Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER January, 1970

DISMAL SWAMP MEETING

A meeting of those concerned with saving what is left of Great Dismal Swamp will be held Saturday, January 24, at 10:00 A.M. at the Chamber of Commerce Building, 1001 W. Washington, Suffolk, Va. We have invited representatives of conservation and civic groups to present their views , and intend to discuss and plan proposals for the preservation of the Swamp. Please try to attend if you are interested in this problem.

General News

The VWC has recently received a grant-in-aid from the Wilderness Society which will enable us to carry out some of our work more easily and efficiently. One telephone call is found to replace easily two weeks" exchange of letters. Our membership now stands at about 250, the mailing list is prepared, and more frequent newsletters are contemplated.

Subcommittee News

As noted above, Mr. Alvah Duke's group is planning a meeting on the Great Dismal Swamp.

Stan Young, Scenic Rivers Subcommittee chairman, has been coördinating efforts to enlist widespread support for the proposed Virginia Scenic Rivers bill in the General Assembly. He is also aiding local groups in planning for rivers in their areas to be taken into the system when the bill is passed.

A number of members, including the officers, Stan Young, Carl Holcomb (Trails Subcommittee), and Glen Moore (Wilderness Subcommittee), took part in a three day inspection of proposed "backwoods" areas in the George Washington National Forest. With Forest Service Officers Joe Huddick and Carl Huppuck as guides we visited an area on the south end of Massanutten Mountain and hiked up one stream in the proposed area, and then returned to Harrisonburg to inspect maps and discuss the planned "backwoods areas" in more detail. The next day a hike of fifteen miles allowed a detailed inspection of the Laurel Fork area. On the last day the group looked at and walked through part of the Ramsey's Draft area. We were impressed with the quality of the wilderness and have prepared a report setting forth our recommendations which will be submitted to the Forest Service and distributed to those who were at that inspection meeting.

John McKnight, Chairman
James Murray, Vice-Chairman
Lloyd Sumner, Secretary
Jon Soest, Acting Treasurer

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER September, 1970

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the V.W.C. was held in Richmond on April 25. The agenda included the election of officers and the drawing-up of by-laws.

Officers for this year:

Executive Committee:

Pres.	J. James Murray Dept. of Biology, U. of Va. Charlottesville, 22903	Home: Office:	973-6693 924-7118
V.-Pres.	Carl J. Holcomb Price Hall, VPI Blacksburg, 24061	Home: Office:	552-4897 552-6959
Past Pres.	John L. McKnight Dept. of Physics, Wm. & Mary Williamsburg, 23185	Home: Office:	229-5294 229-3000 ext. 471
Sec.	Lloyd Sumner, Box 1842 120 University Circle Charlottesville, 22903		
Treas.	Jon F. Soest Dept. of Physics, Wm. & Mary Williamsburg, 23185	Home: Office:	564-9847 229-3000 ext. 471

Sub-Group Chairmen:

Wilderness:	E. Glen Moore 3405 Sherwood Court Falls Church, 22042	560-3612
Scenic Rivers:	Stan Young 3119 N. Inglewood St. Arlington, 22207	536-7223
Swamps & Wetlands:	Alvah Duke 2125 S. Kinsley Ave. Richmond, 23224	232-3706
Trails:	Carl Holcomb (see above, V.-Pres.)	

Bylaws: You will receive a copy of the Bylaws in the mail very soon. Meanwhile, we would like to draw your attention to one particular Section (Article VII, Section 2):

> No subgroup of the VWC, nor any member thereof, shall take or make public any action, or make public any resolution or in any way commit the VWC or any of its participants on a question of policy or matters of general public interest without having first received specific approval or instructions from the President, who may at his discretion consult with the Executive Committee or conduct a referendum among all members.

It is important that all of us abide by this article. It ensures that the position and effectiveness of the V.W.C. will not be jeopardized by any individual who appears to represent the V.W.C. on any issue without the knowledge and consent of the elected officers.

Extension of Sub-Groups

After a year devoted largely to organization, we need now to begin involving people in specific activities. We plan to extend the sub-groups (Wilderness, Scenic Rivers, etc.) to cover more specific issues and areas of interest. This should give members a chance to work actively, often locally, on issues of special interest to them, and it would seem to be an efficient use of our manpower. We are especially interested in beginning detailed studies of various National Forest areas in Virginia, with a view to drawing up tentative wilderness proposals. Look for more details about these plans in the next NEWSLETTER.

Hot-Line

We are setting up a hot-line telephone network. We want to have it in operation by the time the General Assembly is in session, since important conservation issues may arise then that demand an immediate response. It will also be useful for dealing with any future "emergency" issues. We hope to include all of our members, so that effective pressure on an issue can be called forth on very short notice.

Anyone who is willing to serve as a major relay for the hot-line should fill out and return, as soon as possible, the tear-off sheet at the bottom of Page 4. Each relay will receive names, addresses and/or phone numbers of the people whom he will contact (in some cases it will be necessary to obtain a phone number, as we do not have numbers for all members). At present, it appears that each relay will have only 3 or 4 calls to make, unless he indicates willingness to handle more.

The main relay centers, in which we will need the most callers, are (1) suburban D.C. (Arlington-Falls Church-Alexandria, etc.), (2) the Norfolk area, (3) Charlottesville, (4) Richmond, and (5) Blacksburg. Some of the calls may have to be long-distance, but we will minimize the distance and the number of such calls that any one person will have to make.

We need lots of hot-line relays! The more volunteers, the fewer steps in the network, the more efficient we can be! See the tear-off sheet, Page 4.

Wetlands Symposium in Williamsburg

The Conservation Council of Virginia will sponsor a Wetlands Symposium in Williamsburg on November 9. The purpose of the symposium is to encourage increased interest and support for legislation to protect Virginia's wetlands. Some of you who have expressed special interest in wetlands will receive information from the Conservation Council of Virginia. Others who would be interested in attending should contact the V.W.C., Box 1778, Williamsburg. The Motor House will hold rooms, for those wanting to stay overnight, until October 9, so contact them before that date for reservations. We will include more information about the symposium in the next NEWSLETTER.

Hipes Dam on Craigs Creek

We oppose the construction of the proposed Hipes Dam on Craigs Creek, Botetourt County, and urge you to write Governor Holton if you do not support his approval of the project. For information, and to offer active assistance, contact Robert E. Jenkins, Dept. of Biology, Roanoke College, Salem, Va., 24153.

Lease of Part of Seashore State Park

The Division of Parks has leased a 15 acre portion of Seashore State Park ("surplus" land) to the Virginia Beach School Board for the construction of a school.

The North Shore Civic League and local residents are currently organizing an attempt to block this action, and would greatly appreciate your support. All of you in Tidewater who are concerned with the destruction of this lovely natural area should contact Mrs. J. W. Sills, Conservation Chairman of the North Shore Civic League (and member of the V.W.C.), 219 - 86th Street, Virginia Beach, 23451.

Furthermore, this action has broad implications for all of us, because if the lease is held to be binding, then this action could set a dangerous precedent in Virginia. Here, a decision has been made to dispose of public lands, lands held in trust for the citizens of Virginia, without consultation with these citizens. Undemocratic procedures of this nature cannot be condoned.

One-Liners

(Issues we are looking into/keeping an eye on.)

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The beach was threatened with destruction by motor vehicle use. Presently, the northern 1.2 miles are open to general public use (including vehicular), with the City of Virginia Beach providing policing and maintenance. The remaining 3 miles are open to through traffic only. This represents considerable restriction, compared with previous policies. Hopefully, within a couple of years complete closure to vehicular traffic can be achieved.

Salem Church Dam. Efforts continue to dam another of our Scenic Rivers, the Rappahannock, despite opposition from conservation groups and from the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Marble Valley Dam. We encourage support for the efforts of the Save the Marble Valley Association to preserve this lovely valley and its potential Scenic River, the Calf Pasture.

Northwest River dam (City of Chesapeake). This three mile long proposed dam would flood 15,000 acres including seven miles of scenic river area, and would destroy habitats of fish and wildlife both above and below the dam and raise the water table. Other options are available for supplying Chesapeake with needed water. For information about opposition to this dam, contact Frank M. Clemons, 3904 S. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake, 23322.

One-Liners (cont'd.)

Shenandoah Park Service wilderness proposal (according to a Park Ranger) still has not been sent to the Department of Interior!

Dismal Swamp is receiving the attention of numerous conservation organizations, and has strong and active citizen support. For information, contact either Mrs. Barbara Racine, President, Dismal Swamp Preservation Committee, 621 Robins Road, Virginia Beach, 23452, or Mr. Alvah Duke, V.W.C. Swamps and Wetlands Chairman (address, Page 1).

Fund Appeal

Thanks to all of you who have already contributed to the V.W.C.. Your checks, plus a grant that we received from the Wilderness Society, have launched us through our first year-and-a-half.

We need continued financial support, though. We anticipate more frequent NEWSLETTERS, and our 300-member mailing list is still growing, so each mailing becomes more costly. We also would like to contribute toward the very effective efforts of the Conservation Council of Virginia, of which we are an affiliated member.

Contributions of any size will be heartily appreciated!

Hot-Line tear-off sheet

last name	first name	street address	city

☐ I volunteer to act as a relay for the the Hot-Line, making 3 or 4 calls.

zip code

☐ I am willing to make more than 3 or 4 calls.

Phone: _____

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

NEWSLETTER October, 1970

Wilderness Study Subgroups

The September NEWSLETTER mentioned that we would like to organize subgroups to study specific potential wilderness areas. Many of us feel that formal proposals for wilderness areas in Virginia are long overdue. Since little positive action has come from the Park Service and the Forest Service, the alternative is for interested citizens to formulate wilderness proposals to be introduced by their Congressmen.

We have chosen five high-priority areas on which to begin studies for wilderness proposals. They are Dismal Creek, Apple Orchard Mountain, Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area, and Mountain Lake (all in Thomas Jefferson National Forest), and Shenandoah National Park. In addition, VWC members have investigated three areas in George Washington National Forest (Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and Massanutten Mt.), so we are ready to proceed with map studies on these areas.

The procedure for studying an area and drawing up a wilderness proposal initially involves acquiring familiarity with features and inholdings in the area by means of hikes, relief maps, and aerial photographs. For this reason, and to facilitate group meetings, members of a study group should either be located near the area or be free to travel to the area.

You need not have had experience with this sort of project, since we hope to have help from the Wilderness Society with procedures and planning.

If you live near any of the areas mentioned above, or if you are familiar with an area and free to travel on field trips and to meetings, if you have free time to devote to this project, and if you would like to be a member of a subgroup to study one of these areas and formulate a wilderness proposal, then please contact J. James Murray, Dept. of Biology, University of Virginia, Charlottesville 22903.

Also, please consider attending the VWC meeting at White Rocks Campground (see next section), as plans for wilderness study projects will be discussed there.

Come to VWC Meeting -- White Rocks Campground

All are invited to a meeting of the VWC on Friday, Oct. 30 - Sunday, Nov. 1, at White Rocks Campground, Thomas Jefferson National Forest, near Mountain Lake Biological Station, which is near Blacksburg. There are no shelters, so you should bring a tent or other weather protection. Other facilities are provided (water, rest rooms). Best route: US 460 to Va. 635.

Objectives: to study a couple of the Thomas Jefferson areas, and to discuss plans for studies of wilderness areas, plus other general topics.

Agenda: Friday, Oct. 30 (around 5 p.m.) -- meeting and discussion of several Va. conservation issues and wilderness objectives.

Saturday, Oct. 31 -- hike through Mountain Lake Scenic Area.

Sunday, Nov. 1 -- hike through another possible wilderness area, such as the vicinity of Apple Orchard Mt., or other areas, as you wish.

We hope to have a good turnout for this meeting. You should especially plan to come if you are interested in working in a wilderness study group.

Meeting on Thomas Jefferson and George Washington Master Plans

Jim Murray and John McKnight (current and past presidents of VWC) will attend a meeting on Friday, Oct. 16, in Roanoke, sponsored by Thomas Jefferson and George Washington National Forests, to discuss objectives for master plans for these areas. Our officers plan to make strong appeals for inclusion of wilderness areas in these master plans where appropriate. Results of this meeting will be heard at the White Rocks meeting.

Wetlands Symposium in Williamsburg

The Wetlands Symposium will be held on Monday, November 9, at the Cascades Restaurant near the Information Center. The Conservation Council of Virginia is sponsoring this symposium to stimulate interest in and support for the wetlands legislation that will be presented during the next session of the General Assembly. The morning session (9:00-11:45) will feature speakers (Hon. Thomas N. Downing; Dr. Wm. J. Hargis, Director of VIMS; and others) followed by discussion. Lunch will be at the Motor House Cafeteria (Dutch treat). The afternoon session (1:30-3:30) will deal with wetlands legislation, followed by discussion. At 6:30 p.m. there will be complimentary cocktails in the Virginia Room, Williamsburg Lodge, followed by dinner at 7:30 ($10). The keynote speaker will be the Hon. Andrew Miller, Attorney-General.

If you wish to attend this symposium, please contact, immediately, Mrs. Neil Holmberg, 106 Holcomb Dr., Williamsburg 23185. If you wish to attend the dinner, please include $10 in your note to her.

We urge you to contact members of your city government, county boards of supervisors, and local planning commissions, and urge them to attend this symposium. (Many, especially in coastal areas of Virginia, will already have received notices of the symposium, but your urging will help encourage them to attend.) We urge you to attend, also, to consider and discuss the wetlands legislation and prepare to help propel this critical piece of legislation through the General Assembly.

Dismal Swamp

On October 10 and 11 the Dismal Swamp Preservation Committee met with members of the Conservation Council of Virginia and other conservation leaders to relate progress of the campaign to save the Dismal. Saturday was devoted to talks on the geology and history of the swamp. On Sunday a tour through parts of the swamp noted the drought-stricken state of Lake Drummond and looked over the Jarvis and Edge tract, which has recently been the subject of negociations by the State.

Despite growing local interest and action, the prospects for the Dismal are not very bright. U.S. government agencies have shown little interest, and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Economic Development is reluctant to act without massive funding from the General Assembly. Present possibilities for action seem to be threefold: 1) efforts to interest the Dept. of Conservation & Economic Development by writing the director, Mr. M.M. Sutherland, 911 E. Broad St., Richmond 23219; 2) efforts to educate state legislators to the necessity of providing funds for land acquisition, 3) support for the Dismal Swamp Preservation Committee, which is considering the practicability of a fund-raising drive for purchase of land. The chairman of the committee is Mrs. Barbara Racine, 621 Robins Rd., Virginia Beach 23452.

Scenic Rivers

To date, only one river, Dragon Run, has been studied by the Outdoor Recreation Commission. (Under the Scenic Rivers Act, this commission must prepare a study before any river can be acted on by the General Assembly.)

Local interest is fairly strong concerning the Rappahannock, Rivanna, Northwest, South Fork of the Shenandoah, Calf Pasture, and Chickahominy Rivers, and Craig Creek. However, no bills are in sight yet. It appears as though there isn't much chance of positive action without very active and concentrated local support by people living near these rivers.

We urge members to write to Governor Holton, encouraging him to investigate the apparent lack of progress on scenic rivers and to insist on more rapid implementation of the Scenic Rivers Act.

Incidentally, has anyone else noticed the strong correlation between rivers mentioned in the Scenic Rivers Act and rivers mentioned by VEPCO and the Corps of Engineers as sites for future dams?

Speakers Bureau

The VWC could contribute more toward greater public awareness of the value of natural areas and keener interest in their preservation if we developed a speakers bureau. We are sure that among our members, or their acquaintances, are individuals who are well informed on topics such as a specific natural area with which they are familiar, current or long-range local conservation issues, general aspects of conservation, specific topics in ecology, natural history, and environment-related problems, etc. We would like to compile a list of such individuals and their topics. Then, on request by an organization, or for a particular occasion, we could recommend an appropriate speaker.

If you are familiar with a conservation-oriented subject, or know someone who is, and feel that it is a subject of which people should become more aware, we would like to hear from you. The nature of the topic could range from a narrated slide show on an area of particular beauty to a lecture on predator-prey relationships in a sand dune community. If the topic is important to you, then you can make it important to others.

If a topic interests you, but you do not have it ready for actual presentation, give the idea some thought. Perhaps a little more research or organization are all you need to round out your topic for presentation. And don't be shy. We need more public interest in preserving our natural areas, and one way to generate interest is to show people why you were concerned enough about a subject to become something of an authority.

Please let us know the title of your topic, the nature of your presentation (film, address, etc.), the "props" you would need (35 mm. slide projector and screen, etc.), and how you came by your familiarity with the topic. Write to VWC, P.O. Box 1778, Williamsburg 23185.

Fund Appeal (Correction)

In our fund appeal in the Sept. NEWSLETTER, we neglected to tell you where to send the funds. For those of you with pens still poised over your checks, please send contributions to the VWC, P.O. Box 1778, Williamsburg 23185. (Checks that were sent to Jim Murray have been forwarded.) Sorry about the confusion. Thank you very much for your support.

Hot-Line

On the last page you will find, once again, a Hot-Line tear-off sheet. (Send to VWC, P.O. Box 1778, Williamsburg 23185.) We have had only 14 responses, and need many, many more volunteers before we can begin to construct a Hot-Line network. Especially needed are volunteers near Alexandria, Annandale, Arlington, Falls Church, McLean, etc., since we have a high density of members in these areas. Remember, only three or four calls (or more, if you like) to specific people are all you will make. It won't take much time, and you might generate the necessary support or opposition on a crucial issue.

Post Card for New Members

Many of you have sent in names and suggestions of possible new members. To expedite matters, we have enclosed a post card for you to give to anyone who you think might be interested in supporting the VWC and receiving the NEWSLETTER.

One-Liners

(Issues we are looking into/keeping an eye on.)

Marble Valley -- The Save Marble Valley Association, and their efforts to prevent construction of the proposed Marble Valley Dam, will now be represented, gratis, by Arnold and Porter, a noted Washington, D.C. law firm!

Hipes Dam (Craig Creek) -- There is strong opposition to this proposed dam, but it may not be sufficient to overcome support for the dam. Write letters, in large numbers, to Governor Holton.

Northwest River proposed dam is up against local opposition that may be strong enough to discourage the project. For information, contact Mr. Frank Clemons, 3904 S. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake 23322.

Salem Church Dam proposal is presently the subject of much confusion among the State, the Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, etc. Apparently neither the plans for the dam nor the purpose that its construction is to fulfill is completely clear cut after all.

A Shenandoah/Potomac River Basin meeting, sponsored by the Water Resources Commission of the Dept. of Conservation and Economic Development, will be held in Winchester on October 23 (time?) at the War Memorial Bldg. Purpose: to discuss a master plan for the river basins with respect to water resources. Go if you can, and take a stand for designation of these rivers as Scenic Rivers, and for the preservation of scenic values as well as (or instead of) construction of dams.

One-Liners (cont'd.)

Seashore State Park -- The Conservation Council of Virginia has sent a letter to the Attorney-General asking him to investigate the validity of the lease that, for $1 per year, hands part of this state park, including swamp land and "living dunes" over 50 feet high, to the City of Virginia Beach for construction of a school. For information about this area, or to join the opposition, contact Mrs. J. W. Sills, 219 - 86th St., Virginia Beach 23451. Note: these people are in need of legal assistance. If you can help, or know someone who can, please let Mrs. Sills know.

Hot-Line tear-off sheet

last name	first name	street address	city

/_/ I volunteer to act as a relay for the Hot-Line, making 3 or 4 calls.

zip code

/_/ I am willing to make more than 3 or 4 calls.

Phone: _____

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Box 1778, Williamsburg 23185

NEWSLETTER May, 1971

Annual Meeting
Virginia Wilderness Committee

Date: Saturday, May 29, 1971
Place: America the Beautiful Foundation lodge -"Rowland" -- 5 miles east of The Plains, Va. (near Warrenton), on U.S. Highway 55.
Time: 10 a.m. to late afternoon. (To call the lodge dur ng the meeting, phone (703)754-7434.)
Order of Business:

10 a.m. Call to order and routine business. Treasurer's report. Nominations for offices.
10:30 Discussion of conservation topics (see below) and adoption of policy statements.
12 noon Lunch. There will be no facilities for a hot lunch, so please bring your own. Water, restrooms, etc., will be provided.
1 p.m. Continuation of morning discussions.
3 p.m. Vote on Bylaws amendment to allow dues. Election of officers for the next year. Adjourn.
3:30 As time allows, slides will be shown of our several wilderness investigation trips. Those of you with some good pictures, bring them along. Projector (35 mm.) will be provided.

Topics to be discussed at the annual meeting:

Shenandoah National Park Wilderness Proposal
National Forest Unit Planning
National Wildlife Refuge problems -- Back Bay, Fisherman's Island, Assateague Island
Salem Church Dam vs. the Rappahannock as a Scenic River
Dues or voluntary contributions?
Incorporation of the VWC

Suggestions for other topics, as well as nominations for offices, are welcome!

Special Notice to people in northern Va.: We have made a special effort to arrange a meeting near you this year. Let's see a big turnout at this year's meeting!

Conservation Council of Virginia -- Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday & Sunday, May 15 & 16.
Place: Skyland, Shenandoah Nat'l. Park.
Agenda: Election of officers; general business and discussions; formal presentations by John Hanes of Governor's Council on the Environment, by U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife on Back Bay N.W.R., and by U.S. Forest Service on Jefferson.N.F.
Order of Business:

Saturday, 10 a.m. -- Board of Direstors meet.
1.p.m. -- General Session, formal presentations (see above)
Sunday, 9 a.m. -- General Session, election of at-large board membs.
10:30 -- General Session, committee chairmen report, discussion.
noon Adjourn

CCVa. -- Annual Meeting (cont'd.)

In case you are unfamiliar with the Conservation Council of Virginia, it is a council composed of about 40 participating conservation-oriented organizations (including the VWC), representing over 175,000 members. The CCVa's stated purpose is "working for the conservation (preservation and/or wise use) and appreciation of Virginia's natural and historic resources." You are welcome to attend this annual meeting.

Important Wilderness Items

Shenandoah National Park Proposal -- The National Park Service has completed its Wilderness Recommendations for the Shenandoah National Park. These recommendations were recently endorsed by President Nixon, and they must now be presented in proper form to Congress for adoption under the Wilderness Act. We have received a copy of these recommendations from The Wilderness Society, and will present a detailed review in the future. (If you would like a copy also, please contact the Nat'l. Park Service -- the Wilderness Society has only a limited number.)

The N.P.S.'s proposal now calls for 73,000 acres of wilderness, instead of the 62,000 acres originally proposed. This is much less than the 91,000 acres proposed by conservationists four years ago. (The conservationists' proposal was probably smaller than it should have been.)

Important decisions need to be made concerning our policy, i.e. whether to call for inclusion of more area, consideration of shortcomings, etc. However, since the N.P.S. proposal will be used as a starting point, you could begin action by writing to Senator Byrd and Congressman Robinson (whose district contains the proposed Wilderness Area) and urging them to file the bill (as proposed by the N.P.S.) that would establish the Shenandoah Wilderness.

Thomas Jefferson & George Washington National Forest Unit Plans --

The U.S. Forest Service is currently attempting to improve its system of land management. The process of revision offers us a unique opportunity to influence policy in the direction of more respect for the natural values of forest lands. The planning is taking place in two steps. Phase I, the preparation of a master plan or Guide for the Appalachian Region, is nearing completion. The VWC has contributed to this effort at two hearings held in Roanoke this winter to sound public opinion and to evaluate a rough draft of the Guide.

Phase II is about to begin, with the preparation of Unit Plans for blocks of land within each forest. These are to be units of 25,000 acres or so, each to contain subsections devoted to particular management objectives. The Jefferson Forest has appointed Mr. Wayne Kelley from the Blacksburg Ranger District to head up the planning effort. Jim Murray has met with Mr. Kelley, Mr. M.J. Penfold the new Forest Supervisor, and Mr. Charles Blankenship to discuss procedures and goals. Some points are now clear:

1. The Forest Service is much more receptive than it has ever been before to the designation of special areas for scientific study, scenic value, historic interest, recreation, etc. They are sympathetic to our expressed goal of 5% of the national forest lands to be set aside from timber production -- a total of something like 30,000 acres in the Jefferson Forest.

TJ & GWNF Unit Plans (cont'd)

2. They are anxious to have our help in inventorying and evaluating their holdings.

3. They are adamant in their opposition to formal Wilderness Area designations.

We now have the problem of deciding our reaction. This must be done at the forthcoming annual meeting (Sat., May 29 -- see p. 1) The first hearing on the first Unit Plan will have taken place (on May 6) when you receive this. We hope to have delivered a statement on the Poverty Creek-Craig Creek Unit. But we must decide whether to continue our cooperation on their terms or to go for formal wilderness designations over their heads. It is a tough decision. Come and help us make it.

Jim Murray
VWC President

The next year or two will be vital in the struggle for wilderness preservation in Virginia. If you haven't actively joined in the battle, now is the time. The VWC needs support from all of you out there: letters, money, field trips and inspection tours, attendance at our meetings, ideas, suggestions, enthusiasm.

National Wildlife Refuge News

Back Bay N.W.R. (south of Va. Beach) -- Use of the beach and dunes by motor vehicles is completely out of hand, despite efforts of the management to enforce restrictions. The trash situation is atrocious, the birds seem to have left to beach. If it reaches us in time, we will enclose a mailer from the group in Virginia Beach that is working with the Refuge management to try to improve the situation.

Fisherman's Island (tip of Cape Charles, on Eastern Shore -- This island belongs to the Navy but is soon to be declared surplus land, and was originally to be transferred to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, to remain an undeveloped wildlife refuge. However there is pressure on Congressman Downing and others, from Eastern Shore developers, to transfer the island to the National Park Service to be used partly for recreation. (Its recreational value is questionable -- it is a small island, and is surrounded by treacherous currents.) Downing and others have requested that the decision be put off for 90 days. To take an active role in preserving this island, contact Mrs. Joan Skeppstrom, 1104 Westover Ave., Norfolk 23507.

Seashore State Park

Strong lobbying by conservationists helped to pass a law in this past legislature to prevent the transfer of land from State Parks without legislative approval. This action originated in the controversy over the lease of a portion of SSSP. SSSP did not benefit from the new law, since the leases had already been signed. However, at present some progress is being made toward saving the threatened portion of this park. Meanwhile, the VWC Executive Committee voted to act as co-plaintiff (along with many other conservation groups) with the Citizens Committee for Virginia State Parks, as a last resort, if litigation is necessary.

Membership News

Our membership now numbers about 350. This NEWSLETTER is being mailed to over 400 members of the Sierra Club in northern Virginia, along with an invitation to join the VWC. This completes our mailings to the Virginia memberships of The Wilderness Society and the Sierra Club. From now on, we must depend on word-of-mouth (yours) for additional members -- so talk it up! Please don't just send us names, however -- tell prospective members to send us a post card themselves.

To the Sierra Clubbers -- we hope you will join us in the struggle to preserve wilderness in Virginia. If not, will you pass the invitation and post card along to someone else? Thanks.

Revision of Mailing List

We will be updating and correcting our mailing list this summer. If you have any corrections, please let us know (we have to re-type them all). Notice especially students and armed forces personnel!

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Box 1778, Williamsburg 23185

NEWSLETTER July, 1971

NOTES FROM V.W.C. ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 29, 1971, ROWLAND

First we wish to thank the America the Beautiful Fund for its gracious hospitality in allowing us to use their scenic lodge at Rowland. Bruce Dowling related to us some of their problems in trying to preserve Bull Run Mtn. and some of the surrounding area. Persons interested in assisting in enlarging protecting and studying this historic area should contact : Bruce Dowling, ROWLAND; THE PLAINS, VA.

New Officers elected were: President -- Carl Holcomb
Route 2
Blacksburg, Va. 24060
Ph. 552-4897

Vice President: Glen Moore
3405 Sherwood Ct.
Falls Church, Va. 22042
Ph. 560-3612

Secretary: Bob Smiley
900 C Palmer Dr.
Blacksburg, Va. 24060
Ph. 552-0096

Treasurer: Sally Soest
P.O. Box 1778
Williamsburg, Va. 23185
Ph. 564-9847

AT THE GENERAL MEETING, THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS WERE VOTED ON:

1) To give $50.00 to C.C.V. for mailing expenses for 1971.
2) To support the Shenandoah N.P. Wilderness Proposal (see below for further details)
3) To continue with the status quo on the National Forest unit planning procedures.
4) To add our name as co-plaintiff in the proposed suit against federal officials over mismanagement of the Back Bay N.W.R.

PROPOSALS REJECTED:

1) To accept development of Jack Mtn. in Highland Cty. as a ski resort without further study.
2) Having regular dues (See Treasurey report below)

TREASURY:

Since, at the annual meeting, the V.W.C. again voted against having regular dues, we are dependent on valuntary contributions to cover the cost of mailings..

We have been told several times that mentioning a conservation issue in the Newsletter results in lots of effective letters, telegrams, and phone calls. So, your contribution to VWC, and thus, toward Newsletter mailings, represents a lot of leverage.

The Treasury (prior to this Newsletter) was capable of about 1.4 mailings. So, NOW is the time!

THANK YOU.

Sally Soest, Treasurer
P.O. Box 1778
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

EXECUTIVE MEETING - June 26, 27, 1971, LOFT MTN. S.N.P. The past year's accomplishments were reviewed and areas of emphasis for the coming year were discussed. Our number one priority and our main purpose for being, it was agreed, is WILDERNESS and this is where we should concentrate our efforts. To do this, we are setting up task forces in three areas with the following objectives: 1) Shenandoah National Park -- passage of the bill establishing wilderness areas in the Park -- more included.

2) George Washington National Forest -- a study of petential wilderness areas. 3) Jefferson National Forest -- a study of potential wilderness areas.

We need well informed people (amateur and professional) for each of these studies and are asking for volunteers. If we are to have wilderness in Virginia, we must move fast. It will require work -- but it can be both satisfying and pleasureable.

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS: Proposed Shenandoah National Park Wilderness Areas-- Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. and Congressman J. Kenneth Robinson have each entered identical bills to establish wilderness areas in the Shenandoah National Park. This is in response to the action of the President in forwarding recommendations to the Congress for the establishment of wilderness areas in the SNP and 13 other areas around the country.

We should write to Senator Byrd for his interest in SNP wilderness by entering S.2148 (a carbon to Senator Spong would be helpful). A similar letter should be sent to Congressman Robinson, in whose district SNP is located, for entering H.R.9585 with expressions of hopefulness that action can be taken this session of the Congress. We have waited for four years to get wilderness recommendations to the Congress. It is vital that we get action now that we are in a position to act. Letters to Senator Jackson and to Congressman Aspinall, expressing the hope that hearings can be scheduled for each of these bills, will also help. An outline of the Wilderness Act, setting up the National Wilderness Preservation System, will be sent to anyone requesting it.

FISHERMANS ISLAND -- At the southern tip of Eastern Shore is a small island of great importance to nesting and migratory birds. It is owned by the Navy Department and was used during WW II as an anti-submarine base. A few years ago it was leased to the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, which has managed it as a game refuge. The Navy now has no further use for it and wishes to dispose of it.

The normal procedure for a federal agency, when it wishes to dispose of property, is to offer it to other federal agencies and then if there are no takers among these, to offer it for state and local use.

In this case, however, local government and business interests are pressuring the Navy to make the land available for recreational development. Obviously, such development would destroy the nesting and migration of thousands of birds. In addition, the current around the island is considered very treacherous, which makes its recreational value questionable.

The ownership of this island can very easily be transferred to the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife and left as is. A letter to your Congressman would be very effective here.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VA. MEETING -- WISE, VA. -- The CCV is an organization concerned with conservation and environmental problems, particularly in Virginia. It has been alert to almost all attacks of any significance on the environment and, has been able to have many things stopped, altered, or reconsidered. The governing body of the organization is composed of delegates who make up its board of directors. Your delegate is currently your president, with Jim Murray as alternate.

The Wise Cty. meeting, held July 10-11, started with a field trip to see and learn about the effects of strip mining in Virginia. Those who have not seen strip mining or similar destruction of the land cannot even imagine the

damage to the land surface, streams, etc., etc. Virginia attempted some control in 1966, but both the laws governing reclamation and their execution, are woefully inadequate. The CCV at its business meeting passed a six-point resolution requesting that the State make improvements in strip mining laws. Other action included discussion on the proposed sale of Continental Oil Co. land in Bland Cty. to the Jefferson National Forest. The Bland Cty. Board of Supervisors oppose. We are strongly in favor.

Also discussed was a German designed waste and garbage disposal system which saves much money, materials, etc., and limits pollution -- also makes valuable compost of garbage.

THE NEXT MEETING OF CCV WILL BE HELD IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, September 11 - 12. Individual members of participating organizations are invited to sit in on board meetings.

WILDERNESS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT NOW: The Wilderness Act requires that federal land management agencies prepare field studies and hold hearings on areas suitable for wilderness status, to be done within ten years of the passage of the Act. Seven years have gone by and hearings are less than half done.

To speed up the work of field studies, hearings, and recommendations to the Congress, the President has prepared an Executive Order which will command the federal gaencies involved to carry out the mandate of the Wilderness Act. Since these agencies have been so slow to act, they are now having pressure put on the President not to issue the Executive Order, but, merely to make a suggestion, expressing his interest.

If we are to have the Wilderness Preservation System that the law has set up, it is absolutely necessary that the agencies get busy. Send letters to the President NOW! expressing your feeling that we are in danger of losing wilderness areas and asking him to issue the Executive Order immediately, since it is evident, that such action will be the only way we will avoid losing many valuable areas.

The pressure is intense to scuttle the spirit as well as the letter of the Wilderness Act. Have your friends also write -- or telegraph.

EDITORIAL FROM Carl J. Holcomb, President, VWC

One of the problems with which all of us are continually faced is the conflict between local and regional or national interests, with respect to our resources. Local people are natrually interested in developing resources for their full economic (often short run) potential; whereas, they may have national significance. This is especially true with respect to areas of unusual natural beauty of areas of significant recreational interest. A few illustrations are: the dam in Hetch Hetchy canyon (Yosemite National Park), said to rival Yosemite itself; the cutting of Redwoods; resistance to a National Park which would cover an undisturbed watershed; the continuing attempt to put a Walt Disney recreation area in the Mineral Kind portion of the Sequoia National Forest.

This is not to say that all such things are wrong. But I believe that such resources, areas of unique natural beauty of historic interest, some streams, mountain scenery, and the few remaining acres of wilderness are parts of our national heritage and transcend local values. It may be a part of our rugged individualistic thinking that all such areas should be subject to exploitation for private profit but we have lost so much of our natural national wealth, that it is time to call a halt.

I believe that I have just as much right to the preservation of a scenic view or an area of white water for coneing as the man who lives next door. This is not to say that "all" our natural resources should be "locked up" as some would say, but it does mean that the national or regional or state-wide interest should hold where scarce or unique resources are involved.

We have made a start in this direction with our National Parks, Monuments, and Forests. Here we have set an example for the rest of the world. But there are areas outside these that merit and demand protection. Here is where those of us who are concerned and willing to act - first keeping informed then letter writing, telegrams, attendance at hearings - yes, local board of supervisors, highway meetings, etc. Local pressure can be very strong -- witness the misuse of Back Bay; bureaucrats can exert terrific pressure -- witness one federal bureau holding up the issuing of a presidential Executive Order. There is the ever increasing threat not only to areas needing protection, but, also to areas already under protection.

I urge you to keep informed and use your pen and your voice. The folks at Virginia Beach have shown us the way by keeping the Division of Parks from turning over a part of Seashore State Park to the City of Virginia Beach for a public school. Let's work har -- locally, state-wide and nationally -- to protect our heritage.

Volunteers for the three task forces mentioned earlier in this Newsletter should get in touch with me.

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Bpx 1778
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

NEWSLETTER October, 1971

We have received an urgent request from Joe Davis, Committee for the Preservation of Back Bay. The following is quoted from his letter:

1) It is rumored that the Department of the Interior is disappointed with the show of public support for its plan to close the beach of the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1972 to all vehicular traffic but that of authorized owners of property south of the refuge.

2) To help prop up Interior's weak knees, the membership of the Virginia Wilderness Committee and anyone who wants to see the integrity of the refuge restored is STRONGLY URGED (I cannot overemphasize this) to send letters of support to:

Mr. C. Edward Carlson
Regional Director
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Peachtree-Seventh Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

ALL letters, telegrams, etc, should be addressed to Me. Carlson, with copies of letters, if possible, sent to:

The Honorable William B. Spong, Jr.
The United States Senate
5327 New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Thomas N. Downing
House of Representatives
2135 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The primary objective is to let Mr. Carlson know that conservationists throughout Virginia--indeed, the Nation-- are backing the Department of the Interior in its fight to save the Back Bay beach form irreparable degradation, a struggle the outcome of which will determine the ultimate fate of this precious natural resource. It is imperative that ALL communications be directed to Mr. Carlsen. NOW! THIS MATTER IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

3. The letters to Mr. Carlson should stress two things:

A. Strong support for the 1972 Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge beach use plan that will severely restrict vehicular use of the oceanic beach.

B. The recommendation that in 1972 vehicular access through the refuge be granted only to legitimate owners of land in Virginia south of the refuge. These few people will soon be eleminated when the Virginia Division of Parks completes its land acquisition program for the False Cape State Park. Then, both the Back Bay Refuge and the False Cape beaches can be closed to all public vehicular traffic.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED "WHAT CAN I DO?" HERE IS YOUR CHANCE. FILL UP THE ENCLOSED PETITION. THESE PEOPLE NEED OUR HELP. NOW!

September 24-26: Sierra Clubs 12th Annual Biennial Wilderness Conference, Washington, D.C. This is the first time that this conference has been held in the East and we hope to have the opportunity again soon.

Those who attended the 3 days of talks and discussions are aware of the wealth of information that was exchanged. There is no way one could summarize such a conference. However, copies of manh of the speeches are available. The one most pertinent to our problems here in Virginia was made by James Moorman, entitled, Preserving Defacto Wilderness. In his speech, Mr. Moorman defines defactor wilderness and gives four steps that must be taken in order to preserve it. There are many areas in Virginia that are eligible. Write for a copy; it is certainly worth reading:

James W. Moorman
Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund
311 California St.
San Francisco, Calif. 94104

PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

The VWC objectives for the year, among others, are to make studies of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests to locate and study suitable areas for incorporation into the wilderness system. This is an on-going job in addition to seeing that the bills in the Congress for establishing wilderness areas in the Shenandoah National Park are passed.

It is a fact of life that the National Park Service is not interested in having much of its land in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Their plan for the Shenandoah is indicative of this. None of the land managing agencies want their hands tied by a law which limits their management opportunities. The same is true of the Forst Service. With the exception of a small percentage all of the land in the System (at the present, some 9 million acres, plus), is National Forest land. An additional 5 million acres classified as primitive, is also under consideration for wilderness. However, both the Forest Service and the Park Service are dragging their feet on making recommendations and the Forest Service is not interested in seeing their non-classified land become wilderness.

The timber industry is dead set against any additional land going into wilderness and they have a very effective lobby. If it is in the public interest to have more land in wilderness, we'd better get busy.

Anyone interested in being part of a team should write Carl J. Holcomb; Route 2, Box 385; Blacksburg, Va. 24060.

SEPTEMBER 11, CCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS; GREEN SPRINGS, VA. Subjects discussed are reported by our representative, Carl J. Holcomb.

CCV MEETING: On Saturday, September 11, the Board of Directors of the Conservation Council of Virginia (approximately 50 supporting organizations with a membership of 300,000 plus of which the VWC is a supporting organization, held its quarterly meeting at Green Springs in Louisa County. Many items of concern to VWC members were discussed and are reported here for your action.

1) Green Springs is an area of prime farm land in Louisa County occupied by working farms which have been in continuous production for as much as 200 years. The houses are mostly of pre-Civil War vintage and some are registered as National and State Historic landmarks.

   A few months ago, the State purchased several hundred acres of land in the center of the area for a maximum security prison. If this prison is allowed to be built, Green Springs will cease to exist as a rural area.

Other areas have been offered the State and pressure has mounted among large groups of people who do not want to see the area destroyed as a unique farming community.

Governor Holton has said that every effort would be made to maintain the environmental integrity of the area and see that its unique properties would not be destroyed. This is as absurd as it is dishonest. One does not build an institution employing several hundred people in an area several miles away from the nearest community and not have homes built, businesses, etc. spring up. It would be the ruination of this area.

These people need help. You should write to Governor Holton expressing your feelings. For more information, write to the Green Springs Assoc., P.O. Box 270, Gordonsville, Va. 22942. You can also give yourself a treat and gather more information with which to help the area. From October 15-17, there will be a Green Springs House Tour. Several of the houses will be open. Many oubbuildings will be open. Luncheon will be served; cost is $1.50. Tour tickets will be available at several places in the area. Green Springs can be reached from I-81 by going north on U.S. 15. Signs will direct you.

2) SALEM CHURCH DAM--SCENIC RIVER--SYMPOSIUM

For several years there has been a controversy over whether to build a Corps of Engineers dam near Fredricksburg on the Rappahannock River. These dams are usually promoted in the following manner: if one reason for construction is knocked down, another one takes its place. Power, flood control, water supply, flushing out pollution--all have their day. In order to justify Congressional appropriations, 43% of the value of the reservoir has been assigned to recreation.

This river, together with the Rapidan, are two of the rivers in Virginia recommended by the Department of the Interior, for Scenic River status. Should the decision be made to construct a dam, the scenic value would be destroyed as well as its suitability for canoeing and all the other benefits of a free-flowing stream. The dam would be 240 feet high and would flood over 20,000 acres. Now, in order to try to appease critics, Governor Holton has approved a lower dam (230 feet) which would only fllod 15,000 acres.

Enclosed with this letter is an announcement and pre-registration form for attendance to the "Rappahannock-Tipidan Rivers-Salem Church Dam Reservoir or Scenic River Symposium" to be held in Portsmouth on Saturday, October 30. Although not listed on the announcement, your Va. Wilderness Committee is also a sponsor of the Seminar.

We hope a large number of VWC members can attend. For those who can't, we would like to have a large response in the form of a written appeal to the Chairman of the Senate Public Works Committee, requesting a vote against any further appropriations for the dam. The House has recently voted a half million dollars for prelimiary work. As with all such letters, carbons to your Congressman, the Governor, etc., etc., will spread the effectiveness of your efforts.

3) WETLANDS--Last year there was introduced into the General Assembly, a series of bills to protect the tidal areas, estuaries, marshes, etc., of our eastern cost. The bills received very little consideration. They have been restudied and reworked since that time with the hopes of securing passage in the 1972 General Assembly. If the bills are to have any chance of passage, a great deal of work must be done--educating ourselves, the public, and above all, members of the General Assembly. This work must start now if

we are to have any success. Members for the General Assembly, particularly those not from the Tidewater, probably have little knowledge of the importance of the wetlands to the economy of the state. The Assemblymen will probably vote as members from the Tidewater counties ask them to and in most instances this will be catastrophic. There is pressure to use the wetlands for real estate developments and trash dumps, both of which would be short-sighted and disastrous uses.

To provide help for all who will work on this project, the Wetlands Committee of the Conservation Council of Va. has prepared a series of slides a commentary and other material to help workers who will join in this educational project. The set of slides costs 5.50 and may be obtained from Beverly Holmberg, Our Dynamic Wetlands, North Post Office, Va. 23128. Copies of the Wetlands Report of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) are also available.

OPEN LETTER FROM VWC PRESIDENT, CARL J. HOLCOMB

Every year is a crucial year for the environment and the next few months will be more crucial, especially for Virginia. Why? We elect a new General Assembly this year and between now and November 2, we have a chance to educate, to find out where the candidates stand, and then vote. But this is just the start. After the demonstration of the special session of the General Assembly last spring in authorizing the "giveaway" of state land by passing a bill to that effect in 2 days, it is evident that unless this one is different, we have got to watchdog the members with bulldog determination.

And still further, we have got to educate ourselves so that we don't go off half-cocked as so many times "environmentalists" are accused of doing. There is no substitute for having the facts.

There are many committees and organizations working to dig out facts and to get them into the hands of those who will use them effectively. Your VWC committee has or can put you in touch with sources.

People who are just becoming conscious of the need to work for environmental improvement frequently ask what they can do. I think most of us have developed our own ways of being effective. Foremost is to be come well-informed on at least one area and work for it. Anything we can do in addition to support other projects will probably take the form of letters, talking to others, etc.

One thing has been proved in the past five years or so. The public can be effective if it will make its wants known. The paid lobbyists of those who stand to gain from the indiscriminate use of our resources are on the job 24 hours of the day. Can we do less?

VWC NEWSLETTER JANUARY,1972

"NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN
TO COME TO THE AID OF THEIR COUNTRY"

This famous quotation has never held as much meaning as it does today. The present Virginia General Assembly is in session, hundreds of bills are being introduced, and the confusion will be compounded as the closing date approaches early in March. Among the bills to be presented will be many involving conservation and our environment. According to one legislator, tax and environment legislation will receive the most emphasis.

Within these next sixty days we have a chance to achieve some important decisions. You can help by attending meetings and writing and phoning our legislators, most of whom are at home on weekends. The confusion will be great and we must keep ourselves informed if any progress is to be made. Our most effective tool while the General Assembly is meeting will be our newly formed hot-line.

According to our treasurer, Sally Soest, all cities are pretty well organized except Richmond. All VWC members, especially those in Richmond, are urged to give generously of their time and energy during this crucial period.

For those not familiar with the hotline, it operates on the chain letter principle and will be used where action is urgently needed. We cannot overemphasize the importance of your participation. If you have any questions or information about the hot line, contact one of the VWC officers.

THE WETLANDS BILL:

Probably no legislation affecting resource use will have the long term effect of or will be fought harder than the wetlands legislation. Included in the wetlands are the marshes, seashore, estuaries and all the land along the coast affected by the tides and ocean weather. Not only do they form a protectivebarrier against violent storms, they are the breeding and feeding grounds for much of our marine life. As these areas are destroyed, our salt water food supply is diminished or lost, storm damage is increased, for which all of us must pay, birds and other animal life are destroyed, and prime recreation land is destroyed.

The present plight of these marshes and estuaries is their use as dumping grounds for garbage and trash, landfill sites for real estate developments, and as sources of sand and gravel.

