

## **George Washington National Forest Plan Revision Meetings**

### **Meeting Primer (what to expect, conduct suggestions and where to go)**

This is your opportunity to help shape the plan that will guide the direction of the forest for the next decade. If you like to ride in the forest and want the trails and land we love protected and kept open to bikes, then you need to head to one of the public comment meetings. Past meetings have had hundreds of loggers, wilderness advocates, hunters, and other concerned citizens show up to express their opinions. Let's make sure the Forest Service understands how much we mountain bikers value the land, the forest, and the trails we ride and maintain.

Please wear any SMBC, MORE, CAMBC, IMBA, or other mountain bike related clothing to indicate you're a cyclist. It is optimal to have mountain bike representation in each group. The groups are selected by counting off, but you are allowed to be flexible in which group you sit down with.

At the meetings, sign in and fill out a name tag. The meeting will start with a presentation by the GW forest planners that explains the state of the current planning process followed by group breakout sessions. Earlier meetings have had participants stay in the breakout groups work through all of the discussion areas.

During the round robin introduction state who you are, what club you are affiliated with, that you enjoy riding a mountain bike on trails in the GW, possibly indicate how long you have enjoyed this opportunity. If you participate in volunteer trail work please mention this and how often and with what club you volunteer. If you are willing to assist in the development and maintenance of new trails please indicate this as well.

Please stay calm and don't get angry. Emotions have run high at some past planning meetings and those that displayed anger have not added credibility to their issues. Projecting a pleasant and professional demeanor will enhance mountain biker's credibility and standing with the USFS staff and the other stakeholders.

During the discussions please mention any of the suggested talking points or requests - especially those that resonate most with you. Be sure that your comments are actually recorded by the recorder. Providing specific examples is encouraged.

Contact Chris Scott ([chris@mountaintouring.com](mailto:chris@mountaintouring.com)) or Rich Edwards ([rich@imba.com](mailto:rich@imba.com)) for more details or questions.