WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Twenty-two localities and over 329,000 residents in the Shenandoah Valley and surrounding mountains obtain some or all of their drinking water from the streams and rivers flowing from the GW. The forest also protects many headwaters of the James and Potomac Rivers, which ultimately supply drinking water for more than 4.5 million people in Richmond, northern Virginia and the Washington, D.C. metro area. Gas drilling and fracking in the GW would pose a threat to these waters.

*Disclaimer: The USGS mapped the “gross boundary” of the Marcellus Shale assessment units at a scale of 1:2,000,000. This map is drawn at a larger scale, 1:100,000, so the boundary of the Marcellus Shale depicted here should be interpreted as approximate. For more information see: http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2011/3092/

Sources: Marcellus Shale (USGS, 2011); National Forest Boundaries (US Forest Service, 2009); Shenandoah National Park (National Park Service, 2009); Drinking water statistics (Wild Virginia, 2008; NRDC, 2012; EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Information System, 2014); Water Supply Watersheds (Wild Virginia, 2005); County Boundaries (US Census Bureau) | Created by: Jovian Sackett (jsackett@selcnc.org) | Last updated: 9/11/2014