The argument on wetlands legislation is merely a question of control To many of us this issue has top priority. Will the use of these areas reflect the needs of the majority or the wishes of a few?

There are those who profit from the unrestricted use of the wetlands. They oppose any legislation restricting its use. There are also those people who recognize the tremendous value of these areas when preserved in their natural state. They are working to restrict the wetland use.

Several states along the Atlantic coast have taken steps to protect their remaining wetlands. If we don't do the same, the pressure on ours will be greater than ever.

A NEW PROBLEM: CROW'S NEST POINT

Between the Potomac estuary and Accokeek Creek in Stafford County is a virgin area of marsh and woodlands which is not only of great value

for wildlife but serves as breeding and feeding grounds for marine life.

Within the past few weeks it has been announced that this area has been chosen for an immense real estate development. The marshes will be filled in by dredging, and higher areas bulldozed away for an industrial park, shopping center, helioport and a seventy-five acre marina, as well as accomodations for 20,000 people.

Those acquainted with the area regard it as one of the most beautiful and natural areas of Virginia. And those who know both Crow's Nest Point and Mason's Neck would undoubtedly see them as equivalent.

Until recently, plans for this proposed complex were kept secret. But now that the public has learned of the proposal, it is not unanimously favored. One drawback is the question of what to do with the sewage of this new complex when the rest of the community has not suffieiently solved it's own sewage disposal problems.

In order to study the situation, a committee has been organized, calling themselves Citizens for the Preservation of Crow'sNest Point. Anyone wishing to work with or for the committee or feels he has ideas to help them should write to the committee, c/o Michael L. Dunn, Rt. 2, Box 127c, Stafford, Virginia, 22554.

THE QUESTION OF BACK BAY REFUGE

For some months now the question of Back Bay Refuge has been under consideration by conservation as well as administrative groups.

Originally the U.S. Dept. of Interior proposed the closing of Back Bay to vehicular traffic but it favored the construction of a 1.3 mile paved road leading to a newly planned visitors center. The National Parks and Conservation Association, as well as the Wilderness Society, have endorsed the govermennt's efforts to protect the refuge, although there is disagreement with the 1.3 mile road because of the "potential harm...to wildlife and dune ecology generally."

The Wilderness Society has suggested that a section of the refuge be designated Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act and correspondingly that the headquarters and visitors center be constructed at the northern boundary of the refuge in order to eliminate the need for a road.

Government consideration of this is set for February. Certainly in considering this issue, the point to keep in mind is that the public has a right to visit refuge areas as long as they do not conflict with the natural maintenance of the refuge. And whereas vehicular traffic a and paved roads interfere with the natural maintenance of the refuge, it should indeed by halted.

BLUE RIDGE POWER PROJECT

In 1965 APCO asked the Federal Power Commission to allow them to build a dam encompassing the states of Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina at a cost of $122 million. This dam was needed for water storage to augment low flow periods of drought for power purposes. The original dam would displace 500 people and contain 25,000 acre feet of water storage.

However, within a year the U. S. Dept. of Interior intervened in order to obtain a massive dam containing 650,000 acre feet of storage and displacing 5,000 people. The reason for this intervention was that the extra storage could be used to flush industrial chemical pollution from Kanawha River, 260 miles downstream from the dam. This change in construction plans would cost Appalachian Power Company $325 million.

But the delay and a 7% yearly increase in costs make this plant attractive to APCO just to get the show on the road. APCO says it will not use the power for local consumption but will carry it to other parts of the American Electric Power system.

This increase in dam size seems difficult to justify since federal law says....such storage and water release shall not be provided as a substitute for adequate treatment at the source.

The Environmental Protection Agency asks that the license be issued but the extra water not be released until further studies are made. Curtis Bell of the Interior has consistently insisted that APCO be given immediate licensing, even though the Virginia Attorney General and West Virginia Attorney General say it is illegal. Bell's opinion on the subject is...."if they say it's illegal, then it's legal."

For further information on the Blue Ridge Project write William B. Spong, Jr. for his extension of remarks in the Congressional Record of November 12, 1971.

HIPES DAM IN CRAIG COUNTY

The General Assembly will consider the damming of Craig Creek and the alternative of making it part of the Scenic Rivers system.

DEPT. TO CO_ORDINATE STATE'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

The General Assembly will decide on the coordinating of environmental activities within the state. It should be in the news soon, so watch for it.

BOTTLE POLLUTION

Senator Edmunds has introduced bill SB #12 in an effort to limit the sale of beverages in non-returnable containers. This bill deserves our complete support. The CCV is sponsoring a meeting with the ABC Board in Richmond to discuss the inclusion of liquor bottles in the Bill.

LAND ACQUISITION FOR STATE PARKS

Governor Holton has requested $21 million (including matching federal funds) for the Capitol Outlay and Operations section of the budget. (Virginia is behind in it's State Park's Development). This effort should be supported fully.

POPULATION CONTROL

The General Assembly will consider Revisions of the present Abortion Laws, including the areas of abortion, sterilization, and adoption.

COAST GUARD STATION, VA BEACH

Some time ago the Old Coast Guard Station at Va. Beach was declared surplus. Several Va. Beach groups have requested that the federal government release it for a public environmental education center. A group of developers has claimed the rights to the property. This conflict has developed into a standstill and the property is detiorating. The Va. Beach group asks everyone to write to Shiro Kashawa, Chief of the Division of Lands and Natural Resources, Dept. of Justice, Wash.,D.C. asking for a thorough investigation as to the proper ownership of the property.

SALEM CHURCH DAM

There is a "feeling" among many followers that the Corps of Engineers and local proponents have given up on this project. However, VEPCO is studying dam sites in this area. We must carefully await further developments.

JACK'S MOUNTAIN

The 1971 session of the General Assembly very nearly gave this one away. It appears to have been laid to rest, but one never knows.

STRIP MINING

Federal regulations should be soon forthcoming, however, proposals for stronger state regulations will be made in this session. These will help stem the tide until the necessary stronger laws are passed.

VWC NEEDS FUNDS

VWC has a non-dues paying membership of 400-500. Our major expense is postage which comes from the contributions of members. In order to cover the many and complex problems now before us, we are planning to increase the frequency of the Newsletter. We again ask you to dig into your pockets and be as generous as possible. Send contributions to:

Sally Soest, Treasurer
Rt. 4, Box 283
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

INFORMATION CENTER

We have the beginnings of a data file on the different problems in which we are involved. We wish to thank Art Wilder, Bill Reid and Joe Davis who have kept the material coming in. We have a good start but we need more resources to insure more complete information. We urge you to send in any article of information that may be of concern to the VWC. This information is available, as well, to anyone who needs it. Contact: Bob Smiley, Secretary
P.O. Box 119
Blacksburg, Va. 24060
Phone: 552-0096
951-2600

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER

March 1, 1972

Today, March 1, 1972, is the 100th Anniversary of the National Park System and George Hartzog, Director of the National Park System, in reply to a question on the Today Show said that he thought more of our public (federal) lands should go back into local, state, and private ownership and mentioned the Public Land Law Review Commission's recommendations and the activities in the Congress to bring this about and that it is administrative policy to implement this.

This is the situation on March 1, 1972 and if we are not to see the raid on the natural resources of our country become a riot, action is imperative.

Here is what we have to do today.

First Priority

VIRGINIA WETLANDS BILL

You were alerted in the previous newsletter on the Virginia Wetlands Bill, HR 320. The purpose of Wetlands legislation - from our point of view - is to see that the Virginia wetlands remain as wetlands, to be used for the protection of our coastal area; for homes, nesting grounds, migrating stop-overs and feeding grounds for shore birds and waterfowl; as sources of food for estuarian and marine life, recreation, etc., etc.

A group of dedicated people have worked for two years to get acceptable legislation into the General Assembly. Another group of local people, developers, etc. have worked just as hard to have the control of all wetlands left in local control. Their bill has reached the floor of the House.

It has one redeeming feature. The proposed definition of wetlands in the original bill is a good one and acceptable to the conservationists. An amended definition has been tacked on.

What you are to do!

Write to Mr. Walther BiFidler, Chairman, Committee on Chesapeake and its Tributaries, telling him we accept

the bill if it has the original definition left in and ask to work for its passage in that form. We do not like the bill, but can live with it now if the original definition holds.

Also, write, phone your delegate and Senator and tell him that you want the original definition left in. Have your friends do the same. We need hundreds of letters now.

Next Priority

ALASKA CLAIMS ACT

The Alaska Claims Act provides for the Secretary of the Interior to set aside 80 million acres of land in Alaska suitable for four types of permanent federal reservations - the National Park System, the systems of Wildlife Refuges and Ranges, the National Forest System, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This must be done prior to March 17, 1972 or these areas can be claimed by the State of Alaska or opened up to private settlement. Alaska is making every effort to keep the federal government from doing this. The Secretary must act within the next two weeks or risk losing these lands which should be preserved for all time for all citizens.

What you must do!

Write to Secretary of the Interior, C. Rogers Morton, Washington, D.C. 20240, and ask him to exercise his option to set aside the 80 million acres of the land most suitable for the four categories of reservations before March 17. Get your friends to do likewise.

SALEM CHURCH DAM AGAIN

House Joint Resolution (HJR No 2) has been reported to the House Floor for action. Essentially it says that the Salem Church Dam should not be built unless it can be shown that the water is desired, needed, and cannot be better obtained by other means; and unless it is shown that interbasin transfer of water is legally, economically, and environmentally sound. It further calls for an interagency study of water needs and resources of the Rappahannock and Potomac basins. No mention is made of possible reservoir site reservation or Scenic River status for the Rappahannock and Rapidan, the feeling that this

would only confuse the issue and that these things will in any case have to be pursued at the federal and local, rather than state, levels.

It is a good resolution and we should write our representatives encouraging its passage. If it passes it can do much to help save the Rappahannock and Rapidan. Please write both the House and Senate at the State Capitol because both will be involved in its passage.

STATE PARKS BUDGET

The Commission of Outdoor Recreation presented its budget to the Governor who added it to his total budget with the request almost intact. Approximately $20 million was in the budget to the General Assembly, about 1/3 of which would come from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. If we are to have state, regional, county and city park development we need to support this request. We have time to write members of both the House and Senate at the State Capitol and ask them to see that the request stays in the final appropriations bill.

CONSERVATION IN GENERAL

There is a great deal of conservation legislation being considered in the Congress that we should be watching and working on. One of the most important is legislation dealing with the future of the public lands as recommended in the "Report of the Public Land Law Commission" a great deal of which is retrogressive.

But more of this later - the job now is to concentrate on the items above and remember it must be done within the week of receiving this letter. Call on your friends to help.

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Our Treasurer, Sally Soest, Box 1778, Williamsburg 23185 pays thanks for the generous response to requests for stamp money. We hope to be able to get a lower postage rate and perhaps a better addressing system. If so, it can make the newsletters less expensive.

Your editor hopes that the pressure will slacken a bit after the General Assembly goes home so that a less urgent and more newsy letter can go out.

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If you need legislation information, call Sally at 564-9847 or Carl J. Holcomb, president, at 552-4897.

Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER June, 1972

U. S. FOREST SERVICE and/or EASTERN WILDERNESS AREAS

The U.S. Forest Service has recently been actively campaigning for a new form of legislative wilderness protection for the East.

1) USFS Letter. A letter, in March, from the supervisors of the Thomas Jefferson and George Washington National Forests, asked conservationists for help in determining criteria for identifying wild areas in these Forests and for suggestions on future management of such areas. This appeal for help, however, followed the statement, "The criteria of the Wilderness Act of 1964 doesn't seem to fit eastern conditions because of man's past activities on the land."

2) Kyl Bill. What the Forest Service has in mind became clear when Congressman Kyl (Iowa) recently introduced H.R. 14392, a proposal to create "wild areas" within eastern National Forests. Last week Sens. Aiken and Talmadge introduced the same bill in the Senate (S. 3699). The Forest Service is already holding public meetings to drum up support for the bill!

The Kyl bill contains much of the language of the Wilderness Act, but has some serious drawbacks. For example, Sec. 5(a)(3) states, "Developments shall be of a rustic, primitive nature limited to those reasonably necessary for the health, safety, and well-being of the visiting public and the protection of natural resources." (Emphasis ours.)

Compare that with Sec. 4(c) of the Wilderness Act, that there will be no structures or installations of any kind "...except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area...." (Emphasis ours)

However, the most serious flaw in the Kyl bill is the assumption on which it is based, that

> ...few areas of the national forest system located in the Eastern United States...meet the criteria set forth by the Wilderness Act of 1964...because of the past works of man....

In sharp contrast to this U.S. Forest Service position, Senator Frank Church has stated the following:

> I have heard it said by some who are simply ill-informed that no areas in the Eastern United States can meet the test of qualification under the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act. That is just not so.

This statement was made at the wilderness hearings on May 5 before the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee, of which Church is chairman. (See following article on Shenandoah Wilderness, P. 2.) Sen. Church's remarks on wilderness in eastern National Forests appear in full at the end of this Newsletter.

As a result of these events, a showdown on Eastern wilderness is approaching. The VWC is taking part in the action both on our own and as a member group of the Conservation Council of Va.

1) A VWC position paper on Eastern wilderness is being developed, both as a reply to the Forest Service's request for input, and as a guideline for our own future actions regarding Wilderness Area designation in Va. This will

be published in our next Newsletter and sent to the supervisors of the Thomas Jefferson and George Washington National Forests. In general, we will encourage the Forest Service to cooperate by using the Wilderness Act of 1964 as a vehicle for wilderness preservation in the East. Let the people of the United States, through their elected representatives, decide whether areas of wilderness character exist in the East.

2) The following resolution has been presented to the Conservation Council of Virginia for their consideration and possible adoption at their next meeting:

Whereas the expressed will of the Congress is to provide the Eastern United States with units of the National Wilderness Preservation System designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964; and

Whereas such units have already been established in the East within the National Forests and National Wildlife Refuge systems, and proposals are well advanced for units within the National Park system; and

Whereas H.R. 14392 proposes a parallel but significantly weakened concept of wilderness conservation in circumvention of the Wilderness Act of 1964;

Therefore be it resolved that the Conservation Council of Virginia opposes the creation of a separate system of wild areas in the National Forests, and hereby calls upon the Forest Service to recognize and to inventory the potential Wilderness Areas in the East and to prepare wilderness proposals for submission to the Congress in order to fulfill the letter and the spirit of the Wilderness Act of 1964; and

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Chief, U.S. Forest Service, to the supervisors of the George Washington and Thomas Jefferson National Forests, to Senators Byrd and Spong, and to the Virginia Congressional delegation.

Membership Action: The VWC officers need your suggestions and opinions about the above two items; the VWC position paper, and the Conservation Council resolution. Please send letters to the president, Jon Soest.

Copies of the Kyl bill can be obtained from Jon Soest by sending him the equivalent of the duplication cost, five 8¢ stamps.

SENATE HEARINGS on SHENANDOAH NAT'L. PARK WILDERNESS: A GLORIOUS DAY!

At the wilderness hearings before the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee on May 5, the VWC supported S. 3541, Spong's bill for 112,687 acres, written by the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition.

The basis for the expanded acreage in S. 3541, as compared to the Park Service proposal (73,280 A.), received strong support in the opening and closing remarks made at the hearing by Sen. Church. Much of the area excluded from Shenandoah Wilderness by the Park Service proposal is excluded because of special management practices that the Park Service has attempted to establish in Wilderness Areas across the country. Such practices include the designation of enclaves, threshold zones, and a puristic approach to wilderness management. However, in the words of Sen. Church:

> In the absence of good and substantial reasons to the contrary -- and I mean specific, case by case reasons -- the boundaries of wilderness areas within national parks should embrace all wild

land. There is no lawful policy basis for massive exclusions of qualified lands on which no development is planned.

In his interpretation, for the Park Service, of the Wilderness Act, Church made it clear that, as long as management practices are held to the minimum necessary, there is nothing in the Wilderness Act that requires exclusions for management reasons. "The issue is not whether necessary management facilities and activities are prohibited; they are not -- the test is whether they are in fact necessary."

Church's points are relevant to the Shenandoah wilderness proposal. The 1/8-mile thresholds around units of the wilderness, proposed by the Park Service, were especially threatening to Shenandoah because of its long, narrow outline. In addition, several non-wilderness enclaves were proposed by the Park Service, including the south half of Old Rag Mtn., and Paine Run road. (For details on the differences between the Park Service proposal and S.3541, you might refer to our last Newsletter.)

At the end of their presentation, after receiving their history lesson from Sen. Church, Dept. of Interior officials appeared ready to conform to the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Copies of Sen. Church's statement relative to National Parks and wilderness can be obtained from Jon Soest by dropping him a note (see address below).

VWC ANNUAL MEETING: A SUNNY DAY (for a change)

Our annual meeting on April 29 at Camp Shenandoah was the first meeting in two years that escaped a thorough drenching.

New officers are the following:

Pres. Jon Soest, Route 4, Box 283, Williamsburg 23185
Phone: Home 564-9847 Bus. 229-3000, ext. 471

V.-P. J. W. Johnston, Jr., 217 N. Wayne St., Arlington 22201
Phone: Home JA-7-8860 Bus. (212) 625-7662 or 625-7545

Sec. Bob Smiley, P.O. Box 119, Blacksburg 24060
Phone: Home 552-0096 Bus. 951-2600

Treas. Jill Knutson, P.O. Box 119, Blacksburg 24060
Phone: 951-2210

Treasurer's Report:

Amount contributed during past year: $ 537.71 --from about 60 members.
Major expenses: $333.09 for Newsletters.
$100.00 two years' service charge, Conservation Council of Va
Current balance: $ 157.72 before mailing this Newsletter.

Business:

We voted once again this year not to ask members to pay annual dues. Contributions have continued to cover Newsletter postage, by far our major expense. [However, the treasury is currently running a little low, so please continue to be as generous as you have in the past. Contributions should be sent to Jill Knutson. About 450 copies of the Newsletter are sent out with each mailing. Think about how well off the treasury would be if each member sent in only $2! (Some members have been far more generous than that -- and we are especially grateful to them for keeping our efforts alive.)]

We discussed numerous topics at the meeting: the necessity of bringing up the topic of Eastern wilderness in National Forests with the Conservation Council of Va.; representation of VWC at the Dismal Swamp hearings on May 9 on the Senate Dismal Swamp study bill; unit hearings on George Washington and Thomas Jefferson National Forests, past and future; etc. In our next Newsletter, we will report on the progress of these Forest Service hearings.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

An editorial by Jim Johnston, Vice-President

The role of the prophet is difficult. Nevertheless, a solemn thought pervades the future of wilderness-like values, and the membership of the Virginia Wilderness Committee is confronted with an over-riding problem regarding effective political action.

It is evident that Virginians will need to emulate the West Virginians by asking our senators and representatives for new bills that would place the wilderness-like areas in Virginia's National Forests under Wilderness Act protection. However, this cause will need a considerable amount of individual and local support, and we presently lack a sufficient number of activists particularly near Virginia's National Forest areas.

It is clear to the writer that we need an effort to recruit more new members close to these areas that have wilderness potential. One means of starting the effort is to write to key faculty members of the colleges located in these regions. Many colleges have outdoors-oriented activities clubs who probably are looking for leadership. There are no doubt other communities with such groups who can be involved in the "way of wilderness". The Newsletter can help these prospective activists get started by explaining which causes need immediate attention and the means we have to attain our goals.

The VWC's officers will soon publish a thoughtful and comprehensive position paper on wilderness in Eastern National Forests which deserves the widespread support of the State's electorate. The paper is being hurried for delivery to the U.S. Forest Service as well as for dissemination to the committee of the whole. The position, once established, will need your assistance by (1) helping the VWC officers to learn the names and addresses of key people in critical regions of Virginia, and (2) by personal contacts with such people whenever possible.

Everyone who cares should join in the recruitment effort so as not to "leave it to Art" (Art Wright, staff member of the Wilderness Society in Washington). Let us not have a situation of "too little and too late", and rise to this appeal now.

A FEW WORDS on the CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA

As we have mentioned in several Newsletters, the VWC is a member organization of the Conservation Council of Va. This is a coordinating council of conservation groups in Virginia. It has been a reliable and effective voice for conservation interests, and, in that capacity, has gained the respect of Virginia legislators.

Our membership in the CCVa gives us access to useful information from

the other member groups, and support from the CCVa has helped to further many of our goals for wilderness preservation. For example, the CCVa has written to Virginia congressmen and appeared at the Senate hearings in support of the expanded wilderness proposal for Shenandoah National Park.

The Council also acts as a "clearing house" to direct inquiries and problems to helpful individuals or groups. If you have a question about a Virginia conservation issue, or comments about CCVa actions, or a local problem that needs help, contact your CCVa representatives (Board member, Jon Soest, address P. 3; Alternate, J. James Murray, Jr., Dept. of Biology, U. Va., Charlottesville 22903, Phone: Home 937-6693, Office 924-7118) or the Conservation Council officers:

CCVa Officers

Pres. C. B. Harris, 1450 Duke St., Alexandria 22314
Phone: Home 548-8211 Bus. 836-6000

V.-P. Mrs. Elizabeth Hartwell, 7968 Bolling Dr., Alexandria 22308
Phone: Home 768-6248

Sec. Mrs. Joan C. Skeppstrom, 1104 Westover Ave., Norfolk 23507
Phone: Home 625-2296

Treas. J. Robert Hicks, 7625 Marilea Rd., Richmond 23225
Phone: Home 272-2126 Bus. 782-4216

BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The Department of Interior, through the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, has decided to restrict vehicular traffic along the 4.2 mile refuge beach to a small number of residents and property owners south of the refuge in Va. and N. Carolina, along with commercial and sport fishermen and necessary service vehicles. Vehicular access will be on a permit basis.

These restrictions, urgently needed for years, come after a long campaign by conservationists and the publication, in April, of an excellent draft environmental impact statement by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife (DES 72-53). It was hoped that the restrictions would be in effect during this summer to protect the beach from the annual onslaught of off-road vehicles (9,200 visitors during one June weekend last year), but the Dept. of Interior announced that the use restrictions will not go into effect until October 1.

The chairman of Concerned Citizens for Conservation and Recreation (whose membership consists of multi-thousands of dune buggy enthusiasts) expressed the hope that the delay of the closure plan was a sign that the Dept. of Interior could be persuaded to change its mind about restricting vehicular access. We ardently hope that this is not the case. VWC has been adamantly against unnecessary vehicular access for over two years, and is "officially disappointed" at the delay in these essential regulations.

For further information on protection of Back Bay, contact Joe Davis, ECOS Committee for the Preservation of Back Bay, 1430 W. Little Creek Rd., #C-3, Norfolk 23505.

S. 1032 -- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT of 1971

This bill, currently in the Senate Commerce Committee (of which Sen. Spong is a member) would allow individual or class action suits against a person, agency, etc., engaged in activity affecting interstate commerce that

results or may result (according to 2 expert witnesses) in "unreasonable pollution, impairment, or destruction" of "air, water, land, or public trust of the United States."

We have no details on pros or cons of the bill at this time, but we feel that it merits consideration by Congress. However, we hear that Sen. Spong is lukewarm on it.

The Commerce Committee is scheduled to mark-up the final version on June 20-21, which gives you a couple of days to act. We suggest sending a public opinion telegram (15 words for 90¢) to Spong, urging his support of S. 1032, in committee, as a vote in favor of environmental measures that would be viewed favorably by Virginia voters.

TUNE IN NEXT MONTH....

In the next Newsletter, scheduled for late July, we will have the following:

1. Position paper for VWC on wilderness in Eastern National Forests.
2. Status report on "unit hearings" on Thomas Jefferson and George Washington National Forests.
3. Our development of an information center, including newspaper files and a copying service for our members.
4. Results of the appeal for funds in this Newsletter.

Remarks of Senator Frank Church, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, on Eastern Wilderness, at a Public Hearing on Various Wilderness Proposals. Room 3110, New Senate Office Building, May 5, 1972. (Taken from Official Transcript of the Hearing Record.)

Senator Church: Thank you for your statement. I want to say while you are here, speaking of Shenandoah, that I am especially delighted to see this proposal for wilderness within Shenandoah National Park. As I said this morning, my family and I have often hiked out into the wilderness of Shenandoah -- always a refreshing, uplifting experience of the very kind that we wanted to foster by protecting wilderness areas.

Now, in particular, I want to commend the National Park Service for recognition that this land, though once abused by various disturbances decades ago, has recovered under the natural restorative powers of natural forces, to the point where it, indeed, in the language of section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the impact of man's work substantially unnoticeable."

This is one of the great promises of the Wilderness Act, that we can dedicate formerly abused areas where the primeval scene can be restored by natural forces, so that we can have a truly National Wilderness Preservation System. I have heard it said by some who are simply ill-informed that no areas in the Eastern United States can meet the test of qualification under the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act. That is just not so. Indeed, we placed three national forest wilderness units into the National Wilderness Preservation System in the 1964 Act, all of which lies in the East, all of which had a former history of some land abuse. This was not -- I repeat categorically -- this was not merely a grandfathering arrangement. It was, and is, a standing and intentional precedent to encourage such areas to be found and designated under the Act in other eastern locations.

Subsequently, in the passage of a number of individual wilderness areas in national wildlife refuges in the east, we have this same precedent -- the 25,000 acre Seney National Wildlife Refuge in northern Michigan, the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Maine, and others, all have been designated under the same Wilderness Act. There are other areas in the eastern national forests which will certainly be found to be suitable, if the Forest Service will approach its task and obligations in a reasonable and responsive manner. In this way, we can have a truly national system of representative areas, without in any way denigrating the high standards of the overall system -- and I agree with Senator Allott that we would never want to do that.

So, the westerner, who loves this eastern country and finds much beauty in the Appalachian Mountains, in fact we keep a little cabin in the Appalachians.

It is a quarter to six and this hearing is adjourned.

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
P. O. BOX 119
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA 24060

BLACKSBURG, VA
JUN 22
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1972
24060

James J. Murray, Jr. 5001
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

TIME VALUE -- PLEASE EXPEDITE

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TIME VALUE -- PLEASE EXPEDITE

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 1778
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

BLACKSBURG VA
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J James Murray, Jr. 500
Dept of Biology, U of Va.
Charlottesville, Va.
22903

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE

ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING to be held April 28-30, 1972 at Lake Shennadoah near Staunton, Virginia (SEE MAP FOR DETAILS). BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

Friday night, April 28 -- Campfire and general bull-session. Camp sites, water, and toilets available. Bring your own shelter and food.

Saturday, April 29 -- 10:00 a.m. --Call to order and routine business; Treasurer's report; Nominations for officers; Discussion of conservation topics (see below).

LUNCH

CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

BUSINESS MEETING ADJOURNED

OVERNIGHT BACKPACKING TRIP to leave for Laurel Fork Wild Area. Length of trip will be determined to suit those who wish to go.

Saturday night -- more campfires and bull-sessions for those who wish to remain at the meeting site.

Sunday, April 30 -- DAY HIKE into the SNP. Destination and length to be arranged by participants. Hikes of different lengths will be available according to demand.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Shennandoah Wilderness Coalition Recommendations

Defacto Wilderness

Crows Nest Point

Dues or Voluntary Contributions

PLEASE BE THINKING ON THESE TOPICS AND PREPARE FOR ACTIVE DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION

WHO REALLY CONTROLS THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION?

Perhaps a not terribly well known, but nevertheless significant controversy is that of Michael Frome, a leading conservation writer, versus the American Forestry Association.

In an autumn edition of the Living Wilderness, this case was probed. It appears as if the AFA, who consider themselves to be "a national conservation organization--independent and non-political--for the advancement of intelligent management and use of our forests, soil, water, wildlife, and all other natural resources necessary for an environment of high quality and the well-being of all citizens," have found the criticisms of Michael Frome concerning the AFA and the timber industry, are too dangerous to be permitted in the AFA magazine.

Just exactly what is it that the AGA is afraid to let the American public learn? According to Michael Frome, the disagreements result from the following list of criticisms:

1) massive clearcutting in the national forests
2) intensive use of hard pesticides in forest management
3) the widespread burning of logging slash and debris, wasting wood and contributing to air pollution
4) the National Timber Supply Bill, which the House of Representatives defeated last year in response to public protest
5) the imbalance in the Forest Service budget, favoring timber above all other uses
6) the harvest of low wuality timber on steep slopes of the Rocky Mountains with negative stumpage returns to the federal treasury

Again, a statement from Michael Frome voices the most obvious question: "Exactly what policies have I violated by treating these important resource questions in the pages of American Forests?"

The controversy is certainly more than the firing of a columnist from the staff of a magazine. It is highly reminiscent of the disagreement of the U.S. Government over publication of the Pentagon papers.

Does this mean that the public will be able to read only those things that the AFA feels they should read?

Certainly this subject should be thoroughly reviewed and the public be made aware of the conclusions. It would indeed be tragic for this question to slip by unnoticed.

Jill Knudson

MEMORANDUM FROM THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

The Forest Service has sent letters to conservationists asking them to develop a program to save areas in the National Forests because, so the Forest Service claims, these areas cannot be included in the Wilderness Preservation System.

The Forest Service interpretation of the Act is so, shall we say, unique, that the definition of a Wilderness area taken from the Wilderness Act is given below for purposes of comparison.

The Wilderness Act: Section 2 (c)

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are un trammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which

1) Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable

2) Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation

3) Has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimproved condition and

4) May also contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

Now we come to the Forest Service interpretation:

1) A wilderness area, so the interpretation goes, must be at least 5,000 acres. (i.e. they stopped reading part 3 above half way through, conveniently not noticing the second half.)

2) No area that has ever been logged or has had a road built through it can be classed as a Wilderness area. Compare this with part 1 and the sentence above it. An area which has been logged is no more permanently damaged than a primeval area which has been burnt over in a forest fire, which was a natural phenomenon long before man appeared on the scene. In the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey, Congress ordered abandonment and restoration of the natural cover on a road site that separated two contiguous areas of wilderness - so it is obvious that the Congress which has the power to implement the Act and define the boundaries of a Wilderness Area cannot go along with the Forest Service.

These two points in the Forest Services' interpretation of the Act exclude any area in the Eastern States from consideration as Wilderness areas, but the Forest Service goes a little farther and suggests that any area which has ever suffered from or has bee altered by man must be excluded. Given the fact that man has inhabited this world for the past umteen thousand years this interpretation leads one to the conclusion that there is no Wilderness area in the entire world - except perhaps one unexplored mountain peak in the Himalayas.

It perhaps should be noted at this point that not only does Congress not agree with the Forest Service, but neither does the Park Service and the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife.

We now come to the question why?

The Wilderness Act, Section 2 (b) states:

> "The inclusion of an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System notwithstanding the area shall continue to be managed by the Department and agency having jurisdiction thereover immediately before its inclusion in the System unless otherwise provided by Act of Congress."

So the Forest Service would continue managing any Wilderness areas in the National Forests. One must assume therefore the their opposition to Wilderness areas stems from the fact that they will not be able to manage such areas to suit themselves- they will not be able to log, they will not be able to build roads without Congressional approval etc.

Thus the Forest Service, whom we would have liked to consider as allies in the struggle for more Wilderness areas must unfortunately now be considered as a bunch of power hungry bureaucrats which will have to be fought every inch of the way.

Richard Kirby

WETLANDS BILL DILUTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: The Wetlands Bill was passed and it appears that the activation of the hot line did some good. CONGRATULATIONS! Although the bill that was passed is weak in many areas, the compromises unfortunately, were needed in order to get any bill passed at all. Case in point is their definition of wetlands:

1) "The land lying between mean low water and an elevation above mean low water that is equal to the factor 1.5 times the tidal range at the particular site (and only with certain grasses growing on it)."

This makes it harder to categorize wetlands as well as excluding certain lands that should be considered wetlands.

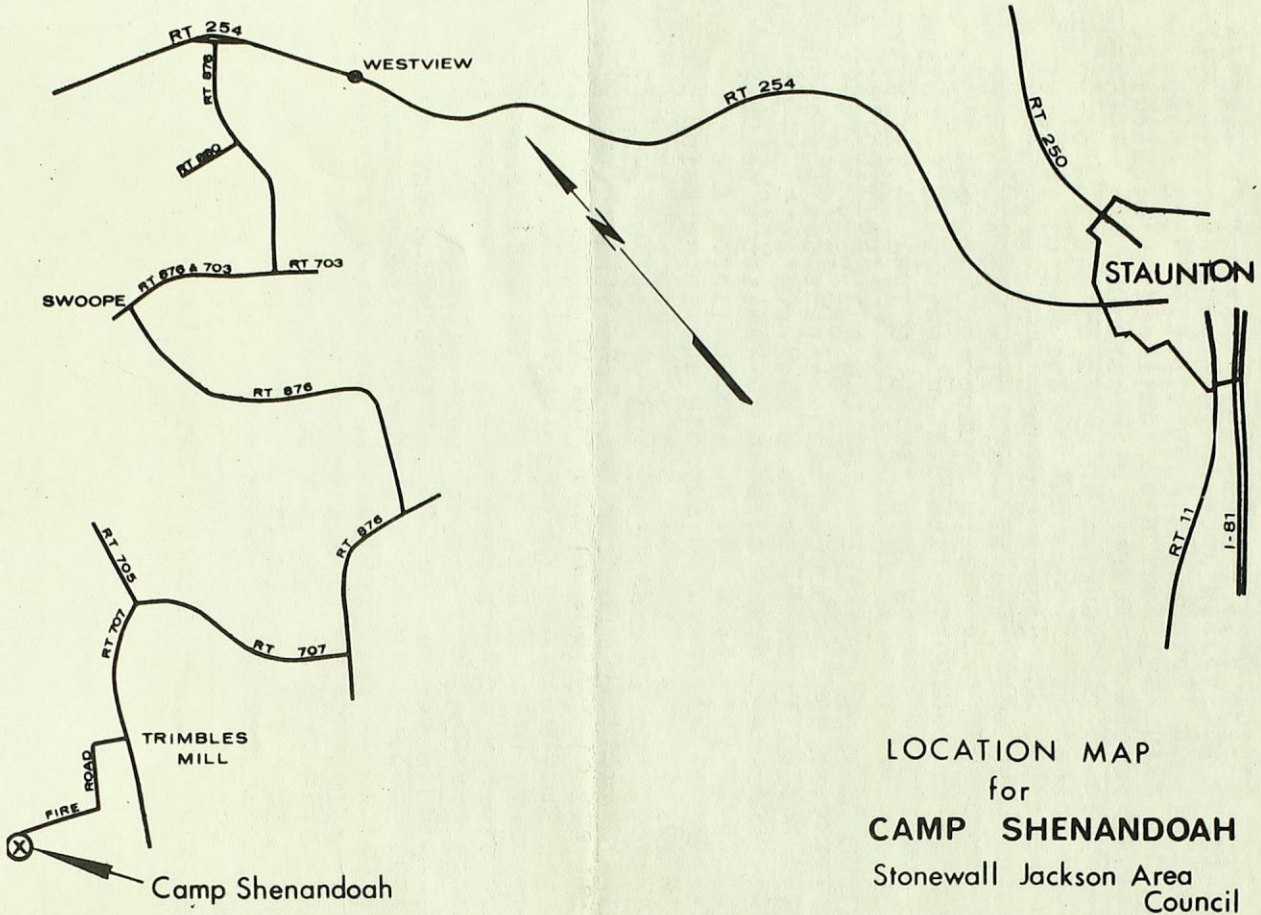
MORE WEAKNESSES

2) Plans submitted for dredge and fill projects that come between now and July will not be subject to the restrictions of the wetlands bill. (This means that a great deal of damage will be done to our wetlands during that time period.)

3) A clause was removed that stated that the board cannot approve any development that would damage private property. This would have to be protested by a petition of twenty landowners.

The clause allowing citizens to appeal a local wetlands board's decision on dredge permits was retained in the bill. This, the issue about which we activated the hot line, allows citizens to petition the Va. Marine Resources Commission to review the case. This is the only clause that provides any policing of how well the wetlands bill is enforced, which brings it back to us. WE have to note and appeal these decisions to KEEP OUR WETLANDS!

Jim Talmadge



LOCATION MAP
for
CAMP SHENANDOAH
Stonewall Jackson Area Council
BOY SCOUTS of AMERICA

REPORT ON THE SALEM CHURCH DAM SEMINAR held March 18 in Fredericksburg, Va. FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE NAIVE AND THE FURTHER FRUSTRATION OF THE INFORMED CONSERVATIONIST.

This was the first meeting of this kind ever attended by this reporter and it is the intent of this article to report to you through the eyes of a neophyte in the hope that you may gain a fresh perspective and a renewed determination to fight for a better environment.

Bear with me while I briefly describe some of the presentations and some of the speakers.

*SPEAKER I -- Honorable Josiah P. Rowe, III, Mayor of the City of Fredericksburg -- gave a history of the involvement of the Corps of Engineers in the impoundment of the Rappahannock. A flooding of the city usually occurs every 100 years. In 1937, the COE study recommended no improvements needed. In 1942, the city was flooded and COE asked to update its report. The Corps found a need for flood control -- a dam. Since then, the "need" has been represented as recreation and now, water supply. Presumably there are four local governments and organizations for the dam and nine against it. SO FAR, NO HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD IN THE COUNTIES AFFECTED. The mayor is young, articulate, seemed to be acquainted with the facts, and, apparently is not very much in favor of the dam.

*SPEAKER II -- Col. James Tasmey of the U.S. Army COE -- a very effective speaker -- began with amenities aimed at local people, shot the bull about the indians, John Smith, etc, said that old locks and canals set the precedent for modifying rivers to meet the needs of the present. Was loaded with facts and dates about the history of the river -- ended by saying that any solution must be the most economical and then presented a battery of experts ready for a question and answer period. He was very sure of himself, to the point of arrogance, and appeared to have been over the material many times. IT WAS APPARENT AT THE OUTSET THAT NOTHING COULD SHAKE HIS POSITION.

*SPEAKER III -- Paul D. Gates, USDI Bureau of Outdoor Recreation -- presented the recreational benefits of the river under the National Scenic Rivers Act; in short, the dam would destroy the wild river aspect. From this point on, the speaker read aloud a prepared speech and indicated little or no interest in the topic. He eventually caused people listening to ask him to speak up because his mumbling was not audible. The contrast with Speaker II was so drastic that my thoughts at the time, were that the thing had been pre-arranged, but, paranoia notwithstanding, surely the U.S. Dept. of Interior, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation could have come up with a more effective speaker than this!

*SPEAKER IV -- Honorable T. J. Rothrock, Va. House of Delegates -- pointed out that the most important of all the COE "needs" for the dam was water supply. He read a report by Mr. Sullivan, of the Environmental Protection Agency, supporting the water supply aspect of the dam; "Mr. Sullivan made assumptions about needs of Northern Counties without consulting these counties." Rothrock said that he is a relative newcomer to the problem, but took it upon himself to write letters to these Northern jurisdictions for whom the "need" is stressed. SOME SIX RESPONDED AND NONE OF THEM EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST IN THE PROJECT. Indeed, taking water from one river basin to another RAISED SOME VERY SERIOUS LEGAL QUESTIONS.

*SPEAKER V -- J. L. Hamrick, Jr., State Water Control Board. The state WCB is opposed to the low flow augmentation by dilution of waste water. Cited the Occoquan Reservoir problems of sewage, algae, and the difficulty in treating this water. THE SAME COULD HAPPEN AT SALEM CHURCH. The interest of the state WCB is to see that the dam, if it is built, is not used to flush; thus, the quality of the water supply is protected. This means that upstream communities will be forced into strict sewage treatment and that these added costs were NOT CONSIDERED IN THE PRICE OF THE DAM. He did raise one very interesting solution: Limit the growth of the D.C. area!

*SPEAKER VI -- Dr. Jackson Davis, Va. Institute of Marine Science -- defined an estuary and gave an elemental outline of its characteristics. Stated that any impoundment would change the ecosystem of the Rappahannock estuary, not to mention, pumping water from one river to another. THIS WOULD CHANGE THE ECOSYSTEM OF BOTH.

SUMMARY AND COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE SPEAKERS: After listening to these arguments for the better part of the day, it dawned on me that very little new was said. It is obvious that the COE has absolutely no justification for the dam and never has had. Very few people even wantthe thing and if the dam were approved, the COE would almost certainly be taken to court. I pointed this out to a senior conservationist, and asked why this meeting was necessary. His response, "How many times, how many hearings, does it take?"He agreed with what was even obvious to me, that these agencies keep the old chestnuts alive in order to keep conservationists busy. Wear'em down seems to be the tactic. These agencies have the time, money, and resources to keep up these battles forever. This is their job, they are paid for it; and paid with the tax dollars collected from the very people who are opposed to their environmentally destructive activities. On the other hand the opponents are volunteers who must fight the agencies like COE with their own money earned at full-time jobs elsewhere.

OBVIOUSLY, WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!!!!!!!!!

As the VWC is a faily young organization, still gaining momentum, and totally dependent on volunteers. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COME TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING -- FIND OUT WHAT WE ARE ABOUT AND WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO FOR THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. If we can constantly attract new people to our cause -- people with new ideas, fresh outlooks and enthusiastic support --- we can more surely hope to attain the ultimate realization of our common goal --TO PROTECT OUR DEFENSELESS ENVIRONMENT FROM ANY AND ALL PEOPLE OR ORGANIZATIONS WHO WOULD DO DAMAGE.

THIS IS NOT AN EASY TASK. PLEASE HELP.

Bob Smiley

THE FIGHT GOES ON -- Two or three years back, it seemed as if most of us who were working on environmental problems were having a great deal of success. Many good laws were passed and it seemed as if environmental cleanup was assured. We are still winning skirmishes but we seem now to be entering the brass knuckles period.

After two years of educational effort and working with members of the General Assembly, Wetlands legislation was passed. However, there was nothing approaching a law to really provide for sound management. It also remains to be seen whether changes in the strip mining law will make any change in the great damage being done to land, streams, and people in southwest Virginia.

On the national scene, a big fight is on to weaken the Environmental Protection Act. If the damaging amendments are passed, EPA will have lost most of its effectiveness. We should write our senators and congressmen and URGE THEM TO VOTE AGAINST CRIPPLING AMENDMENTS.

A battle is going on in the Congress which will have a profound effect on our western public lands. The report of the Public Land Law Review Commission was biased in favor of western stockmen and mining interests. There will probably be bills introduced for several years to implement the recommendations.

The Senate Public Lands Subcommittee is holding hearings on April 17 on S.2028, a bill which will drastically change grazing operations on public lands. It emphasizes grazing as a right rather than a privilege. It makes the issuance of grazing permits mandatory and revises the basis of establishing grazing fees to circumvent fixing of rates at fair market value. We should write to Senator Frank Church, the subcommittee chairman, expressing opposition to the bill.

We will try, in each newsletter, to pinpoint some of the most damaging bills so that you can oppose them.

Carl Holcomb, VWC President

Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER December, 1972

Wilderness in Virginia -- The Legislative Picture

The Past Congress:

Bills were introduced in the 92nd Congress to designate several Wilderness Areas in Virginia. The areas included were Shenandoah National Park, Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, and the Laurel Fork area in the George Washington National Forest.

Wilderness in Shenandoah was the subject of two bills -- the Park Service proposal for 73,200 acres, and the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition alternative of 113,000 acres. The Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands held hearings on these bills on May 5, and heard strong support (including that of the chairman, Sen. Church) for Wilderness designation for as large an area as possible. Despite strong urging by conservationists, no bill was reported out of the subcommittee, and both bills automatically died with adjournment of Congress. Our thanks to those of you who responded to our last Newsletter, which called for telegrams and calls to our Senators.

Cumberland Gap was included in an Omnibus Wilderness Bill sent up to Congress by President Nixon last spring. Although introduced by Sen. Scott and Rep. Saylor (both from Pennsylvania) for the administration, hearings were never held for the bill. It, too, died with adjournment.

Unfortunately, the same applies to the Omnibus Eastern National Forest Wilderness Bill, introduced by Sens. Jackson, Buckley, and others, in the Senate, and Rep. Hechler (W.Va.) in the House. This bill named 11 different areas (including Laurel Fork) on National Forest land in 9 southeastern states, totalling over 210,000 acres.

Only one bill pertaining to Wilderness Areas in Virginia made any progress in this past Congress: the so-called "Wild Areas" bill, originally filed by Rep. Kyl. In a flurry of activity unheard of in nearly 15 years of Wilderness legislative history, hearings were held in both the Senate and House by Forestry Subcommittees of the Agriculture committees. (Wilderness bills are always heard by the Interior committees, in which conservation support is much stronger.) The bill was then reported out of the Senate committee and passed by voice vote, all within a span of about three months. Fortunately, no further steps were taken in the House, and the bill died.

To give you an idea of what Wilderness in the eastern National Forests is up against, consider the history of the Senate version of this "Wild Areas" bill. The hearing record lists 93 statements. Of these, 11 were in support of the bill. (This includes statements by Sen. Aiken and Rep. Kyl, who sponsored the bill, and supporting statements inserted in the record by them.) The Agriculture committee then reported the bill out favorably, and it passed the Senate by unanimous voice vote -- not a difficult feat, since the vote occurred on a Saturday morning with one Senator on the floor!

The Next Congress:

Bills for our Virginia areas will be introduced in the Congress again very shortly after it reconvenes. "Careful observers of the Washington scene" have assured us that this next Congress should be more productive for us. For one thing, there have been many changes in the committee memberships in both Senate and House. There are, for example, 12 vacancies on the House Interior Committee. It is possible that new leadership will push these wilderness proposals through faster -- at least compared to the previous efforts!

The Wild Areas bill will certainly be heard from again. We will comment further on this legislation once we find out its specific language. The divisiveness that this "wild areas" concept has created among people of good will throughout the conservation movement cannot be overstated.

Action for VWC Members

We must begin now to urge our Congressmen and Senators to support our wilderness proposals -- in fact, to co-sponsor them when introduced.

Between now the the Inauguration, please sit down and write your representative and at least one senator and ask them to co-sponsor the bills for Shenandoah and for Cumberland Gap, and the Omnibus Eastern National Forest Wilderness bill (includes Laurel Fork). Tell them of your strong interest in wilderness protection. Tell your neighbors, and get them to write. Our Congressional delegation is not yet aware of the strength of wilderness support in Virginia.

We are particularly concerned that Rep. Wampler (Cumberland Gap) and especially Rep. Robinson (both Shenandoah and Laurel Fork) hear from their constituents. If you live in other districts, write these two, nevertheless -- tell them how you spend money in their districts seeking primitive recreation. That's almost as good as a vote!

