously sent to your office. See attached copy of Resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen F. Owen', written in a cursive style.

Stephen F. Owen
City Manager

Attachment (1)

**Resolution to the U.S. Forest Service on the George Washington
Natural Forest Plan, Drinking Water Resource Management
and Hydraulic Fracturing Natural Gas Mining**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service is preparing a draft forest plan and environmental impact statement for release in January 2011 that will govern management of resources within the George Washington National Forest for the next 15 years, and

WHEREAS, drinking water sources within the George Washington National Forest serve an estimated 25,000 residents in the City of Staunton, and

WHEREAS, the Staunton City Council passed a resolution on April 23, 2009 calling on the Forest Service to provide comprehensive management and protection of drinking water resources in the Forest, and

WHEREAS, over half (55.6%) of the George Washington National Forest on the western border of Augusta County is underlain by the Marcellus shale geological formation, a potential source of natural gas that is mined by a drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, and

WHEREAS, horizontal hydraulic fracturing requires from two to 10 million gallons of water per well, combined with sand and numerous chemicals, to break up shale and access natural gas, a drilling and mining process that has been linked to surface water and drinking water contamination, air pollution and soil contamination in a dozen states, and

WHEREAS, horizontal hydraulic fracturing gas mining has been linked to other significant adverse environmental impacts, including massive water withdrawals, gas migration from new and abandoned wells, the inability of public treatment plants to adequately treat millions of gallons of gas mining waste water, underground injection of brine waste water, improper erosion and sediment control, improper cementing and casing of wells, over-pressurized wells, significant increases in industrial truck traffic with subsequent increases in accidents on rural roads, and other accidents and spills, and

WHEREAS, Congress' 2005 Energy Policy Act exempts the hydraulic fracturing drilling process from long-held environmental regulations such as the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Superfund law and other environmental regulations and,

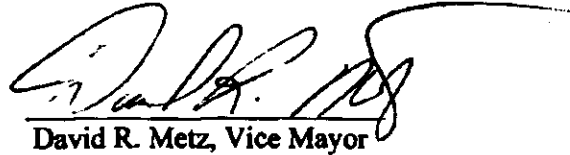
WHEREAS, the exact chemicals used in the horizontal hydraulic fracturing process are currently considered 'proprietary' and therefore are not disclosed to federal, state or local health officials or the public, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the midst of a two-year study of effects of hydraulic fracturing gas mining on water quality and other resources, to inform the development of regulations and recommendations to reduce environmental impacts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Staunton City Council requests that the U.S. Forest Service, in the revised management plan for the George Washington National Forest, act to aggressively protect drinking water resources by prohibiting

horizontal hydraulic fracturing natural gas wells in the George Washington National Forest.







Adopted: October 14, 2010





David R. Metz, Vice Mayor

ATTEST: Deborah A. Lane
Deborah A. Lane
Clerk of Council

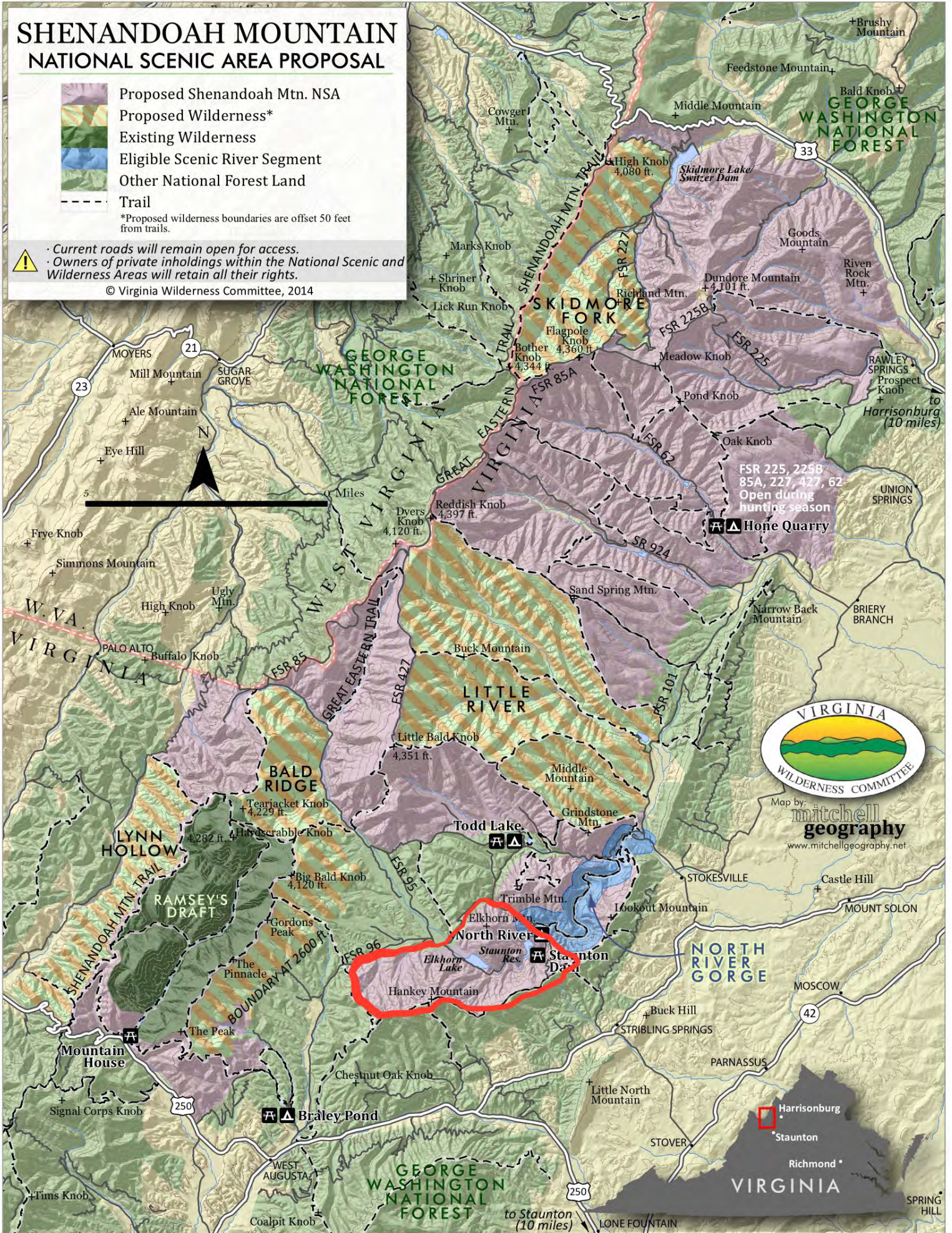
SHENANDOAH MOUNTAIN NATIONAL SCENIC AREA PROPOSAL

-  Proposed Shenandoah Mtn. NSA
-  Proposed Wilderness*
-  Existing Wilderness
-  Eligible Scenic River Segment
-  Other National Forest Land
-  Trail

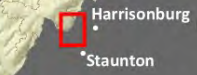
*Proposed wilderness boundaries are offset 50 feet from trails.

-  Current roads will remain open for access.
-  Owners of private inholdings within the National Scenic and Wilderness Areas will retain all their rights.

© Virginia Wilderness Committee, 2014



Map by: **mitchell geography**
www.mitchellgeography.net



Harrisonburg
Staunton
Richmond