

## **Sierra Piedmont Group Seeks Reconsideration of Rivanna Reservoir Dredging**

*20 April, 2008*

This past week the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club wrote to various local decision makers, asking for a reconsideration of dredging of the Rivanna Reservoir as a key element in long term planning for the local water supply. The letter is printed below.

Albemarle supervisor Dennis Rooker, responding to the Piedmont Group's request, noted that continued maintenance dredging is an element of existing plan. Mr. Rooker indicated that he would like to see further study of the composition of the silt in the Rivanna Reservoir and a solicitation of proposals for dredging with goals ranging from maintenance to restoration of capacity. He noted that the permitting processes related to long term water planning are complex and time consuming and strongly influence plans that are adopted.

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Letter from Piedmont Group to Local Decision Makers Regarding Rivanna Dredging

16 April 2008

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors  
Charlottesville City Council  
Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority

Dear Board Members, Councillors and Staff:

In 2005 the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club endorsed the Community Water Supply Plan for the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. This plan allows further siltation of the Rivanna Reservoir and requires development of new storage capacity at the Ragged Mountain Reservoir. Our support for this plan was based in part on high estimated costs of dredging the Rivanna Reservoir provided earlier.

We are aware that in recent weeks, various knowledgeable individuals have asserted that dredging the reservoir could be conducted responsibly for far less than the estimate available at the time of our endorsement of the water plan. We believe that prudence now dictates reconsideration of dredging of the Rivanna Reservoir as a key element in a long-term water supply plan. In our view, maintaining the current capacity and functionality of the Rivanna Reservoir is highly desirable, as is the preservation of the thousands of trees that would be lost in the current Ragged Mountain plan.

We ask that you reconsider dredging of the Rivanna Reservoir.

Sincerely,

Thomas Olivier  
Conservation Chair, Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club