We will continue to keep you informed of developments on these bills -- you keep writing those letters!

Since we have never published information about the Cumberland Gap area, we will provide some in our next Newsletter. There is -- naturally? -- a difference of opinion between the Park Service and others on the size of this potential Wilderness Area.

C.E.W. (Citizens for Eastern Wilderness)

At a recent meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, citizens from all over the eastern U.S. gathered to discuss problems in common concerning wilderness designation, especially on National Forest land. One result of that meeting was the formation of a coalition to work together on this problem -- in particular to work on the intransigent Forest Service attitude: "No Wilderness in the eastern National Forests." The group is to be called "Citizens for Eastern Wilderness" and will provide coordination and support to groups like ours throughout the East. More later!

Gathright Dam

A mailer is enclosed from the environmental group leading the legal battle against the Corps of Engineers" Gathright Dam project on the beautiful Jackson River. The VWC is part of the battle, and has become co-plaintiff in the suit filed by the conservationists, which contends that the Corps of Engineers" Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate. At this time, the Corps has agreed to suspend further work on the dam until the suit has been resolved.

URGENT -- Salem Church Dam

Proponents of the Salem Church Dam are at it again, the Conservation Council of Virginia reports, and urges you to write to Governor Holton urging him to support the State Water Control Board's recommendation against the construction of the dam.

Governor Holton will make his decision regarding endorsement of the State Water Control Board's report before Christmas. He must have our letters, urging his endorsement of the report, to counter the pressures being exerted by those who still argue in favor of constructing the dam. Write today! Governor Linwood Holton, Executive Mansion, Richmond, Va.

Finances

We currently have enough money in the till for one Newsletter mailing after this one. This winter promises to be a very busy one, especially as far as legislation and the battle for eastern Wilderness are concerned. We hope you'll help keep us in the black, so we can help keep you in the know!

PLEASE NOTE: Our treasurer, Jill Knutson, has moved from Blacksburg to Arlington. So please note this address change, and send your contributions to: Jill Knutson
4112 N. 27th Street
Arlington, Va. 22207
Phone: 524-2608

SUMMARY - - - - - ACTION Requested in THIS Newsletter:

1. Write Gov. Holton about the Salem Church Dam.
2. Write your Congressman and the Senators asking for co-sponsorship of Wilderness bills for Virginia.
3. Spread the word to friends, local officials, newspapers, about supporting wilderness efforts.
4. Financial support -- for VWC and the Gathright project.
5. Have a happy Holiday Season!

COMING SOON in the Newsletter:

1. A report on strip mining in Virginia.
2. Cumberland Gap N.H. Park Wilderness proposal.
3. How to write (and influence) your Congressmen.
4. More on Citizens for Eastern Wilderness.

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Route 4, Box 283
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

BLACKSBURG, VA
DEC 15
AM
1972

CHRISTMAS SEALS
FIGHT EMPHYSEMA
TB, AIR POLLUTION

James J. Murray, Jr.
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va.
22903

Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER February, 1973

Wilderness Studies Begin on National Forests !

The VWC has drawn up a list of 14 areas in the George Washington and Thomas Jefferson National Forests that seem to have potential as Wilderness Areas, and studies are beginning on each of these areas. The information that we gather on each area will be the basis on which we decide how we would like to see the area protected. Would it qualify as Wilderness, and should we write a citizens' wilderness proposal for the area, or would another form of protection be preferable?

For each of the areas, an area coordinator has volunteered to organize the study and act as a clearing house for information and materials. In addition, for each area, we need to locate a local person who will take charge of such jobs as contacting local groups (Garden Clubs, etc.) to gain their support for protection of the area, contacting local media, etc. And we need other local citizens to help with these jobs.

Below is the list of areas and their coordinators:

George Washington N. F.:

Laurel Fork	- Ed Walters, Cowpasture River Farm, Millboro 24410
Ramsey's Draft	- Bob Schaefer, 2700 Que St NW, Apt 115, Washington D.C. 20007
Rich Hole	- Andy Damalas, Dept. Fisheries & Wildlife Science, VPI & SU, Blacksburg 24060
St Marys River-Big Levels	- Milton Colvin, Honeysuckle Hill, Lexington 24450 Odell McGuire, Rt. 5, Lexington 24450
Elliot Knob-Crawford Mt.	- Bob Simms, 4-B2 Copeley Hill, Charlottesvl.22903
Big Schloss	- Bob Schaefer (see above)
Crabtree Falls-Maintop Mt.	- Milton Colvin (see above)

Thomas Jefferson N. F.:

James River Face-Cave Mt. Unit	- Pete Echols, 2000Tate Sprgs Rd, Lynchbg 24501
Mt. Lake-Peters Mt.	- Jill Knutson, 4112 N. 27th St, Arlingtn 22207
Mt. Rogers	- Jill Knutson
Big Stone Gap-Little Stony	- Jill Knutson
Hunting Camp-Kimberling Creek	- Carl Holcomb, Rt. 2, Box 385, Blacksbg 24060
Dismal Creek-Mill Creek	- Carl Holcomb

These people need your help! You should contact one of them if:

- you want to work on the area study.
- you are familiar with an area and can supply <u>any</u> information, such as the extent of logging roads, whether they're being maintained, recent timber cuts, location and description of trails, campgrounds, private inholdings, and other features -- any information whatsoever.
- you live near the area (same county or even Congressional district) and are familiar with local opinion about the area.
- you live near the area and will help out in any way at all with contact with local groups and media -- or know someone who will. Maybe you belong to a local organization, and could arrange for someone knowledgable to give a talk to your group about the area.

- you know of a group, such as a high school ecology club, college outing club, etc., near the area that might be interested in helping with the study.
- you are, or know of, a biologist, geologist, ecologist, photographer, etc., who would help with the study.

The area studies will involve field trips into the area and consultation with local Forest Service personnel to find out as much as possible about the history, present use, and physical and biological characteristics of the area.

It is hoped that preliminary area studies can be completed by June 1. Then area coordinators and interested conservationists can get together and decide the approach we should take toward protecting each area. The studies will form the skeleton for any citizen Wilderness proposals that we decide to write.

The Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill -- S. 316 and H.R. 1758

This is the present Congress's version of last year's omnibus eastern wilderness bill (which died in committee). S. 316 is co-sponsored by Sens. Jackson, Buckley, Church, and 16 other senators (none from Va.). H.R. 1758 is co-sponsored by Congressmen Haley, Saylor, and Hillis. These two bills are identical.

The bill now includes not only Laurel Fork, but also Ramsey's Draft, in Geo. Washington N.F., and the James River Face, in Jefferson N.F.! Proposed acreages are as follows:

Laurel Fork	- about 11,656 acres	
Ramsey's Draft	- about 6,700 acres(	These two are included as areas that are not yet fully studied, but are felt to have Wilderness potential.
James River Face	- about 8,800 acres(	

We have several important jobs cut out for us with respect to these bills. Here they are, in chronological order:

1) Attend hearings on S. 316 (more below) if you can.
2) If you can't attend the hearings, write a letter to the committee within about 30 days. Senator Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510. Ask that your letter be made a part of the official hearing record. Support the designation of our three Va. areas as Wilderness Areas, stating as much detail and personal experience as you can. We will give you some details below, and if you would like more information you should contact the area coordinator listed on the previous page. THIS SUPPORT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IF YOU LIVE NEAR THE AREA; but do write, no matter where you live.
3) Be prepared to take the same action when hearings are announced for H.R. 1758.
4) Volunteer to help with the study of one of these 3 areas. The Wilderness proposals in these bills are not detailed yet -- acreages and boundaries (especially Ramsey's Draft & James River Face) are still vague. It is our job, in coordination with several other conservation groups, to fill in the details, and the more information we can gather on the areas, the more we can see to it that we have Wilderness Areas to our liking.

5) Begin writing to our senators and your congressman, urging their support for these bills. Again, we need all the letters we can get. But it's especially important that LOCAL support be heard -- this means those of you who live in Congressman Robinson's (Ramsey's Draft) and Butler's (Laurel Fork and James River Face) districts.
6) If you live near one of these 3 areas, it would be an enormous help if you would contact the area coordinator. You are familiar with local opinion and local media, and can help him assess the extent of local support for Wilderness.

Now: FLASH - - - February 21 -- Hearings on S. 316
Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill

Hearings before Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee. Attend the hearings, if possible. But do not fail to write! Letters to be included in the official hearing record, in support of a bill, are extremely important. They count! They are usually accepted up to 30 days after the hearing date. See above for address.

Some Details on Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and James River Face

Laurel Fork. 11,656 acres proposed. This number, and the boundaries, were drawn up by VWC. In Highland County, with the northern edge of the areaoverlapping into Monongahela N. F. in W. Va.

The area includes much of the headwaters of the Laurel Fork of the North Fork, South Branch, of the Potomac River. The Laurel Fork is a clear trout stream that flows down the middle of the area and receives about a dozen tributaries. Most of the water is drinkable.

The area was logged near the turn of the century, but has recovered beautifully. A network of overgrown logging railroad beds provides an excellent system of trails. The area boasts an unusual (in Virginia) mixture of white pine, spruce, hemlock, beech, yellow birch, maple,oak, hickory, and chestnut. There are laurel thickets along the Laurel Fork and beaver ponds and meadows along several tributaries. Wildlife includes beaver, bear, deer, snowshoe hare, grouse, woodcock, turkey, brook trout, and it's good birdwatching country. (See map, p.7.)

Ramsey's Draft. About 6,700 acres, proposed. This is a Forest Service number, and represents the approximate acreage of the Forest Service's natural area (a stand of virgin hemlock). We will push for a larger area to be included in the Wilderness Area -- on the order of 10,000 acres. In Augusta County.

The area is isolated by high ridges, with the headwaters of Ramsey's Draft running down the middle, 1,000 feet below. Wildlife includes grouse, turkey, deer, a few bobcats and bear, and trout. The virgin hemlock forest in part of the area is cathedral-like. The rest of the area was logged in the past, but has recovered well. A dirt road along Ramsey's Draft was essentially destroyed by Camille and Agnes, and is now closed and overgrowing.

James River Face. About 8,800 acres, proposed. Again, this is a Forest Service number, and probably can be expanded to over 10,000 acres. In Bedford and Botetourt Counties.

The area includes the impressive south face of the James River gap

through the Blue Ridge. This face is so steep that it has never been logged. Behind the Face, the area has a rugged network of steep ridges and hollows. It contains the southernmost stands of paper birch in the Blue Ridge, and the northernmost extent of the Carolina hemlock. The Appalachian Trail traverses the area, and there is a trail shelter not far from the James River. One logging road does exist -- now closed to public access and much too rugged and decayed for anything but 4-wheel drive vehicles -- or foot travel!

Shenandoah Wilderness Bill--H.R. 3568

Congressman Robinson has refiled the Shenandoah Wilderness proposal for 73,280 acres (same bill & acreage as last year, supported by the National Park Service). This year the bill is co-sponsored by the entire Virginia congressional delegation in the House!

The Senate version has not yet been refiled, but Sen. Byrd will probably do so soon (perhaps by the time you receive this). His bill will probably also be the 73,280-acre proposal.

Conservationists are still supporting the 112,687-acre proposal, which was filed last year by Sen. Spong. This has not yet been refiled, either, but hopefully will be.

There are indications from numerous Va. congressmen and senators that they are "keeping an open mind" about the total acreage of the final bill (e.g. they might support a larger acreage). This means that we all need to write letters now, and be prepared to testify or send a statement to the hearings, when they are scheduled, asking for support for a 112,687-acre Wilderness Area in Shenandoah. Here are some letters that need to be written right now:

1) To Senators Byrd (Harry F., Jr.) and Scott (Wm. L.) (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510), asking them to please refile last year's conservationists' bill for 112,687 acres, so that the the Interior Committee will have it to consider along with the 73,280-acre bill.

2) To Congressman Robinson (J. Kenneth) and your own congressman,

(House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515), thanking them for their support for Shenandoah Wilderness, and urging their support for a larger acreage (112,687 acres) for the Wilderness Area.

Make-up of the Interior Committees -- and Wilderness

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee is a whole new ball game in this Congress! Congressman James Haley (Fla.) is the new chairman, replacing the anti-wilderness Aspinall. And, significantly, Haley is a co-sponsor of H.R. 1758, the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill! There is also an increase in the number of easterners on this formerly westerner-dominated committee. All of this sounds very encouraging for our eastern wilderness proposals.

The Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee is still, of course,

chaired by Sen. Jackson. His sponsorship of S. 316 (Eastern Wilderness Areas bill) probably accounts for the hearings on this bill being scheduled so quickly. Perhaps he is hurrying to get this wilderness bill in the works quickly, because of the strong support on the (somewhat rival) Agriculture Committee for its "wild areas" bill, S. 22.

Dismal Swamp

Union Camp Corporation is donating its entire holdings in Dismal Swamp to the Nature Conservancy for conveyance to the Dept. of Interior, to be preserved as a national wildlife refuge! The holdings, 50,000 acres valued at $12.6 million, include Lake Drummond and the Washington Ditch. Forty per cent of the land will be donated this month, with the remainder to follow between now and 1975. The total will represent about half of the Dismal Swamp area in Virginia. Union Camp Corporation is to be commended!

It should be noted that any unroaded National Wildlife Refuge of this size must be reviewed for wilderness potential before 1974. Nice timing, Union Camp!

Some Bills in the General Assembly

Due to delays in mailing, etc., we can't accurately report on the status of these bills. We list them here for your interest, and urge you to contact your delegate or state senator and speak your piece for Va. conservation!

House Joint Resolution 2, introduced by Mr. Rothrock (Fairfax) "Opposing the Salem Church Dam." Carried over from 1972 session.

Senate Joint Resolution 58, introduced by Mr. Thornton (Salem) et al. "A Bill expressing the sense of the General Assembly regarding the construction of Hipes Dam on Craig Creek." Opposes the dam. Carried over from 1972.

Senate Bill 386, introduced by Mr. DuVal (McLean) et. al. "A Bill to provide for the regulation of custom pesticide applications." Requires licensing of professional pesticide operators and applicators ("Terminix" type, crop dusters, etc.). Home applicators & nurserymen working for clients are exempt. Also provides for administration of the act, denial or suspension of permit, and appeal.

House Bill 1846, introduced by Mr. Melnick et. al. A bill to require improved reclamation of strip-mined lands. (Statewide support for this bill is essential.)

V.A.L.C. Environmental Management Report

The Virginia Advisory Legislative Council has issued its Environmental Management report to Governor Holton. Without holding public hearings or seeking public input, VALC has made a number of recommendations, some of which would emasculate such citizen boards as Air Quality and Water Quality by removing them from the decision-making process. VALC recommends merging the Air Quality and Water Quality boards with the Bureau of Solid Wastes, and placing them under a very powerful Commissioner appointed by the Governor. The merging of these three functions sounds unwieldy; the removal of decision-making power from the citizen boards is a great departure from the citizen involvement in environmental management that we have now; and the appointed Commissioner's role could easily become subject to excessive political influence.

If you don't like the sound of this sort of management of our environmental matters, write to Governor Holton (Office of the Governor, Commonwealth of Va. Richmond 23219) asking him to allow ample time for citizen opinion to be voiced on this subject (i.e. no legislation on this issue should be rushed into the General Assembly this session). Mr. Cole, of the Water Control Board, has handed in his resignation, effective June, in order to oppose these possible changes in environmental management.

ACTION REQUESTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Eastern Wilderness Area bill

1) Send statement on S. 316 for hearing record .
2) Write senators and your congressman asking their support for S. 316.

Shenandoah Wilderness

3) Write Byrd and Scott - - - - - - - - - - (asking support for
4) Write Robinson and co-sponsors of Shenandoah bill(112,687-A. Wilderness.

Wilderness Studies

5) Volunteer to help with one of the area studies, in whatever way you can, by contacting the area coordinator.
6) State bills -- do you want to check any of these out more thoroughly?
7) VALC Report -- write Governor Holton.

This sounds like a lot of letter-writing. But suppose you wrote one or two letters each evening for the next few days. Even at 15 minutes per letter, that's only the equivalent of missing the evening news -- which could help your nerves, and wilderness too!

* * *

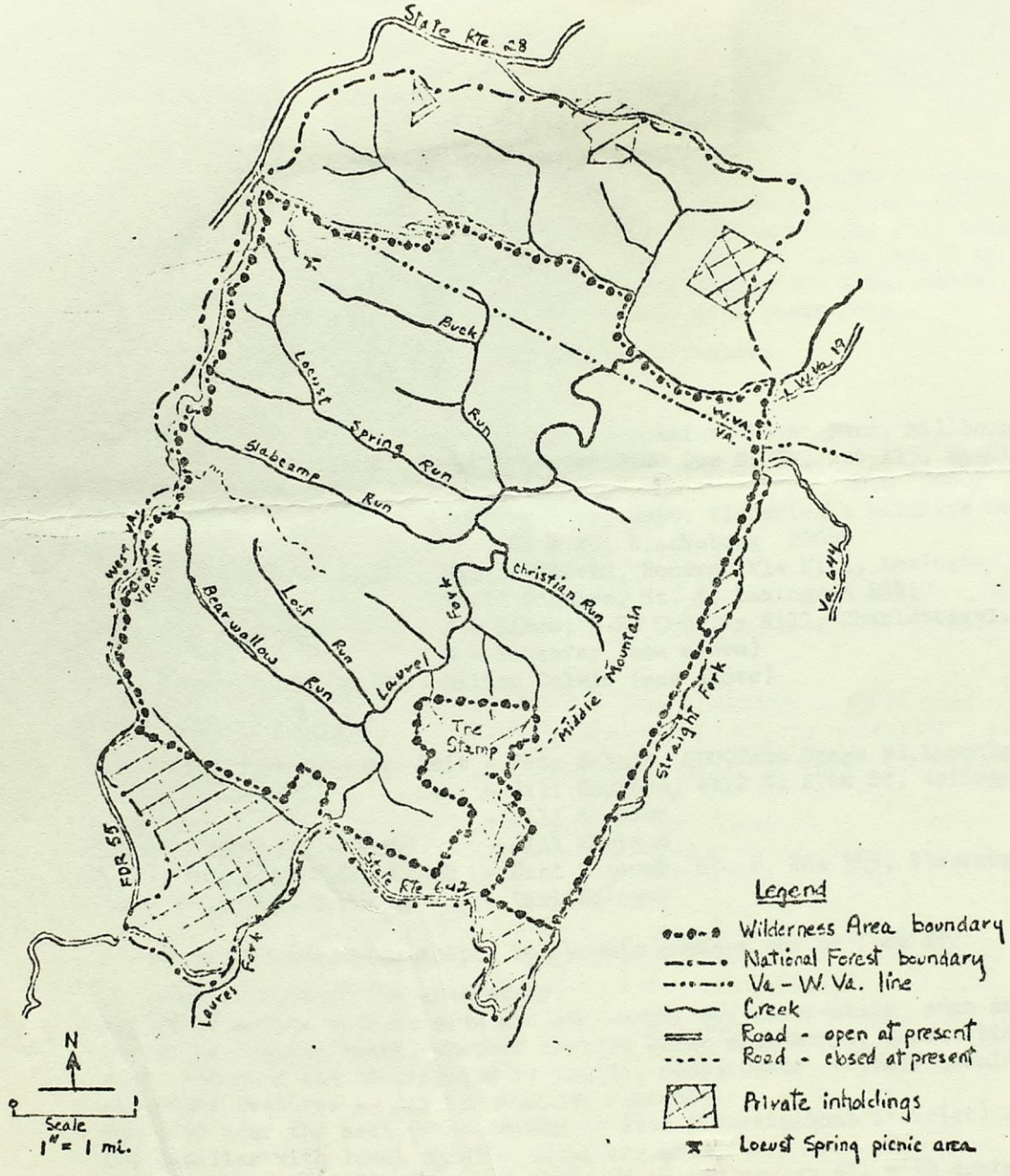
The map on P. 7 is the Laurel Fork Wilderness Area, as proposed by VWC. Much of the weirdly shaped boundary is due to our care in excluding any private inholdings from the proposed Wilderness Area (in response to very strong local opposition). Any comments, suggestions, or additional information would be very helpful. (Send to Ed Walters, area coordinator, address on P. 1.)

$ $ * $ * $ * $ $

Contributions are always welcome, and as usual we're down to about one Newsletter's worth of postage in the treasury. Send $$ to Jill Knutson, 4112 N. 27th St., Arlington, 22207.

(filler) How to Address Your Legislators, Etc. (filler)

	Inside and Outside Addresses	ZIP(D.C.)	Salutation
House:	The Honorable J. Q. Doe, House Office Bldg.	20515	Dear Mr. Doe:
Senate:	The Honorable R. X. Roe, Senate Office Bldg.	20510	Dear Senator Roe:
Governor:	The Honorable M. Z. Moe, Office of the Governor Commonwealth of Va. Richmond, Va. 23219		Dear Governor Moe:



Laurel Fork Wilderness Area - proposed

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Route 4, Box 283
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

James J. Murray, Jr.
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va.
22903

Virginia Wilderness Committee
NEWSLETTER

May, 1973

! ! ! V.W.C. Annual Meeting ! ! !

June 16,17 -- Saturday and Sunday

at

Hopper Creek Campground
and
Natural Bridge, Virginia

Hopper Creek Campground is in Thomas Jefferson National Forest, not far from the proposed James River Face Wilderness Area. It is a group campground, and has been reserved for VWC for that weekend -- so there will be no problem finding a campsite.

Those of you preferring not to "rough it" should make reservations soon in the Natural Bridge Hotel or other nearby facilities.

This year's annual meeting is going to be different!
It will feature a speaker of national renown in the Wilderness field.
It will have indoor facilities (to out-fox the rain clouds that have stalked our meetings in the past).
It will be held in a central location, with all sorts of overnight facilities available (camping, motelling, etc.)
It will also feature the preliminary reports, of our wilderness study coordinators, on the areas listed in our last Newsletter.

AND -- it needs YOU !

The VWC is beginning an extremely active and ambitious phase. For the first time, we are really feeling the need for active involvement of our members. We need help with Wilderness studies in the field. We need new ideas and strategies for gaining wide public support in Virginia for Wilderness designation. We MUST have this in order for our congressmen to vote for Wilderness. We need to decide, at this annual meeting, which additional areas in Virginia we'd like to see designated Wilderness; and then go out and WORK for that designation.

There are millions of different ways in which all of us can help with this process. We're all new to the business of actually working for a new Wilderness designation. Most of us are just learning how to be "wilderness activists." So if you feel you haven't enough experience to get involved, or don't know how you might contribute, don't let that stop you from attending the annual meeting. We're all in the same boat. We all have to learn this process together. That's one reason why we're inviting a speaker with experience -- we all need to learn from him.

We have proposals in Congress now for 5 Wilderness Areas in Virginia: Shenandoah N.P., Cumberland Gap N.H.P., and the 3 National Forest areas. We are planning complete presentations of these areas at the meeting, including slides, maps, and an up-to-date progress report. In addition, several of the groups listed in our last Newsletter have been very busy, and will be giving reports on the National Forest areas they have been studying.

Watch for the June Newsletter with complete agenda and directions to the meeting.

Senate Hearings on S. 316 -- Eastern Wilderness Bill -- Encouraging!

On Wednesday, Feb. 21, the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee held hearings on S. 316 -- the first time since passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964 that a congressional committee has held hearings on eastern National Forest Wilderness proposals!

It was a great hearing. It clearly established that Congress will consider eastern National Forest Wilderness proposals, despite the Forest Service's tired old assertion that prior human impact disqualifies all eastern land from consideration under the Wilderness Act. Several subcommittee members (among those present were Chmn. Haskell, Jackson, Buckley, Church, Hatfield) flatly rejected the Forest Service claim and stated that the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act does not proscribe wilderness designation in the eastern National Forests.

Chairman, Senator Floyd Haskell, newly elected senator from Colorado and new chairman of the Subcommittee, handled the hearing skillfully and fairly.

U.S. Forest Service Chief McGuire presented to the Subcommittee the administration's substitute bill for eastern wilderness, introduced later that day as S. 938. (The Forest Service has apparently abandoned the "Wild Areas" concept in favor of this new bill.) Those present at the hearing (including subcommittee members) had not seen the administration's bill, so all were most curious to hear its content.

S. 938 (the Forest Service/administration bill) would write into law the Forest Service's claim that eastern areas do not fit the definition of wilderness in the Wilderness Act. It would amend the Wilderness Act and add new criteria, permitting eastern areas which have recovered from the impact of man to be placed in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Forest Service would then have what it has long sought -- a Congressional declaration that the definition of "wilderness" in the 1964 Act is to be narrowly construed. S. 938 would also, in effect, leave it up to the Forest Service, not Congress, to decide what eastern areas should receive wilderness designation. In short, the power of the people to control the wilderness review process, through their representatives in Congress, would evaporate. The Forest Service, instead, would control the decisions.

However, we don't expect to hear much more from this bill. The Subcommittee members, to their everlasting credit, clearly saw its intent during the hearing, and immediately expressed opposition to the Forest Service/administration bill and support for the Wilderness Act as presently written.

Some witnesses recommended to the Committee that a Wilderness Study category be added to S. 316. Under this provision, Congress would name specific study areas and require the Forest Service to study them, with public input, as under the present review process of the Wilderness Act. Congress would then decide by specific legislation whether a given area should be placed in the Wilderness System. These areas would be identical in practice to the existing "Primitive Areas" classification in the Wilderness Act. The Subcommittee seemed to receive this idea favorably.

Hearings on H.R. 1758, the House version of the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill, have not been announced yet, but are expected to be scheduled soon.

Meanwhile, the study area would be protected as if it were already in the Wilderness system.

Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge Closed -- Action Needed

Without warning, the Department of Interior has closed the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge in Fairfax County, and removed the refuge manager, because of "lack of funds." (The total refuge budget last year was a relatively modest $25,000.)

Though Interior says the refuge is under "restricted management," this is meaningless, since Bill Julian, Blackwater Refuge manager in Cambridge, Md., who is now in charge of Mason Neck, will be able to visit Mason Neck only about once a month or less. There will be no real protection of the refuge from hunters, vandals, and those who have in the past threatened to shoot the eagles.

The preservation of Mason Neck was based on its bald eagle habitat. It is the first and only bald eagle refuge established under the Endangered Species Act. If the eagles are shot or otherwise harmed, or if any other disaster occurs that could have been prevented by the presence of a refuge manager, then the entire effort to establish the refuge will have been in vain -- for lack of $25,000.

The Virginia Commission on Outdoor Recreation has called Mason Neck "one of the finest composite park areas on the Eastern Seaboard." The Virginia Division of Parks, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, and the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife have all cooperated in planning on the Neck, so that future uses will be compatible. Since the refuge is closed, the Federal government will no longer have any input into this planning.

Some observers feel that the closing of Mason Neck is an attempt by one or more Federal agencies to stir citizen outcry over cut-backs in Federal funds and bolster their requests for increased funding. Regardless of motivation, we consider this a reckless move on the part of the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. The presence of a refuge manager is certainly of first priority -- cutbacks should have been absorbed in a less critical area of expenditure.

All those concerned about the protection of Mason Neck and its bald eagle population should write to the following, requesting that funds be restored for management of the refuge (or write to Reed, and send copies to the others):

Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240
Spencer Smith, Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Department of the Interior
The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Old Senate Office Building, Washington 20510
The Honorable William L. Scott, New Senate Office Bldg., " "
The Honorable Stanford E. Parris, House Office Building, " 20515
Mrs. Jean R. Packard, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Massey Building, Fairfax, Va. 22030

Shenandoah Up-Date

The National Park Service is up-dating their Master Plan for Shenandoah N.P. If you have suggestions on the future management, development (or non-development) of Shenandoah, send them to Robert R. Jacobsen, Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Va. 22835.

Unofficial word is that the Park Service wilderness proposal for Shenandoah has been increased from 73,000 to 80,000 acres. Conservationists still support a 113,000-acre proposal. Congressional hearings on the Shenandoah Wilderness bill have not been announced yet.

A Review --

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Proposed Wilderness

Vital statistics (in acres)

	Tennessee	Virginia	Kentucky	Total
Entire Park	2,007	7,448	10,684	20,169
Roadless	---	6,950	8,520	15,470
Nat'l. Park Service Wilderness Proposal (Preliminary-1967)	---	5,590	3,390	8,980
Nat'l. Park Service Wilderness Proposal (Revised-1972)	---	4,363	2,012	6,375
Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, Nat'l. Parks Assoc.	---	6,792	8,458	15,250

To the east of Cumberland Gap, historic corridor to the west and site of Civil War fortifications, lies razor-backed Cumberland Mountain, the site of this proposed Wilderness Area. The Park (and the proposed Wilderness) averages about 1 mile wide, and extends approximately east-west for some 12 miles. It is crowned on the west end by The Pinnacle, which overlooks the Gap and is reached by a road; and on the east by White Rocks, sandstone cliffs which were a landmark to pioneers.

The Park Service's revised Wilderness proposal (Sept. 1972) is 2,605 acres smaller than their original (1967) proposal resulting from the roadless area inventory. The bulk of this change is due to the deletion of some 3,000 acres from the original proposal -- the entire western 2/5 of the Park. Lincoln Memorial University of Harrogate, Tenn., owns the cave and water rights to this portion. (The board of trustees opposed Wilderness designation anywhere in the Park.) The Park Service proposes deleting this area from the wilderness proposal and calling it a "potential wilderness" until such time as these rights are acquired. Conservation groups do not consider this exclusion at all necessary, under the terms of the Wilderness Act.

To their credit, the Park Service now includes within the Wilderness some (but not all) of the peripheral "buffer zones" that were excluded from the Wilderness Area in their original proposal.

Discrepancies of a total of 8,875 acres exist between the NPS and conservationists' wilderness proposals. The major disagreement (outside of the points just mentioned) arises over the routing of the proposed Allegheny-Cumberland Parkway. The NPS proposal routes the proposed parkway through the Park, along the north side of Cumberland Mountain, and excludes all the roadless area between the parkway and the northern Park boundary. Conservationists favor locating the parkway completely outside of the Park, to the north. Another Park Service deletion is at the northeast end of the Park, north of White Rocks and Sand Cave (described in the NPS Wilderness Recommendation as "a rather shallow indentation...hollowed out beneath a resistant conglomerate ledge"). Local interests see this cave as quite a tourist attraction. The Park Service proposes a campground and interpretation center here. Conservationists feel that a foot trail to these attractions would be preferable to excluding the area and developing it.

Cumberland Gap N.H.P. (continued)

Opposition to Wilderness designation comes from a small but very vociferous local Virginia group. Lee County Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission, the Town of Jonesville, and some other local groups have proposed a road straight down the spine of Cumberland Mtn. that even the National Park Service opposes. Besides being outrageously destructive, it would be astronomically expensive -- virtually out of the question. (One eager proponent of the road is Tom Fugate, president of the Peoples Bank of Ewing and relative of Virginia's highway commissioner.) There has been much local support for developing the White Rocks and Sand Cave area. Congressman Wampler is somewhat pro-development, and the then-Governor, Mills Godwin, expressed similar views at the time of the 1967 public hearings on the preliminary wilderness proposal.

The record of those public hearings in June, 1967, came out as follows: testimony favoring Wilderness in some form, the same size or larger than the Park Service proposal: 302; in favor of a smaller Wilderness Area: 135; against Wilderness: 3.

Congressman G. William Whitehurst has kindly reintroduced the omnibus bill, H.R. 4687, that includes the 6,375-acre Park Service proposal for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Wilderness, plus the 3,810-acre "Potential Wilderness Addition" (for which cave and water rights are not federally owned). This area would be protected as if it were Wilderness until such rights could be acquired. However, the VWC agrees with other conservation groups, in supporting enlargement of the Wilderness Area to about 15,250 acres. We are now waiting for copies of the latest Master Plan from the NPS, to see whether their proposal this year will differ from last year's.

Look for announcements of hearings on this bill, and be prepared to send a statement for the hearing record.

Meanwhile, Congressman William C. Wampler needs vigorous urging to support this wilderness proposal, especially from his 9th District constituents. The Wilderness of Cumberland Gap is part of our American heritage. It is also a rare and great recreational and tourism asset -- becoming more popular and more in demand all the time. We have to help our congressmen realize this, so they understand it as a boon to their districts. Local developers keep telling them Wilderness is going to "lock up the land" so nobody will be able to use it. Let people like Mr. Wampler know how many of us see Wilderness as "unlocking" the potential of the land! Building more roads, after all, "locks up the land" into the same limited use that can be enjoyed on any city street or Interstate highway.

Errors in the Last Newsletter

1) We made an error in stating that the proposed Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area is in Congressman Robinson's district. It is not, and we hope none of you has been embarrassed as a result of this error. All three proposed Wilderness Areas in the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill -- Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and the James River Face -- are in Congressman M. Caldwell Butler's district (the 6th).

   Incidentally, Congressman Butler, as a new congressman, is currently (and we think very conscientiously) studying the matter of Wilderness. It would be most helpful if you would write to him urging his support for Wilderness designation for these three areas, and show him that public support for Wilderness is strong.

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Errata (continued)

2) We omitted, from the list of our VWC wilderness study areas and their coordinators, Thad Tate, who is study coordinator for the Little River area (just north of Ramsey's Draft). Thad's address is 313 1/2 Burns Lane, Williamsburg 23185. Contact him if you are interested in this area. He has already made one study trip, and would be glad to hear from you.

$ $ $

The VWC continues to need your generous contributions. Although our expenses are not high -- about $500 per year -- they are growing, and several efforts right now are consuming a lot of time and money.

To give you an idea of where your contributions are going:

1) The Newsletter. With a mailing list that has grown to over 600 members, each mailing is costing about $60. Several members have noted that we could save money with bulk mailing rates -- but our issues are often "perishable," and we feel the first class rates are justified.

2) Study groups. Duplication and mailing costs to coordinate the efforts of the groups studying National Forest areas has been high recently. This is an extremely productive bunch of people, and they deserve our support in every way.

3) Topographical maps. We have been making copies of our proposals for hearings, congressmen, and our own presentations.

4) Addressograph machine. Keeping the mailing list up to date is an increasingly difficult chore (You people move around a lot!) For around $300, we can simplify this -- and we will offer to share the facility with other small conservation groups.

5) Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge legal expenses. This would be strictly a voluntary contribution on the part of VWC. We've gone to court, on the side of the Department of Interior (and many conservation organizations) to help keep the dune buggies out of this refuge. More information will be available in the next Newsletter.

Contributions should be sent to the treasurer, Jill Knutson
4112 N. 27th Street
Arlington, Va. 22207

If you want to earmark your funds for a special purpose, let Jill know.

In our 4 years of existence, over 100 people have made contributions. Our thanks to those who have helped. And now: can't each of you afford just $2 ?

New Sierra Club Group in Richmond

On April 26, 50 enthusiastic people from the Richmond area turned out for an organizational meeting of the new Old Dominion Group of the Potomac Chapter of the Sierra Club. The group was organized by Mike and Maggie Maule, with the help of Carl Holcomb of the Blue Ridge Group. And if the first meeting was any indication, it promises to be an active bunch. The next meeting will be May 20. For time and place, contact the Maules (Stuart H.), Route 14, Box 334, Richmond 23231.

A Special Thanks to the Folks Who Have Brought You....

the Newsletter.

For the past two years, a dedicated bunch of folks in Blacksburg have been getting together at Newsletter time, for the monumental task of mimeographing, assembling, licking, sticking, stamping, stapling, and mailing more than 600 Newsletters.

Bob Smiley has made his Appalachian Outfitters shop in Blacksburg available for Newsletter assembly, and has provided the necessary liquid refreshment. The assembly crew has included Jill Knutson, Homer Hurst, Jim and Beth Talmadge, and others, and the members of the Mountain Club at V,P.I.

Production of a Newsletter is a huge chore, and these folks deserve our heartiest thanks!

Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER June, 1973

News Letter { Outing Club, $ Σ, Albemarle HS.

John Wade Hutcheson Bureau on Pub Lands Home Interior Com. HR 1758 2420

V.W.C. Annual Meeting

Saturday and Sunday, June 16-17, 1973

Hopper Creek Campground, Jefferson National Forest

and

Natural Bridge Station Elementary School

(see enclosed map)

Agenda

Friday evening, June 15.

VWC executive committee meeting and campfire bull session. (Any and all are invited. Want to volunteer for an office? to help with the Newsletter? to conduct a wilderness study? Come and talk with us. No help refused.)

Saturday, June 16.

10 a.m. to noon — Business meeting called to order, at the school. Treasurer's lament, and review of year's activities. To be considered: position paper on Off-Road Vehicles; selection of a permanent representative to C.C.Va. Nomination of officers.

(Bring your own lunch.)

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. — Discussion of Wilderness issues in Virginia. Wilderness Society staff members and others will be on hand to help us with our wilderness review program. Topics to be covered include:

Congressional action on citizen Wilderness proposals.
The law-making process.
Publicity campaign in Virginia.
Status of current wilderness bills.
The Forest Service Unit Planning process.
Brief review of Virginia wilderness surveys.

S.316 Shen Eg. P.R.

8 p.m. to 10 p.m. — Presentation of wilderness surveys being carried out by VWC, Sierra Club, and others. Hopefully, each area being studied (see February Newsletter) will have about a 15 minute presentation, including slides, maps, and an invitation to help out.

If you're not already involved, here's your chance to see and hear about some of our beautiful Virginia Wilderness Areas-to-be. Meet the people who are involved, and find out what you can do. Keep in mind -- most of it is fun. It involves doing things you would like to do anyway.

10 p.m. on -- More campfire stuff.

Sunday, June 17.

10 a.m. Brief meeting (location decided by weather) to complete business and elect officers.

11 a.m. on — Hike traversing James River Face proposed Wilderness Area. Approximately 8 miles of fairly rugged walking along the Appalachian Trail, from the vicinity of Marble Spring Shelter to Snow Creek Recreation Area, on the James River. For those of you wishing to see the area from the outside, there is a beautiful view of much of the area from U.S. highway 501 where it crosses the Blue Ridge in the James River gap. Besides, we'll need someone to drive around and pick up the remnants.

Annual Meeting (Cont'd)

Don't miss this chance to meet all the friendly Wilderness nuts that keep this thing going.

House Hearings on Shenandoah Wilderness -- June 4

Letters Needed !

House hearings on the Shenandoah Wilderness proposal will be held on June 4 by the National Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. Two bills will be considered: the Park Service/administration bill, H.R. 3568, introduced by Congressman J. Kenneth Robinson, for a 73,280-acre Wilderness Area; and the conservationists' bill, H.R. 6552, recently introduced by Congressman Joel T. Broyhill, for a 112,687-acre Wilderness Area. The Park Service is expected to favor increasing the acreage of their proposal slightly by eliminating buffer zones around the perimeter of the Wilderness Area. The Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition, of which VWC is a member, supports the Broyhill bill (identical to last year's conservationist proposal) for 112,687 acres.

Your letters are needed! Send your hearing statement to the Honorable Roy A. Taylor, Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515. Be sure to request that your letter be included in the official hearing record.

The 112,687-acre Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition (SWC) proposal differs from last year's National Park Service proposal by 39,407 acres. Of this amount, 6,275 acres represents buffer zones, which the Park Service may now agree to include in the Wilderness. The remaining 33,132 acres lie in 4 major areas: 1 in the Northern Section of the Park; and 3 in the Central Section.

1) In the Northern Section, the SWC extends the Wilderness boundary northward to include Mt. Marshall and the Peak, and Big and Little Devil Stairs. A cemetery west of Pignut Mt. would remain accessible to local people via Keyser Run fire road. Jinny Gray fire road would be closed. It is our opinion that developments outside the Park do not exert significant enough impact to justify withholding Wilderness status from this area (purportedly, the Park Service's reason for excluding the area from their proposal).

2) In the Central Section of the Park, Gibson Hollow and the rest of the south side of Old Rag Mountain should be included in the Wilderness. This would preserve the integrity of Old Rag Mtn. and protect this remote and inviting hollow in its natural state. Ragged Run fire road (now heavily overgrown) should be closed. Access to the shelters on Old Rag should be via Berry Hollow and the Old Rag saddle trail.

3 & 4) Also in the central section are 2 large areas on opposite sides of Skyline Drive, which the SWC includes in its Wilderness proposal. The north border of these areas is a line drawn approximately straight across the Park at Milam Gap and south of Camp Hoover. On the west side of the Drive, the area extends south about to the South Picnic Area. On the east side of the Drive, the area extends south to Pocosin Hollow and The Oaks overlook. These two areas combined total 18,489 acres. To the east, the area includes the Laurels and the sources of the Conway River. To the west there are areas quite remote from Skyline Drive and very wildernessy.

Shenandoah (Cont'd)

These are the major differences between the SWC and Park Service bills.

Other differences relate to the matter of "non-conforming uses." In the South Section of the Park, 3 non-Wilderness corridors slice the Park Service wilderness proposal into 4 small pieces: Paine Run and Madison Run roads (dirt), and the powerline to a Park Service radio transmitter on Trayfoot Mt. Paine Run road is used twice a year to truck cattle across the Park, and this practice will end with the passing of the present holders of permission. Madison Run road has been used to move construction materials to Skyline Drive. The SWC favors designating these strips "non-conforming uses" and including them within the Wilderness until such time as the roads can be closed and allowed to revert and the power facility can be dismantled. If the latter is not possible, then the power line corridor should at least be narrowed to 50 yards.

Senate Regional Hearings on S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill

Senator Haskell, Chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, has announced that his subcommittee will hold field hearings on S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill:

Roanoke Civic Center, Exhibit Hall
Roanoke, Va.
Monday, June 25, 1973
9:30 A.M.

This is an excellent opportunity to make a strong showing of support for the 3 Wilderness Areas proposed in Virginia: Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and the James River Face. (See previous Newsletters for details.)

It is important to have a good turnout at this hearing. The Forest Service has circulated notices of the hearing, and there was a story in the 5/31 Roanoke Times. So representatives of the timber and forest products industries will be there in force. The hearing is at an awkward time on a working day, and of course the anti-Wilderness people generally attend these hearings as part of their job. So our presence will be woefully outnumbered unless a good effort is made. It's impossible to overemphasize the importance of having many wilderness supporters present.

There will not be time for everyone who attends to testify. The hearing will cover areas in nearby states as well as in Virginia, and oral testimony will be limited by time generally to representatives of groups, such as VWC.

However, even if you won't have a chance to speak, we urge you to attend. You can bring a copy of your individual written statement to hand to the subcommittee for the record. Or attend, then mail your testimony to The Honorable Floyd K. Haskell, Chairman, Public Lands Subcommittee, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510.

This field hearing is our last and best chance for formal input to the Senate on the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill.

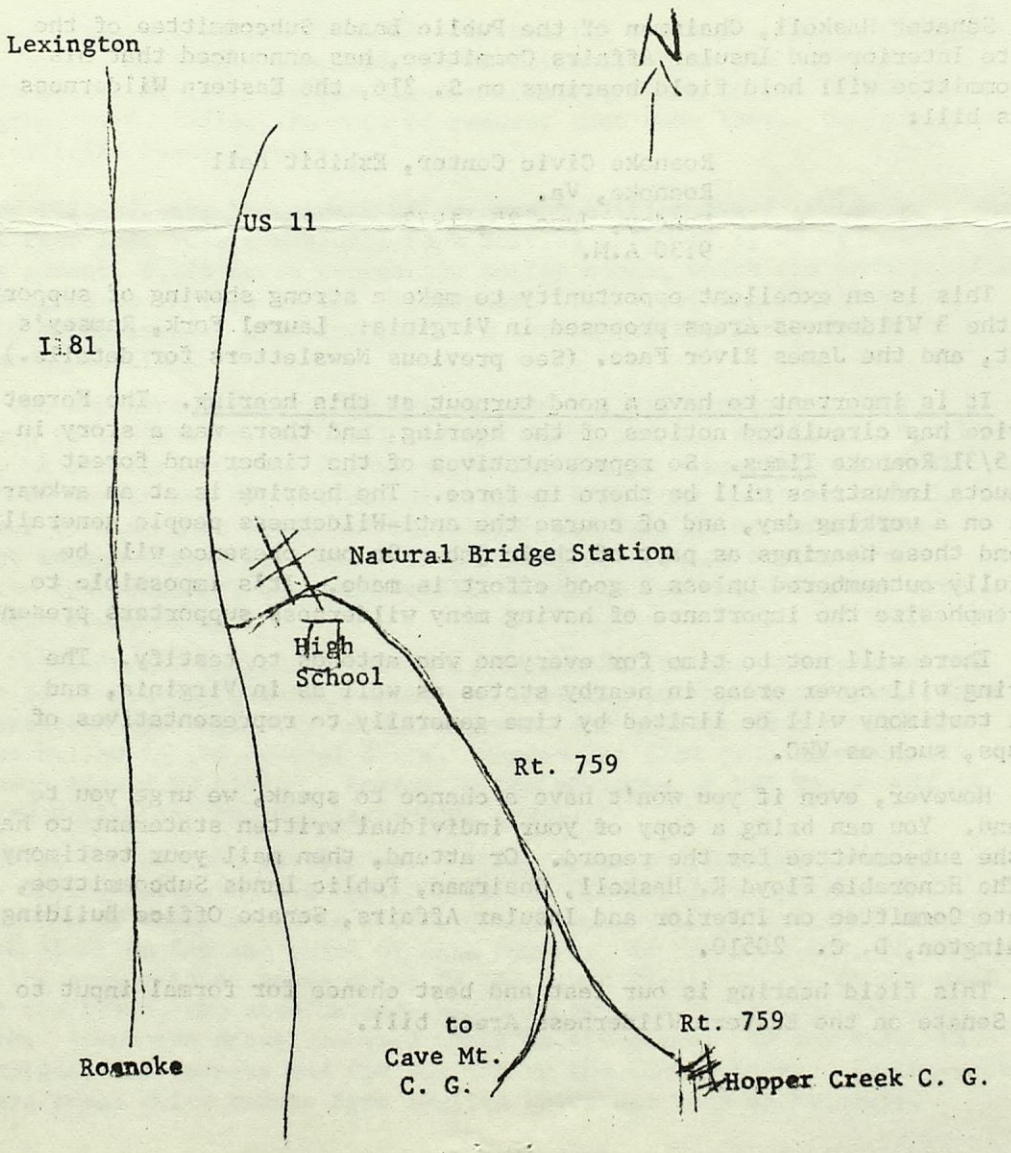
Where Are the Letters ?

The official record of the Senate hearings last February, in Washington, on the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill, S. 316, has just been published. A very small percentage of our membership of 600 actually wrote letters. We must produce more support for Wilderness in the future.

Statements for the hearing records are important, especially in numbers. Personal experience backing up supporting statements is impressive, of course. But perhaps most important is the number of supportive statements received by a congressional committee and placed in the official record. It shows that the public is aware and watching and has an opinion. It's vital if we are to counteract the impressive showings by the powerful timber and forest products lobbies.

So letters don't have to be long. But they have to be sent, if we expect to have Wilderness. Better a one-sentence statement than none at all. And while you're at it, send a copy to your congressman. You need to let him know you're watching, too.

DIRECTIONS TO ANNUAL MEETING



Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER August, 1973

Report: Annual VWC Meeting

The sun shone on this year's VWC meeting (a good omen?). We also had our biggest turn-out ever, and the largest number of new and enthusiastic faces. Our thanks to the Forest Service for the use of the Hopper Creek Campground, and to Destry Jarvis and the local officials who arranged for us to use the Natural Bridge Station elementary school. Now for some highlights of the meeting.

New Officers

President: Sally Soest, Route 4, Box 283, Williamsburg, 23185
Phone: 804-564-9847
Housewife; past treasurer, VWC; unemployed zoologist; birdwatcher.

V-Pres: Bob Schaefer, 2700 Que St. N.W., Apt. 115, Washington D.C. 20007
Phone: 202-965-5623
Physicist; v-chmn. & past chmn, Potomac Chapter, Sierra Club.

Sec.: John McKnight, 701 College Terrace, Williamsburg, 23185.
Physicist; past pres., VWC; Nature Conservancy.

Treas: Eddie Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Alta Vista
Textile engineer; co-area-leader for Mt. Rogers.

Treasurer's Report ...

... will be postponed till next Newsletter, due to lack of space. In that issue we will describe the modified dues plan that was adopted at the Annual Meeting -- a donation, or a copy of a letter you've sent on an issue. (Save those pennies or carbon copies!)

Area Leaders' Reports

Six area leaders presented slides, maps, and descriptions of the areas they are studying. These people have done a phenomenal amount of work since last January! Because of them, the VWC was able to present a broad, concrete "wilderness study area" proposal to the Senate Interior Committee (see below, S. 316 hearings in Roanoke). We can be proud that our area leaders have laid the groundwork for the VWC to take its first step in alerting the Congress to the Wilderness potential in Virginia.

On the last page you will find a table that will bring you up to date on the status of the study areas & the names of new area leaders.

Wilderness Brochure

We feel that not enough of the public know about the Wilderness Act of 1964, or what a Wilderness Area is. A congressman is not going to go all-out for Wilderness designation in his district if there is little public support, or if misinformation and opposition exist.

John McKnight has designed a descriptive brochure. It will be entitled something like "10 Questions Asked About Wilderness," and will be a single page, folded twice, and printed by offset. Members will be able to request copies to hand out at civic club meetings, conservation seminars, etc. We will apparently be the first group in the country to produce such a pamphlet.

P.S. Anyone who would like to print this brochure for us for free, or at cost, will receive our undying gratitude and a thank-you in the brochure.

Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill (S.316)

Field Hearings in Roanoke, June 25

The last Newsletter announced these field hearings by Sen. Haskell, Chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee of the Senate Interior Committee.

Field Hearings (Cont'd.)

VWC was part of a panel of speakers at the hearing (Jim Murray, Eddie Nance, Karin Wuertz, Jon Soest) supporting Wilderness in Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, & James River Face. The hearing was long and well-attended. Sen. Haskell was present for most of the day. Opposition came from timber concerns and from three private citizens who live near Laurel Fork and who have opposed Wilderness designation in the past for fear that their private land would be condemned for inclusion in the Wilderness Area. Since no private land is proposed for inclusion (this was explained to them by the Subcommittee staff), and they still oppose Wilderness, one can only conclude that their opposition is on an emotional basis.

(Nevertheless, their congressman, M. Caldwell Butler, still needs to receive mail from Wilderness supporters in his district (does that mean you?) between now and whenever hearings are scheduled on the House version of this bill (H.R. 1758).)

Wilderness Study Areas

VWC also proposed at the hearing that a Wilderness Study Area category be added to S. 316. (A bill in the House, H.R. 2420, embodies this concept, which the Sierra Club & Wilderness Society have also endorsed.) Study areas would receive interim protection until Congress had an opportunity to decide whether to designate them Wilderness Areas.

As a result of the excellent work of our area leaders, we were able to name eight areas in Virginia as candidate Wilderness Study Areas. Two weeks after the Roanoke hearing, we delivered a 15 page document, describing these eight areas, to the Senate Interior Committee for their consideration.

Current Status of S. 316

The Subcommittee on Public Lands has completed its version of S. 316. After the August recess, the full Senate Interior Committee will consider the bill. The Subcommittee version recommends 18 "instant" Wilderness Areas (out of the 28 listed in the original version of S. 316). It also names 37 "Wilderness Study Areas" (of which 11 were originally proposed as "instant" Wilderness Areas, and 21 others were proposed as Study Areas).

Virginia's areas came out as follows:

"Instant" Wilderness Areas	Laurel Fork	11,656 A.
	James River Face	8,800 A.
Wilderness Study Areas	Ramsey's Draft	6,700 A.
	Mill Creek	4,000 A.
	Mtn. Lake	8,400 A.
	Peters Mtn.	5,000 A.

We are disappointed that Ramsey's Draft isn't listed as an "instant" Wilderness. The area is well-studied, and the Forest Service has protected much of it as a Natural Area for years. The only opposition must have come from the Forest Service. (George Washington Nat'l Forest has just announced an impending clearcut, partly within the proposed Ramsey's Draft Wilderness, which should never be allowed while the area is under consideration as Wilderness. We are contesting this threat.)

Suggested Action: We are asking Sen. Haskell & Sen. Byrd for "instant" Wilderness designation for Ramsey's Draft. We suggest that you send letters off to Sen. Henry M. Jackson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior & Insular Affairs, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, and to Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., repeating that request.

Otherwise, the Subcommittee has done a thorough and generally good job. Their version reaffirms the 1964 Wilderness Act's definition of wilderness, and applies it to the East. It rejects the "wild areas" approach, and also the Forest Service/administration's "purity" concept and their attempt to amend the Wilderness Act. Hurray!

S. 316 (Cont'd.)

Current Status (Cont'd.)

Note: The Subcommittee recommended that if both senators from a state oppose a particular area, the area will be dropped from the bill. Sen. Scott has openly stated that he is against Wilderness in Virginia. Sen. Byrd is, therefore, our great hope. It is absolutely imperative that Sen. Byrd receive copious mail urging his support for all 6 of Virginia's areas in S. 316. He has been our friend on Shenandoah. There is no reason to expect him to oppose S. 316. But he must hear your support. Senator Byrd has the opportunity to establish himself as the champion today, in Virginia, of prudent conservation measures, such as Wilderness preservation. Let's let him know how many citizens would welcome his carrying that standard.

Looking Forward to H.R. 1758

It is unlikely that the other 7 study areas recommended by VWC will be added to the Senate version of the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. However, action on the House bill (H.R. 1758) is still ahead of us. So don't let up on your correspondence with your congressman on this bill.

Congressman M. Caldwell Butler (Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, James River Face, Little River, Crawford Mtn., Rich Hole) and Congressman William C. Wampler (Mill Creek, Mtn. Lake, Peters Mtn., Mt. Rogers, Kimberling Creek, Hunting Camp Creek, Little Stony) are the keys. With all of the areas in one of their two districts, we cannot succeed without their support. If you live in one of these districts, we urge you now to:

1. Begin a continuing correspondence with your congressman on Wilderness.
2. Visit his district office and talk with his staff, or make an appointment to talk with him when he's in the district.
3. If you are in Washington, visit his office and talk about your support for Wilderness.
4. Press your friends urgently to write letters, too, supporting Wilderness. Numbers of letters count heavily.
5. Write letters to the editor of your local paper, supporting the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill, and send clippings to your congressman.

The VWC is working hard on the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. But to a great extent, our members who are Congressman Butler's and Wampler's constituents can be more influential than the VWC can. Congressmen have to count votes to survive. They can't afford to ignore strong support, in their district, for an issue. If the support doesn't show, they have no reason to act. So a lot depends on you folks in the 6th & 9th districts.

Shenandoah

House Hearings on Shenandoah Wilderness -- June 4

This hearing, before Chairman Roy A. Taylor of the House Subcommittee on Parks & Recreation of the Interior Committee, marked the unveiling of this year's Park Service Wilderness proposal. The Park Service has dropped the buffer zones from the proposal, and has added Mt. Marshall, with a consequent increase in the acreage from last year's Wilderness proposal of 73,000 A. to slightly over 80,000 A. this year (compared to 112,687 A. by the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition). Still left out of the Park Service proposal are Little Devil Stairs, the south half of Old Rag Mtn., the two large areas in the central section of the Park, and Madison Run road.

Please refer to the June Newsletter for further details of the differences between the various proposals.

Congressman J. Kenneth Robinson made a favorable statement, and said that local opposition to Shenandoah Wilderness is now non-existent. Congressman Joel T. Broyhill kindly introduced in the House the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition's proposal for 112,687 acres of Wilderness.

Shenandoah (Cont'd.)

Senate Hearings on Shenandoah Wilderness -- July 24

Senator Bible, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate Interior Committee, held hearings on the Shenandoah Wilderness bill on July 24. The hearing was hastily called, and the record was held open for only 5 days after the hearing. This emphasis on speed may have been to the detriment of acreage; but Shenandoah Wilderness has been in the mill since 1967, and even the Senators are getting tired of reviewing the issue every year.

Senator Byrd emphasized at the hearing that he has no firm commitment to a particular acreage, but is eager for prompt Wilderness designation.

Park Superintendent Jacobsen stood firm on 80,000 A. After all the speakers had their turn, Supt. Jacobsen was asked to comment again. He rebutted each of the increases in acreage that we propose, apparently to the satisfaction of Senator Bible.

So, the suggestion is that we may get some of the prime areas that we feel should not have been left out of the Park Service's Wilderness proposal, but apparently not all of them.

Now -- assuming you have all written to your congressman and Senators Byrd and Scott, supporting the 112,687-acre proposal of the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition -- we can only watch and wait, in the hope that after five-years-plus of work we will this year have Virginia's first Wilderness Area: Shenandoah!

VWC Positions Recently Adopted

Off-Road Vehicles

This position is in response to several pressures. First, the President's Executive Order 11644 asks federal agencies to develop policies to "ensure that the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among the various uses of those lands." Second, among the management alternatives being considered for the Big Levels and North River units in the George Washington N.F. is one that involves areas set aside for the exclusive use of off-road vehicles, and development of 1- and 2-track trails for them. Third, an off-road vehicle group has attempted to hedge the Conservation Council of Va. into tacit endorsement of the use of off-road vehicles. The C.C.Va. recently adopted a position on the private use of off-road vehicles on the public lands, which the VWC has also adopted. Here are the three conclusions of that position paper:

1. The cross-country (off-road, off-trail) use of ORV's on public land should be prohibited immediately, with strict penalties provided for violators.
2. No specific areas for ORV use should be designated on public lands. No additional one- or two-track trails for ORV's should be constructed on public lands.
3. Ultimately, the use of ORV's on public lands must be prohibited, except as a legitimate form of transportation on established roads that are passable to standard, on-road vehicles.

Two examples of ORV policy problems: 1) the Forest Service's draft ORV policy recognizes ORV's as a legitimate form of recreation on the National Forests (i.e. another multiple use), rather than as a form of transportation; 2) the Forest Service apparently feels compelled to provide a place for the public to use the products manufactured by the ORV industry.

VWC Positions (Cont'd.)

National Environmental Policy Act and the Alaska Pipeline

In a last-ditch effort, VWC asked all Virginia Congressmen to support the Dellenback amendments to the Alaska Pipeline bill. These amendments would have deleted the portions that allowed the National Environmental Policy Act to be circumvented. This is the first instance, since the N.E.P.A. was enacted, in which a bill has contained language that, in essence, allows the project to go ahead regardless of what the environmental impact statement says, and forbids any court test of the environmental impact statement. This sets a terrible precedent. As you probably know, we lost in both the House and Senate.

We also asked the congressmen to vote for consideration of the trans-Canada alternative pipeline route, which would insure a domestic oil supply to Virginia. We lost that one, too.

Virginia's senators and congressmen voted unanimously for overriding N.E.P.A., and against studying the Canada route.

Virginia's Environmental Reorganization Legislation -- H.B. 1586

This act, passed by the Va. General Assembly this year, would reorganize the administration of environment-related affairs (air, water, solid waste, etc.) under a single appointed Commissioner. To go into effect, it has to be enacted again by the 1974 General Assembly. Meanwhile, public hearings are being held in several locations throughout the state.

Most environmentalists and some state agencies agree that the act, as passed, has serious drawbacks. Alternatives are being discussed, but at this point VWC doesn't feel prepared to endorse any particular alternative.

At the hearing in Williamsburg on July 30, VWC endorsed seven general points that the Conservation Council has suggested should be embodied in the resulting legislation. These points are:

1. A strong initial policy statement on environmental protection.
2. Citizen boards (such as air, water) should be retained. Permits should not be granted unless all agencies concerned approve.
3. Private citizens should have legal standing to seek relief from administrative inaction.
4. All agencies concerned with environment should be included in the legisl'n.
5. The hierarchical arrangement in H.B. 1586 should be avoided.
6. Principal goal of reorganization should be to strengthen enforcement of environmental standards.
7. Long term environmental protection should be guiding criterion in public decisions.

In addition, VWC proposed an eighth point: that the functions of environmental protection and economic development should be separated. No single agency should have the job of performing these two often conflicting roles. Conflicts between these two areas should be resolved at a level that is visible to the public, not buried within an agency.

The public hearing in Williamsburg was well attended, but some of the other hearings have had only one or two citizens in attendance. This is unfortunate, because this legislation will have a profound effect upon the future administration of environmental affairs in Virginia.

Bull Run Mountain Proposed Natural Area

The state Division of Parks has proposed creating a Natural Area on Bull Run Mountain, in Loudoun, Fauquier, and Prince William Counties. This would provide protection for 85% of the mountain (no camping, timber cutting, agriculture, private vehicles, building, hunting, etc.), with access by foot or horse only. The other 15% would be for more intensive

Bull Run Mountain (Cont'd.)

recreation (a couple of picnic areas, limited camping in one area). This is a beautiful several-million-dollar proposal from the state, and just the kind of proposal we would like to encourage from the Division of Parks. It would cost $12 million for a similar, privately funded effort.

At present, a few influential private citizens in the Middleburg area and several developers are voicing strong opposition to this proposal. If the project is abandoned by the Parks Division, Bull Run Mountain will soon be covered with housing developments.

Your help is needed. Write to Governor Linwood Holton (Office of the Governor, Richmond 23219) and ask him to support the State Division of Parks in establishing a Natural Area on Bull Run Mountain. Send a copy of your letter to Ben Bolen, Division of Parks, 1201 State Office Building, Richmond 23219, so he will know of your support. If you can, send copies also to your delegate and state senator, and to Miss Sharon Saari, Box 127 Welbourne, Middleburg, 21117 (she is helping coordinate support.)

Poor Old Mason Neck -- Latest Threat is an Airport!

The $25,000 for administration of Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge has been restored! Senate passed the appropriations bill 95-0!

HOWEVER -- now the Va. Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety and the Va. Airport Authority are negotiating with the Army to build a general aviation airport at Fort Belvoir, across Gunston Cove from Mason Neck N.W.R. Aircraft will be single- and twin-engine propeller craft, and eventually private jet aircraft -- ultimately 150,000 per year.

Few citizens and no agencies with environmental concerns have been a part of or even informed of this proposal. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (which administers parklands directly opposite the proposed site), Gunston Hall, the Department of Interior, the Va. Commission of Outdoor Recreation, the Virginia Division of Parks, even the Governor's Council on the Environment -- none was aware of this proposal. Few local citizens were informed. Apparently state aviation officials recommended the airport to Governor Holton, and the Governor recommended it to the President. (Senator Scott has intervened in behalf of the airport.) Now the Va. Airport Authority is in the process of selecting consulting engineers for the project. One more attempt at a fait accompli.

There is no question of the detrimental environmental impact that an airport would have on Mason Neck. In particular, we may as well say goodbye to the bald eagle population, for whom the National Wildlife Refuge was created in the first place.

You can help! Bombard the following officials with letters opposing the airport:

Linwood Holton, Governor of Virginia, Office of the Governor, Richmond 23219
The Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Senate Office Building, Washington 20510
The Hon. William L. Scott, " " " " "
The Hon. Stanford E. Parris, House Office Building, Washington, 20515
Your Va. delegate (
Your state senator (especially if you live in Va. 18th or 19th district.
Mrs. Jean Packard, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Massey Bldg., Fairfax, Va. 22030.

Area	Nat. Forest	Area Leader	In S.31
Laurel Fork	GW	Ed Walters, Cowpasture River Farm, Millboro 24460	X
Ramsey's Draft	GW	Bob Schaefer, 2700 Que St. NW, Apt. 115, Wash. D.C. 20007	X
James River Face	J	Pete Echols, 2000 Tate Sprgs. Rd., Lynchburg 24501	X
Little River	GW	Thad Tate, 313½ Burns Lane, Williamsburg, 23185	
Crawford Mtn.	GW	Bob Simms, 4-B2 Copeley Hill, Charlottesville 22903	
Rich Hole	GW	Leon Powell, 124 N. Lexington, Covington 24426	
Mt. Rogers.	J	Jill Knutson, 4112 N 27th St., Arlington 22207 Eddie Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane Alta Vista	
Mt. Lake	J	Jim Murray, Biology Dept. U. Va., Charlottesvl 22903	X
Peters Mtn.	J	Jim Murray	X
Mill Creek	J	Jim Murray	X
North Fork, Kimberling Crk.	J	Carl Holcomb, Rt. 2, Box 385 Blacksburg 24060	
Hunting Camp Crk.	J	Carl Holcomb	
Little Stony	J	Dick Peake, Box 103, Clinch Valley College, Wise 24293	
Big Schloss	GW	Bob Schaefer	
St. Mary's River	GW	Odell McGuire, Rt. 5, Lexington 24450	
Crabtree Falls-Maintop Mtn.	GW	Odell McGuire	

6	Suggested as W. Study Area for S.316	VWC ** Conclusions	Approx. Area (acres)***
			11,656 (c,d)
			20,000 (c)
			6,700 (d)
			9,135 (c)
			8,800 (d)
	(a)	(1),(2)	10,000 (c)
	(a)	(1),(2)	17,000 (c)
	(a)	(1),(2)	6,000 (c)
	(a)	(1),(2)	7,000 (c)
	(a),(b)	(1),(2)	8,400 (d)
			10,000 (c)
	(a),(b)	(1),(2)	5,000 (d)
	(b)	(1)	4,000 (d)
	(a)	(1),(2)	?
	(a)	(1),(2)	?
	(a)	(1),(2)	?
		(5)	
		(3),(4)	

* (a), Suggested as Wilderness Study Area by VWC
(b), Suggested by Sierra Club

** (1), Wilderness designation should be pursued for this area.
(2), Suggested by VWC for proposed Wilderness Study Area amendment to S.316.
(3), Probably not of Wilderness character.
(4), Work for alternate means for protection, other than Wilderness.
(5), Drop efforts here & concentrate elsewhere.

*** (c), Acreage suggested by VWC.
(d), Acreage appearing in Subcommittee draft of S.316.

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE
Route 4, Box 283
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

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VA.

FIRST CLASS

J. James Murray, Jr.
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

FIRST CLASS

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FIRST CLASS

Virginia Wilderness Committee

Newsletter October, 1973

EASTERN WILDERNESS AREAS BILL

Senate -- S. 316 -- A Critical Time; A New Threat

On or about October 29 -- the Senate Interior Committee is expected to take final action on S. 316. This is the bill, you will remember, that would designate 18 "instant" Wilderness Areas and 37 Wilderness Study Areas in 22 eastern states. Two Wilderness Areas (Laurel Fork, James River Face) and four Study Areas (Ramsey's Draft, Mill Creek, Peters Mtn., Mountain Lake) are in Virginia. Ramsey's Draft was originally proposed as an "instant" Wilderness, but was downgraded by the Public Lands Subcommittee.

The issues facing final action by the Interior Committee, and the action we hope for, are as follows:

1. Approval of the bill as written, including:
   a. keeping the present definition of Wilderness, which corresponds with the definition in the Wilderness Act of 1964.
   b. NO time limit on the study of Study Areas which would expire (if the Forest Service dragged its feet) unless Congress took specific action.
2. Approval of Laurel Fork and James River Face as "instant" Wilderness Areas; and approval of a 6,700 acre "instant" Wilderness Area in Ramsey's Draft, surrounded by a 15,100 acre Study Area.
3. Approval of Mill Creek, Mtn. Lake, & Peters Mtn. as Study Areas.

The Interior Committee seems to be under enormous pressure, from the Forest Service, from the Administration, and from some senators (see below), to weaken the present bill. Please give them the support they need to keep a good, strong bill, and urge Senators Byrd and Scott to lend strong support, too.

Letters from you are critically needed. The more specific you can be about the issues, the better. See below for a listing of letters needed.

A New Threat -- to S. 316 has arisen in the form of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, which, by an unusual arrangement, will be allowed to review S. 316 after the Interior Committee has finished with it!

The threat is spelled out in an irresponsible, fact-distorting letter from Sen. Herman E. Talmadge, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, to Sen. Paul Fannin on the Interior Committee. (The letter was instigated by Fannin. Both are foes of Wilderness.) Hair-raising excerpts from Talmadge's 4-page letter will be printed at the end of this Newsletter, space permitting.

Remember last year's furious jurisdictional battle between the Agriculture and Interior Committees over "wild areas" vs. Wilderness? Well, here we go again. Talmadge is trying to resurrect the notion of a separate system for eastern National Forests that would be presided over by the Agriculture Committee rather than the Interior Committee. And he also believes that the power to decide which areas merit protection should be taken from the Congress and public opinion, and handed to the Executive Branch and the Forest Service.

Last year's "wild areas" vs. Wilderness battle very nearly split the conservation/environment community into two warring camps. Conservationists can't afford to submit to divide-and-conquer tactics. The VWC's position

has been as follows:

1. Decisions on Wilderness designation should remain with Congress, and NOT be shifted to the Executive Branch and the Forest Service.
2. Jurisdiction over Wilderness bills should remain with the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which has been a powerful supporter of quality land protection and Wilderness law. The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry is strongly influenced by the Forest Service and timber interests.
3. The Wilderness Act of 1964, as it is written now, is sufficient to permit Wilderness designation in the East. This has been amply shown. We do not need either an amentment to the Wilderness Act or a separate wilderness-type system for the East at this time.

These three positions are embodied in S. 316. Our action, as a group and as individuals, should be to support S. 316 in every way possible. We trust that other conservation-minded groups in the East will do likewise.

The Talmadge letter seems to be a clear attempt to divide the Senate into pro-S. 316 and anti-S. 316 factions.

What can we do? Write letters!

Here are the letters that are needed, to help get S. 316 through both the Interior and Agriculture Committees without being emasculated:

-- To Sen. Byrd -- The Hon. Harry F., Jr., Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510.

1. By October 29, write and discuss the issues (1-3) on P. 1, and ask him to support them, and to make his support known both publicly and to the members of the Senate INTERIOR Committee. Sen. Byrd has said that he philosophically favors Wilderness; but he has not come out publicly in support of S. 316 or any of the Va. areas. The Interior Committee has said that Sen. Scott's opposition alone will not knock the Va. areas out of the bill; but the more strong support Byrd will provide, the better Virginia will fare.
2. Within the next week, write to Sen. Byrd and ask him to urge the Senate AGRICULTURE Committee to approve S. 316 as written.

-- To Sen. Scott -- The Hon. William L., same address.

3. By October 29. (Same as letter (1) to Byrd.) As far as we know, Scott still opposes all Wilderness in Virginia, despite receiving considerable mail and rather unfavorable press coverage of his position. But even Sen. Helms of N. Carolina has halted his opposition to Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness. Maybe Scott will do likewise.
4. Within the next week, same as letter (2) to Byrd.

-- To Sen. Jackson -- The Hon. Henry M., Chairman, Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, same address.

5. Ask the support of Jackson and the Interior Committee for the issues outlined (1-3) on P. 1. If you can, please send copies of this letter to Byrd and Scott. Jackson must receive this letter by Oct. 29.

-- To Sen. Talmadge -- The Hon. Herman E., Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, same address.

6. Ask that the Agriculture Committee approve S. 316 as written. Without being hostile, don't hesitate to elaborate on why you think S. 316 is an excellent bill that should not be weakened. If you still have a copy of Sen. Frank Church's comments on eastern Wilderness, from last year, you might dredge up a few quotes. Byrd and Scott should receive copies of this letter, too.

Six letters -- that's quite a bit of work. But there has never been a more urgent moment for Virginia's Wilderness than this one -- so please do your best. The letters that are needed by October 29 are the most urgent right now. If you can't manage all the letters, at least write the letters to Byrd and Scott, and send appropriate copies of those to Jackson and Talmadge.

The House -- Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill -- H.R. 1758

Hearings have not yet been scheduled for H.R. 1758, the House version of S. 316.

So far, we have (perhaps unwisely) concentrated our efforts on this bill on the Senate version.

However, recent visits to Congressmen Butler's and Wampler's offices indicated that it's high time to let them hear our support for H.R. 1758. Neither of them has received any significant support for Wilderness from their constituents at all, and Congressman Butler has heard some local opposition to Laurel Fork (see previous Newsletter).

These two congressmen are the keys to Wilderness in Virginia. if they should say "No" to Wilderness in their districts, the outcome of the Senate bill will be immaterial.

A letter to them right now would help.

-- Ask Congressman Butler (The Hon. M. Caldwell, House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515) to support "instant" Wilderness for Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and James River Face, as embodied in H.R. 1758.

-- Ask Congressman Wampler (The Hon. William C., same address) to support the addition, to H.R. 1758, of a Wilderness Study Areas category similar to the one in S. 316, and to support the designation of Mill Creek, Mountain Lake, and Peters Mountain as Wilderness Study Areas.

-- Ask them both to communicate to Senators Byrd and Scott their support for the Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in their districts. An indication of support for Wilderness from these two congressmen would undoubtedly help strengthen support in the Senate for the Va. areas in S. 316.

It is especially important that you write to Butler and Wampler if you reside in or own property in their districts.

In addition, if you are a constituent of Butler or Wampler, please take the time to visit (or call) one of their local offices occasionally, and talk about your support for Wilderness, and ask for theirs. Their offices are:

Butler: Lynchburg - 313 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 900 Church St. 845-1378
Waynesboro - 111 Federal Bldg. & P.O., 200 S. Wayne Ave. 942-7758
Staunton - Phone: Dial 0, ask for Enterprise 758.
Roanoke - 322 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse, 212 W. Church St. 344-3406

Wampler: Bristol - 524 Cumberland St.
Pulaski - 309 N. Washington Ave.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS

Senate -- The Senate last month adopted the 80,000 acre revised National Park Service proposal for Shenandoah Wilderness, with Sen. Byrd's support. Sen. Scott did not oppose the bill, reportedly out of respect for the senior Senator's wishes, and out of nostalgia for the memory of the late Senator

Harry Byrd, Sr., who was primarily responsible for the creation of Shenandoah National Park.

House -- Although the House Interior Committee held hearings in June on the Shenandoah bill, they have yet to act on the bill. You will recall that there are three versions of the Shenandoah Wilderness proposal in the House:

73,000 A. - last year's administration/Park Service proposal, cosponsored this year by all of Va.'s congressmen. This bill is now outdated by the 80,000 acre proposal, below.

80,000 A. - this year's administration/Park Service bill, to which the Va. congressional delegation may be expected to lend support.

113,000 A. - introduced by Congressman Broyhill. This is the version backed by the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition.

We hope that a compromise between 80,000 and 113,000 acres can be reached in the House. Several members of the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition discussed this idea with National Park Service officials, and concluded that some horse-trading might result in a Wilderness Area of just under 104,000 A. This would trade off some of the less important areas in favor of keeping several prime areas in the Wilderness.

The key areas that we want to keep in the proposed Wilderness are:

-- Bolton Branch drainage, north of Mt. Marshall
-- Little Devil Stairs } Northern Section
-- South side of Old Rag Mtn, plus closing Ragged Run road.
-- Smith/Grindstone Mtn. area } Central Section
-- Laurel Prong (except for eastward extension)
-- Paine Run Road } Southern Section
-- Trayfoot Mtn. powerline right-of-way

Areas we would concede to the Park Service in exchange for the above:

-- Area between Little Devil Stairs & Area 3, containing Jinney Gray fire road
-- Top of White Oak Canyon
-- Eastward extension of Laurel Prong
-- Madison Run Road, with narrow right-of-way

Conservationists are going to be asking Broyhill to support this 104,000 acre compromise, and will ask the rest of Va.'s congressmen to back him.

However, your congressman is going to have to receive a lot of mail to convince him not to simply support the Park Service proposal. Va. Congressmen have been going along with J. Kenneth Robinson's wishes, since Shenandoah is in his district. Congressman Robinson reportedly has been going along with Senator Byrd's wishes; and Byrd supported the Park Service's 80,000 acre bill. However, Byrd also repeatedly said he was flexible as to the exact acreage. So we don't think it would be any affront to the Senator if our congressmen chose to support the 104,000 acre proposal.

Action on Shenandoah Wilderness by the House Interior Committee will probably not come until January, '74. So we have time to make our views emphatically known. Please don't delay, though. Write your congressman asking his support for a 104,000 acre compromise for Shenandoah Wilderness. Get your friends to write. Then write him more than once between now and January. If he won't support 104,000 acres, ask him why; and respectfully rebut his position. We can't afford to waste these intervening months in inaction.

BACK CREEK PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

VEPCO is planning a new pumped storage project (# 2716) on Back Creek in Bath County. It will involve 2 reservoirs (totalling 865 acres), plus a third, 100 acre recreational reservoir downstream. A high-voltage power line from the project will run near route 250 and through the north edge of the Crawford Mountain area. Crawford Mountain is one of the areas that VWC is looking at for Wilderness potential.

We regret that we haven't more facts to give you right now. VWC hopes to obtain further details in time to take a position on the project this week -- because the deadline for comments to the Federal Power Commission is Oct. 29. We do plan to oppose the routing of the power line through the Crawford Mountain area, and ask that further consideration be given to the power line route for the sake of local residents.

If you have a reaction to pumped storage projects in general, or to the power line route, you must act quickly. The Federal Power Commission must have your comments by October 29. Write: Federal Power Commission, 825 N. Capitol St., Washington, D. C. 20426.

You should also send a copy of your letter to Congressman Butler (see P. 3 for address). Butler is currently in favor of the project on economic grounds.

TWO NEW SIERRA CLUB GROUPS

We welcome the birth of two new local Sierra Club groups. The Peninsula Group (Williamsburg to Newport News-Hampton) was formed in August. For information, contact their chairman, Irene McDonald, 233 Powers Court, Newport News 23601 (596-1474).

And this week (Weds., Oct. 24, at Kempsville Library in Virginia Beach) the Tidewater Group is having its first (organizational) meeting. For information, contact acting chairman J. Daniel Coogan, Jr., 7728 Enfield Ave., #202, Norfolk, Va. 23505 (423-6480 or 623-0842).

NEW: A SERVICE CHARGE FOR THE NEWSLETTER

VWC has operated for four years on voluntary contributions from its membership. This is required by our by-laws. You have been very generous and helpful.

However, our membership list has grown faster than our income. Now the voluntary contributions do not quite cover the cost of producing and mailing the Newsletter.

To show you our financial situation, here's out past year's treasurer's report:

Previous balance (May 1, 1972)- - - -	$ 157.72	
Income (contributions from 45 members)	358.50	
Total	$ 516.22	+ $ 516.22
Newsletter expenses	$ 379.90	- $ 379.90
Final balance (April 29, 1973) - - - - - - - - - - - - -		$ 136.32

(This does not include out-of-pocket expenses by VWC officers for phone calls, trips to Congressional hearings, expenses in preparing maps and testimony for hearings, some correspondence, etc. One of your officers had an $82 phone bill last month.)

We're losing, as you can see. Not terribly, but it's getting worse. Our balance on October 2, 1973, was $ 36.30, which won't cover the cost of this Newsletter.

This problem was discussed at length at the Annual Meeting in June, and several alternatives were considered.

To stay alive, VWC needs two things from its members: action, and/or financial support sufficient to pay for the Newsletter. Each year, about 50 members (1/10 of the membership) have kept the Newsletter solvent. There is no way of knowing, at present, how many others have supported VWC's efforts with letters, telegrams, etc., in response to the issues.

The consensus at the Annual Meeting was that it is not only fair but necessary, now, to ask each VWC member to contribute something: time, energy, or money. The following solution was adopted.

Newsletter Service Charge: In order to receive the Newsletter after January 1, 1974, each VWC member must submit, by Dec. 31, and each year thereafter, either a contribution (of $1 or more) or a copy of a letter that he/she has sent in response to an issue covered in a VWC Newsletter.

The Newsletter is not going to make a profit on this -- especially with postage supposedly going up to 10¢ in January -- so we will still have to depend on your generosity. (Incidentally, we're sticking with first class mail for the sake of speed and reliability.) If you send us a copy of a letter instead of a contribution, we'll be so happy that we'll run out and get a dollar from someone else!

Now, here's what to do: Check your mailing label on the outside of this Newsletter. If the number "73" appears in the upper right corner, you have already contributed in 1972 or 1973. No further action is necessary unless you have an address correction.

If there is no "73" on your address label, we have no record of a contribution from you in 1972 or 1973. So: between now and December 31, please send:

either a contribution of at least $1 to cover Newsletter service charge,
or a copy of a letter you have sent in response to a Newsletter issue;
plus any corrections that should be made on your address label.

We must receive this by December 31 for you to continue receiving the Newsletter. Send service charge or copy of letter to our treasurer,

Eddie Nance
2136 Laurel Lane
Altavista, Va. 24517

You will find a tear-off sheet on the next page, for your convenience.

Thank you.

EXCERPTS FROM THE TALMADGE LETTER
(plus some outraged editorial comments)

"I agree that S. 316 gives too much power to the Congress. Wilderness designation ought to spring from professionals, and therefore the Executive .... Congress has acted capriciously in creating wilderness areas which did not come under the definitions provided in the 1964 Act."

(Congress and the public alike should be quick to disagree!)

(Excerpts from Talmadge-to-Fannin letter, continued)

"Enormous expanses of wilderness will effectively serve to limit use of these areas to the hardy few who care to hike long distances on foot or to those who can afford expensive trail equipment and horses.... I am not inclined to tie up huge areas of the National Forests...for the benefit of the few."

(Where are these "enormous expanses" of Wilderness in Virginia? anywhere in the East? Where are all the millionaires in VWC who advocate Wilderness? When did Wilderness ever cost more than a $20 pair of boots? And how come the use of some Wilderness Areas has doubled in one year, if Wilderness is only for "the hardy few?")

"I have more faith in the...Forest Service to provide true multiple use ...than on designations forced upon the Forest Service by strident interest groups."

(Wilderness designations were, in fact, "forced upon" the Forest Service in 1964 by the U. S. Congress, in the mandates of the Wilderness Act -- not by "strident interest groups." Is VWC a "strident interest group," or a diverse group of private citizens trying to obtain Wilderness for what we believe is the public good?)

"S. 316...could ultimately tie up a majority of our National Forests...."

(Red herring! There is no way "majority of our National Forests" could qualify for Wilderness, much less be so designated by Congress; and nobody is advocating that much Wilderness, anyway.)

From: Virginia Wilderness Committee

To: Active supporters of Wilderness in Virginia.

A brief review of the Wilderness scene in Virginia this past year:

1) Six Virginia areas were proposed for Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas in the Senate version of the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill (S. 316).

2) Hearings were held in Washington and Roanoke on S. 316. V.W.C. members and others were present and strongly supported the Wilderness concept.

3) Continued opposition has come from the U.S. Forest Service and timber industry lobbyists, as well as from some individuals.

4) V.W.C. Area Leaders have chosen 15 areas to study for possible Wilderness Area protection. Many of these areas have had field study trips now, organized by individual members, by the Sierra Club, and by one of the college outing clubs. A barrage of maps, reports, and letters has descended on our Congressional delegation. Several areas were discussed at the V.W.C. Annual Meeting last June.

5) In spite of a heavy backlog of "energy crisis" work, the Senate Interior Committee reported out S. 316 late this year. It will be reviewed by the Agriculture Committee, probably in February, before proceeding to a full Senate vote. The bill is currently in very good shape, except for the deletion of the Laurel Fork Wilderness due to local citizen pressure on Sen. Byrd.

6) In addition to the above progress toward Wilderness in the National Forests, the Shenandoah National Park Wilderness proposal for 80,000 acres was adopted by the Senate. The House Interior Committee has held hearings on Shenandoah, but has not acted yet.

We've made a lot of progress. We have a lot of work to do.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

In an attempt to answer this question, the V.W.C. is calling for another Charlottesville gathering.

Second Annual "Charlottesville 20" Meeting

Date: Saturday, February 2, 1974
Time: 10 A.M.
Place: Gilmer Hall (Biology), University of Virginia, Charlottesville. (Same place as last year -- see map.)

Purpose of meeting: to discuss our progress and problems, to regenerate the enthusiasm and energy of the group, and to develop our objectives for the coming year.

Second Annual 'Charlottesville 20' Meeting (cont'd)

Some proposed objectives:

(a) Arrange field trips for each area this spring.

(b) Develop local groups to work on field study, and on public and congressional support.

(c) Develop a written report for each area.

(d) Publications -- brochure on Wilderness, Wilderness in Virginia, backpacking and places to go in Virginia,....

It is particularly important that Area Leaders try to make it to this meeting (also bring slides, maps, reports, etc.). Everyone who gets this notice and can come should also bring other active people with them (see objective (b) above).

For further information, and to coordinate car-pooling, contact:

Jim Murray, Charlottesville. 804-924-7118 (bus.)
804-973-6693 (res.)

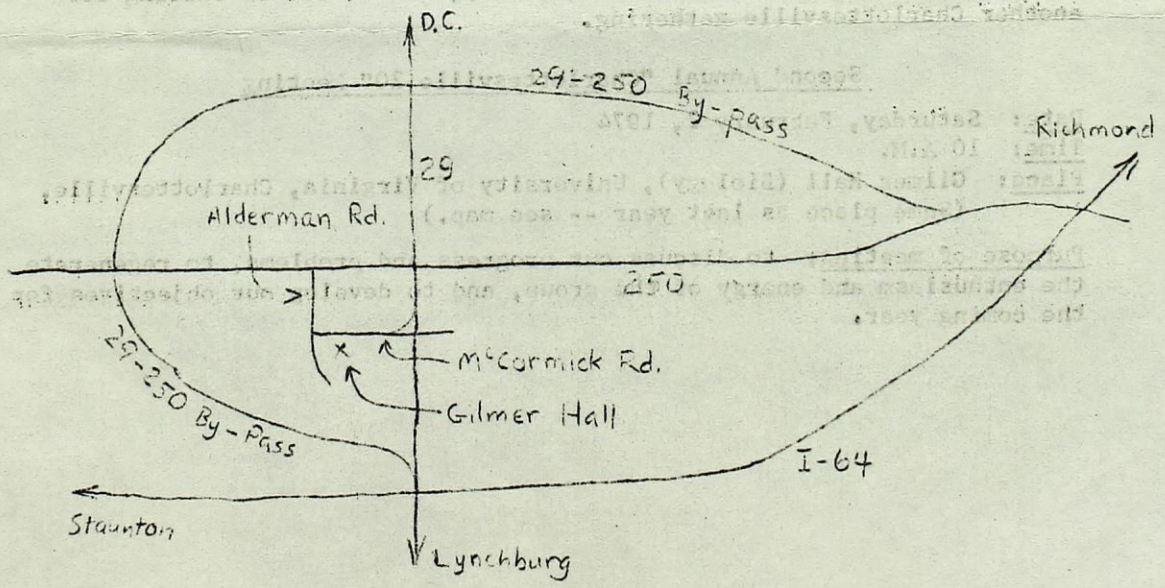
John McKnight, Williamsburg. 804-229-3000, X471 (bus.)
804-229-5294 (res.)

Eddie Nance, Altavista. 804-369-6873

Bob Schaefer, D.C. 202-965-5623

Jon Soest
Route 4, Box 283
Williamsburg, Va. 23185
804-564-9847 (res.)
804-229-3000, X471 (bus.)

(Out of town until Jan. 15.)



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Route 4, Box 283, Williamsburg 23185

Newsletter December, 1973

Action on S. 316, the Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill

On December 4, the Senate Interior & Insular Affairs Committee voted S. 316 out in its final form. The result is generally very good, but with one bitter disappointment for Virginians. The Virginia areas came out as follows:

Laurel Fork -- stricken from the bill! (The only area deleted from the bill, out of a total of 55 areas in 21 states.)
James River Face -- 8,800 acre "instant" Wilderness Area!
Ramsey's Draft -- 6,700 acre Wilderness Study Area (We supported a 21,800 acre "instant" Wilderness.)
Mountain Lake -- 8,400 acres)
Peters Mountain -- 5,000 acres) Wilderness Study Areas
Mill Creek -- 4,000 acres)

Laurel Fork is the obvious disappointment. Senator Byrd withdrew his support from the area because of rather irrational local opposition from some members of the Highland County Board of Supervisors and the county agricultural extension agent. We are dismayed that this particular caliber of local opposition could dictate the death of a proposal for a national Wilderness Area which, as it is written, represents a genuine compromise with the legitimate concerns expressed by local residents.

However, without Byrd's support for the other Virginia areas, they would probably all have been dropped from the bill as a result of Senator Scott's flat opposition to all Wilderness. So we owe Senator Byrd a sincere vote of thanks, too.

So celebrate! Virginia is one step closer to having six Wilderness Areas (including Shenandoah)! And all hope for Laurel Fork is not lost yet (see below)!

Now what? By an unusual arrangement, S. 316 now goes to the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee. Senator Talmadge, Chairman, is no friend of Wilderness. (See October Newsletter for description of the dangers facing S. 316 from this committee, and for excerpts from a letter from Talmadge in which he lays the groundwork for a battle against eastern Wilderness.)

Write letters!

1) To Talmadge, asking him and the Senate Agriculture & Forestry Committee to approve S. 316 as written.
2) To Byrd (
3) To Scott (asking them to communicate their support for S. 316, as written, to the members of the Senate Agriculture & Forestry Committee. Also ask that Wilderness definition embodied in S. 316 not be weakened.
(Or, send copies of your Talmadge letter to Byrd & Scott.)

Addresses:
The Honorable Herman E. Talmadge, Chairman)
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Forestry (
The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr. (Senate Office Building
The Honorable William L. Scott) Washington, D. C. 20510

Meanwhile, in the House, where our hope now lies,...

...the House Interior & Insular Affairs Committee still has not announced hearings on the House version of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill, H.R. 1758.

All of our efforts must now shift to the House. Particularly to Congressmen Wampler and Butler.

Butler's district contains the three proposed Wilderness Areas -- Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and James River Face. We can still obtain protection for Laurel Fork. Congressman Butler has said he supports a Wilderness Study Area for Laurel Fork, and we must give him the support he needs to stick to that position. He must continue to hear your views -- don't let up! VWC will keep asking for "instant" Wilderness for Laurel Fork, while working on gaining more local support for Wilderness. Butler listens very closely to the views of his constituents -- so if you are one, you, especially, need to write-write-write! And visit his local office while he is there during Congress's Christmas recess -- a great opportunity to talk to him personally about Wilderness.

If the House bill ends up with any sort of protection for Laurel Fork, we expect that it will be retained when the House and Senate bills go to a conference committee to iron out differences.

As to James River Face, Butler supports "instant" Wilderness. Encourage him in this, and thank him. We aren't certain of his stand on Ramsey's Draft, so keep mentioning it in your letters. We will ask for the full 21,800 acre "instant" Wilderness for Ramsey's Draft when hearings on H.R. 1758 come up.

Wampler's district contains the three Wilderness Study Areas that are in S. 316 -- Mountain Lake, Peters Mountain, and Mill Creek. The House bill, H.R. 1758, does not yet have a Study Area provision, but a different bill, H.R. 2420, is a Study Area bill. It is likely that these two bills will be combined in committee. Write Wampler, especially if you live in his district, and ask for his support for the designation of the above three areas as Wilderness Study Areas. Visit his office and talk with him.

Addresses:

The Honorable M. Caldwell Butler (
The Honorable William C. Wampler (House Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20515

Assateague & Chincoteague

(Good news!)

It looks as though Assateague Island National Seashore is about to be saved from certain future doom.

There is a movement afoot to amend the 1965 Act (Public Law 89-195), which established the National Seashore, to delete the clause that calls for a road the length of the island, and for commercial developments.

The Maryland legislature has endorsed the amendment, which would: (1) eliminate the proposed island-long road; (2) substitute a mass transit system for the present open access road, keeping the wildlife refuge intact; (3) eliminate all commercial development plans from Assateague, placing them on the mainland at both ends of the island; and (4) thereby preserve this uniquely accessible barrier island in its natural state.

Assateague & Chincoteague (cont'd.)

Representative Thomas N. Downing, whose district includes the Virginia portion of Assateague, is ready to introduce the amendment in Congress. The bill will have Maryland and probably other Virginia co-sponsors. A letter of encouragement and thanks to Downing is in order. Also, ask your representative and Senators Byrd and Scott to support the amendment to P.L. 89-195.

In addition, we hear that the administrators of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore are preparing a proposal for a 7,000 acre Wilderness Area! They deserve a round of applause, too!

Sometime soon there will be local hearings on this Wilderness proposal. If you can get over to the Eastern Shore for a visit, try to talk with Mr. Thomas Norris, Supervisor, Assateague Island National Seashore, and Mr. J. C. Apple, Refuge Manager, about the proposal. Look things over, and send us your comments. This will help us prepare our response to the Wilderness proposal when it is made public.

In fact, the Norfolk Sierra Club group is considering field study trips to Assateague. If you would like to go, and help study the area's Wilderness potential and the agency Wilderness proposal, send your name to Mrs. Bev Callaway, 216 Scarlett Dr., Chesapeake 23320, Phone 482-3053. (You don't have to be a Sierra Club member to go.)

The Treasury, and Our New Newsletter Service Charge

Hurray for our wonderful members! The response to our new service charge for receiving the Newsletter (a contribution of at least $1, or a copy of a letter you've sent on an issue, per year) has been heartwarming!

The Treasury has ballooned from a frightening $36 to $200 in the past month, and the copies of letters we've received have been the kinds of letters that can really turn the tide on an issue.

There are still a lot of members who haven't yet sent a contribution or a letter, though. Please don't forget -- we don't want to have to drop you from the Newsletter mailing list.

Remember, you have until January 1.

Check the mailing label on this Newsletter for a "73". If there isn't any, we haven't recorded your contribution. Please send it, along with the tear-off sheet (last page) if you have an address change, to our Treasurer:

Eddie Nance
2136 Laurel Lane
Altavista, Va. 24517

Environment and the Energy Crisis

Much of the news we hear today seems to be bad news for those of us interested in wise conservation and environmental protection. The petroleum, mining, and timber interests are having a field day. "Irrational environmentalists" are blamed for everything from gasless Sundays to overpriced hamburger.

What terrific irony, that those people who have warned of this impending crisis for years should become the scapegoats for industrial and governmental myopia.

Environment & the Energy Crisis (cont'd.)

Our belief is that the only good defense is a good offense. Now is the time to point the finger at the useless highway projects -- destined to become either huge parking lots or 32-lane bicycle paths. Now is the time to ask whether it's wise to tear away the mountains of southwest Virginia in order to ship about half of our stripmined low-sulphur coal to Japan. Why can't the cities and the Commonwealth of Virginia be persuaded now to convert "useless" woodlands into natural areas instead of more sprawling suburbs -- natural areas easily accessible by hikers and bicyclers -- to encourage people to stay near home and off the roads?

Don't be defensive about your conservationist views. The environment is as important now as it was three or five years ago. And those who are criticizing the environmental movement are the same ones who were critical back then. The people of this country have shown, time and again, their support for preserving and improving their environment -- including the willingness to pay for it. Our critics may be sincerely concerned about the economy -- but not your economy!

And most of all, keep telling people what a good idea Wilderness is. It costs nothing, it is a wise use of marginally productive land, and the average Wilderness buff uses far less petroleum than a "recreational vehicle" will use just to keep its refrigerator running.

Jon Soest, Past President

Up-Coming Va. General Assembly Session

-- and Legislative Priorities

Issues and legislation occur so quickly once the General Assembly is in session that we have trouble keeping you posted. Looking forward to the next session, here are the priorities on proposed legislation that the Conservation Council of Virginia adopted at its November 10 meeting:

1) Environmental Reorganization Legislation -- revision of H.B. 1586. CCVa. favors reorganization along the lines proposed by the Governor's Task Force on the Environment, with the inclusion of a comprehensive policy statement emphasizing long-term environmental protection as basic to public welfare and the guiding criterion in all public decisions. This approach maintains the role of existing citizen boards (like the Water Control Board); allows inclusion of additional environmental protection agencies if recommended; eliminates hierarchical concentration of power while allowing communication between agencies; avoids the gaps and delays that would result from the massive reorganization that H.B. 1586 would require, if reenacted.

The CCVa. also recommends that any reorganization bill include a provision for citizen standing to file suit to enforce all environmental protection statutes.

2) Land Use Legislation. The U. S. Senate passed the Land Use Policy and Planning Assistance Act in June. The U. S. House of Representatives is considering similar legislation. These bills do not establish a national land use policy or attempt to dictate land use policies to the states.

Instead, they set up a grant-in-aid program to assist states in developing their own land use programs. Initially, a state would set up a land use planning agency to compile information on land use and environmental conditions. The state would identify areas of more than local concern, and develop plans for these areas. If these state land use programs comply with requirements

General Assembly -- Legislative Priorities (cont'd.)

(Land Use)

of Federal law, the Federal government would provide financial assistance to the state for implementation of the state's land use programs.

In addition, the House (Udall) bill contains a provision for sanctions (withholding of some Federal funds) against states that fail to enact sound land use programs. If this latter provision is enacted, it will be imperative that Virginia adopt land use legislation of her own.

But even without the threat of sanctions, we feel that Virginia needs state land use legislation.

CCVa. recommends legislation to create a state Land Use Commission; require comprehensive planning; designate and protect Critical Environmental Areas, including flood plains; and develop policies regulating key facility siting and large-scale development (as well as meeting other Federal requirements.) CCVa. also suggests that land use legislation contain a conflict of interest clause relating to the composition of the Land Use Commission, and that flood plains be preserved as open space as a relief mechanism for flood waters.

In a related matter, an amendment to land tax legislation might be considered which would extend the lower tax rates allowed for land devoted to open space use (including agriculture) to also cover wetlands.

3) Commission on Outdoor Recreation (COR) Bonds. COR has asked Governor Holton and his Budget Advisory Committee for $84 million in General Obligation Bonds to finance the Va. Outdoors Plan between 1975 and 1980. This will have to be acted on by the General Assembly, and approved by the voters in the next regular election. It would provide $73 million for acquisition of 15 new state parks and development of some. Smaller portions of the funds would help localities implement park and open space plans and help the Game Commission expand recreational opportunities.

The main problem with this proposal is that about 1/3 of the funds will be used to develop some state park lands. The pressure and money needed for park development never seems to be in short supply. A more far-sighted approach would be to use all these funds to acquire our future park land now -- before the opportunities are lost.

The sooner these new state park lands can be acquired, the better. Land values are currently doubling every five years. If this bond issue passes all the hurdles, the money will become available in July, 1975, at the earliest -- after another 30% or so increase in prices. (A notorious example of inflation is provided by False Cape State Park. Plans for acquisition of this Park drove up land prices so that the original land acquisition estimate of $2 million will become an $8 million purchase when completed.)

4) Increased funding for the Air Pollution Control Board, Governor's Council on the Environment, Va. Institute of Marine Science, and staff of the Marine Resources Commission. These state agencies are being asked to carry an increasingly heavy load of administration and enforcement of environmental policies. They must have the funds to continue and to improve their work.

5) Strip Mining Regulations. Virginia is in very sorry shape on this issue, having weaker control and reclamation laws than its neighbors. In addition, we have no regulations on minerals other than coal. This is a complex and potentially explosive issue, and we hope to present a more complete analysis in our next Newsletter. There is an attitude among some federal and state officials of "damn the regulations, full speed ahead" with surface mining. Purportedly an attitude created by the fuel crisis, it is in fact an expression of economic and political factors that have been with us for a long time.

Other issues to keep an eye on: amendments to strengthen the Wetlands Act; creation of a Department of Transportation to supplant the Va. Department of Highways; soil erosion prevention; flood plain zoning; a ban on non-returnable containers.

As a member of the CCVa., the VWC has endorsed these priorities and will work to support them in the General Assembly. We invite your comments.

In the meantime, contact your Virginia legislators and express your personal support for the issues you think important. Watch for media reports of public hearings on legislation during the Assembly session, and speak up -- by letter or in person.

We will try to supply contemporary news -- but it's not easy.

Statement on the Energy Crisis

by the Conservation Council of Virginia

(excerpts)

This is a time of concern about fuel supplies. Virginia environmentalists realize that steps must be taken individually and collectively to deal with shortages forecast for the coming winter. It is also urgent, as environmental leaders have long suggested, to set new national policies and priorities with respect to energy resources....

Accordingly, the Board of Directors of the Conservation Council of Virginia supports proposals to reduce speed limits on state highways, diminish use of outdoor lighting, lower thermostat settings, and ration available gasoline. We further urge the implementation of transportation strategies which will reduce dependence on private automobiles. These strategies should include improved public transportation and tax, toll, and parking policies which will encourage motorists to move to mass transit....

....We do not believe that an "energy crisis" which exists in part because of society's short-sightedness should offer an excuse to relax or diminish society's control over recovery and utilization of energy resources....

In the long run,...we believe the current energy crisis requires far greater vigilance than we have applied in the past. For example, the limitation of energy resources requires high public standards in determining whether or not proposed new generating and transmission facilities do in fact make sense. We believe that more attention must be given to the efficiency of various energy systems (such as pumped storage) and that more research should be devoted to making generating and transmitting facilities more efficient. We believe that the public -- not the private -- sector should make the basic decisions about facility location.

CCVa. Statement on the Energy Crisis (cont'd.)

We point out as well that our basic fuel resources are non-renewable, and that society must concern itself with what will be left behind -- with the utility of the land and resource base -- after those basic fuel resources have been recovered.

...Virginia possesses major reserves of low-sulphur coal. We believe Virginia needs a public policy as to how much of this coal should be shipped abroad....We believe that it should be long run public policy to regard Virginia coal as a major energy resource, and to develop the systems required to recover such coal safely and efficiently by underground mining.

Finally, we call on Virginia governmental leaders to halt urban freeway projects and to turn the money involved to development of modern public transit systems....

Environmentalists....have been told to be reasonable, that environmentism was all right so long as it did not interfere with life style.

Now the energy crisis is interfering with our life style.

We find it ironic that, some of our previous concerns having proved valid, we are being asked to be reasonable and forget other concerns of equal or greater validity. We do not believe the public should panic as our state and nation enter what may be a prolonged period of "energy crisis". We believe that society must instead exert greater control over decisions and operations in the energy field, and that we must not give energy production precedence over other vital natural resources.

In conclusion, we emphasize that every activity, from the mere act of living to the consumption of all goods and services, requires the expenditure of energy. We ask that in both our public and private life we reassess our modes of living and alter those wasteful of this limited resource.

Adopted unanimously by the Board of Directors, CCVa., November 10, 1973.

Tear-off sheet for Newsletter service charge or copy of letter you have sent.

Return by December 31, 1973.

☐ $_____ contribution is enclosed.

☐ Copy of letter I sent is enclosed.

☐ Please correct my address label. I have shown corrections on the label, which is attached to the back of this sheet.

☐ Remove my name from the VWC mailing list.

Send to VWC treasurer: Eddie Nance
2136 Laurel Lane
Altavista, Va. 24517

Thank you!

HAVE A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON !

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE
Route 4, Box 283
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

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NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION WEEK

FIRST CLASS

J. James Murray, Jr. '73
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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To our Supporting Members: Many Thanks!

Thanks to all of you who have shown your active dedication to Wilderness protection and your support for VWC's efforts by sending either the Newsletter service charge of at least $1 or a copy of a letter you have written on an issue.

You will keep on receiving the Newsletter for the rest of 1974, and we hope the job we do will continue to please you. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Members who have not sent a Newsletter service charge will receive no further Newsletters this year, except for the announcement of the Annual Meeting.

This change in our mailing policy was necessary in order to continue to keep you active people informed.

You are the backbone of Wilderness support in Virginia. Without your active participation, we could have no Wilderness. Please continue your support, and let us know how we can be more effective.

Thanks again!
Sally Soest, President, VWC

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VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
Route 4, Box 283, Williamsburg, Va. 23185

Newsletter March, 1974

S. 316 -- Eastern Wilderness Areas bill: 2 possible pitfalls

Pitfall #1. Possible weakening by the Senate Agriculture & Forestry Committee, to which S. 316 was referred after action by the Senate Interior Committee. Sen. Talmadge, Agriculture Committee chairman, is a proponent of the "wild areas" concept, embodied in S. 22, for protection of eastern National Forest areas -- rather than the protection of full Wilderness designation that S. 316 would provide.

Recently Talmadge sent a letter to the 44 senators whose states contain areas mentioned in S. 316. The letter asked (1) the senator's opinion of the areas proposed in his state, and (2) whether he prefers S. 22 or S. 316. We hope Senator Byrd's reply to both questions will be favorable to S. 316. The action the Agriculture Committee takes will depend heavily on responses to this letter.

Pitfall #2. Senator William Scott reportedly considered knocking all the Va. areas out of S. 316 when it goes to the floor for a vote. However, he is receiving pressure, and may be more willing to consider Wilderness.

The remedy for both these pitfalls is to convince Sens. Byrd and Scott that public opinion in Virginia is strongly in favor of Wilderness -- that the public wants to see S. 316 adopted intact.

So far, Byrd has said he favors the Wilderness concept and is generally in favor of S. 316. But his position has been neither tough nor vocal. He cannot be tough and vocal unless he hears from all of us.

Send letters and/or telegrams immediately, urging Byrd to let both the Agriculture and Forestry Committee and Senator Scott know that he will not put up with any attempts to maim or gut S. 316 (or words to that effect!)

Write to Scott (!) about how much Virginia needs her Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. He may be more willing than ever to listen, now.

Addresses:

The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
The Honorable William L. Scott
The Honorable Herman E. Talmadge, Chairman
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Forestry
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Action Begins in House -- Eastern Wilderness Areas bill -- H.R. 13455

Hearings. The House Interior & Insular Affairs Committee has just scheduled hearings on the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill for March 26 (government witnesses) and April 2 (Public witnesses). VWC will be there!

H.R. 13455 is the House bill you should refer to from now on. It is identical to S. 316, as adopted by the Senate Interior Committee.

Cosponsorship by as many Virginia congressmen as possible is our immediate aim.

As you will recall, the Laurel Fork area was deleted from S. 316 -- so Laurel Fork is not mentioned in H.R. 13455.

Now, within the next few weeks, a new bill, with several improvements will be introduced. The object will be to get as many cosponsors as possible for this bill.

We know that Congressman Butler cannot support "instant" Wilderness for Laurel Fork because of local opposition; but he has said he would

support a Wilderness Study Area for Laurel Fork. So we will be asking him to cosponsor this multi-sponsor bill with Laurel Fork in it as a Study Area. Hopefully, he will be able to support this compromise designation.

Likewise, we need Congressman Wampler's cosponsorship to support the three Wilderness Study Areas in his district (Mtn. Lake, Peters Mtn., and Mill Creek.)

So in addition to testifying at the hearing, several VWC officers and members will spend April 1 and 2 in Washington, visiting the offices of Virginia's 10 congressmen, asking them to cosponsor the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. If you would like to join us in office-visiting, contact Sally Soest, 804-564-9847.

Cosponsorship by Butler and Wampler is essential -- the Virginia areas will not "go" without their approval. Cosponsorship by the rest of the Virginia delegation is also very important -- and this will depend on you!

What can you do?

1) Send a written statement (letter) in favor of H.R. 13455, and also the addition of Laurel Fork as a Wilderness Study Area, to The Honorable James A. Haley, Chairman, House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Include as much personal knowledge as you can, and ask that your statement be included in the official hearing record. Send a copy to your congressman!

2) Educate and convince. Educate your congressman about Wilderness -- what it is, what the public can do (hunt, fish, hike, picnic, camp, etc.) in a Wilderness Area, and why it's in the public interest to protect a few areas in Virginia as Wilderness Areas.

Convince your congressman that there is enough support in his district to justify his cosponsoring the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. Ask him to cosponsor it. If he won't, politely ask him why not, and politely refute his reasons.

Visit your congressman's local office -- one visit is worth many letters. If you've never visited his local office, find out where it is, call and see when he will be in town, and ask for an appointment. Several "delegations" visited Congressman Butler's offices during Christmas recess, and now his staff seem ready to believe that Wilderness support really exists in his district. More of the same kind of action is needed, in every congressional district.

If you're in Washington, visit your congressman's office there. You will really make an impression there -- few constituents go all the way to D.C. to make their point!

Getting the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill through the House will require a sustained effort from all of us this spring.

You can also help VWC by keeping us informed of any changes in your congressman's position on Wilderness that you detect as time goes on.

Assateague/Chincoteague Wilderness Proposal -- Local Hearings

Two local hearings have been scheduled for the Wilderness proposal for Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore:

April 17, 9:30 a.m., Chincoteague Refuge Auditorium, Chincoteague, Va.
April 18, 9:30 a.m., Headquarters, Assateague Isl. N.S., Berlin, Md.

All people and groups familiar with Assateague should either try to attend the Chincoteague hearing or send a statement to be included in the hearing record. Send statement by May 20 to: Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, John W. McCormick Post Office & Courthouse, Boston, Mass. 02109. Send a copy of your statement to your congressman -- especially if he is Thomas N. Downing, in whose district the area lies.

At present, there is considerable local support for Wilderness among Chincoteague residents.

VWC feels that the Park Service and Bureau are to be commended for initiating the Wilderness proposal. It's a good one. It includes 2,800 refuge acres in Virginia and 5,200 National Seashore acres in Maryland -- about 45% of the federally owned land on Assateague. The area is in the middle of the island, running from just north of Old Fields Pool, in the south, to a point about 8 miles north of the Md.-Va. line (north of Cedar Valley hunting lodge).

VWC doesn't have specific recommendations ready yet, but we will be studying the areas north and south of the proposed Wilderness to decide whether we feel the proposal should be extended.

You can obtain a copy of the agency proposal by writing Refuge Manager, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Box 63, Chincoteague, Va. 23336.

Hikes !

VWC is planning several outings this spring and summer. There will be two kinds of outings:

1) Hikes for our members, to help familiarize us all with the proposed Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas in Virginia, plus some other areas of interest. For more information, contact the hike organizer.

2) Outings for the public who live near proposed Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, to generate more local support for protection of the areas. These will be easy, family-oriented walks, led by a VWC member, and will be announced in local media. If you have suggestions for an attractive, easy hike in one of the proposed areas, or if you would like to help guide one of these hikes, contact the organizer.

On the next page you will find a list of hikes scheduled so far. Hope to see you all out there in the woods!

Back Creek Pumped Storage Project, Bath County

On Feb. 7, 4 VWC members met in Richmond with 6 VEPCO representatives, at VEPCO's invitation, to discuss the routing of the powerline for this project. The planned line would cross the northern part of Crawford Mtn., one of the areas VWC is studying as a possible Wilderness.

The alternative route that VWC recommended was one that George Washington National Forest had recommended, and which was previously considered by VEPCO. It appeared to be totally unacceptable to VEPCO.

By the end of the meeting, VWC was willing to compromise and accept a rerouting of the powerline to a location just north of Rt. 250 (but behind a ridge and not visible from the highway). VEPCO appeared willing only to consider shifting the powerline route closer to the border of the Crawford Mtn. area -- but not entirely out of the area.

There the matter stands. VWC has been granted status as intervenor by the Federal Power Commission to oppose the powerline route. No hearing has been scheduled yet. The L.E.G. of U. of Va. is providing legal assistance.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge -- Defense Fund

The protracted battle, to preserve Back Bay N.W.R. beach from destruction by dune buggies and other off-road vehicles, continues in the courts.

Joe Davis, who is leading the fight, has sent an urgent plea for funds.

If you would like to help support the defense fund to keep the Refuge beach closed to recreational vehicles, send your contribution to VWC Treasurer Eddie Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Altavista 24517. Earmark it for the Back Bay defense fund. Eddie will turn over all contributions so designated to Joe Davis for use on legal expenses.

HIKES ! HIKES ! HIKES !

VWC Members' Hikes

Date	Area	Organizer (contact for more info.)
* April 20	Back Bay N.W.R. proposed Wilderness	Joe Davis -- 10 N. Boulevard, Richmond. Meet at 10 a.m. at Refuge office. Hope to have a ranger go along.
* May 18, 19	Peters Mtn., Mill Creek proposed Wilderness Study Areas	Dave Jenkins -- 202-338-0256
late May or early June	Laurel Fork proposed W. Study Area	Jon Soest -- 804-564-9847 (Possibly in conjunction with Annual Meeting.)
* June 22, 23	Mountain Lake proposed W. Study Area	Jim Murray -- 804-973-6693 Eddie Nance -- 804-369-6873

Public Outings

* April 13	James River Face proposed Wilderness	C. Conrad Brown -- 804-846-8503
late April or early May	Laurel Fork	Ed Walters -- 703-862-9689 Jon Soest (see above)
May	Ramsey's Draft proposed W. Study Area	Bob Simms -- 804-296-9062

* means date set.

Specific dates for May and June hikes will appear in next Newsletter.

Report on General Assembly Session

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Virginia Wilderness
Committee
Route 4, Box 283, Williamsburg, Va. 23185

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J. James Murray, Jr. '73
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

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Virginia Wilderness Committee
Route 4, Box 283, Williamsburg, Va. 23185

NEWSLETTER May, 1974

V.W.C. ANNUAL MEETING !

All members & families -- come join the fun !

Date: Saturday, June 1, & Sunday, June 2.

Location: Sherando Lake Recreation Area - Group Campground.
George Washington National Forest

Sherando Lake can be reached from I64, I81, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. It is located about 15 miles from Waynesboro and 25 miles from Staunton.

For campers: Part of the group campground has been reserved. Bring tent, food, cooking equipment. Water available.

For non-campers: Motels available in nearby Waynesboro. Bring picnic goodies.

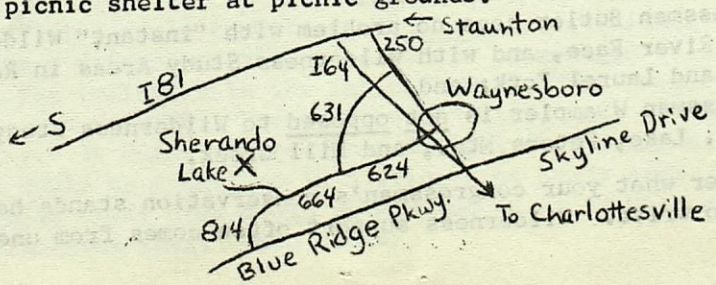
Agenda:

Friday evening, May 31: Executive committee bull session. Anybody interested may attend.

Saturday, June 1
- Morning
  - A year of mixed successes: review of past year's work.
  - What next?: Discussion of plans for coming year. Bring your suggestions, inspirations, ideas for improving our organization and effectiveness.
  - Nominations for new officers.
- Lunch and discussion.
- Afternoon
  - Charting our course: plans for the coming year.
  - Election of officers.
- Evening
  - Happy hour (BYO)
  - Dinner
  - Campfire. Slide show of Virginia's proposed Wilderness Areas, depending on weather & availability of amphitheater. Bring along slides of your favorite area!

Sunday, June 2
- Hike, canoe, swim, or fish.
- Day hike will be led to Ramsey's Draft (and perhaps to Crabtree Falls/The Priest &/or Big Levels, depending on wishes of the group).
- Boating, fishing, swimming available on Sherando Lake.

In case of rain, everything is still "go" -- Saturday's meeting will be held in picnic shelter at picnic grounds.



House Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill -- H.R. 13455

The Hearing -- on H.R. 13455, on April 2, drew a crowd of conservationists (from as far away as the Ozarks) who packed the hearing room. VWC was the last group to finish testifying before time ran out.

Congressman Melcher, Chairman of the Public Lands Subcommittee, House Interior Committee, stated that he saw no need for a special definition of Wilderness to apply to eastern lands -- that was encouraging.

You will recall that H.R. 13455 is identical to S. 316, as adopted by the Senate Interior Committee. It includes James River Face "instant" Wilderness, and Ramsey's Draft, Mountain Lake, Peters Mtn., and Mill Creek proposed Wilderness Study Areas. Laurel Fork is not mentioned in H.R. 13455.

A new bill -- will soon be introduced in the House. It will be similar to H.R. 13455, but with many cosponsors and minor changes in areas and acreages. We have been trying to decide whether to ask to have Laurel Fork added to this bill as a Wilderness Study Area. (We recommended a Laurel Fork Wilderness Study Area in our hearing testimony.)

Congressman Butler has taken the position that a Wilderness Study Area in Laurel Fork would give Highland County residents who presently oppose "instant" Wilderness a trial period. At the end of the Study Area review period, if they have decided they still don't like the idea of a Wilderness Area in their county, they can oppose full Wilderness designation at the public hearings that will be held.

Congressman Butler has indicated that, although he will not cosponsor any Wilderness bill at this time, he will support "instant" Wilderness in James River Face, and Wilderness Study Areas in Ramsey's Draft and Laurel Fork, and will make his position known to the House Interior Committee.

So we expect that Laurel Fork Wilderness Study Area will be added to the new House bill.

Thanks to all of you in Butler's district who have written him your views on Wilderness and Laurel Fork. He heard you!

Now what can you do?

1) Butler's constituents. Butler deserves thanks for listening not only to the local opposition but also to the widespread support in his district for Wilderness. He also must continue to hear your support for his support for Wilderness! This needs to be a sustained effort. Write-write!

2) Wampler's constituents. Please write Congressman Wampler, if you have not already done so, and ask that he cosponsor the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. He has indicated that he is not opposed to Mtn. Lake, Peters Mtn., & Mill Creek Wilderness Study Areas. But we'd like to see more positive support from him.

3) Everybody else. Write your congressman now, and ask him to cosponsor the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. If you wish, in your letter you may safely say that you understand that:

a) Congressman Butler sees no problem with "instant" Wilderness in James River Face, and with Wilderness Study Areas in Ramsey's Draft and Laurel Fork; and

b) Congressman W ampler is not opposed to Wilderness Study Areas in Mtn. Lake, Peters Mtn., and Mill Creek.

No matter what your congressman's conservation stands have been, don't fail to write. Wilderness support often comes from unexpected places!

Senate Agriculture Committee Acts on Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill

S. 3433 (New Number)

The Senate Agriculture Committee completed review of the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill and sent its final version to the full Senate on May 2. The bill has a new number: S. 3433. As a result of changes made by the Agriculture Committee, the bill is a composite of S. 316 and S. 22, the old "wild areas" bill. The Agriculture Committee, by proposing amendments to the Wilderness Act, is attempting to extend its jurisdiction over Wilderness. This is undesirable from our viewpoint.

S. 3433 has many good points; but a number of confusing points could have disastrous effects on the Wilderness System. Amendments to remedy these flaws are being prepared now, for introduction when the bill comes to a vote (probably within the month). Specifics on the amendments aren't available yet, but the thrust is this: the more closely S. 3433 can be made to resemble S. 316, the better off we are. You might write Senators Byrd or Scott, ask for a copy of S. 3433 and the Agriculture Committee report, and urge them to vote for such amendments.

Here are some pros and cons of S. 3433:

Pro: It keeps the original definition of Wilderness as found in the Wilderness Act of 1964. So the problem we feared, of having a separate, watered-down definition of Wilderness for eastern National Forest lands, is apparently resolved -- thank goodness!

Con: The bill contains three especially bad provisions, dealing with condemnation, mining, and grazing. These provisions are fairly sound, ecologically. But these issues were carefully avoided in both the Wilderness Act of 1964 and S. 316, as concessions, because their inclusion in a Wilderness bill would alienate support for Wilderness by western legislators, and might make it impossible to obtain Wilderness designations in the future.

Condemnation. S. 3433 provides for condemnation of private land for inclusion in Wilderness -- not just with respect to eastern lands, but all Wilderness Areas, past and future, all across the country. So private inholdings within existing Wilderness Areas in the West, which could not be condemned under the Wilderness Act, could now be condemned retroactively! This is bound to raise intense opposition.

Mining. S. 3433 prohibits mining in Wilderness Areas. This provision, too, is retroactive -- that is, it would apply to existing western Wilderness Areas as well as to future Wilderness, both eastern and western.

Grazing. S. 3433 would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to restrict grazing in Wilderness Areas designated after Jan. 1, 1974. (The Wilderness Act now permits grazing.) Grazing isn't a big issue in the East; but in the West, cattlemen have supported Wilderness partly because it has permitted grazing. Restricting grazing in future western Wilderness Areas will be extremely unpopular.

Two "cons" also apply to Wilderness Study Area designations:

1) S. 3433 says a Wilderness Study Area would be managed so as to maintain the potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. This wording comes from the "Forest Service" bill, H.R. 10469, and it is purposely fuzzy. It means, among other things, that snowmobiles and off-road vehicles could be permitted in a Wilderness Study Area. S. 316 said that a Wilderness Study Area would be managed as if it were already a designated Wilderness Area. Much better.

2) S. 316 provided that Wilderness Study Areas would be protected as Wilderness until Congress reviewed the areas. S. 3433 sets a 5-year review period, during which Study Areas would be studied. But it only provides a 3-year protection period for the areas, after which an area would lose its protection unless Congress took specific action. So, if the Forest Service dragged its feet for 3 years, the protective umbrella would collapse.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Proposal

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife is proposing approximately 2,000 acres of marsh islands and mainland (out of a total of 4,589 acres in the Refuge) as Wilderness. This is generally a good proposal.

The ocean beach is not included in the proposal. The court case regarding vehicular access to the beach is still pending. The beach is currently closed to vehicles except for residents living south of the Refuge. We believe it is wise to exclude the beach from the present proposal.

Also excluded are some 1,500 acres of dunes, diked impoundments, and grassland that is managed fairly intensely as goose pasture. (Up to 40,000 snow geese and 10,000 whistling swans winter on the Refuge.)

About 300 acres of brushy and wooded dunes at the south end of the Refuge (Green Hills) are excluded, and may merit inclusion in the Wilderness Area.

Hearing. The preliminary hearing on the Back Bay Wilderness proposal will be held on May 15, at 9:30 a.m., in the City Council Chambers of the Princess Anne Courthouse Complex, Virginia Beach. Attend if you can!

If you can't attend, send a letter in support of Wilderness to Dennis Holland, Refuge Manager, Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Pembroke #2 Bldg., Suite 218, 287 Pembroke Office Park, Virginia Beach, Va. 23462. By June 14. Ask to have your letter included in the official hearing record.

You can obtain a brochure on the Wilderness proposal, including map, from the Refuge Manager, address above.

Assateague

1) Amendments to Assateague Island National Seashore Act (S.3302 & H.R.13975) Write your senators and congressman asking them to support the appropriate bill. These bills will: remove sections 7 & 9 from the Act, which allow commercial developments and a road the length of the island (both bills); authorize the Secretary of Interior to provide a public transportation system (H.R. 13975; and this may be added to S. 3302); authorize a comprehensive plan for the lands and waters adjacent to the Seashore (H.R. 13975).

2) Assateague Wilderness proposal. At last month's preliminary Wilderness hearings, opposition to Wilderness came, in part, from "mobile fishermen" who want to continue to drive on the beach. Presently, about 15 miles of the 37 mile long beach are open to vehicles. Wilderness would close 7 of those 15 miles.

You have until May 20 send a letter in support of Wilderness (6,500 A) on one of our last unspoiled barrier islands. Address: Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, John W. McCormack P.O. & Courthouse, Boston, Mass. 02109. Ask that your letter be included in the official hearing record, and send a copy to your congressman and senators.

HIKES ! HIKES ! HIKES !

-- for VWC Members:

Date	Area	Organizer (contact for more info.)
May 18,19	Peters Mtn. & Mill Creek	David Jenkins 202-338-0256 John Appelquist 703-626-3474 Charles Parry 703-951-1402

Hike through two proposed Wilderness Study Areas near Blacksburg, on the Appalachian Trail. Meet May 18 at 10 a.m. at farm of John Appelquist, Box 7, Newport, Va. 24128. For travel arrangements from D.C. area, call Dave Jenkins.

June 2	Ramsey's Draft	Jon Soest 804-564-9847

This hike will be in conjunction with the VWC Annual Meeting.

June 22,23	Mountain Lake	Jim Murray 804-973-6693 Eddie Nance 804-369-6873

More details in next Newsletter.

-- for General Public & VWC Members:

May 25	Ramsey's Draft	Bob Simms 804-296-9062 Rick Chittum 703-885-1732

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Ramsey's Draft picnic area (right turn off of Route 250 -- look for Forest Service sign). Hike will be divided into three groups, depending on age, ability, and your inclinations. Short hike, medium hike, and 7-mile circuit hike.

Explore Virginia's wilderness -- bring family, friends, & neighbors along!

- -

Political Editorial - by your outgoing president.

This election year is a great opportunity to make our voices heard as never before. All our congressmen are counting votes (especially the Republicans!). They cannot take a pro-Wilderness, or pro-conservation stand unless they feel it's popular. We must try to do two things:

1) Convince our congressman that the public cares about the environment, wants Wilderness, etc. Then,
2) Watch his voting record, and keep him accountable. If he will support Wilderness, or other environmental issues, reward him with your vote. If he won't, vote him out of office!

The first responsibility rests with us! If we can't convince our congressmen that Wilderness has public support, we can't expect them to support Wilderness. So...

- visit your congressman's office,
- write him letters, let him know of your concerns, and
- encourage your friends to do the same.

In the works this coming year is a whole pack of Wilderness proposals for Virginia: Shenandoah (in the House), Eastern Wilderness, Assateague, Back Bay, Cumberland Gap, possibly Dismal Swamp. We can generate unprecedented support for these areas within our congressional delegation. Let's make 1974-75 a landmark year for Wilderness in Virginia.

Sally Soest

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE
Rt. 4, Box 283, Williamsburg, Va. 23185

FIRST CLASS

J. James Murray, Jr. '73
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

FIRST CLASS

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NEWSLETTER
Virginia Wilderness Committee
101 Canterbury Court
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

PL 93-622

SENATE PASSES EASTERN WILDERNESS BILL!

HOUSE ACTION NEEDED!

On May 29, the Senate finally passed S.3433, the Eastern Wilderness Bill, by unanimous consent. This is the final, revised version of S.316 which we have all been working on for so long. It includes Instant Wilderness Area designation for James River Face and Wilderness Study Area designation for Ramsey's Draft, Mountain Lake, Peter's Mountain and Mill Creek. Laurel Fork, alas, is not included in the bill.

So now the action turns to the House. One might have hoped that the bill would breeze through here after it had been discussed at such length in the Senate, but it has not. The Public Lands Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee held hearings on April 2, but since then little has happened. With the end of this Congress not really too far in the future, with elections pending for all House members, and with impeachment possibly about to bring all else to a halt, the Eastern Wilderness Bill could easily die in this Congress if the House does not act soon. We would then have to start the entire process from the beginning in the next Congress -- a dismal thought.

A new initiative has been taken, however, to get Eastern Wilderness moving. A "Dear Colleague" letter was sent out on June 20 to all 435 members of the House of Representatives, describing a revised version of the Eastern Wilderness Bill and inviting co-sponsors. This letter was signed by Congressmen David Obey (D.-Wis.), LaMar Baker (R.-Tenn.), James O'Hara (D.-Mich.), Edward Biester, Jr. (R.-Pa.) and Barber Conable (R.-N.Y.). And hold your breath folks -- this bill includes a Laurel Fork Wilderness Study Area of 11,656 acres!

We need now to get support for this bill from Virginia's Congressmen. Congressman M. Caldwell Butler, whose district includes Laurel Fork, Ramsey's Draft, and James River Face, has indicated that he can support the bill so long as Laurel Fork is included as a Study area rather than an Instant Wilderness Area. However, he does not feel that he can co-sponsor a Wilderness Bill at this time. Congressman William C. Wampler has indicated that he does not oppose the designation of the Wilderness Study Areas (Mountain Lake, Peters Mountain, and Mill Creek) within his district.

What to do now: People from all parts of Virginia should write to their Congressmen urging them to become co-sponsors of the revised version of H.R.13455. As far as Virginia is concerned, the only difference between the old and new bills is the addition of the Laurel Fork Wilderness Study Area in the new bill. Phone calls will help also. Point out that Congressmen Butler and Wampler do not oppose the designation of these Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas within their districts.

Also, write to Congressman John Melcher, Chairman, Subcommittee on Public Lands, House Interior Committee. It's within this Subcommittee that H.R.13455 has languished since the April 2 hearings. Ask him to get Eastern Wilderness moving. Point out that the House and Senate have already held several hearings, and that little new information could come to light in additional hearings. (There has been some suggestion that the House should hold additional hearings on Eastern Wilderness. It's hard to see how this could be anything but a delaying tactic.)

Remember, if we don't get action soon, much of our effort over the last two years will have gone down the drain.

MASSANUTTEN MOUNTAIN

Massanutten Mountain, the easternmost part of George Washington National Forest, is under heavy pressure for second home development. Only a two hour drive from Washington, Massanutten rises like an isolated island in the center of the Shenandoah Valley. Between its straight parallel ridges are several isolated valleys. The largest of these is Little Fort Valley, which at present is mostly privately owned agricultural land. The upper slopes of the ridges are steep, rocky and dry and support mostly small trees with little value as timber. The mountain is closely banded by the two forks of the Shenandoah River. Summer home development is especially intense along the South Fork of the Shenandoah.

The Forest Service is currently holding hearings to find the public preferences concerning management of Massanutten. They have little chance of slowing down the summer home development, because hopes of getting the funding to buy the land are slim. Their realistic need is for ways to protect the land in the face of heavy user pressure. A specific threat is that of off-road vehicles, which find the easy travel along Massanutten's relatively level ridges and valleys highly tempting. These vehicles, however, totally destroy the tranquility which most visitors are seeking: the Forest Service should take steps to exclude them.

Comments on Massanutten should be sent by July 31 to:

Supervisor, George Washington National Forest
Federal Building
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

NEW RIVER - ACTION NEEDED

The Senate has passed a bill (S.2439) calling for a two year study of the New River as a possible unit of the National Wild and Scenic River System. At the same time, plans are progressing to build a monstrous pumped-storage power system on the New (the Blue Ridge project of the Appalachian Power Company), backing up the river for 44 miles and flooding 44,000 acres. It's not yet clear who will come out ahead, but it is clear that Virginia's Congressional delegation

is going all the wrong way. You see, it just happens that the dam itself would be in Virginia, but a good deal of the flooding would be in North Carolina. So it's not a great surprise that the North Carolina Congressional Delegation is for the Wild and Scenic River study bill, and the Virginia delegation is against it.

The House of Representatives is considering a similar bill (H.R.11120) to authorize a study of the New as a Wild and Scenic River. The power companies, starting to get worried, are launching a lobbying campaign to defeat the study. Virginia Congressmen must hear from those of us who support the Wild and Scenic River study for the New! They are leaning the wrong way.

Write now to your Congressman:

Honorable XXXXXXXXXXXXX
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISMAL SWAMP

Until recently, most of the Dismal Swamp has been posted private land, and therefore few people have been able to explore much of it. So most of us really aren't familiar with what it's really like in there. But on February 22, 1973, approximately 49,000 acres of the Swamp, which were donated by the Union Camp Corporation, became the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The Interior Department is conducting a study of what to do with the Dismal Swamp, and has prepared a Summary Report of Tentative Recommendations.

This report contains some good suggestions and some which are a bit more dubious. First, it recommends that the Fish and Wildlife Service acquire an additional 67,400 acres on the swamp to bring the total Refuge area up to 117,500 acres, of which 79,200 acres would be in Virginia. It's also recommended that legislative action should designate that the first priority on use of water from Lake Drummond should be to maintain and enhance the ecology of the Swamp. In addition, however, the report recommends quite a large number of developments of various types; campgrounds, hiking trails, boat landings, and a public operated transportation system (such as a narrow gauge railroad) which would carry visitors to the very interior of the Swamp. Some of these developments clearly constitute a desirable utilization of this new public land. But building a public transportation system to the shore of Lake Drummond, at the Swamp's center, could greatly diminish the Swamp's remote and mysterious nature. Such a transportation system should wait until there has been more experience with visitor use of the Swamp; visitors may be able to see the wildlife as well or better by using unmechanized transportation (such as walking), or from a railroad system which does not slice to the very heart of the swamp.

The report also recommends timber management practices to prevent the encroachment of upland tree species and to provide habitat variety for wildlife. If these practices are really needed at all, we need assurances that they will not lead to timber production being the primary purpose of the Refuge. And habitat for wildlife should not be thought of merely in terms of a few game

species; the Dismal Swamp is also known for a great variety of birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and flowers.

We don't know the Dismal Swamp well enough yet to make any recommendation for Wilderness, but the Fish and Wildlife Service should not go overboard with developments which would eliminate any possibilities for future Wilderness. Members should send comments soon to:

Mr. Robert H. Shields
Dismal Swamp Study Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
John W. McCormack Post Office and Courthouse
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Any member interested in becoming the VWC's area leader for the Dismal Swamp should contact Bob Schaefer, 2700 Que St., N.W., Apt. 115, Washington, D.C. 20007.

Hikes in Virginia. To generate more support for wilderness in Virginia, VWC is compiling a description of hikes (both day and overnighters) in Virginia. The list will be made available to the public in order to increase awareness of our wild areas -- a similar project in West Virginia was successful. The hikes will describe trails in public lands such as National Forest and State Parks. Please send a description of your favorite hikes to Dave Jenkins, 101 Canterbury Court, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.

Conservation Council of Virginia. The Council, which coordinates conservation efforts in Virginia, urgently needs money for operating and mailing expenses. Each member organization (including the VWC) contributes $50 each year, but the CCVA is still having to curtail their activities--especially those involved with keeping an eye on the General Assembly--because of insufficient funds. They have asked member organizations to request $1 donations from their members in order to help out. Considering the support the CCVA has given our wilderness efforts, they deserve our dollars! Please send your dollar to J. Robert Hicks, Treasurer, Conservation Council of Virginia, Inc., 7625 Marilea Road, Richmond, 23225.

District Coordinators. In order to stimulate action for wilderness by our members and others, VWC decided at the annual meeting to organize at least one person in each of Virginia's congressional districts to act as a focus for action in his district. This person's job would be one of liaison with both the congressman and VWC members in his district. The effort will involve providing facts about wilderness and current wilderness legislation and stimulating action on these issues; it will be especially important as the House considers the Eastern Wilderness Areas bill. If you might be interested in helping with this project, contact Bob Simms to learn more about what will be needed. Bob Simms, 4-B2 Copeley Hill, Charlottessville 22903, Phone 804-296-9062.

VWC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At its annual meeting on June 2, the Virginia Wilderness Committee elected the following officers for one-year terms.

President: Bob Schaefer, 2700 Que St., N.W., Apt. 115, Washington, D.C. 20007 (202/965-5623)

Vice President: Bob Simms, 4-B2 Copeley Hill, Charlottesville, Va. 22903 (804/296-9062)

Treasurer: Mavis Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Altavista, Va. 24517 (804/369-6873)

Secretary: David Jenkins, 101 Canterbury Court, Oak Manor, Blacksburg, Va. 24060 (703/552-3747)

These four, together with Past President Sally Soest (Box 283, Rte. 4, Williamsburg, Va. 23185, 804/564-9847) constitute the Executive Committee of the VWC. It will be no easy task to keep the VWC operating as smoothly and effectively as it has for the past two years with Sally and Jon Soest as Presidents, and fortunately they will still be active.

During the next year, Bob Simms will be helping to organize groups to transmit the Virginia Wilderness message to our legislators. Mavis Nance will be keeping membership records and collecting donations, which will be appreciated and put to good use whenever received. Why not consider a little extra donation to the cause right now? Send it directly to Mavis, and feel good about it for months! Dave Jenkins will be getting out the newsletter, which will involve material contributed from several different people and will thus give Dave some organizational challenges. And as for your President, he will be trying to keep our lawmakers, beaureaucrats, and other administrators of our Virginia Wilderness lands informed of the VWC's desires, and to keep you informed of work that needs doing, of Congressmen that need nudging, and, hopefully, of Wilderness Areas that have been established.

VWC MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to citizens who request membership in writing, indicating their support for the principles of the VWC. The newsletter is sent out to all who have expressed their interest by sending in a copy of a letter to a public official about Wilderness, or a financial contribution. Don't you know someone who is interested in Virginia's Wilderness? If they would like to help our cause, get them to join up! Have them send in their names to our Treasurer, Mavis Nance, to be put on the mailing list. If they take the trouble to do this, they will probably take the trouble to write to Congressmen, and who knows what else.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
101 Canterbury Court
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

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FIRST CLASS

J. James Murray, Jr. '73
~~Department of Biology~~
~~University of Virginia~~
~~Charlottesville, Va. 22903~~

Mtn Lake Biol. Sta
Rt 1
Pembroke, Va
24136

FIRST CLASS

Newsletter
Virginia Wilderness Committee
P.O. Box 374, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

Oct 9,1974

VIRGINIA'S CONGRESSMEN - ON EASTERN WILDERNESS

Over 100 Congressmen have now become co-sponsors of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill, H.R. 13455, but so far only one member of the Virginia delegation, Congressman Whitehurst, is among them. We need more of them!

Yes, we already had hearings in the House Interior Subcommittee on Public Lands, way back last spring. And yes, the Senate already passed an Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill, way back last spring. So why the need for more sponsors at this point? In a sense, it's a test of political support for wilderness. There is, as usual, a mountain of legislation still pending as the end of this Congress draws near. Obviously much of it will die at the end of the session. The bills that are passed will be those for which the Congressmen feel that there is a great public need or demand. The drive to get co-sponsors is an effort to demonstrate the public demand for Wilderness.

Most recently, the Subcommittee on Public Lands has been working on the Bureau of Land Management's Organic Act, and Subcommittee Chairman John Melcher has indicated that Eastern Wilderness would be next on their schedule. However, things have a way of dragging out longer than planned, and the Subcommittee's work on Wilderness just might not get done in time if the pressure lets up.

Doesn't co-sponsorship by over 100 Congressmen indicate strong support for Eastern Wilderness? Unfortunately, of the 33 Congressmen who have areas within their districts, only 5 have so far sponsored H.R. 13455. Congressman Melcher may thus feel that local support for wilderness is only luke-warm.

In response to letters sent by the VWC to all Virginia Congressmen, urging them to add their names as sponsors to the Eastern Wilderness Areas Bill, the following responses were received;
First District; Thomas N. Downing said "Although I am not co-sponsoring this legislation, based on my present information I feel that I can support it."
Second District; G. William Whitehurst said "I have supported this type of legislation since it originated, and I will continue to do so." And Congressman Whitehurst's name now appears on the list of sponsors!
Third District; David E. Satterfield says he will keep the views of the VWC in mind "if and when the legislation comes before the House for consideration."
Fourth District; Robert W. Daniel, Jr. said he will "personally monitor the progress of this legislation" in light of the views which VWC expresses.
Fifth District; W.C. (Dan) Daniel did not reply.
Sixth District; M. Caldwell Butler reports that "H.R. 13455 seems to reflect my position on the three areas in my district."
Seventh District; J. Kenneth Robinson said that he is "sympathetic to the wilderness concept." He also said that the views of Congressmen Butler and Wampler "would carry substantial weight with me."
Eighth District; Stanford E. Parris did not reply.
Ninth District; William C. Wampler reported that his "views have not changed with regard to not opposing designation of the three areas in the ninth district as Wilderness Study Areas."
Tenth District; Joel T. Broyhill wrote that "as co-sponsor of a bill

to designate additional lands in the Shenandoah National Park as Wilderness, I can assure you of my sincere interest in protecting our environment and encouraging the conservation of our wilderness."

Things to do now. We must keep up the pressure to get Eastern Wilderness through the House. Depending on whose district you live in, the following actions would help;
Congressman Butler does not feel that he can co-sponsor Wilderness legislation because of some noisy local opposition. However, he can be asked to urge Congressman Melcher to report out the Eastern Wilderness Bill as soon as possible.
Congressman Whitehurst should be thanked for co-sponsoring the Wilderness legislation! And he, too, can be asked to urge Melcher to get Eastern Wilderness rolling.
The other Congressmen should continue to get letters urging them to co-sponsor the legislation and to ask Congressman Melcher to report out the Bill. This goes especially for Congressman Wampler, because of the three Study Areas in his district.
And if you haven't already written directly to Congressman Melcher, be sure to do so now!

Remember, even if we don't have any spectacular new facts to bring to the attention of these Congressmen, we must show them that political support for Eastern Wilderness continues. If they get substantial input from constituents, they may realize that support for Wilderness will be a political asset. Otherwise, the Wilderness issue could become a dispensable one, in the rush to get time for campaigning. Write or call today, and bring up the Wilderness question with your Congressman when he's out on the campaign trail!

NEW RIVER GETS A CHANCE

The House Interior Committee has voted 21-to-15 to approve the study of the New River for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Passage of the study bill, H.R. 11120, would block the giant Blue Ridge hydroelectric project for two years, and the Committee vote came in spite of intense lobbying efforts by the utility industry. The dam and reservoir contemplated for this project would flood 40,000 acres of land, 44 miles of the New River and 212 miles of tributaries. Between 3,000 and 5,000 people would be displaced by this flooding, and $8.5 million per year in farm crops would be eliminated.

Unfortunately, all Virginia Congressmen appear to favor the Blue Ridge project (the dam is in Virginia) and thus oppose the Wild and Scenic River study, while North Carolina Congressmen oppose the dam project (much of the flooding is in North Carolina) and thus favor the study. A tough floor fight on the New River Wild and Scenic River Study Bill is expected. If the bill fails, the Appalachian Power Company is expected to start construction on January 2, 1975. It's not likely that any Virginia Congressman can be persuaded to actually favor the study bill, but some of them might be willing to just not vote at all on the issue, if they get enough constituent mail favoring the study. So -- let your Congressman know that you favor H.R. 11120. And, if at all possible, get friends in other states to contact their Congressmen with the same message.

BROWN AND ROOT MOVES ON EASTERN SHORE

In January of 1974 Brown and Root, Inc. an engineering and construction subsidary of Halliburton acquired 1,960 acres of land on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. This tract, known locally as the Scott Estate, completely surrounds the town of Cape Charles in Northampton County and fronts several miles along the Chesapeake Bay from Cape Charles Harbor southward to Plantation Creek. Having acquired this tract for $2500.00 per acre the company has repeatedly refused to discuss its specific plans for this property. Initial newspaper accounts of the acquisition indicated, however, that the type of plant to be constructed would depend upon the type of fabrication contracts the company obtains. These same articles pointed out that "only a relatively small portion of the site will be used by the company in the foreseable future". Presumably the site will be used for construction of offshore oil rigs to be used in the Baltimore channel and elsewhere and to build offshore nuclear power plants (contracts for which the company is actively seeking). Since this tract contains a little over three square miles of land it is easy to conceive of oil refineries or tank farms to process or store crude or various distillates in addition to any fabrication facility.

The latest move in this scenerio occurred in August when the company asked Northampton County to rezone 1762 acres (that portion of the tract south of Cape Charles) from its current agricultural status to a new industrial status (zoning ordinances in Northampton County have no provisions for heavy industrial development). Apparently in collaboration with Brown and Root, the Division of Industrial Development in Richmond generously and almost certainly at the taxpayers expense provided a series of admendments for the Northampton zoning ordinance to establish a new industrial district which encompasses only the 1762 acres of Brown and Root property. According to the headlines of the Eastern Shore News on August 29, the Northampton County Planning Commission proposed that these changes be included in the zoning ordinance and a public hearing was set for September 26. This article indicated that these changes would "set aside land to encourage the construction of heavy commercial and industrial facilities and would prohibit residential and light commercial use of the land zoned industrial". In a deceptive attempt to regulate the type and scope of industrial development in this tract, the new regulations permit: truck terminals, sand, gravel, and

crushed stone operations, storage tank fabrication, petroleum drilling rig manufacture, construction and fabrication of sectional module industrial plants and offshore power plants, asphalt mixing plants, public utility generating boasters or relay stations, transformer substations, transmission lines and towers, pipes, meters, other facilities for the provision and maintenance of public utilities including railroad facilities, water and sewerage installations, and, for the more fastidious industrial developers, conservation areas and game preserves. Before construction permits are issued for either presently defined uses or any new uses, plans showing operations and processes must be submitted to the county zoning administrator for study. Ridiculously, this administrator must act on all applications (whether for new or defined uses) within 30-60 days. Failure to act within this time limit will without exception constitute approval of the application. Cooling towers, chimineys, flues, flag poles and communication towers are excluded from the 75 foot height limitation placed on buildings.

On september 5 a second article in the Eastern Shore News informed the public that W.H. Small of Urban Pathfinders, Inc. had submitted to the Northampton County Board of Supervisors a proposed impact study (to be financed by none other than Brown and Root) to "assist the county in formulating a response to the Brown and Root rezoning proposal". Thus the hearing scheduled for September 26 appears to have been postponed pending evaluation of Brown and Root's study of its own impact on the Eastern Shore.

Aside from the destruction of three square miles of prime farm land and the certain disruption of farming operations in the immediate vicinity of any heavy industrial development, the total environmental impact of this operation will depend upon the nature of the facilities. If the area is primarily used for fabrication of offshore drilling rigs and floating nuclear power plants, extensive dredging will be required for floating assembly lines and channels to move these units into navigable water. To place such dredging in perspective, construction of floating power plants requires channels 500 feet wide and 40 feet deep to move the units offshore.

If portions of this property are used to process or store crude oil or distillates, then all the problems attendant with the cumulative effects of multiple oil spills will pose additional threats to this

as yet unspoiled area of the Chesapeake Bay.

Individuals and organizations interested in preventing the haphazard industrialization of ecologically delicate areas and in preventing the Chesapeake Bay from becoming an industrial sewer should follow Brown and Root versus the Eastern Shore carefully. In addition they should develop an organized assault and plan to be represented at all local, state and federal hearings which the implementation of this project will require.For information contact Gladys and Andy Lewis, 10229 Parkwood Court, Kensington, Md. 20795.

False Cape State Park

The first of four proposed public hearings concerning public access to the future park was held September 11 at Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The hearing was conducted by the Division of Parks, and Howard, Needles, Tammen and Bergendoff, the transportation consultants for the access plan.

The park area is located between the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and the North Carolina border. As a result of this location, the Division of Parks is beginning to experience a great deal of pressure from realtors with property in North Carolina, dune buggy enthusiasts, and several politicians, all demanding a road and private vehicular access to the park area.

Prior to 1973, the beach between the Sandbridge area and North Carolina was a thoroughfare suffering from unrestricted vehicular traffic. In 1973, regulations were established to restrict traffic to owners of private property south of the Wildlife Refuge. Since these regulations were established, the realtors and dune buggy enthusiasts have consistnetly appeared in court and at public hearings such as the Back Bay Wilderness Proposal hearings, attempting to re-establish the beach as a private vehicular thoroughfare.

In the early stages of planning, the Division of Parks and the transportation consultants show little enthusiasm for a road and private vehicular access to the park, but like any state agency they are subject to political and citizen pressure.

If you support an alternative means of access which excludes the private vehicle, let your opinion be known.

Write to:

Ben H. Bolen
Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Economic Development
Division of Parks
1201 State Office Building
Capitol Square
Richmond, Virginia 23219

District Coordinators

The VWC is organizing coordinators in each of Virginia's Congressional Districts who will act as contacts with the Congressman from their district. The following people have agreed to provide some help for this effort:

First District--Mrs. Nancy Watson, Environmental Control Committee, Northampton Junior Woman's Club, 225 Mason Ave., Cape Charles, 23310.

Second District--Mary Elizabeth Stephens, 1305 Westover Ave., Norfolk, 23507.

Third District--Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, 23225.

Fifth District--L. Jack Hammack, Jr., Lawrenceville, 23868.

Sixth District--Milton Colvin, Honeysuckle Hill, Lexington, 24450.

Seventh District--Bob Belton, Jr., 16 Westover Circle, Route 2, Charlottesville, 22901.

Ninth District--Franklin D. Hubbard, Rt. 1, Box 310-H, Wise, 24293.

Tenth District--Edward Davis, Jr., 6506 W. Langley Lane, McLean, 22101, and David J. Nickel, 429 E. Columbia St., Falls Church, 22046.

Thus far we do not have coordinators from the fourth and eighth districts. If you live in one fo these districts and are interested in serving as a coordinator, please contact Bob Simms, 4-B2 Copeley Hill, Charlottesville, 22903.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Remember all the discussion for the last decade about Wilderness Areas in Shenandoah National Park? And remember that the Senate long ago passed legislation establishing Wilderness Areas in the Park? And remember that Roy Taylor's House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation held hearings on Shenandoah in June 1973? Well, you may have noticed that nothing has happened since then. And, just like the Eastern Wilderness Act, the Wilderness legislation for Shenandoah National Park could die when Congress adjourns. So we need to take some action to get things rolling again.
What to do. Write to Honorable Roy A. Taylor, Chairman, House Subcommittee on National Parks and Recreation, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, and urge him to report favorably on the Wilderness legislation for Shenandoah National Park as soon as possible. Write also to your own Congressman, and ask him to urge Congressman Taylor to move ahead with Shenandoah.

KEEP THE VWC NEWSLETTER COMING!!

Do you want to keep getting the VWC newsletter? We hope so. We try to make it a good source of information for people who really want to help save Virginia's wild places. But it does cost something to send it out, and we can only afford to send it to people who are really interested. So we're asking you to show your support so that we can keep the newsletter coming to you.

Please show your support in either of two ways; either send us a copy of a letter to a Congressman, supporting the Wilderness cause, or send a contribution of $1.00 or more. Send them to our Treasurer, Mavis Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Altavista, Va. 24517, by December 31, and we will keep the Newsletter coming to you during 1975.

League of Conservation Voters

The League has rated each Congressman on the basis of his voting record on environmental issues. Their rating for Virginia's Congressmen on 1973 votes are: Downing, 11%; Whitehurst, 15%; Satterfield, 11%; Daniel (R. W.), 11%; Daniel (W. C.), 11%; Butler, 5%; Robinson, 0%; Parris, 14%; Wampler, 11%; Broyhill, 4%. For more information, write the League of Conservation Voters, 324 C St., SE, Washington, DC 20003.

Speakers' Bureau

Eddie Nance is collecting slides to form the basis for presentations to local organizations throughout the state. It will be mailed to members on request. Eddie needs slides of proposed Wilderness/Wilderness Study Areas. Send your best slides, well labelled, to Eddie Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Altovista, 24517 (804-369-6873).

Newsletter
Virginia Wilderness Committee
P.O. Box 374, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

April 21, 1975

VWC ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 31 - JUNE 1

Everyone come - join the action!
Sherando Lake Recreation Area,
George Washington National Forest

Last year we met at Sherando Lake and were greeted by the heaviest rain of the season! So this year we'll try again.

Sherando Lake is easy to get to from I-81, I-64, or the Blue Ridge Parkway. Its location about 15 miles south of Waynesboro makes it not too far from any part of Virginia.

Motels are available in Waynesboro - bring picnic supplies to the meeting. For camping, we have reserved the Group Camping area for the nights of May 30 and 31. Bring your own camping gear, including tent, food, and cooking equipment.

Recreational opportunities include swimming, fishing and boating as well as hiking and nature study. So bring the whole family for a weekend in the mountains!

Getting down to business - - we have an approximate agenda

Friday evening, May 30 - Get acquainted and general bull session; miscellaneous thoughts on Wilderness,volunteer action, or whatever.

Saturday, May 31 - Business meeting starting about 10:30 AM in the picnic shelter at the picnic grounds.

Morning - review of Virginia Wilderness and the Virginia Wilderness Committee in the past year. Suggestions and Plans - What are our goals for the next year, and what business is unfinished or new business prospects are coming up? Nominations for new officers. Afternoon - Action plans for the coming year. Election of new officers. Evening - Happy hour (BYO), dinner, relaxation and informal planning.

Sunday, June 1 - Multiple choice! options include;

1) Loafing
2) Swimming, fishing,boating or hiking around the Recreation Area
3) Seeing the rhododendrons in full bloom along the Blue Ridge Parkway.
4) Joining in on exploration of the trails through the remoter parts of the surrounding Pedlar Ranger District, as part of our continuing survey of Virginia's Wilderness resources.

Just like last year, everything goes rain or shine, with hopefully a little more shine than last year. So please come and help plan the VWC's course of action for the next year.

SHENNANDOAH NATIONAL PARK
Wilderness Becomes Controversial

The last-minute failure of the legislation to designate Wilderness Areas in the Shenandoah National Park in the last session of Congress was a shock to many conservationists who believed that this legislation would have little opposition. As the new session of Congress got under way, the debate over Shenandoah Wilderness reached a high pitch in some of the counties adjoining the Park. It is pretty clear now that most of the opposition is based on mistaken ideas of what the Wilderness designation would really mean. Thus our job is to make known the truth about how Wilderness Areas can be managed under the provisions of the Wilderness Act.

As part of this public information effort, the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition (of which VWC is a part) is preparing a folder

which will explain some of the realities of Wilderness management. This folder will include answers to questions which have been particularly troubling to local residents, such as;

1) Must fires be allowed to burn unchecked in Wilderness Areas? Answer, no. In some large western Wildernesses, fires are allowed to burn because they play a necessary role in maintaining certain types of forest ecosystems. But in a narrow park like Shenandoah, allowing fire to burn would in many cases endanger adjoining private property. The Wilderness act makes specific allowances for using whatever means necessary to fight fires.

2) Can Wilderness Areas be entered from the perimeter of the park, or only from Skyline Drive? Answer, Wilderness designation would not require any closure of trails or of entry points at the Park Perimeter. Any restrictions on entry to parts of the Park would be in response to gross overuse which was damaging specific areas, but this would apply just as much in non-Wilderness as in Wilderness.

3) Would horesback riding be allowed in a Wilderness Area? Answer, yes. Nothing in the Wilderness Act implies that horseback riding should be excluded from the Wilderness Areas.

The folder will also include a map showing exactly where the areas proposed for the Wilderness lie. The folder should be very useful to those who support the Wilderness by providing them with the answers to some of the most frequently raised objections. It should also be good for distribution at stores, libraries and other places where people interested in Shenandoah might pick up a copy. If you would like a copy yourself, or if you would like to help distribute copies in the counties surrounding the Park, drop a note to Bob Schaefer, 3318 Woodburn Village Dr., Annandale, Virginia 22003 or phone at (703) 573-6717.

The main opposition to the Wilderness has been centered in Madison County, and the opponents have been endeavoring to export their views to the surrounding Counties. Meanwhile, some of the original opponents in Madison County have shown a willingness to revise their views as they found out that Wilderness isn't the "lock-up" they had imagined it to be.

Some of their original apprehension appears to have stemmed from statements of Park Superintendent Robert Jacobson about how a Wilderness might be managed under a strict purist interpretation of the Wilderness Act. If we can tell enough people about what's possible with a realistic interpretation of the Wilderness Act, the opposition should wither.

Byrd and Whitehurst Take Positive Action

Bills to designate Wilderness Areas in the Shenandoah have already been introduced in the Senate and House. Senator Byrd, on Feburary 28, filed S.885 and inserted in the congressional Record of that date his comments strongly supporting Wilderness designation. Although his bill refers to the 80,000 acre Park Service proposal, he is apparently not committed to this particular acreage and he might accept the 112,687 acre conservationist proposal if he hears enough from constituents.

Congressman G. William Whitehurst has meanwhile introduced H.R. 5036 which would designate the larger acreage as Wilderness (Whitehurst was the only Virginia Congressman to sign on as co-sponsor of the Eastern Wilderness Act last year). Other Congressmen such as Fisher and Harris might likewise support this acreage if given a little prodding.

BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Department of the Interior Should Should Stick with Strong Regulations

On February 26, Judge John A. MacKenzie of the U.S. District Court in Norfolk upheld the Interior Department's Special Regulations Governing the Use of Atlantic Ocean Beach within the Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Judge MacKenzie ordered that the regulations, which had been suspended two years ago by an injunction, should become totally effective at midnight, February 28. In his decision, the judge said, "It is apparent that this delaying action against the closure of the beach of the (refuge) serves no useful purpose except to continue the sale of lots on property to the south and to build up such a pressure of ownership as to politically force a road through the (refuge) and the adjacent Virginia False Cape State Park."

The regulations will close the refuge beach to all vehicles except those of people who can prove that they were year-round residents of the beach south of the refuge before Jan. 12, 1972, and who are still residents, and a few other special vehicles such as school buses.

The ruling brought cries of dismay from the land developers and some individual land owners. However, Virginia Beach City Councilman John A. Baum said "Instead of saying that the government is taking rights away, the property owners should be suing the land developers for selling lots to which there was no legal access."

Nonetheless, it is expected that there will now be intense pressure on the Interior Department to make their regulations less restrictive. To counter this pressure, we must express to the Interior Department our full support for full implementation and strict enforcement of the Special Regulations.

Write Or Wire Now
Mr. Nathaniel P. Reed
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington D.C. 20240

CONSTRUCTION DELAYS ON THE BLUE RIDGE (NEW RIVER) PROJECT

A stay order was issued on January 31 by te U.S. Court of Appeals which prohibits the Appalachian Power Company from beginning construction on the project until the court completes a review of the case. This will delay construction until summer at least.

The West Virginia Public Service Commision has ordered the Appalachian Power Company to refund approximately $40 million collected after a rate increase in mid-1971. This money was to be used in the construction of the Blue Ridge Project and, since it may never be constructed, the money is to be refunded.

Also, the Department of the Interior has asked the Federal Power Commission for a six to nine month delay in authorization for beginning of construction on the project. This delay was requested

in order to consider the river for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System and the value of plant and animal species unique to the New River which would be destroyed by the project.

Formation of a Group to Save the New River

A meeting was held on January 5, in Raleigh, N.C. with approximately 150 people attending from North Carolinia, Virginia, and West Virginia. At the meeting the Committee for the New River was created for the sole purpose of preserving the New River. This group is presently organizing, gathering information, and collecting signatures on petitions. The address of the Group is:

Committee for the New River
Box 575
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102

Details of the project status and group progress will be covered in future issues. Some of their projects include the sale of bumper stickers "The New River - Like It Is", plans for spring outings along the New River, song of the New River, and research projects. Present membership of the group now numbers 700 people.

Long Time No See?

If this is the first VWC Newsletter you have received since last year, it probably means that you are not on our list of "active" members. Because the mailing costs are so high, we can only send our newsletter regularly to those who have actively expressed interest, by sending us either a copy of a letter that they have written to a public official on Wilderness, or a small cash contribution. If you want to get back on the regular mailing list, send either one to our Treasurer, Mavis Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Altavista, Va. 24517. And by all means come to our annual meeting!

Virginia Wilderness Committee
P.O. Box 374
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

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1975

J. James Murray, Jr. '73
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

FIRST CLASS MAIL

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Sept. 7, 1975

VWC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, CONTEMPLATES EVOLVING ROLE - At the annual meeting in June, the Virginia Wilderness Committee(VWC) elected the following officers for one year terms: President: Ed Nance, 2136 Laurel Lane, Altavista, Va. 24517, (804/369-6873), Vice President: Ed Pancoast, Box 3811, Charlottesville, Va. 22903, (456-6534), Secretary: John Appelquist, Box 7, Newport, Va. 24128, (703/626-3474), Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3505 Pinebrook Drive, Richmond, Va. 23225, (804/320-7034). The above four,along with last year's President, Bob Schaefer, 3318 Woodburn Village Dr., Annandale, Va. 22003, (703 573-6717), will constitute the Executive Committee of VWC for 1975-76. Ed Pancoast is working in conjunction with other groups for the passage of a wilderness bill for Shenandoah National Park(see enclosure). John Appelquist is collecting information on the Garden Mountain area near Burkes Garden and working on the Newsletter. Rowland Creamer will be handling the administrative functions of keeping membership records and collecting donations. The VWC will continue to inform lawmakers and other administrators of its ongoing efforts to promote the preservation of Virginia's first permanent wilderness area, James River Face, and to work for permanent wilderness status for Virginia's four wilderness study areas: Ramsey's Draft, Mountain Lake, Peters Mtn., and Mill Creek. In addition, VWC asks for members and public alike to submit proposals for other permanent wilderness areas and/or wilderness study areas to the VWC Executive Committee or to Citizens For Eastern Wilderness, 815 Connecticutt Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. We need your help now in studying potential wilderness tracts such as Laurel Fork in Highland Co., parts of the Garden Mtn. tract near Bland, Va., Little Stony Creek area in Scott Co., Assateague Island, and Dismal Swamp. Don't hesitate to suggest other areas for wilderness designation or rivers, too, which can be protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. We will need people to attend public hearings on wilderness issues and Forest Service Unit Planning sessions in those congressional districts which have potential wilderness areas. We need people to write letters, phone, and pay visits to legislators to plead the wilderness cause. VWC will continue to pool information with other groups on issues of mutual concern.

WILDERNESS LEGISLATION 1975 - In February, 1975, senators Jackson, Fannin, and Haskell introduced S. 520, a bill to add 23 areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System. None of the areas are in Virginia. Indications are that additional areas might be added to the bill at hearings in the fall possibly as early as September. The closest states with areas on the bill are North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA NEWS - CCVa is now seeking individual memberships. Please read the enclosed form and consider an individual membership. The Council has alaways been a strong advocate of the Wilderness system, and has helped the VWC with testimony at hearings and with letters of support. VWC has been a member organization of the Council since its formation. Your individual membership will support the work of one of the most effective environmental groups in the state - and - bring you an informative, bi-monthly newspaper. Give it a try - you'll be surprised at how much is going on!

At the most recent meeting of the CCVa, in Virginia Beach, strong opposition was expressed to opening Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge to motor vehicles. (see next article).

The Council also adopted a position that requests the Northampton County Board of Supervisors to defeat a zoning amendment that would permit the construction of a massive Brown and Root Corp. industrial development. It is hoped that this development can be held up at least until the county can formulate a comprehensive land use plan.

Finally, a position paper was approved that supports stronger regulation

of strip-mining in Virginia. In connection with this, Virginia congresspersons Fisher and Harris were commended for their support of the federal strip mining regulation bill that was unfortunately vetoed in June, 1975. Despite the backing of nearly 2/3 of the congress this country is still without adequate strip mine regulation. Mountains, valleys, and rivers are being ruined in Virginia; some can be reclaimed, some cannot.

Your VWC delegate to this meeting supported all of the CCVa positions. Would you like to get detailed information about these issues? Send in that yellow form!

BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE - BIRDS WIN, BUGGIES LOSE - In early July, the fourth U.S. District Court of Appeals upheld the right of the Interior Dept. to restrict severely the motor vehicle access through the 4.2 mile beach of Back Bay NWR. This ruling supported the earlier decision of the Norfolk U.S. District Court, when a suit by property owners in North Carolina (south of the refuge) for access through the refuge was rejected. The suit was filed after Interior closed the beach to all but a few N.C. residents in 1972, because of continual damage to the beach and wildlife by thousands of vehicles per day.

A storm of protest has followed each decision against the dune-buggy enthusiasts, and this time is no different. Pressure is now being applied to Interior and to local congresspersons to lift some of the travel restrictions.

Congressman Robert Daniel has responded by filing HR 5844, a bill that will allow motor vehicle access through the refuge for property owners. Contrary to public statements by Daniel and others, this would cause a huge and destructive increase in the beach traffic.

Currently all full-time, year-round residents (since before 1972) are allowed to drive the beach. That's about 20 people. Another 5 may be permitted, who moved in during the 1972-75 interim. HR 5844, as written, will allow over 3600 part-time residents to drive the beach. And that's just a beginning.

An important point: no one is being deprived of access to his property. The alternative access is a 45 minute drive through N.C. mostly on paved roads.

This affair has national importance, since the court decision has given Interior a strong precedent for limiting vehicular access to Wildlife Refuges nation-wide. In contrast, HR 5844 would set a dangerous precedent by circumventing a strong environmental position by the Interior and the courts.

HOW TO HELP: Let's finally put this one to rest! Write a letter now to: Congressman R. L. Leggett, Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, House Office Building, Wash.,D.C. 20515 Express your feelings and send a copy to your own representative, especially if he is R. Daniel.

VWC TREASURER'S REPORT - Year Beginning:

	5/1/71	5/1/72	5/1/73	5/1/74
Beginning Balance	$137.78	$157.72	$136.32	$536.42
Contributions	$540.71	$358.50	$990.55	$485.50
Expenses				
Newsletter	$420.77	$399.90	$490.45	$415.06
CCVa Membership	$100.00	-	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
Back Bay Fund	-	-	$ 50.00	-
Ending Balance	$157.52	$136.32	$536.42	$556.86

Current Balance

Year End Balance (4/30/75)	$556.86
May Deposits	$ 76.00
	$632.86

FOREST AND RANGELAND RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURCES ACT OF 1974 - This Act required that an assessment be made of the nations forest and rangeland resources and that a program be developed to provide long-term direction to the U.S. Forest Service. The summary draft is complete and is available from:

Chief, U.S. Forest Service
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

or from the Forest Service Regional Offices in Roanoke and Harrisonburg. Area hearings are to be held in Washington D.C. on Sept. 16, 1975, and all comments must be in by Oct. 15, 1975.

SHENANDOAH WILDERNESS COALITION - Important note: Contrary to the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition fact sheet enclosed, the Shenandoah National Park administration does plan to remove all iron bridges in the parks wilderness areas. Superintendent Jacobsen says the bridges are not needed for hikers or horsemen

The Master Planning Process for the Shenandoah National Park(SNP)currently involves consultations with all concerned county, state, and federal agencies. An environmental assessment is being made of SNP, and there will be some kind of presentation of public alternatives with input from all organizations and general public concerned.

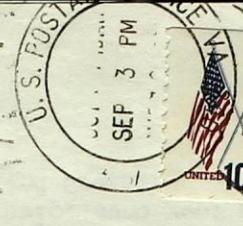
If the idea of "wilderness" is an area with the imprint of man's work and presence substantially unnoticable, then the object of wilderness use by humans (their goal) should be to learn how to use such areas with minimum impact. This means modifying the user's behavior to fit the resource, not modifying the resource to fit the user's behavior.

TOWARD WILDERNESS AND OTHER VALUES - 1. The basis for all successful advocacy is the truth. 2. The key to credibility is accurate information. 3. An advocate can not afford to make mistakes. 4. It is the understatement that succeeds best. 5. The message must be credible to the other side (as well as your own). 6. The successful advocate is the person who seeks to educate.

The media and the public have a low threshold for people who feed them misinformation either knowingly, or, inwittingly. One mistake can undercut several years of credible advocacy. Triple checking facts is an absolute prerequisite before blowing the whistle. from Oregon Times Jul-Aug '75 by David Dunsmore Comey.

BACKPACK CAMPOUT IN GARDEN MOUNTAIN AREA - HIKE TO HUTCHINSON ROCK - September 27, 28, Meet 9:00 a.m. Sat., Sept. 27 in the parking lot of the Howard Johnson's in Whytheville, Va. This will be a good opportunity to get ideas for wilderness tracts in the Garden Mountain area. The Forest Service acquired 46,000 acres in a 1972 land purchase near beautiful Burkes Garden, Va., and is currently planning the future management that area. For more details, contact: Dave Jenkins, 101 Canterbury Ct., Blacksburg, Va. 24060, (703/552-3747).

VWC MEMBERSHIP - Membership in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to citizens who request membership, indicating their support for the principles Of the VWC. The newsletter is sent out to all who have expressed their interest by sending in a copy of a letter to a public official about wilderness, or, by a financial contribution annually. Don't you know someone who is interested in Virginia's wilderness? If you would like to help, send your name, address, phone no., and letter or contribution to : Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, Va. 23225, (804/320/7043).



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
P. O. BOX 374
BLACKSBURG, VA. 24060

J. James Murray, Jr. '73
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Va. 22903

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER
Nov.-Dec., 1975

SHENANDOAH WILDERNESS HEARINGS CANCELLED ON SHORT NOTICE - A hearing to consider citizens' views on wilderness proposals in six national parks (including Shenandoah National Park), was called off at 7:00 p.m., Nov.,4, the day before testimony was to be heard. The office of Senator Johnston of Loiusiana made the unexpected cancellation. Johnston is Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation. Wilderness advocates had come from as far as California and New Mexico to speak at the hearing. A delegation of the Shenandoah Wilderness Coalition was prepared to testify in favor of an expanded wilderness proposal for Shenandoah National Park.

STATE SCENIC RIVER PROPOSALS - The Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation has proposed scenic river designation for a 29-mile segment of the Rappahannock river and a connecting 13-mile stretch of the Rapidan river. The proposed Rappahannock section is between Remington and Motts Run, about four miles west of Fredricksburg. The Rapidan section begins at the river's confluence with the Rappahannock and continues to the Germanna bridge.

4,000 VIRGINIANS PETITION TO STOP APCO'S BLUE RIDGE HYDRO PROJECT ON NEW RIVER

Copies of a petition with the signatures of more than 4,000 Virginians opposed to Appalachian Power Company's proposed twin-reservoir, pumped-storage, Blue Ridge Hydro Project were sent to Virginia congressional Representatives, Senators, the Governor, and the Secretary of the Interior. About 1,500 signatures came from the town of Blacksburg where the names were volunteered without soliciting door to door or going to the dormitories at V.P.I. & S.U. Anyone interested in preserving the New River should start by sending letters to the Governor, Senators, Congresspersons, and the Sec. of the Interior. If you want more involvlement than just letter writing, contact Pete Crow at Box 105, Ferrum College, Ferrum, Va., 24088. or write to the Committee for the New River, Mouth of Wilson, Va., 24363.

BLUE RIDGE PROJECT APPEAL HEARD BUT NO COURT RULING YET ISSUED

(reprint from Water News Nov., 1975)

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. heard arguments Oct. 23 concerning the validity of the construction license issued by the Federal Power Commission for Appalachian Power Company's proposed Blue Ridge Dams project in Grayson County. However, the court, which has halted construction on the project pending resolution of the State of North Carolina's legal action against it, issued no ruling and gave no indication of when one might be expected.

(continued on next page, col.,1)

POWERLINE POLLUTION: A "HOT ISSUE"

(excerpted from an article by Louise B. Young, Conservation News Oct., 1974)

Without benefit of batteries, cords or other conductors, two flourescent bulbs light up in the authoress' hands as she stands under a 765 kv powerline. (Editor's note: If the Blue Ridge project is built, it will necessitate building a 500 kv trunk line from the power station which will feed into a 765 kv line and a 345 kv line. kv = kilovolts). The Russians made a long-term study of 250 men working at extra high

(continued next page, col.,2)

column 1

Attorneys for both North Carolina and (APCO) told reporters after the hearing that they expected the court to rule that the FPC must reopen hearings on the license. At issue in North Carolina's challenge is whether the FPC in approving the project more than a year ago with an effective date of Jan. 2, 1975, adequately took into account peak-load pricing, energy conservation, and rate reform as alternatives to the project; wheter there was compliance with all provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, and whether the FPC violated the law in not including archaeological surveys of the New River Valley in the final case record. The surveys, commissioned by the power company in 1965 and 1969, reportedly showed that artifacts dating back to 10,000 B.C. are found in the 40,000 (acres) that would be flooded by construction of the project's twin dams. Such studies, North Carolina maintains, should have been included in the final environmental impact study on the project.

Meantime, further delays were foreseen on North Carolina's "second front" in its attempt to stop the Blue Ridge Project. A Department of the Interior official said October 16 that the department still has not begun processing the state's application for inclusion of 26.5 miles of the New River in North Carolina in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Deputy Assistant Secretary Douglas P. Wheeler said processing may await completion of an environmental impact statement being prepared by Interior's Atlanta office. Governor James E. Holshouser presented the state's proposal to the Interior Department July 15. Federal law required that such such proposals be circulated among several other government agencies for comment for at least 90 days before a final decision is made. That circulation process, Wheeler indicated, had not yet been initiated and might not be until the impact statement is available.

column 2

voltage (powerline) sub-stations. These results were compared with medical examinations of men working at lower voltage substations. The studies concluded that long-time exposure to intense electric fields without protective measures resulted in "shattering the dynamic state of the central nervous system, heart and blood-vessel system, and in changing blood structure. Young men complained of reduced sexual potency." As a result of these tests, the Russians have set up safety standards for maximum exposure to strong electric fields. The fields which they begin to consider dangerous are approximately those that will light up a fluorescent bulb in your hand. A farmer on a tractor under a 765 kv line is exposed to fields so strong that the Russians would not allow it for even one minute. Recent laboratory studies in the U.S. have also turned up positive evidence of biological effects from similar electromagnetic fields- effects ranging from chromosome damage to high blood pressure and alterations in levels of blood protein, fats, and cholesterol. Neurological tissue appears to be particularly sensitive, confirming the fear that long-term exposure may damage the nervous system as well as cause changes in cellular chemistry and the genetic structure in human beings.

CONSTRUCTION ON GATHRIGHT DAM TO STOP TEMPORARILY - Presently authorized federal funding on the Gathright project will have been used up by December, according to Col. Newman A. Howard, Jr., Norfolk District Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers. The dam, which is on the Jackson river about 15 miles north of Covington, is an example of the current state of dam planning and building in Virginia. Cost of the project was estimated at 15 million dollars in 1965; current estimate of cost of Gathright is about 68 million dollars. Much of the increased appropriation has been used to pay for pouring concrete into caverns and solution channels which were discovered in the dam's left abutment after construction had begun.

HEARING ON VEPCO'S BATH COUNTY PUMPED-STORAGE PROJECT - The Federal Power Commission has scheduled a formal hearing November 17 in Washington, D.C., to con-

sider Virginia Electric and Power Company's application to build a $500 million hydro-electric pumped-storage project on Back Creek in Bath and Highland Counties. VEPCO'S Bath County project would be the largest pumped-storage project in the world, and, one of its two reservoirs would be located within 15 miles of the Gathright reservoir north of Covington. At an informal hearing held in Warm Springs October 9, the Bath County Board of Supervisors indicated that its support of the project is contingent upon VEPCO paying costs of additional public services that will be required for an anticipated 2,500 construction workers and their families.

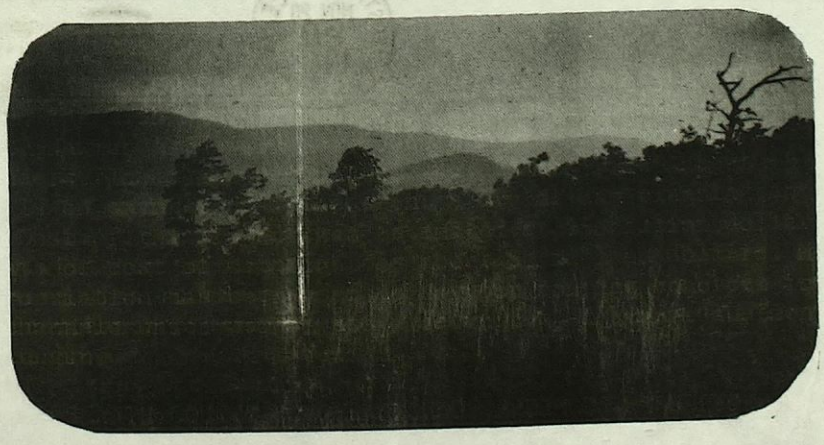
"MOUTH OF WILSON TOWN"
(by Ronnie R. Taylor
copyright Nov., 1974)

I ran into a friend of mine
A walkin' down the road the other day
He said have you seen the valley full of water
Down there where I used to play?
Still in my mind I see it now
The sky so blue, the sun so far away
But they've torn the old homeplace down
It's goin' under fifty feet a day

When I was a little boy I wandered
In green fields lost in time
The sky was blue the sunshine thorough
Most all of the time
But it's a hundred feet and rising
In the memory of my mind

When I grow old I am told I'll understand
Those questions in my mind
I'll sit down in an easy chair those
Questions will be answered there in rhyme
But it's two hundred feet and rising
In the memory of my mind

Yes the asphalt on the highways
And the smog upon the skyways
Brings me down
And it's two hundred feet and rising all down around
Mouth of Wilson Town
It's two hundred feet and rising all down around
Mouth of Wilson Town



From Burke's Garden rim: On the left horizon starts the Beartown area. Hutchinson Rock is on the far horizon to the left of the dead tree. About 20 wilderness enthusiasts spent a nice weekend Sept. 27 - 28 hiking and discussing wilderness possibilities here with representatives from the Whytheville District Forest Ranger's Office. Citizens who want wilderness status for this area should make their views known.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGES AND REFUGES THREATENED FAR AND NEAR - Capitol Hill observers expect Sam Steiger (R-Arizona) to propose an amendment to H.R. 5512, a bill to protect the entire National Wildlife Refuge System from land transfers and giveaways. The Steiger amendment would oust the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Kofa game range in Arizona and turn this magnificent 700,000 acre wildlife range over to the Bureau of Land Management(BLM). BLM is primarily concerned with energy development(rather than conservation). According to BLM's own projections, by 1990, 100% of BLM-managed big-game habitat will be unsatisfactory for big-game if current BLM management practices continue. Meanwhile, back home in Back Bay, conservationists are encountering tough opposition in their effort to preserve Back Bay Wildlife Refuge. The entire North Carolina congressional delegation and all but two of Virginia's delegates are cosponsoring H.R. 8644, a bill introduced by Rep. Robert W. Daniel (D-Va), which would grant vehicular access through the refuge to all North Carolina Outer Banks property owners, not just permanent residents. If the bill is passed, about 3,600 people could drive through the refuge as opposed to the 20 or so people who presently have permission to drive through Back Bay Wildlife Refuge.

SOLAR HEATING DEVICES - The U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs urges caution to those interested in purchasing solar heating systems. Reportedly, there are a number of crooked promoters active in the budding industry, so consumer's should check out promoter's claims before investing in a solar energy system.

REP. SYMMS OF IDAHO SUBMITS BILL TO ABOLISH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Since the VWC Newsletter doesn't have a comics section, we carry this bit of information as a "regular" news item. Briefly, Symms' bill, H.R. 9819 would abolish the EPA and transfer its authorities to various other federal agencies. The bill was submitted Sept. 24 to the Government Operations Committee.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS - VWC treasurer, Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr. Richmond, Va. 23225. Former VWC President, Bob Schaefer, 7408 Oriole Ave., Springfield, Va. 22150, (703/569-0510). Ed Pancoast, VWC Vice President, (703/456-6591). John Appelquist, VWC Secretary, 601 Giles Road, Blacksburg, Va., 24060, (703/552-6773).

VWC MEMBERSHIP - Many of you are receiving a complimentary copy of this issue of the VWC Newsletter. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter, please send your name and address, plus $1.00 (or whatever you can spare above that amount) to our treasurer, Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, Va. 23225. In lieu of the $1.00 per year, you can obtain membership by sending to Rowland a copy of a letter in support of wilderness which you have recently written to a state or national legislator or government agency. We need you!

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
NEWSLETTER Box 374 Blacksburg,
Virginia 24060 It's your future.

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DEPT. OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. 22903

"In wilderness is the preservation of the world."

H. D. Thoreau

"...I am going to turn you loose over all outdoors"

Rogers Morton speaking to Society of Petroleum Engineers

An ice-storm highlights the fragile beauty of the Virgin Timbers in Mountain Lake Wilderness Study Area, Giles Co.

S. 520 AND SHENANDOAH WILDERNESS HEARINGS SLATED FOR EARLY 1976 - VWC SUBMITS BEARTOWN PROPOSAL - Hearings on S, 520, a bill to consider additional eastern wilderness areas, are scheduled to begin in January or February, according to Citizens For Eastern Wilderness, a Washington D. C. - based lobby. The Virginia Wilderness Committee (VWC) is submitting a proposal for Wilderness Study Area status for Beartown, a high, isolated remnant of rare, spruce-birch habitat near Burkes Garden, Va. VWC members and other persons are asked to support the Beartown proposal by sending letters to Congressman William Wampler, 9th District, Va., 323 Canon Bldg., Washington D. C. 20515. The Shenandoah Widerness hearings which were cancelled in November are expected to be rescheduled for March.

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST TO HOLD OFF-ROAD-VEHICLE (ORV) HEARINGS THIS MONTH (JAN.) - George Smith, Forest Supervisor for the G. W. National Forest has scheduled three public meetings to provide opportunities for citizens to express concerns and recommendations on the G. W. National Forest off-road vehicle management plan. In addition, written comments will be accepted up to Feb. 15, 1976. The meetings are scheduled to be held:

January 27, 1976 - 7:30 p.m. - Harrisonburg, Va.
Federal Court Room, 3rd floor of Post Office Bldg.
Lee and Dry River Ranger Districts

January 28, 1976 - 7:30 p.m. - Waynesboro, Va.
Public Library Conference Room, 600 South Wayne Ave.
Pedlar and Deerfield Ranger Districts

January 29, 1976 - 7:30 p.m. - Near Covington, Va.
Alleghany County High School near Lowmoor community
just off I-64 between Clifton Forge and Covington
James River and Warm Springs Ranger Districts

Opportunity will be provided at these meetings to view maps and make comments on all proposed off-road vehicle routes in the respective Districts. Of crucial interest to Appalachian Trail enthusiasts, are the tentative proposals to use parts of the Appalachian Trail for ORV's in the Pedlar District. VWC supports the Conservation Council of Virginia's Draft Position Paper on off-road vehicles which states, among other things, that no specific areas for ORV use should be designated on public lands, and, that no additional one- or two-track trails for ORVs should be constructed on public land.

VWC ENDORSES REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT LEGISLATION AND VA. OUTDOORS PLAN BOND REFERENDUM - The VWC adopted resolutions at its executive committee meeting, Dec. 20, 1975, in support of State Senator DuVal's Refundable Deposit Beverage Container Legislation and State Delegate Ira Lech-

ner's (et al) resolution placing an $84,000,000 bond issue for outdoor recreation on the ballot in November, 1976. Mr. Lechner says that, if this resolution is to pass both the House and Senate, all Delegates and Senators must be contacted while they are still at home, that is, before the General Assembly session starts on January 14, 1976. It's now, or, never for this year. The following is the resolution which the VWC has adopted:

RESOLUTION ON VIRGINIA OUTDOORS PLAN BOND REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, biennial appropriations of the General Assembly since 1966 have provided only a fraction of the funds needed to acquire and develop parks as recommended by the Virginia Outdoors Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Outdoor Recreation Commission has recommended that funds be provided from the General Obligation Bonds of the Commonwealth for acquisition, development, and planning for State parks, for scenic trail and scenic river programs, and for State grants-in-aid to local and regional agencies for the planning, acquisition, and development of park and open space programs; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Virginia will consider the question of authorizing a state-wide Park Bond Referendum during the 1976 session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Virginia Wilderness Committee urges the General Assembly of Virginia to approve a voter referendum on the question of authorizing General Obligation Bonds for financing the Virginia Outdoors Plan.

-adopted by Executive Committee, Dec. 20, 1975

Senator DuVal's Refundable Deposit Beverage Container Legislation is the other key piece of State legislation which VWC is pursuing in the 1976 General Assembly. The legislation is simple, will impose no taxes, create no bureaucracy, and will provide an economic stimulus for citizens to reduce litter -- rather than taxing the average citizen to clean up after the careless one. The following are the basic concepts and expected consequences of the bill:

BASIC CONCEPTS

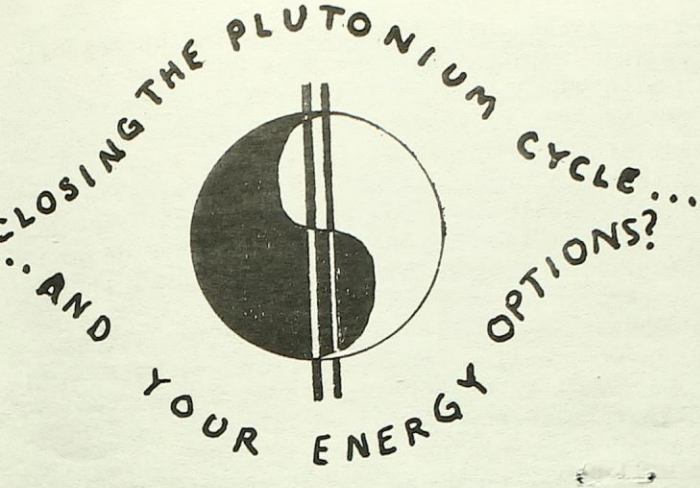
- An expansion of the existing deposit system to include non-reusable containers, a minimum 5-cent deposit on all beer and soft drink containers.
- When a Retailer gets a container back, he, in turn, gives it to the Distributor, being reimbursed at that time for the deposit and a small handling fee by the Distributor.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE BILL

- Reduces litter with individual actions and economic motivation, does not impose fines or make anything illegal, no huge, governmental program.
- Helps guarantee a higher level of recycling, particularly in aluminum and non-returnable glass.
- Will reduce demand for raw materials, thus, conserve natural resources and reduce energy consumption.
- Will reduce solid waste load, thus, easing demand on sanitary land-fills, and, reduce local government spending for collection and disposal of cans and bottles.

Robert E. Nance, President of the VWC, has written a letter to all members of the Virginia General Assembly, asking that they support the Bond Referendum and the Refundable Deposit legislation. VWC members and citizens are asked to notify their respective Assembly members of support for these bills as soon as possible!

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA PUBLISHES "THE FORUM", SEEKS NEW MEMBERS - The CCVa has published the first issue of its new newspaper, "The Forum", which is likely to be the most informative and current paper on conservation issues in the state. To receive it, send your name, address, and $10.00 to: TREASURER, CCVA, INC. BOX 177, MANAKIN-SABOT, VIRGINIA 23103 "The Forum" is published bi-monthly, at present. The $10.00 will also give you membership in CCVA.

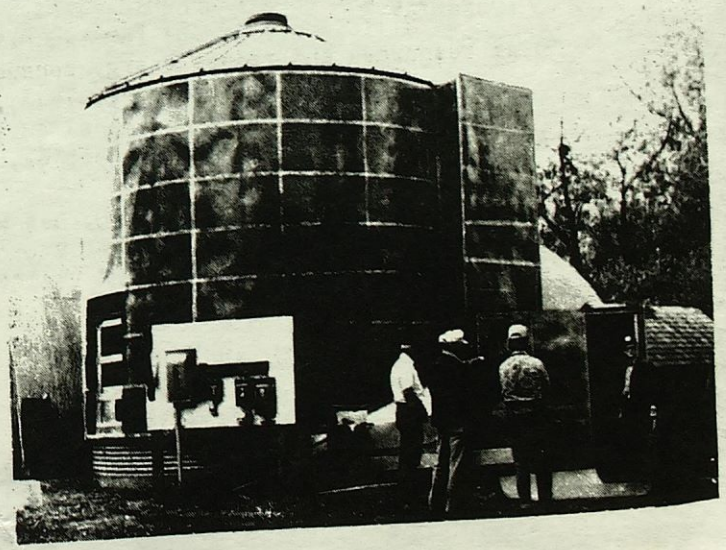


The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), intends to drastically speed up its decision on whether or not to allow the wide-scale use of Plutonium oxides,(euphemistically refered to by NRC as "mixed oxides"), in standard, Uranium-burning reactors, which are running out of the less-toxic fuel. NRC says it will reach a final decision on wide-scale, plutonium oxide use by early 1977. This is 18 months sooner than NRC originally intended, and, in spite of the facts that NRC has no adequate safeguards program, does not know where, or how, to dispose of nuclear wastes, and, that no one, not even Lloyd's of London, will insure a nuclear power plant for more than a small fraction of its potential damage liabilities. A "Yes" decision by NRC would, however, jibe neatly with Chase Manhattan Bank's plans to invest in nuclear reactor cores, and with President Ford's expressed,(though in this writer's opinion), ill-advised support of the construction of 200 nuclear power plants by 1985. Judging by the tone of recent speeches by NRC Commissioner, Edward A. Mason, and NRC Chairman, William A. Anders, delivered to the Atomic Industrial Forum (AIF), a pro-nuclear lobby, and, by Anders' recent speech to the American Society for Metals, a "Yes" decision is exactly what NRC intends to make.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA ADOPTS ENERGY POLICY GOALS - ARE YOU READY FOR THIS? - The following energy policy goals were adopted by the CCVa, September 27, 1975: 1. To decrease the growth rate of energy consumption toward the goal of zero increase in energy consumption on an annual basis. 2. To include, in the price of energy, the full environmental, social, production, transmission, and utilization costs. 3. To shift from reliance on fossil fuel to reliance on renewable energy sources. 4. To avoid sacrificing environmental quality for the sake of short-term energy benefits. 5. In order to accomplish (1) through (4), to bring citizens into the forum of energy policymaking. 6. To remove energy producers from their role as the primary spokesmen in energy policymaking. 7. To seek solutions which recognize the interrelated needs of energy, economy, environment, and employment. 8. To educate and enlist the active cooperation of the public concerning the following energy issues: a) the environmental and social costs of increasing energy consumption. b) the finite nature of existing energy sources. c) alternative energy sources and alternative patterns of energy use. d) realistic energy conservation measures available. e) the need for a new energy ethic. 9. To study and restructure energy consuming systems, such as agriculture and transportation, in order to utilize energy more efficiently. 10. To work toward the establishment of these goals in the form of a sound state and national energy policy.

HOME-BUILT SOLAR COLLECTOR ON MYRON PEDERSON FARM, ARLINGTON, S. DAKOTA, SUPPLIES ALL THE HEAT NECESSARY FOR LOW-TEMPERATURE DRYING OF CORN ------>

Using plans developed by Bill Peterson, an agricultural engineer at S. Dakota State University, Brookings, S. Dakota, Myron Pederson has constructed this silo for batch-drying of grain. Using solar collectors he built, Bill Peterson has successfully dried a 3,000-bushel bin of shelled corn from 20% moisture to 14% moisture at a cost of 2½ cents per bushel. That's about half normal drying costs. Article excerpted from Progressive Farmer magazine, December, 1975.



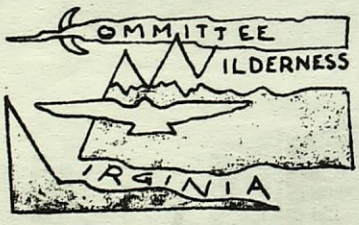
COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE ASSATEAGUE ISLAND PROTESTS CAPTAIN'S COVE DEVELOPMENT - The Norfolk District of the Army Corps of Engineers has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1976, at 7:30 p.m., in the Atlantic High School Auditorium, Route 13, south of Oak Hall, Accomack Co., Va. The purpose of the hearing is to consider the application of First Charter Land Corporation for a Department of the Army permit to authorize certain work in navigable waters (Chincoteague Bay and Swan's Gut Creek) at Captain's Cove, Accomack County, Virginia. First Charter Land Corporation has been dredging canals and filling wetlands without permits, since 1970, in the hope that if they do enough work on the development, the 4,877-lot community will be given approval by the state, and - not a bad gambler, First Charter. Virginia has issued all necessary permits to proceed with Captain's Cove.

The Committee to Preserve Assateague Island, headed by Chairwoman, Judy Johnson, of Towson, Maryland, recommends denial of First Charter's application, restoration of as much marshland as possible, filling of the canals which have been dug, no new work, and no building on flood plains. Mrs. Johnson also stresses that only an advanced central sewage system is a safe method of taking care of waste. Septic tanks are planned for 57% of the houses. And further, if the development is permitted, she says, not only may the commercial fishing industry face serious losses, but Accomack County may be faced, in future years, with having to provide adequate sewage disposal and other services which could be a great financial burden.

Now, for a break in the storm -- Assateague Island National Seashore hopes to have facilities available for canoeists in the spring, whereby they can launch their canoes at the bay-side North Beach area and take canoe trips along the bay side of the island, with two primitive campsites available where they can spend the night.

NATIONAL NEW RIVER NEWSLETTER - LETTERS TO FORD AND KLEPPE ARE SOUGHT - The National Committee for the New River needs your help. If you can, please send a contribution to the Committee at: P. O. Box 575, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27102. If you can't make a contribution, how about writing a letter to President Ford or Interior Secretary Kleppe at the following addresses? President Ford, The White House, Washington, D. C. 20500 and Interior Secretary Kleppe, U. S. Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

VWC MEMBERSHIP - Membership in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone who is in favor of wilderness preservation, and sends a copy of a recent letter in favor of wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, or, by sending $1,00 or more, per year, along with name and address to VWC Treasure, Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Drive, Richmond, Va. 23225. Rowland reports that our treasury is way down. Please look on the address label of the newsletter. If you see a 73 or 74, that signifies the last year through which your dues were paid up. Please up-date your subscription A.S.A.P. Thanks.



VWC NEWSLETTER P.O. 374
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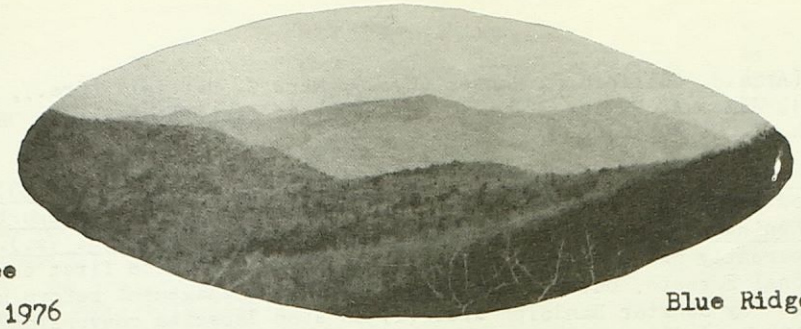


Virginia
Wilderness Committee
Newsletter - June, 1976

James River Face
Wilderness Area
Blue Ridge horizon not included

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING - WELCOME! - The Virginia Wilderness Committee(VWC) will hold its annual meeting Saturday, June 26, at Ernie Dickerman's homestead near Buffalo Gap, Va. Ernie is a retired staff member of the Wilderness Society, and a long-time wilderness advocate.

Friday evening (June 25) will feature a general bull session and executive committee meeting (usually indistinguishable, and everyone's invited), and the business meeting will begin at 10:30 on Saturday morning. Important topics to be discussed this year: (1) formation of teams to review the four Wilderness Study Areas in Virginia; (2) proposals for other National Forest Areas to be included in the Wilderness system; and, (3) what do we have to do to finally get a Shenandoah Wilderness? Hiking trips, long or short, will be organized according to interest on Sunday to some of the local areas such as Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Study Area, Little River, Crawford Mountain, and Elliott Knob. There will be plenty of room for camping; water and rest room facilities; and space indoors if it decides to rain (a VWC tradition). For non-campers, there are motels in nearby Staunton.

Directions to the Annual Meeting - Assuming most people will drive via I-81 or I-64, turn off at Staunton exit #57 and drive into Staunton. Pick up State 254 and proceed due west to Buffalo Gap for 9 or 10 miles. Continue straight ahead past the Buffalo Gap grocery and gas station (at junction with State 42) for one mile; then turn right (north) at white church on to State 688. Go one-half mile on State 688, where asphalt paving ends and gravel begins. You have arrived. "Dickerman" is name on mailbox and house is on left--dark red and white, set well back from the road, somewhat concealed by trees. Drive in and WELCOME!! We should have a good time, so plan now to come and get involved in saving Virginia's Wilderness Areas!

NEW RIVER STILL IMPERILED BY AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY'S FINANCIAL "PROBLEM" - American Electric Power Company (AEP), parent company of Appalachian Power Company (APCo), has had trouble since the mid-60's in generating capital from its business operations for the purpose of constructing new power plants. This is not to say that AEP is hurting for money. AEP just wants more money- understandable enough.... But what is the cost of AEP's getting more money to the 3,000 people of the New River valley who stand to be flooded out if the Blue Ridge Project is built? (July'75)

Donald C. Cook, former AEP chairman who retired in early 1976, told Forbe's Magazine that AEP had gotten itself into a financial jam because it was building power plants faster than its customers were calling for more power. So why not stop building power plants, you ask? But, things don't work that way for a federally regulated, non-risk utility such as AEP. AEP and its seven subsidiaries are legally guaranteed a profit (usually derived by rate increases) from new capital investment. This means that no matter what the dubious merits of the Blue Ridge Project may be(they are too numerous to delineate here), AEP is guaranteed a profit on Blue Ridge. And you, as customers of AEP, are guaranteed to pay for it, even though by AEP's own admission they have more power than their customers need.

Please write today to the House Rules Committee, time is short ! - Ask each member of the committee, if at all possible, to give support to H.R. 13372 (the New River Bill). Call the committee members by telephone if you can afford it, or if you live close to Washington D.C. The House Rules Committee members are: John B. Anderson (R-Ill.), Richard Bolling (D-Mo.), Del Clawson (R-Cal.), James J. Delaney (D-N.Y.), Delbert Latta (R-Ohio), Gillis Long (D-La.), Trent Lott (R-Miss.), Ray Madden (Chairman, D-Ind.), Spark Matsunaga (D-Ha.), Joseph Moaxley (D-Mass.) Morgan Murphy (D-Ill.), Claude Pepper (D-Fla.), Jimmy Quillen (R-Tenn.), B.F. Sisk (D-Cal.), Andrew Young (D-Ga.), John Young (D-Tex). Address: House Office Bldg. Wash. D. C. 20515

Also, it is extremely important that the following senators be contacted : For their support of S. 158 (the New River Bill) thanks go to: Henry M. Jackson (Wash.), Lee Metcalf (Mon.), Floyd Haskell (Colo.), James Abouresk (S.D.), Dale Bumpers (Ark.), J. Bennett Jonston Jr. (La.) and Richard Stone (FLa.). The following senators should be asked to support S. 158:

Paul J. Fanning (Ariz.), Clifford P. Hansen (Wyo.), Mark O. Hatfield (Ore.), Frank Church (Ida.) John Glenn (Ohio), James A. McClure (Ida.), and Dewey F. Bartlett (Okla.). Address: Senate Office Bldg. Wash. D. C. 20510.

LATEST WORD FROM WASHINGTON ON THE NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER (CLEARCUTTING) LEGISLATION - Environmentalists are now asked to support Senator Humphrey's bill S. 3091 as reported out of committee plus the strengthening amendments to be offered by Senator Randolph (W. Va.). Senator Randolph's bill, S.2926, apparently has not cleared committee. S.2926 was the first choice of the Coalition to Save Our National Forests, but the strategy for timber management reform has shifted. Amendments to be offered by Senator Randolph are: (1) to stop "species conversion", that is replacing hardwoods with pine, and (2) prohibit clearcutting in Eastern mixed hardwood forests.

Please write to both Va.'s Senators asking for their support for S. 3091 as reported out of committee and with the Randolph amendments. Senator Scott has indicated that he will vote according to constituent mail on this issue, so now is your chance!

VWC YEAR-END UPDATE - In the past year the orientation of the VWC has been in several directions. (1) - There has been continued study and preparation for legislation of additional Wilderness Areas in Virginia. Areas currently under preparation are Beartown/Roaring Fork Area in the Poor Valley Unit Planning District of the Jefferson National Forest, the Laurel Fork Area in the Laurel Fork Unit of the George Washington National Forest, and Little River Area in the G.W. National Forest. There are several other areas to be studied as well. (2) - Concerning areas classified by Congress as Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas, there have been follow-up meetings with Forest Service personnel relating to management plans and studies under way in those areas. (3) - The VWC has continued its involvement in the management efforts of the National Forests and Park with respect to such issues as ORV-use, Unit Planning and related items. (4) - VWC has been involved in legislative actions such as wilderness hearings for Shenandoah National Park, clearcutting aspects of timber management, statewide Refundable Deposit legislation, state Park Bond Referendum, and hang-gliding in the National Parks. (5) - The VWC has been involved with other groups such as the Conservation Council of Virginia, the National Committee for the New River, the Sierra Club, and the Wilderness Society.

CHANGING IDEAS IN FOREST SERVICE/PUBLIC PLANNING OF FOREST MANAGEMENT; ORV-USE, JENNINGS CREEK - The Forest Service has worked hard this year to open up its planning process to include more citizen participation. As a result, citizens now have an increasing opportunity and an increasing responsibility to educate themselves about the proper use of the many forest resources. The VWC has had one or more representatives at each of the recent public meetings; however, in the future, additional assisstance will be needed from VWC members; also needed will be knowledge of the areas or subject in which you are interested. As more Unit Planning Areas are reviewed by the Forest Service, VWC members will be called upon to provide assistance in planning for these meetings.

ORV-use - In January, and February public participation meetings were held by George Washington National Forest personnel. The subject of the meetings was Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) management. These meetings were different from the Unit Planning meetings in that the public was asked to provide criteria for evaluation of terrain being considered for ORV-usage. People attending were divided into groups in order to discuss various trails or roads, reasons for or against ORV use, and criteria for ORV use. A joint session was used to finalize all the information gathered. Some of the criteria discussed in evaluating terrain for ORV usage were: (1)- Presence of current resource damage which included rutted roads, deterioration of trout streams, and damage to wildlife nesting areas, (2) - Obvious potential resource damage such as unsatisfactory soil content, grade considerations, uniqueness of flora and its ability to recover. (3) - Conflict with other uses such as wildlife, hikers, backpackers, hunters, fishers, Forest Service programs such as nature trails, municipal watersheds, wilderness, wilderness study areas, areas proposed by conservation groups for other uses, and Appalachian Trail System. (4) - Limiting factors of terrain (5) - User safety, (6) - Conflict with other state or federal agencies or laws.

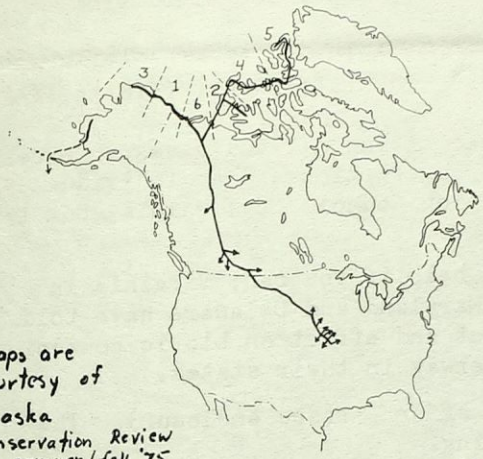
Jennings Creek Unit Citizen's Workshop - The Jennings Creek Planning Unit in the Jefferson National Forest was the subject of a citizen's workshop for all parties interested in future Unit management. The Jennings Creek Unit is located roughly between I-81 and the Blue Ridge Parkway just north of Peaks of Otter. The format for the workshop was somewhat like that used for the ORV meetings mentioned above. As an individual arrived, he was assigned a table and given a fixed number of votes to be used as he chose to rate certain items according to importance. Each each table acted as a separate group to select items concerning the management of the Jennings Creek Unit which it(the group) thought were important enough not to be changed. Then the group

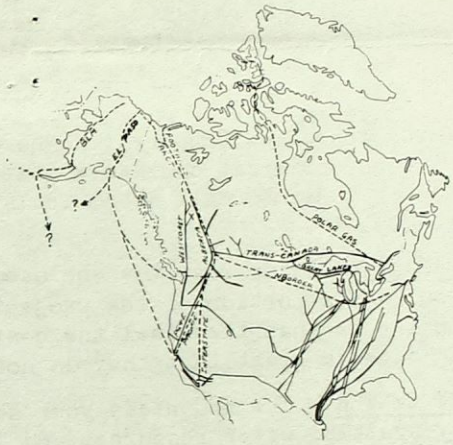
voted to rate the importance of the items. Goals were discussed and each group presented its conclusions to the entire meeting.

SHENANDOAH WILDERNESS AND S. 520 - The Shenandoah Wildernss bill, S. 885, amended, has passed the Senate and has been introduced in the House by Rep. Robinson (Va.) This bill is unfortunately for the reduced acreage of 80,000 acres; it attempts to write into law the existence of several "non-wilderness corridors" so that some trails and old fire roads can be maintained by mechanized equipment. At the Senate Interior Committee hearings, the Park Service said such corridors were not necessary, that trails could be maintained adequately under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Nevertheless, thay are in the bill. The Wilderness Society is very concerned about the precedent this will set, and is urging that people support the bill introduced by Congressman Whitehurst, which calls for a 113,000 acre wilderness and no exclusions for trails. S.520 (additional W. areas in Eastern U.S.) is dead for this session, partly due to election-year politics.

ENERGY NEWS AND VIEWS

" Project Independence "... or , " Pipe Dreams " ?





Maps are courtesy of Alaska Conservation Review summer/fall '75

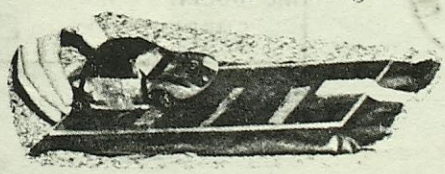
A single route is possible which would protect significant natural, cultural, and economic values for centuries.

—— Existing Gaslines ---- Proposed Gaslines
Proliferation of pipelines is planned.

President Ford's Administration is supporting H.R.12983, a bill which directs the Federal Power Commission (FPC) to recommend a gas transportation route from the arctic to the "lower '48" by January 1, 1977. Under H.R.12983, the President's decision would be final unless disapproved by Congress, and the bill limits judicial review to 60 days.

An alternative to the hasty exploitation of Arctic gas would be to make a comprehensive study, in cooperation with Canada, of arctic resources, environment, and reduced energy needs.* A single, multipurpose, trunk-line corridor could then be selected which would allow for the extraction not only of arctic gas, but also of oil and minerals. On balance, such a system would maximize resource recovery, minimize environmental and social disruption, and provide a measure of long-range economic stability. * Wang Laboratories in Tewkesbury Mass. has reduced its consumption of natural gas by 78% and its electricity by 48%, for a financial saving of $220,000/yearly, on a capital investment of $500 and a bit of human ingenuity and energy.
Thanks to Conservation Report and News.

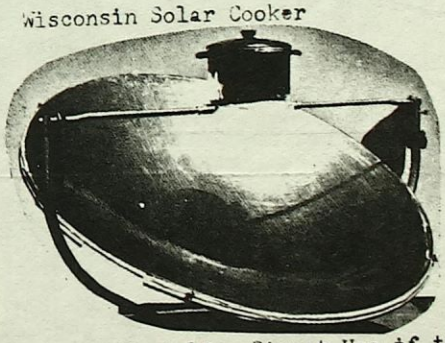
Model of Progress



Inventor Howard Johnson has developed a motor which creates thrust, not by using fuel, but by amplifying the difference between the higher and lower energy levels of unpaired electron spins in the permanent magnets used in the solid state magnetic unit. News Messenger April 15, 1976.

World
Energy - Need
Priorities
1. Cooking
2. Lighting
3. Distillation

Wisconsin Solar Cooker



From Farrington Daniel's, Direct Use of the Sun's Energy. Cooker boils a qt. in 15 min.

CONSERVATION COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA ANNUAL MEETING - The CCVa. hold its annual meeting at Skyland in Shenandoah National Park on May 8 and 9. George Hagerman, from Virginia Beach, was elected president for the coming year. The meeting featured panel discusions on two areas of environmental policy making that are presently at crucial stages in Virginia: water resources policy and energy policy.

The water resources panel highlighted several important questions such as, which state should be responsible for formulating a state water resources policy, and whether that policy will sanction the interbasin transfer of water. The discusion led to the creation of a committee that will spearhead the Council's actions and positions on water resources.

The most interesting energy development in the state is the imminent creation of 10 energy conservation "action groups" by the State Energy Office. These groups, representing energy use sectors such as transportation, utilities, consumers, etc., will study energy use in their sector and recommend energy conservation measures to the state. The proposed composition of the action groups is heavily weighted toward industry and trade associations, with consumers and conservation interests isolated in a single group. Should you or your conservation group wish to comment on the make-up of these groups, copies pf the proposed membership list can be obtained from Ed Wilson, State Energy Office, 823 E. Main St., Richmond, Va. 23219.

The most important action by the CCVa related to wilderness interests was the formation of a Public Lands Committee. This group will be concerned with federal and state parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.

The Council's newspaper, The Conservation Forum, is published bi-monthly and gives an excellent overview of citizen conservation issues statewide. For a subscription and an individual membership, send $10 (or more) to Bill Reed, Treasurer, Conservation Council of Virginia, Box 177, Manakin-Sabot, Va. 23103.

DELMARVA WATERWAY PROJECT- Please read the enclosed brochure and help if you can; Virginia is still scheduled to build its portion of the project even though Maryland and Delaware have told the Army Corps of Engineers that they feel the cost of the project and effect on biotic communities in the bays would be so great that they do not want the waterway in their states.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY CENTER - The EPC needs your help if you can afford it(see enclosur). The EPC is active energy systems, water resources and land-use planning.

VWC MEMBERSHIP - Membership in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone who is in favor of wilderness preservation, and sends a copy of a recent letter in favor of wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, or, by sending $1.00 or more per year, to our Teasurer, Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, Virginia 23225. Thanks for helping!

COMMITTEE WILDERNESS VIRGINIA

VWC NEWSLETTER P.O. 374
Blacksburg, Va. 24060

ROANOKE, VA. JUN 18 -PM 1976

PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND USA 13c

DEFEAT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY SUPPORT THE

CCVA
DR. J. J. MURRAY
DEPT. OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. 22903

Virginia Wilderness Committee

July 1976

VWC ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT BUFFALO GAP JUNE 26. As planned, the Virginia Wilderness Committee held its annual membership meeting Saturday, June 26, at the mountain farm home of Ernie Dickerman near Buffalo Gap, Augusta County. An action program was adopted, with the objective of having a number of Virginia national forest wilderness bills introduced in the new 95th Congress in January 1977.

Ernie Dickerman was elected president, succeeding Eddie Nance of Altavista. (Editor's Note: Many of you probably know our new president, at least by name. Ernie Dickerman has recently retired after serving many years on the staff of The Wilderness Society, most recently as Director of Wilderness Reviews. Few people have done more for the nation's wilderness than Ernie, and we're pretty lucky he decided to return to Virginia, where he spent much of his youth, to "retire"!) Other officers were elected as shown on the complete list below:

President: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope 24479 (703) 885-8330

Vice Pres.: Bob Schaefer, 7408 Oriole Ave., Springfield 22150 (703)5690510

Secretary: Dave Tice, P.O. Box 6475, Charlottesville 22906 (804)296-1118

Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond 23225 (804) 320-7034

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS BILL. To some of us it is beginning to feel like Shenandoah Park must have the oldest wilderness in the country. We did recently succeed in getting S. 885 passed by the Senate; but it not only is limited to the approximately 80,000 acres recommended by the National Park Service (compared to nearly 113,000 acres recommended by citizens), but contains a new and major deficiency. Under a provision supported by Senator Harry Byrd, Jr., S. 885 creates corridors excluded from wilderness for many of the administrative roads (i.e. roads which have always been closed to private motor vehicles, but are used under limited circumstances by Park Service vehicles).

Such excluded corridors would defeat a major objective of wilderness designation within Shenandoah or any other national park by permitting their conversion to public motor roads at any time by administrative decision of the Park Service. A prime purpose in applying the Wilderness Act to national parks is to assure that the wild areas of the parks are not violated by the opening of new motor roads. This is an objective consistent with the prime purpose in establishing national parks, i.e., to preserve unimpaired the outstanding natural qualities of the area. Wilderness advocates have already objected strongly to these non-wilderness corridors and are opposing the provision in the House (where Virginia Congressman Kenneth Robinson has introduced a bill identical to S. 885).

The National Park Service has taken the position that it does NOT need these roads excluded from wilderness designation; that it is sufficient that these existing administrative roads remain open as provided under the Wilderness Act for emergency use, such as fire suppression and search and rescue of persons. Under wilderness designation these routes would continue to serve the public as foot and horse trails just as they do now.

At the June 26 VWC meeting Bob Schaefer, Sally Soest, and one other person yet to be named, were appointed as a special committee to meet with Senator Byrd himself and discuss this problem, in hope that with a fuller understanding of the situation the Senator will be willing to agree to place these administrative roads within the wilderness boundaries. The results of this meeting will determine the position to be taken by VWC on Shenandoah Park wilderness legislation in this Congress.

NATIONAL FOREST WILDERNESS ACTION 1976-77. A preliminary list of National Forest areas in Virginia to be considered for introduction as Congressional wilderness bills in January 1977 was drawn up. There is nothing final about the list at this time. Not only is it possible that one or more areas will be dropped for a number of reasons, but it is entirely possible that one or more areas may be added for consideration provided that there are persons ready and willing to provide leadership and that sufficient public support can be developed. The list apprears further below. You may recognize your favorite area; or you may know of an area that ought to be on this list for serious consideration but is not. In the latter case, please write the president of VWC and tell him what you know about the area -- and indicate whether you or other specific individuals are prepared to do the necessary work to develop a recommended boundary and to build public support for the proposal within the counties where the area is located. Such proposals will be welcomed!

Following preparation of the preliminary list of areas for consideration, volunteers (with only mild arm-twisting) agreed to serve as "Area Leaders" for each of the areas. The intent is that each Area Leader will round up 2 or 3 more friends to form a team to spearhead the drive to place the area in the National Wilderness Preservation System under the Wilderness Act. Each team's goals will be to develop a firm boundary for submission to the Congress; to create enthusiasm locally among individuals, groups, and the radio, TV and newspaper people; to consult with and encourage the U. S. Forest Service and the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries at their district offices; to keep in touch with the Congressman within whose Congressional District the area lies and with other persons of political influence in the District; PLUS otherwise persuading local folks that the way to keep this choice area like it is -- to keep it the way they like it today -- is to have Congress put it in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

You are urged to choose an area (or two) that particularly interests you for your own reasons and then volunteer to help get that area added to the National Wilderness Preservation System. To volunteer, just write a note or telephone the Area Leader (whose name, address, and phone number appears in most cases on the list on the next page) and tell him or her you would like to help.

Herewith, the preliminary list of areas and the Area Leader for each as arranged at the June 26 meeting:

Wilderness Study Areas:

MILL CREEK (Jefferson N.F., Giles County)	Man or woman deeded to take the lead.
MOUNTAIN LAKE (Jefferson N.F., Giles & Craig Counties.)	Jim Murray Rt. 8, Box 331, Charlottesville 22901 (804) 973-6693
PETERS MTN. (Jefferson N.F., Giles County.)	John Appelquist 601 Giles Rd., Blacksburg 24060 (703) 552-6773
RAMSEY'S DRAFT (G. Washington N.F., Augusta & Highland Counties).	Paul Bratton, Jr. Box 111A, Deerfield 24432 (Call Ernie Dickerman (703) 885-8330)

New Candidate Areas:

BEARTOWN/ ROARING FORK (Jefferson N.F., Tazewell County).	John Appelquist 601 Giles Rd., Blacksburg 24060 (703) 552-6773
CRAWFORD MTN. (G. Washington N.F., Augusta County).	Man or woman needed to take the lead.
DOLLY ANN HOLLOW (G. Washington N.F., Alleghany County).	Man or woman needed to take the lead.
LAUREL FORK (G. Washington N.F., Highland County.)	Man or woman needed to take the lead.
LITTLE RIVER (G. Washington N.F., Augusta & Rockingham Counties.)	Bob Schaefer 7408 Oriole Ave., Springfield 22150 (703) 569-0510
MT. ROGERS (Jefferson N. F., Smith & Grayson Counties.)	Man or woman needed to take the lead.
RICH HOLE (G. Washington N.F., Alleghany, Bath, & Rockbridge Counties.)	Chris Wise P.O. Box 368, Lexington 24450 (703) 463-9322
ST. MARYS RIVER (G. Washington N.F., Augusta County.)	Man or woman needed to take the lead.

Besides the satisfaction of working on a proposed wilderness area, it can be a lot of fun. Here are the sorts of things that need to be done:

-- Making field studies (figuring out a satisfactory boundary; preparing lists of the birds, animals, fish and plants living there; inventorying and describing the natural features; etc.)

-- Building public support for the proposal (by going out and talking with local people so they will understand that wilderness designation is the sure way of permanently keeping this place they love the way they know it today -- and that hunting and fishing are not prohibited; by getting

stories run in the local newspapers and on radio and TV about the area and its natural qualities; by enlisting the support of all sorts of civic and outdoor clubs in adjacent counties; by keeping in touch with the local Congressman and two Virginia Senators so each knows this is a live, worthwhile issue for them to support; etc.)

-- Ultimately lobbying the Congress in Washington, D.C. (especially the Virginia Congressional delegation and the members of the House and Senate Interior Committees) to induce them to pass the legislation which will place our recommended Virginia area in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

As you can see, there is a wide choice of ways in which you can help preserve wilderness -- preserve for today and for future generations choice natural areas in Virginia located on federally owned lands. Please give one of the Area Leaders a phone call or write him or her a letter now, offering your abilities!

Come January 1977, and the opening of the new 95th Congress, we want to be ready to have our wilderness bills introduced in the Congress by one or more Virginia Congressmen and Senators. Whether an area will be proposed for immediate wilderness designation or as a wilderness study area will be decided at that time.

VWC MEMBERS MEET WITH JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST STAFF. On Tuesday, July 6, Jim Murray, John Appelquist, and Ernie Dickerman met at the Roanoke headquarters of the Jefferson National Forest with Forest Supervisor Mike Penfold and members of his staff (Bob Fish, Bernie Schruender and George Wolfe) to discuss wilderness prospects on the Jefferson National Forest. While it is true that the U. S. Forest Service finds it necessary to give different weight to relevant factors than sometimes we citizen-owners of the forests do, we found a very cooperative attitude on the part of the above men entrusted with the care of the Jefferson National Forest, and are confident it will be possible to work closely with them and others in developing worthwhile wilderness proposals on the Jefferson. Data will be shared, problems will be discussed, joint field trips will be made where needed. Peters Mountain and Mountain Lake Wilderness Study Areas are scheduled to be studied by the Forest Service beginning this summer, with the intent of developing the Service's boundary recommendations by the spring of 1977. Mill Creek Wilderness Study Area will not be reviewed until 1978.

There was general discussion of the wilderness potential of the area referred to as Beartown/Roaring Fork, near Burkes Garden in Tazewell County. John Appelquist of VWC prepared a report on this Beartown/Roaring Fork wilderness candidate in April, 1976, which describes its fine wild qualities. While this report applies to only 3,000 acres, acquisition of certain inholdings by the Forest Service and addition of qualified adjacent national forest land should significantly enlarge the ultimate proposal. If you live in southwest Virginia or are going to be travelling that way, drop in at the District Ranger Station at Wytheville for detailed information and location before visiting it. Hutchinson Rock is a prominent landmark in the extreme northeast corner of the proposed area.

VWC will hold a similar meeting with Forest Supervisor George Smith and his staff of the George Washington National Forest at Harrisonburg on Tuesday, August 3. It is our understanding that Forest Service studies of Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Study Area are scheduled to begin this summer sometime.

JOIN (OR RE-JOIN) THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE !

Membership in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone who is in favor of wilderness preservation -- by sending a copy of a recent letter in favor of wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, OR, by sending $1.00 or more per year, to our treasurer, Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23225.

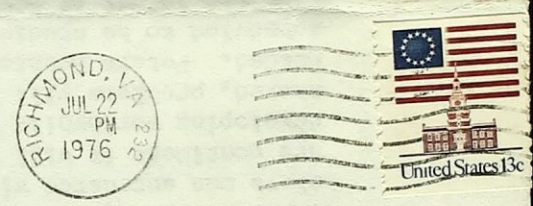
NOTE: To check on the date of your most recent membership contribution to VWC, check the date on your address label on this Newsletter. If it says "76", you have contributed this year, and you will continue to receive the bimonthly Newsletter.

An earlier date indicates we haven't heard from you in awhile. We regret that we can afford to mail only 2 Newsletters per year (before and after our annual meeting) to inactive members. You are welcome to re-activate yourself at any time. We hate to lose touch with you, and we need your support (both moral and financial), so we hope you will once again become an active member.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

FIRST CLASS

PLEASE



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
3506 Pinebrook Drive
Richmond, VA 23225

FIRST CLASS
RETURN REQUESTED

CCVA
DR. J. J. MURRAY
DEPT. OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. 22903

V I R G I N I A W I L D E R N E S S C O M M I T T E E

Newsletter

OCTOBER 1976

SEE YOUR CONGRESSPERSON! LET THEM KNOW!! Someone is running for Congress this year in each of Virginia's ten Congressional Districts. In most cases the present Congressperson wants to get re-elected. Also, one Senate seat is at stake, that presently occupied by Harry Byrd, Jr. Elmo Zumwalt (Democrat) is challenging Byrd (Independent). Election time is when members of Congress are most ready to listen to us citizens. Go out of your way to tell any of these candidates when they visit your county that you want him or her to support designation of new wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act in the Congress. By the time the candidate has heard this message a number of times, he or she will begin to believe it and adopt it. Pemember, we are going to have several Virginia wilderness proposals included in bills to be introduced in the next Congress. To win, we will need the active support of Virginia's Representatives and Senators. That means starting to work NOW!

MAY BE A VWC WILDERNESS WORKSHOP IN MARCH, 1977? What do you think? By then we should have our wilderness bills introduced in Congress and the fight will be on. A lot of us would like to understand more about the Wilderness Act, to know more about the areas being proposed, how to influence other people to support wilderness, and above all how to persuade the members of Congress to truly represent the people, to do what we the people want them to do. (The most important action on this last point is to LET THEM KNOW REPEATEDLY WHAT YOU WANT -- most members of Congress not being mind readers or good rememberers!)

Where? Perhaps at a state park or a college campus or wherever the cost for the weekend could be k-pt low. Please send your ideas for the workshop to the Editor (Dave Tice, Box 6475, Charlottesville, Va. 22906).

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST STAFF MEETING HELD. Paul Bratton, Jr., and VWC President Ernie Dickerman met with George Smith, Supervisor of the George Washington National Forest and three of his staff (James Crench, Joe Huddick and Leonard McNeal) at Harrisonburg on August 3. Discussion primarily dealt with the subject of statutory wilderness an- potential wilderness candidate areas on the George Washington. Among the areas touched on were Ramsey's Draft, St. Marys River, Little River, Dolly Ann Hollow and Laurel Fork.

On Ramseys Draft Wilderness Study Area, Supervisor Smith confimed that study is epected to begin soon after Oct. 1, 1976 (i.e. fiscal year 1977), with the final recommendation and report not available until some time in fiscal year 1978 (i.e. some time prior to Oct. 1, 1978). With Congress taking up Ramseys Draft early in 1977 (according to our plan), we believe it entirely possible that the Forest Service may accelerate its own study schedule. We expressed the citizens' intention to seek a larger wilderness boundary than the 6,700 acres in the Study Area by extending the final boundary well down the outer slopes of the surrounding Shenandoah Mountain and Bald Ridge. The Forest Service indicated that while they were prepared to examine land adjoining the Study Area boundary, such examination would be quite limited in extent. (Please see the field

report herein for further comment on Ramseys Draft).

The Forest Service confirmed its earlier published recognition of the special qualities of ST. MARYS RIVER, LITTLE RIVER and LAUREL FORK, but displayed little entusiasm for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act. It was agreed by all present that the current state of feeling in Highland County precluded any positive action on Laurel Fork for the time being. Dolly Ann Hollow was recognized as a truly wild place, but is not the subject of any special Forest Service attention now or planned. (An area leader is needed for Dolly Ann, just north of Covington. Will someone please volunteer and contact the Editor?

George Smith reported that his staff is about to begin preparation of an overall Unit Plan for the entire George Washington National Forest. This will be a new, experimental undertaking never before attempted elsewhere - even the planning techniques will need to be newly designed in part. It sounded like an interesting and worthwhile experiment to the VWC members present.

MASSANUTTEN UNIT PLAN (DRAFT) RELEASED. The George Washington National Forest recently released its draft Unit Plan for the Massanutten, the mountain range that rises abruptly in splendid isolation out in the Shenandoah Valley and extends for some 45 miles southward from Front Royal. The draft plan gives primary concern to protection and enhancement of the water, soil and air; to the scenic resource of the Mountain and of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River (which is contiguous occasionally to the Forest as it flows northward along the east side of the Massanutten); to all known historic and archeological sites, to dispersed recreation -- all of these ahead of timber production in priority. Logging would be limited to an average of less than 450 acres annually during the decade (the Massanutten Unit contains 78,900 acres total). In submitting its formal comment to the Forest Service on this draft unit plan, the Virginia Wilderness Committee termed it "true land management planning - not just forestry management or timber management."

VWC did take strong exception to the stated Off Road Vehicle (ORV) policy which would permit ORV's to go cross-country almost anywhere the operators pleased and would leave most trails open to them. The Forest Service contends that Executive Order 11644 as issued by the President of the United States practically requires such a policy; to which VWC replies that even under the terms of this Executive Order the Service has the authority to restrict use to prevent damage to the forest resource or to avoid conflict with the rights and privileges of other users. So this battle continues!

The plan does not suggest designation of any natural area for special protection; nor has VWC any wilderness recommendation at this time.

The Virginia Wilderness Committee concluded its comment by expressing the hope that it will be possible for the Forest Service to consistently apply the draft plan as outlined and that all of the plan's elements in fact be implemented essentially as described.

RAMSEYS DRAFT WILDERNESS STUDY AREA. The four field trips made this summer by a few of us living nearby have been aimed at determining how far down the outer slopes of Shenandoah Mtn. and Bald Ridge (which form the physical boundary of the Ramseys Draft drainage) it makes sense to place the final wilderness boundary. It definitely makes no sense to have the crest of these two encircling ridges as the final boundary and then in the course of time see the outer slopes clearcut all the way to the crest. It's a cinch that somebody will insist on logging these steep slopes once they figure a way to cut them at a monetary gain. The slopes are now covered with

a good, middle-aged forest, with the understory frequently clean and open. They are scenically attractive, provide first class habitat for a wide range -f wild creatures, perform water conservation most effectively and offer the human walker pleasing and challenging routes up the mountain.

Discussion- have been held with Forest Service staff both at the Deerfield Ranger Station and at Forest Headquarters in Harrisonburg. Our reading is that we can expect Forest Service support for Wilderness Act protection of the Ramseys Draft drainage alright; but persuasion will be needed to get acceptance of a boundary well down the outer slopes.

ST. MARYS RIVER PROPOSED WILDERNESS. A couple scouting trips have been made this summer, one of which particularly inspected the lower manganese mine site on the inholding (plus going up to Green Pond), and the other went up to the top of the Blue Ridge via one fork of Spy Run, then descended on the other fork. The abandoned old mine is a disturbance, but can be handled satisfactorilly. Both forks of Spy Run (a tributary which joins St. Marys River outside the Forest boundary) are fine wilderness and definitely should be included in any St. Marys River proposal.

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

The Jefferson National Forest is conducting a CITIZENS INVOLVEMENT WORKSHOP on the proposed MOUNTAIN LAKE, PETERS MOUNTAIN and MILL CREEK areas on October 28. The workshop will discuss the Wilderness Act of 1964, and the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 which listed the three areas as Wilderness Study Areas; the wilderness concept; the current situation on the Jefferson National Forest; and the Wilderness Study process.

Those attending will be asked to join one of several discussion groups, averaging about ten people each and guided by a Forest Service employee. There will be a slide program portraying the areas. The current status and past uses will be discussed.Each group will discuss four general questions and then share the thoughts with the other groups. Finally, each participant will be asked to complete a short questionnaire.

While not a regular public hearing on the wilderness study areas, this workshop is an excellent opportunity for VWC members to find out about the areas, the Forest Service study process, and to make initial input.

The workshop will be held October 28 from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. at the Giles County High School cafeteria. For directions or other information, contact John Appelquist (601 Giles Rd., Blacksburg, Va. 24060).

On a related note, The ROANOKE TIMES and WORLD NEWS edition for Sunday, October3, 1976, featured a long article on the MILL CREEK Wilderness Study Area. Your local library may carry a copy. If so, check on page B-2.

COMPUTER-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SYSTEM. Robert H. Giles, Jr., Professor of Wildlife Management at VPI&SU, reports that Virginia has adopted a computer-based environmental data system. Originally used to locate high voltage powerlines, the system has many uses such as locating airports, highways and utility lines. The system is being developed by Dr. Giles, the Division of Forestry and Wildlife Resources and Division of Environmental and Urban Systems at VPI&SU. He has over 100 facts about every 27-acre grid cell in the state. Included are national parks and forests, outdoor recreation areas, historic landmarks and a host of other variables of interest to VWC members. Development of the system is funded by the State

Corporation Commission for many uses by that agency. Others may use the system at cost. VWC members are encouraged to see that the data base is used in major environmental decisions in the state. Members are asked to contribute data to the base such as plant and animal lists specific to counties or areas. Contact Dr. Robert H. Giles, Jr., Division of Forestry and Wildlife Resources, VPI&SU, Blacksburg, Va. 24061.

NEW RIVER. By now everyone has heard the news of the tremendous decision by Congress to save the New River from dam construction by including part of it in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. While there are still important battles to be won in the area (particularly Appalachian Power's claim that they've found another river somewhere else to build a similar dam), we can all rejoice that this beautiful river has been saved. And special thanks should go to the organizers and thousands of residents of North Carolina and Grayson County, Virginia, who didn't give up for the 14 years of struggle against the dams.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER -- Among the activities of the treasurer of the VWC is to keep up-to-date the mailing list along with the subscription to the newsletter. We have recently instituted a month-date system to remind people when they made their last subscription renewal. I try to keep the list up-to-date but there may be mistakes so please write me if our records are not the same -- Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, Va. 23225.

MEMBERSHIP in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone who is in favor of wilderness preservation -- by sending a copy of a recent letter in favor of wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, OR by sending $1.00 or more per year to our treasurer, Rowland Creamer (address above).

SHENANDOAH WILDERNESS ESTABLISHED!! -- 80,000 Acres. As this went to press, Shenandoah Wilderness passed both houses of Congress! A bittersweet victory, because Sen. Byrd's non-wilderness corridors remained in the bill. But after 9+ years, a substantial victory. Cheers to all who have worked so long for the protection of Shenandoah, and hurray for Virginia's 2nd Wilderness Area!

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
3506 Pinebrook Dr.
Richmond, Va. 23225

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V I R G I N I A W I L D E R N E S S C O M M I T T E E

Newsletter

January 1977

ACTION NEEDED NOW!!

The time for action has arrived. The new 95th Congress opened for business on January 4, 1977. VWC has drafted a bill providing for the designation as wilderness of five areas on Virginia's George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Two of the areas are new candidate wildernesses and three are Wilderness Study Areas proposed for full-fledged wilderness status. (Please see list and descriptions of these areas elsewhere herein). Now we need to persuade members of Virginia's Congressional delegation to introduce this bill. Only a member of Congress may introduce a bill, and until a bill is filed the legislative process cannot begin.

Both Senator Byrd, Jr., and Congressperson Caldwell Butler have been requested in person to introduce the Virginia wilderness bill. The same request was made of Senator Scott and Congressperson Bill Wampler through their staff legislative aides. Whether they will depends on what they hear from their constituents. If these four members of Congress hear nothing but a great silence, they have no incentive to act. But if they immediately begin hearing from us folks back home, by letters, by phone calls, and in person whenever they return home (as most of them do many weekends, holidays and Congressional recesses), then each will decide that it is worth while to introduce the bill.

The St. Marys River, Rich Hole and Ramseys Draft areas are located in Congressperson Butler's Sixth Congressional District. The Mountain Lake and the Peters Mountain areas lie in Wampler's Ninth Congressional District. Of course the two Senators are directly concerned because each represents the entire state. If you want to help keep these outstanding natural areas permanently wild and beautiful, please write now to these four members of Congress and ask each to introduce the Virginia wilderness bill which would add the above five areas to the National Wilderness Preservation System. A brief letter expressing this request is all that is needed -- an identical, but seperate, letter can go to each.

The other action needed to begin now is to build support throughout the state for the five wilderness proposals. This means letting friends, public officials and local governments know about these proposals, what is gained by giving them the protection of the Wilderness Act, and urging each one to tell his or her local Congressperson and the two Senators to support the 1977 Virginia wilderness bill.

If you live near one of the five candidate areas, it is especially important to contact families who live or own land close to the area. They are the folks most directly concerned and are the persons in the strongest position to influence the local members of Congress for or against the proposal. Mostly such people need to understand what you mean by "wilderness" and what effect wilderness designation will have on their use of that part of the National Forest. Generally people love the region where they live and want to see it stay like it is. When you get across to them the idea that that is exactly what wilderness designation is intended to do, to keep the area just like it is permanently without logging, road building or other development, then usually they are ready to help by talking to their neighbors and by writing their representatives in Congress.

The support of all sorts of local clubs and groups is needed, large and small. The objective is to get the group to pass a resolution endorsing wilderness designation for the five areas and sending it to all twelve members of the Virginia Congressional delegation.

And don't forget to contact local persons of political influence, whether office holders or simply active in politics. These are the individuals whom the member of Congress will inquire of as to local sentiment on the issue. If they speak favorably, the member of Congress will react favorably. Support for wilderness in the Congress has generally been non-partisan, so don't worry whether someone os a Democrat or Republican.

The simplest explanation of the Wilderness Act and what it means to the individual is contained in a statement originally issued by the Wilderness Society and titled "Toward An Understanding of the Wilderness Act". It is just one shhet long (front and back). You can get a copy free by writing to either the Wilderness Society (1901 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20006) or Ernie Dicherman, VWC President (Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA 24479) and enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. After ge-ting a copy, xerox it so you will have additional copies to give out yourself to people you talk with.

Now is the day to start working to protect these five choice natural areas on Virginia's National Forests -- to keep them always wild and beautiful, never to be changed by the work of society.

Virginia Wilderness Proposals for the 95th Congress

St. Marys River Watershed - Approximately 10,000 acres near Steeles Tavern and the beautiful Big Levels area of the George Washington National Forest. Lying in Augusta and Rockbridge Counties on the west slope of the Blue Ridge, the area surrounds the St. Marys River and its tributaries, including Spy Run. Elevation ranges from 2000 to 3000 feet. Adjoining the Forest Service's Big Levels Game Refuge, the area abounds in wildlife. Trails follow the River, connecting with other trails at Big Level which provide access to the Blue Ridge Parkway and other roads outside of the area. Another trail follows both forks of Spy Run. Of major significance is Green Pond. An abandoned mine is a problem, but can be handled satisfactorily.

For information: Robert Belton, Rt. 1, Box 167A, Afton, Va. 22920
456-6410

A hike through the St. Marys area is planned for January 30. For details contact Bob Belton.

Rich Hole - Lying in Alleghany and Rockbridge Counties, and bounded on the west by Bath County, the Rich Hole area of 6500 acres is a prime candidate for wilderness designation. The area covers Brushy Mountain. Other boundaries are the powerline along Rt. 60 on the east, State Rt. 633 on the north and Forest Service road 108 and extended trail on the south. The North Branch Trail traverses the southern half, cutting diagonally across from road 108 to the junction of the three counties. The Rich Hole Trail divides the area in half, roughly following the Alleghany- Rockbridge County line. The heart of the area is a fine stand of Appalachian hardwood forest. Northern Red Oak, Basswood and Yellow-poplar are all represented by fine specimens in some numbers. Along the streams, hemlock trees of apparent ol- age are also present.The Rich Hole itself is about 300 acres in size. The surrounding ridges, covered by low-growing scrub oak and other species, protect the integrity of the Rich Hole proper, and are of chief significance as wildlife food and cover areas. The Forest Service has recognized the unique qualities and need for preservation of this area since the 1960's.

3. For information on Rich Hole: Chris Wise, Box 368, Lexington, Va. 24450
(703) 463-9322

Ramseys Draft Wilderness Study Area - Approximately 15,000 acres in Augusta and Highland Counties northwest of Staunton. Ramseys Draft is one of the best candidates for wilderness in the George Washington National Forest. Ramseys Draft is a clear trout stream which drains the narrow valley between the parallel ridges of Shenandoah Mountain on the west and Bald Ridge on the east. The distance between these ridges is about 2 1/2 miles, and they rise about 1,000 feet above Ramseys Draft. The maximum elevation of the area is 4282 at the summit of Hardscrabble Knob, and the minimum is about 2200 feet. The western side of Shenandoah Mountain is drained by Shaw Fork, the eastern side of Bald Ridge by the Calfpasture River and the northern end of the area by the North River.

The most notable feature of the Ramseys Draft region is the large area of virgin forest, including the 1600-acre Ramseys Draft Natural Area. Giant hemlocks in the stream valleys are especially conspicuous. Many other parts of the area were logged in the past, but have now recovered well. Wildlife includes grouse, turkey, deer, bear and bobcat. Hunters are attracted in great numbers during the season. Ravens and pileated woodpeckers are among the more conspicuous birds.

The boundaries of the proposed wilderness area are Rt. 250 on the south, Shaw Fork and Forest Service road 64 on the west, F.S. road 95 on the north, and a line between Bald Ridge and F.S. road 96 on the east.

Further information: Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield, Va. 24432.

** Ramseys Draft Trail Guide just published by the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club. Send $1.00 to Sierra Club, Piedmont Group, P.O. Box 3811, Charlottesville, Va. 22903.

Mountain Lake Wilderness Study Area - The study area consists of 8400 acres in Giles and Craig Counties, Virginia, and Monroe County, West Virginia. Over 900 flowering plants, including several rare species, are present. Primary tree species present are Chestnut Oak, Scarlet Oak, Yellow Poplar and Pitch Pine. Most the stand is immature white oak, hickory and red oak. Heavy logging took place in some areas between 1900 and 1918, but the area has recovered well. Much of the land was acquired from the Craig-Giles Iron Co. in 1935-1936. The Virgin Timbers, an area of mature red spruce and eastern hemlock is within the area at the upper end of War Spur Branch. A major area of rare plants is in Manns Bog on Salt Pond Mountain. Both these areas are in the Mountain Lake Scenic Area -- 1500 acres so designated in 1960. Adjacent to the geologically-significant Mountain Lake, other spots of geological interest are within the area, including White Rocks, Wind Rock and Bear Cliff. About one quarter of the area drains to the New River and west. The remainder flows into the James River to the Atlantic. Elevation ranges from 2000 to 4300 feet. Numerous trails lace the area, including the Appalachian Trail.

Further information: Jim Murray, Rt. 8, Box 331, Charlottesville 22901
(804) 973-6693

Peters Mountain Wilderness Study Area - 5,000 acres on the eastern slope of Peters Mountain in Giles County. The area drains into the New River- Elevation ranges from 1900 to 3900 feet. The area includes Pine Swamp Ridge, Foster Knob on the western boundary, some pine bogs along Pine Swamp Branch and a small natural pond. Primary vegetation includes Chestnut Oak, Pitch Pine, Virginia Pine, Table Mountain Pine, Yellow Poplar, Red Oak, White Oak and Hickory. The forest is mostly immature poletimber. The soil is of fair productivity. Though the area was subject to heavy timber cutting in the early 1900's, no cutting has taken place since Forest Service Acquisition. Wildlife species are the same as for the areas above. The Appalachian Trail passes through the area, running near an area of Canadian Zone Habitat - Hemlock on

the top of Peters Mountain. The area is bounded on the southeast by State Route 635 generally paralleling Stoney Creek, on the east by Dismal Branch, and on the northwest by the county line on the crest of Peters Mountain.

Further information. John Appelquist, 601 Giles Rd., Blacksburg, Va. 24060 (703) 552-6773

WILDERNESS FOR THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS

The National Park Service has submitted a wilderness proposal for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Bills for this proposal and for a slightly-enlarged proposal of 475,000 acres (made by the Great Smokies Park Wilderness Advocates) have been introduced in Congress. Action is needed now to insure passage of the bill. Call or write your local Congressperson or Senator to support the 475,000-acre proposal. Send copies of your letters to the Secretary of the Interior and to Gary Everhardt, Director of the National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

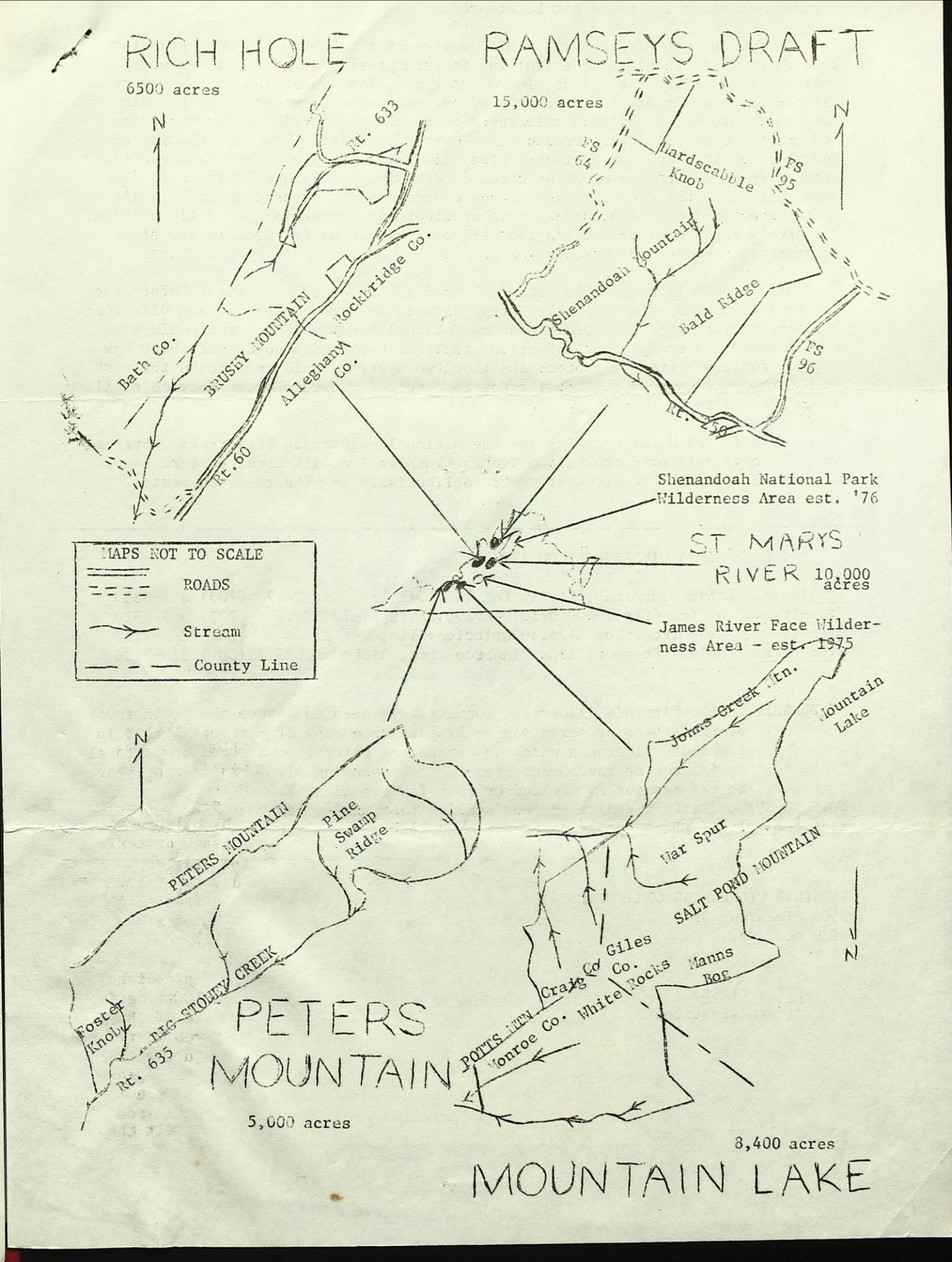
For more detailed information on the Wilderness proposals, write: Great Smokies Park Wilderness Advocates, c/o Jessie Dempster, Rt. 3, Ginn Road, Knoxville, Tenn. 37920.

THERE IS NO EASTERN WILDERNESS AREAS ACT!

By way of reducing some confusion, there is no such thing as an "Eastern Wilderness Areas Act" despite frequent mis-use of the term. The term was used as a matter of convenience in and out of the 93rd Congress in 1973-74 when Congress was working on legislation which would make the first additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System of lands on National Forests located east of the 100th meridian (midway through the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and the panhandle of Texas). The bill which Congress ultimately enacted and was signed into law by the president on January 3, 1975 in fact had no title. Having no title, it is correctly referred to as the Act of January 3, 1975 (sometimes followed in parenthesis by the U.S. Code citation 88 Stat. 2069) or as Public Law 93-622 (indicating that it was the 622nd law enacted by the 93rd Congress).

The Act of January 3, 1975 or PL 93-622 is supplementary to the Wilderness Act. It neither creates a new wilderness system nor establishes any new criteria for determining what constitutes wilderness. There is still one and only one National Wilderness Preservation Syatem and one definition of wilderness (sec. 2(c)), both as provided in the Wilderness Act of 1964. The procedure for designating any wilderness areas remains the same and the same provisions for managing statutory wilderness continue in effect everywhere.

The Act of January3, 1975 did do three things. First of all, it established sixteen new wilderness areas on National Forests located east of the 100th meridian -- the first on eastern National Forests to be added since passage of the Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964.Second, it authorized the U.S. Forest Service to condemn land needed for purposes of wilderness protection located on eastern National Forests. While the Forest Service, like most government agencies, generally has authority to condemn private land, the Wilderness Act of 1964 had prohibited condemnation of private inholdings within any legal wilderness area on any National Forest anywhere. Wilderness advocates and the Congress felt the exercise of the power of eminent domain was essential in the east because the relative smallness and accessibility of eastern National Forest wilderness areas made inholdings highly liable to incompatible activities and real estate develop-


RICH HOLE
6500 acres
N
Rt. 633
Bath Co.
BRUSHY MOUNTAIN
Rockbridge Co.
Allegheny Co.
Rt. 60
RAMSEYS DRAFT
15,000 acres
N
FS 64
Hardscabble Knob
FS 95
Shenandoah Mountain
Bald Ridge
FS 96
Rt. 250
Shenandoah National Park Wilderness Area est. '76
ST. MARYS RIVER 10,000 acres
James River Face Wilderness Area - est. 1975
MAPS NOT TO SCALE
ROADS
Stream
County Line
Johns Creek Mtn.
Mountain Lake
N
PETERS MOUNTAIN
Pine Swamp Ridge
War Spur
SALT POND MOUNTAIN
N
Giles Co.
Craig Co.
Manns Bog
BIG STONEY CREEK
Foster Knob
Rt. 635
PETERS MOUNTAIN
POTTS MTN.
Monroe Co.
White Rocks
5,000 acres
8,400 acres
MOUNTAIN LAKE

ments which otherwise could not be stopped.

Third, the Act of January 3, 1975 provides for Wilderness Study Areas (establishing 17 of them) in order to give interim protection to specified areas while further information is developed prior to a final decision by the Congress. Wilderness Study Areas are to be managed by the Forest Service "so as to maintain their presently-existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System". Congress has been showing reluctance to extend the protection of the Wilderness Act promptly to any candidate area, even when the area might be threatened by imminent damage to its wilderness character. Now Congress has a means of temporarily protecting areas while defering a final decision pending further study and expression of public opinion. Wilderness Study Area classification will be a highly useful tool in the fight to preserve America's wilderness.

All through 1971 and 1972 citizens waged a hard, intensive fight before the Congress to defeat efforts of the Forest Service to have a seperate and different wilderness system set up for the eastern National Forests. Standards would have been lowered and management protection weakened. Citizens argued that there was no need for two different systems and that two systems would complicate the work of Congress and everybody else. The Congress agreed and the Forest Service's bill died in committee.

There is one Wilderness Act and one National Wilderness Preservation System and both apply all over the United States. The less we talk about eastern and western wilderness, the stronger we are collectively as wilderness advocates.

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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Vice-Pres.: Bob Schaefer, 7408 Oriole Ave., Springfield, Va. (703) 569-0510
Secretary: David Tice, Box 6475, Charlottesville, Va. 22906 (804) 296-1118
Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, 23225 (804) 320-7034

Hi, Jim! JS

MEMBERSHIP in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone who is in favor of wilderness preservation -- by sending a copy of a recent letter in favor of wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, OR by sending $1.00 or more per year to the treasurer, Rowland Creamer (address above).

NOTE TO SUBSCRIBERS: The date on your mailing label indicates your last subscription renewal. If there appear to be any mistakes, contact the treasurer.

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
3506 Pinebrook Dr.
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DEPT. OF BIOLOGY
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CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. 22903

Virginia Wilderness Committee NEWSLETTER November, 1977

SUPPORT BUILDING IN VIRGINIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

On October 25 Rep. Robert W. Daniel, Jr. of the 4th Congressional District became the fourth Virginia Congressman to sponsor the Virginia Wilderness Bill H.R. 7970. Bob Daniel's district lies south of Richmond and west of Norfolk, and includes such cities as Hopewell, Petersburg, Portsmouth and Suffolk. The VWC promptly sent written thanks to Rep. Daniel for his sponsorship. It will help the cause of wilderness in Virginia if folks who live in the 4th District will write or telephone their thanks to Bob Daniel. There is nothing more human than a Member of Congress. (Come to think of it, maybe that is why so often we feel irritated by the actions of one or more of them.)

Congressman Bill Whitehurst of the 2nd Congressional District (Norfolk & Virginia Beach), who introduced the complete Virginia wilderness bill (all five areas) on June 22, continues to be the friend of Virginia wilderness and to exercise initiative in the cause. When he re'introduced H.R. 7970 with Rep. Daniel as a co-sponsor, he had also persuaded four Congressmen outside of Virginia to be co-sponsors: Badillo of New York, Edwards of Oklahoma, Harrington of Massachusetts and Stark of California. You can be sure VWC has already written Bill Whitehurst thanking him for this action, so very important toward building general support within the Congress.

Which Virginia Congressmen are now sponsors of the Virginia wilderness bill H.R. 7970? They are: Rep. Whitehurst, who initially introduced the bill; and Reps. Daniel, Joe Fisher (10th C.D. - northern Virginia) and Dave Satterfield (3rd C.D. - Richmond). Back in April Rep. Caldwell Butler of the 6th C.D. introduced his own bill covering the three proposals in his district, i.e., St. Marys River and Ramseys Draft in Augusta Co. and Rich Hole in Rockbridge & Alleghany Cos. This leaves five more Virginia Congressmen to be persuaded to sponsor the Virginia wilderness bill: Paul Trible of the 1st C.D., Dan Daniel of the 5th C.D., Kenneth Robinson of the 7th C.D.,Herb Harris of the 8th C.D. and Bill Wampler of the 9th C.D. (where the Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain proposals are located). Let's persuade them and give them a chance to feel good!

Senators Harry Byrd and William Scott are still playing hard-to-get. It looks like we will have to sell the Virginia wilderness bill in the House of Representatives before they can be induced to sign on the dotted line and agree that it is worthwhile to permanently protect these five outstanding natural areas that Virginia is blessed with.

STATE CITIZEN GROUPS BACK WILDERNESS

The Virginia Wildlife Federation at its annual meeting in October passed an excellent resolution giving the fullest support to the current five Virginia wilderness proposals; and sent copies of its resolution to all members of the Virginia Congressional delegation, to Gov. Godwin and to the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries. The Federation has long had a strong statement of policy favoring protection of wilderness. President Peter Rowe (also a member of VWC) saw to it that this policy was applied by the Federation membership by the adoption of this unequivocal resolution of support.

Earlier in the summer the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League likewise passed a formal resolution in favor of the current Virginia wilderness proposals.

The Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited away back last spring went on record in support of the Virginia wilderness bill and has been working actively for it through its state chapters.

MEANWHILE IN AUGUSTA, GILES AND ROCKBRIDGE COUNTIES

THE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS . . . .

We've got a tough row to hoe in Augusta County and in Giles County, where 4 out of 5 of the proposed wilderness areas lie. In both counties the Boards of Supervisors have passed resolutions opposing wilderness designation within their respective counties. In Rockbridge County the Board of Supervisors is favorable toward Rich Hole.

Augusta County

The Augusta Board passed its negative resolution this summer, against St. Marys River and Ramseys Draft with practically no public notice being made of the intent and virtually no consultation of public opinion beforehand. To a degree, wilderness advocates were caught napping-- which is no way to win a war. At a later meeting Ernie Dickerman as president of the VWC and a resident of Augusta County was given an opportunity to address the Board of Supervisors (7 men). The reception was courteous and after conclusion of Ernie's presentation the Supervisors spent at least another 15 minutes asking relevant questions designed to elicit further pertinent information.

The job in Augusta County is now seen as one of inducing the County Board to reverse its position and adopt a new, favorable resolution. A chief means to this end being used is the giving of talks before civic and other clubs throughout Augusta County, telling each audience what wonderful places Ramseys Draft and St. Marys River are here in their own home county, urging that the two areas be given the protection of the Wilderness Act, and, above all, to let the County Supervisors know how they feel. Progress is no doubt being made, but slowly - as the democratic process commonly operates.

Although Congressman Caldwell Butler introduced his own bill applying to the three areas in his District at the request of constituents in April, he stated at that time that he would work to move the bill according to whether he saw adequate support for the bill in his district. For better or for worse, as of now Rep. Butler considers the adverse resolution of the Augusta Board of Supervisors as a strong indicator of public opposition to wilderness designation. We are out to prove him wrong and to show him that the voters do indeed want Ramseys Draft and St. Marys - plus Rich Hole - protected under the Wilderness Act. Rep. Butler (address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.) needs to receive more letters from voters, especially in the 6th District, urging wilderness designation for the three areas. Give him guidance!

Giles County

In Giles County, where Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain proposals are located, the Board of Supervisors passed its opposing resolution in September. From the beginning there has been substantial opposition in Giles County to wilderness designation, because, as some of us see it, many folks there were unhappily surprised when in 1974 Congress established three Wilderness Study Areas (a temporarily protected status) in Giles; and because of wide-spread misunderstanding of what that meant in terms of what an individual could do in such areas. For wilderness supporters to win, lots of Giles County residents need to realize that they do control their own destiny and that the local Congressman, Bill Wampler, will effectively block putting any of these areas permanently in the Wilderness System unless the people of Giles County want it done. Also, the numerous and extreme misunderstandings of how wilderness designation will affect the individual need to be cleared up. This twin job can be accomplished and wilderness advocates in southwest Virginia are hard at it.

The rest of us can help by writing any friends we have down that way, urging them to support wilderness designation and telling them that hunting and fishing will continue to be permitted under state law as usual, that private land adjacent to a wilderness will not be condemned, that anyone can continue to go into any wilderness area whenever he or she pleases on foot or on horseback (but not by motor vehicle), that the Wilderness Act does

permit forest fires to be put out. In short, the individual continues to be able to do just as he has done before, except no motor vehicle operation. The only prohibitions apply to commercial operations such as logging and the building of roads, dams, transmission lines and such.

When we as wilderness advocates can show Congressman Bill Wampler that the voters of Giles County and of the 9th Congressional District want the Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain areas given the protection of the Wilderness Act, then Rep. Wampler will give his active support to passing the Virginia wilderness bill. That is what we are all steadily working toward. Meanwhile, remember, if you live outside the 9th District but have a friend there, write or telephone to that friend and encourage him or her to write to Mr. Wampler (address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.) in support of wilderness designation for Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain.

Rockbridge County

The Rich Hole wilderness proposal is moving steadily forward. The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors has taken a position favoring its designation as wilderness. The Rockbridge Area Conservation Council is giving the proposal full support. Even so, Congressman Caldwell Butler needs to hear from more voters in the region urging his support; he, like all members of Congress, has an insatiable need to hear what his constituents want!

THERE ARE NUMBERS ABOVE YOUR NAME!

Please look at the figures above your name on the address label. The two numbers, or last two of four numbers, indicate the last year in which VWC has a record of receiving from you either a copy of a letter to a member of Congress or other official or a money contribution. If the last two figures are 77 (meaning 1977), you are currently paid up either by virtue of a letter or money. 1176 or 1276 (meaning November or December 1976) still indicates currently paid up. Any number smaller, such as 1076 or 75 or 74, means that no contribution has been received by VWC in more than a year or longer; In which case either a copy of a letter or a modest check would be greatly appreciated.

The current wilderness campaign for five Virginia areas is costing money for reproducing materials for distribution, long distance telephoning, postage and producing and mailing the newsletter. We'd like to keep you all more currently informed by more frequent issues of the newsletter -- and would do so if the money were available. Please bring your contribution up to date -- and thereby help persuade the Virginia Congressional delegation to move the Virginia wilderness bill H.R. 7970 through this 95th Congress!

Rowland Creamer, Treasurer 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, Va. 23225

RARE 2, ROADLESS AREA REVIEW ON NATIONAL FORESTS

14 areas totaling 164,820 acres on the George Washington National Forest and 12 areas totaling 68,474 acres on the Jefferson National Forest have been recommended under the RARE 2 program by the Supervisors of these forests for further study to assess their wilderness qualities. These initial recommendations simply undertake to identify all areas of a few thousand acres or larger on the national forests which are substantially roadless, have had no appreciable logging within the past ten years, and generally have no buildings, reservoirs, transmission lines or other works of man. At this stage it is not an attempt to decide their qualifications or desirability for statuatory wilderness status; that will come later. For a list of these roadless areas, their acreage and county in which located, write to: Forest Supervisor, George Washington National Forest, Federal Building, Harrisonburg, Va. and Forest Supervisor, Jefferson National Forest, Federal Building, Roanoke, Va.

Any day now the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service will announce the official list of roadless areas on all national forests, which will then be subject to further examination by Forest Service personnel and by the owners of the national forests (meaning you and me and all Americans) to determine which ones (wholly or partly) should be recommended to Congress for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act. The first step of identifying roadless areas was important because it assures that every bit of each national forest that might conceivably be considered as "wild" was preliminarily examined and reported on. You will recall that public meetings were conducted by the Forest Service in July and August to receive citizen suggestions of roadless areas. After the Chief's official list is announced, there will in due course be more public meetings for citizens to propose specific areas on the list for wilderness designation by the Congress - and to object to omissions from the list.

When it comes to citizens recommending specific areas for wilderness designation, first-hand knowledge, gained on the ground, will be necessary. That means persons interested in promoting specific areas will need to make their own exploratory field trips, noting in detail the character of the area and determining a definite boundary to be recommended. This can be fun and very interesting. If you live anywhere near the National Forests, drop in at the nearest Ranger Station and ask for detailed information as to the location of identified roadless areas. Then select one or two and, in the course of a few hikes, develop your own expertise about its, or their, wilderness qualifications. Get a few friends together and make this a winter outdoor project. Let Ernie Dickerman know what you are doing (Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, Va. 24479; 703-885-8330). When it comes time for the public meetings, VWC will coordinate efforts throughout the state to assure strong turnouts in support of the wilderness recommendations. Decide now to select an area as your wilderness candidate and start exploring it!

The Virginia Wilderness Committee

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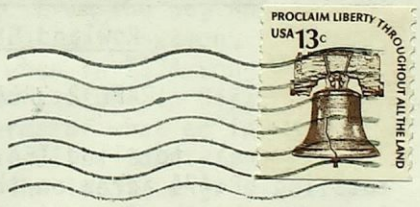
3506 Pinebrook Dr.
Richmond, Va. 23225



9-77
DR. J. J. MURRAY
DEPT. OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA. 22

V I R G I N I A

W I L D E R N E S S

C O M M I T T E E

Newsletter

March, 1978

WING THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL HOME WITH THIS FLYER

Note the attractive, informative brand new flyer promoting the Virginia wilderness campaign and H.R. 7970! A generous donation by the Wilderness Society made production of this flyer possible - a contribution by the Society toward the preservation of wilderness on eastern National Forests. Its text and layout are the work of members of V.W.C. and of the Shenandoah Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

We needed this flyer. Now we have it. Next is the matter of getting it into the hands of organizations and individuals who will make use of it. Quantities are available free to organizations that will promtly mail individual copies to their members; also to individuals who will distribute them to friends and to groups who are apt to respond by writing to their Congressmen and Senators.

We do ask that, if possible, when ordering a quantity you enclose sufficient stamps or cash to cover the postage charges for mailing the order to you, please. Repeating -- the flyers themselves are free. Please send your order to: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA 24479.

FIVE VIRGINIA CONGRESSMEN WANTED FOR WILDERNESS

The latest count shows that there are still just three co-sponsors among Virginia Congressmen of H.R. 7970, The Virginia wilderness bill - plus the original sponsor Rep. William Whitehurst, and Rep. Caldwell Butler who, in April 1977, introduced his own bill covering the three proposals in his 6th Congressional District. As previously reported, the three co-sponsors are: Bob Daniel (4th C.D.), Joe Fisher (10th C.D.) and Dave Satterfield (3rd C.D.).

So who are the other five Virginia Congressmen who need to be encouraged by whatever blandishments or other means of persuasion are available to each of us? Here they are: Rep. Paul Trible, 1st C.D. (including Newport News, Williamsburg, Colonial Beach, Chincoteague, Cape Charles),

Rep. Dan Daniel, 5th C.D. (including Danville, Martinsville, Rocky Mount, Farmville and Lawrenceville),

Rep. Kenneth Robinson, 7th C.D. (including Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Winchester, Fredericksburg, Culpeper),

Rep. Herbert Harris, 8th C.D. (including Alexandria, Springfield, Manassas and Quantico), and

Rep. William Wampler, 9th C.D. (including Blacksburg, Bluefield, Wise, Bristol, Marion and Galax).

Of these five, only Bill Wampler has any wilderness proposal in his District (Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain). The other four can gain favor and November votes among conservationists in their Districts by co-sponsoring H.R. 7970 - and have nothing to lose. <u>If one of these five Congressmen is yours, write him again -</u>

and persuade a few friends to write - and let him know what you want: his co-sponsorship of H.R. 7970, the Virginia wilderness bill!

We hope to get House Interior Committee action - including a Washington hearing - either late in the spring or early in the summer.

ADOPT - A - FOREST

Nearly everyone who has visited or otherwise been associated with the eastern National Forests, as well as Shenandoah National Park and our other public lands, is familiar with the problems caused by extensive private in-holdings. Maps of these public lands look like jig-saw puzzles, making management and plans extremely difficult. It is a problem that has had a significant affect on possible wilderness areas as well as other benefits and uses of the public forests. As land values climb and development pressures increase, it becomes steadily more difficult for the federal and state agencies to acquire the necessary land base to protect the natural resources and provide citizens with forest benefits, including wilderness and recreation. When an in-holding does come on the market, it often takes the agency more than a year to receive funding for the purchase - a bureaucratic process many sellers are not willing to wait for. So the land is sold to others, oftentimes developers, thus removing a potential addition from public use.

The Virginia Chapter of The Nature Conservancy - the only private conservation group devoted solely to land acquisition for preservation of natural diversity - has announced an ADOPT - A - FOREST program for Virginia's National Forests. Volunteers are needed to "adopt" a Ranger District on one of the two National Forests, meet with the District Ranger at least twice a year to discuss acquisition needs, and keep an eye on the market to learn when desirable tracts of land come up for sale. The Nature Conservancy can then offer assistance to the Forest Service to acquire the land for public use or, if the land is of exceptional ecological quality, other alternatives can be explored to protect the resource. (The Conservancy has been involved in the acquisition of more than 1.1 million acres of land nationwide, including the Great Dismal Swamp, the Barrier Islands and Mt. Rogers in Virginia).

For more information on this important program to both protect and expand our public resource base, contact David Tice, P.O. Box 6475, Charlottesville, Va. 22906; phone 804-263-5949.

ALASKA LANDS BILL H.R. 39 REPORTED OUT OF SUBCOMMITTEE

On February 8 Chairman John Seiberling's Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands reported out a bill providing for protection of 98 million acres of publicly owned lands in Alaska. The bill now goes to the full House Interior Committee for further consideration and possible change, before its next major step to the floor of the House of Representatives.

The subcommittee's bill - still referred to as H.R. 39 - would establish many new National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Forest, all on lands already federally-owned. Much of the 98 million acres would automatically become part of the National Wilderness System and subject to the

provisions of the Wilderness Act.

As Congressman Seiberling has repeatedly pointed out, these lands in Alaska belong equally to all 220 million Americans everywhere - not just to the approximately 350,000 persons resident in Alaska. Further, the federal government is already giving to the State of Alaska under the terms of the 1958 Alaska Statehood Act 103 million acres of the public lands there - lands which the State has or is choosing itself, as it believes will be economically most beneficial to the State and scattered widely all over Alaska. Additionally, under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, the federal government has awarded 44million more acres to Alaska natives, i.e. Eskimos, Indians and Aleuts, with the natives making their own free choices for the most part. Given this free disposition of 147 million acres of the public lands to the State of Alaska and the natives, to many Americans it seems right and proper that approximately 100 million acres be specifically reserved to all Americans for public use and enjoyment in ways that do not change existing natural values.

With the likelihood that the bill will be reported out by the full House Interior Committee and sent to the floor of the House for vote sometime in March, it is not too early to write to your Virginia Congressman urging him to support and vote for H.R. 39, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Bill, as and when reported out. You can bet there will be plenty of opposition by individuals, corporations and Members of the House who can only see the quick dollars to be gained by virtually uncontrolled exploitation of that great land - ignoring the enduring natural values which earlier in the "Lower 48" we so wantonly wasted in our short-term greed. Passage of this bill can show that Americans are capable of learning something from history.

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29 ROADLESS AREAS IDENTIFIED ON VIRGINIA'S NATIONAL FORESTS

The list of roadless areas identified under the RARE 2 program by the U.S. Forest Service on all 154 National Forests was released in mid-November, 1977. It is commonly referred to as the "Chief's List"- meaning the list of undeveloped, roadless areas as issued by the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, John R. McGuire. From this list will be selected late this year the areas to be recommended to Congress for placement in the National Wilderness System by subsequent acts of Congress.

In Virginia a total of 217,319 acres on 29 areas are on the Chief's list. Of these, 14 areas totalling 129,338 acres are on the George Washington National Forest and 15 areas totalling 87,981 acres lie on the Jefferson. The list includes the four Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) mandated by Congress in 1974 for study by the Forest Service. Two areas, Barbours Creek and Hoop Hole, appear on the lists for both forests because each lies in part on both forests.

However, which areas are ultimately recommended for wilderness designation will depend importantly on what citizens have to say about each one at a series of public meetings to be held by the Forest Service in late summer or early fall. That is when each one of us can play a significant part: by making our own field trips into one or two areas this spring and summer and preparing ourselves to comment informedly at these public meetings about the areas. Unless there is strong support shown and factual information presented by interested citizens, the odds are that any given area will NOT be recommended for wilderness designation by the administration.

(over)

As was suggested in the November VWC Newsletter, the action needed is for individuals and organizations interested in wilderness protection to choose an area or two on the Chief's list, then make a series of trips during this spring and summer, learning about the area, noting its wilderness characteristics, recording any special plant, animal or topographic features and determining a suitable wilderness boundary. Come late summer or early fall and the public meetings, we will all be able to report convincingly on the areas studies.

Herewith a listing of the roadless areas and their acreages in Virginia:

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATL. FOR.

Acres	Name
9300	Rough Mountain
5030	Rich Hole
10695	St. Marys River
15360	Crawford Mountain
6700	Ramseys Draft WSA
13475	Ramseys Draft (addition)
10965	Laurel Fork
10816	Little River
20817	Big Schloss
7900	Dolly Anne
13060	Elliot Knob
1300	Head of Dry River
3400	Barbours Creek
520	Hoop Hole
129,338	14 areas

JEFFERSON NATL. FOR.

Acres	Name
10542	Beartown
2998	Little Dry Run
5771	Lewis Fork
3160	Roaring Branch
1050	Little Stony
3568	Little Wilson Creek
5887	Devils Fork
4115	Big Stoney
5726	Kimberling Creek
17739	Barbours Creek
4885	Hoop Hole
2530	Thunder Ridge
4000	Mill Creek WSA
11827	Mountain Lake WSA
4183	Peters Mountain WSA
87,981	15 areas

Write now to the appropriate National Forest headquarters (address below) for a map of the area(s) you are interested in, the location on the Forest, and any relevant data already available. Then, start your own exploring! If possible, keep Ernie Dickerman (address below) informed of your plans and progress.

Forest Supervisor
George Washington National Forest
Federal Building
Harrisonburg, Va.

Forest Supervisor
Jefferson National Forest
Federal Building
Roanoke, Va.

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
President: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA 24479 (703)885-8330
Vice-Pres: Chris Wise, Box 368, Lexington, VA 24450
Secretary: David Tice, Box 6475, Charlottesville, VA 22906 (804) 263-5949
Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, VA 23225 (804)320-70

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
3506 Pinebrook Dr.
Richmond, VA 23225

09-77
DR. J. J. MURRAY
DEPT. OF BIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

Virginia Wilderness Committee

Newsletter
April, 1978

HOUSE HEARING ANNOUNCED FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL, APRIL 25

The Subcommittee on Public Lands of the House Interior Committee has scheduled the hearing on the Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970, for Tuesday April 25 at Washington, D.C. The hearing will be held in Room 1324 Longworth House Office Building, beginning at 9:45 AM.

This is the big news we have all been waiting for in the Virginia wilderness campaign. It is the House Interior Committee which will decide on the basis of testimony presented at this hearing by Members of Congress, the U.S. Forest Service, and interested citizens and their organizations whether to recommend to the full House of Representatives passage of H.R. 7970 as introduced, whether to drop some of the five areas, or whether to kill it completely.

Nothing will influence the Committee more favorably than to have all of Virginia's ten Congressmen testify at the April 25 hearing in full support of H.R. 7970. Most of them will do so if they are asked to by the folks back home, meaning you and me and our friends. Whether you have written (or telephoned or spoken to in person) your Congressman before about the Virginia wilderness bill, now there is a new message for him: Please attend the House Interior Committee hearing on Tuesday April 25 and testify in favor of the complete Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970.

The five Virginia sponsors of H.R. 7970 (see article below for names) who have already shown a favorable attitude toward the bill, plus Rep. Caldwell Butler who introduced his own bill covering the 3 areas in his 6th District, will probably testify <u>if they are asked</u>. Otherwise, they are all too apt to just plain forget or to just decide it isn't worth the bother.

The four who are not yet co-sponsors (see article below) may very well, when asked to testify for H.R. 7970, decide it is time to get on the bandwagon. Don't neglect the honorable man just because his reflexes are slow!

Because the House Interior Committee can kill the bill, drop some of the areas, or report it complete to the floor of the House for vote, this is the most vital action in the Congressional process. It is worth the time and effort of each of us to act now--even if never again!

ANOTHER CO-SPONSOR ADDED FOR H.R. 7970

Congressman Herbert Harris of the 8th Congressional District (Alexandria, Springfield, Manassas, Quantico) became the fifth Virginia Congressman to sponsor the Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970. Building on the letters of other Virginians written in past months, Bob and Karin Schaefer of Springfield talked with Rep. Harris at his office in early March and he responded by agreeing to become a co-sponsor; which in fact he did a few days later.

The five co-sponsors among Virginia Congressmen to date are: William Whitehurst (2nd C.D. and the original introducer of the bill), David Satterfield (3rd C.D.), Robert Daniel (4th C.D.), Herbert Harris (8th C.D.) and Joseph Fisher (10th C.D.). In addition, Rep. Caldwell Bulter (6th C.D.) introduced his own bill in April 1977 covering the 3 areas in his district (St. Marys River, Ramseys Draft and Rich Hole). That makes 6 out of the 10 Virginia Congressmen who are on record as favoring the Virginia wilderness proposals.

Let's keep trying! That leaves Paul Trible (2nd C.D.), Dan Daniel (5th C.D.), Kenneth Robinson (7th C.D.) and William Wampler (9th C.D. and in whose district lie the Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain proposals) still wandering in the Congressional wilderness, i.e., uncommitted to the Virginia wilderness bill. With the House Interior Committee hearing set for April 25, it will greatly strengthen our position before the Committee to have each of the above gentlemen officially recorded by then as a co-sponsor of H.R. 7970. If one of them is your Congressman, telephone him at Washington or, the next weekend he comes home (as most Virginia Congressmen commonly do), go see him. Just as Rep. Harris responded to Bob and Karin Schaefer's visit, it is entirely possible that yours will to your visit.

WHEN DID YOU LAST LOBBY CAPITAL HILL?

Some readers have testified at Congressional hearings and have lobbied the Congress. Most of us haven't. Our conception of the Congress is the confused, distorted, aimless picture commonly presented in the media. In fact, The Congress usually knows quite well what it is doing and operates under a well established system. The problem is that Congress has its own rules and firm customs of which most of us are unaware; in consequence, our expectations are often away out of line. Also, each Member of the Congress tends to regard himself as a law unto himself and responsible only to the voters in his constituency, whether an entire state or a congressional district. Further, it is difficult for any group of 535 human beings (in this case, 435 Representatives and 100 Senators) to agree on anything; so it usually takes a certain amount of time and horse-trading to reach a majority agreement; meanwhile you and I wonder what is going on. There is no argument that the proceedings of the Congress can be confusing at times!

Fortunately, there is one common factor what each and every Member of Congress is sensitive to most of the time. As a rule, every Member wants to be back there after the next November election. Therein lies the key to successful lobbying of the Congress. Sure, you have to have a good case and be informed; but is there support for it back home is the fundamental test. Your coming to Washington and the mail he is receiving are strong evidences of support. Most Members want to faithfully represent their constituents, so they are glad to hear from you and me and our friends and neighbors. The best way to tell him what you want is to go to Washington and tell him there. He or she knows that you are not coming all the way from home unless you mean business. He will listen, and what you say will register in his mind.

Right now we have the Virginia wilderness bill before the Congress. What is needed is for a respectable number of us to go to Washington any time between now and April 25 and prowl Capitol Hill, calling at the offices of the Virginia Congressional delegation (10 Congressmen and 2 Senators) and on members of the House Interior Committee (who will be holding the hearing and afterwards deciding whether to favorably report H.R. 7970 to the full House of Representatives, to drop some of the areas, or to kill it. When those cowboys see Virginians coming to Washington to press for their bill, they are impressed and a disposition is stirred in them to pass the bill.

Give the idea of your going to Washington to lobby for H.R. 7970 some thought. Except for your own Congressman, you will probably talk with an aide on the Member's staff; that is OK, for the aide is paid to be the eyes & ears of the Member and to report to him or her who came and what they wanted. Just don't go up on Saturday or Sunday, because most Congressional offices are closed then.

Going to Washington is the most valuable contribution YOU can make. Your own lobbying of the Congress can be very satisfying to you--and even fun!

SPECIAL THANKS

To those of you who responded by bringing your contribution up-to-date, as requested in the November Newsletter, our special thanks. It makes possible the meeting of our bills for long distance telephone calls, postage, reproduction of materials describing the Virginia wilderness proposals, stationery, and publication of the V.W.C. Newsletter. Our warm thanks also to all those folks who have been making their regular annual contribution (by watching the numbers above their name on the address label which shows the month and year of the last contribution).

OTHER VIRGINIA GROUPS WILL TESTIFY AT APRIL 25 HEARING

In anticipation of the hearing on the Virginia wilderness bill April 25 at Washington, half a dozen state-wide citizen organizations have stated they will each have a witness present to testify for the bill. Testimony by such witnesses will weigh very favorably with the House Interior Committee. Listed alphabetically, the organizations are:

Conservation Council of Virginia
Izaak Walton League, Virginia Division
Old Dominion Chapter, Sierra Club
Trout Unlimited, Virginia Council
Virginia Wildlife Federation
Virginia Wilderness Committee

Each of the above groups is already on record, by formal resolution or other official action, in full support of the five Virginia wilderness proposals.

In addition to the above Virginia organizations, at least 3 or 4 national conservation organizations are expected to testify before the Committee at the April 25 hearing.

YOU'VE SEEN THIS FLYER BEFORE

The enclosed flyer is worth a second look. Please take another.

Some members have requested a supply to distribute at meetings of other organizations to which they belong. Distribution of the flyer at meetings is an effective way to build support for wilderness and to induce people to write their Congressman asking him to support the Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970. It is best to precede the distribution with a 3 to 5 minute talk about the reasons for giving these five areas the protection of the Wilderness Act--stressing particularly the need to make sure these outstandingly fine, publicly owned, natural areas stay that way, for ourselves, our children and our children's children.

For a supply of this Virginia wilderness flyer, just write to Ernie Dickerman (Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479) and tell him how many you can use. If possible, please include the cost of postage (usually 75¢ to $1.00 for 50 to 100 copies). The flyers themselves are free.

FIELD GUIDES FOR EVALUATING WILDERNESS POTENTIAL of the RARE 2 areas are available from Dave Tice (address below). The Guides are in two parts - first a set of field sheets for recording elements of the areas and secondly a series of questions to answer to aid in evaluating whether or not an area should be pursued as Wilderness. All individuals or groups who will be looking at the RARE 2 areas this summer (see previous newsletters for descriptions) should contact Dave Tice for a copy of the Field Guide.

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
Vice-Pres: Chris Wise, Box 368, Lexington VA 24450
Secretary: David Tice, Box 6475, Charlottesville VA 22906 (804) 263-5949
Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond VA 23225 (804) 320-7034

MEMBERSHIP in Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone in favor of wilderness preservation--by sending a copy of a recent letter supporting wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, OR by sending $1.00 or more per year to the Treasurer Rowland Creamer (address above). Postage, long distance phone calls, printed materials describing the wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing and mailing the newsletter--all cost money.

The date above your name on your Newsletter mailing label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the Treasurer.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
3506 Pinebrook Dr.
Richmond, VA 23225

Virginia Wilderness Committee

Newsletter
June, 1978

APOLOGIA: 124,000,000 acres of Alaska has delayed this report on the April 25 hearing on the Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970. We've been in Washington ever since the hearing as a part of the lobbying team of the Alaska Coalition, working the House of Representatives to gain enactment of H.R. 39, the Alaska Conservations Lands bill. Only after passage of this great and historic bill by the House on May 19 was it possible to return home and prepare this Newsletter. We regret this delay, but hope that fighting for the permanent protection of more than 100 million acres of magnificent wild lands, as many of you also have been doing, will be viewed as proper justification for the delay in reporting on the Virginia wilderness bill hearing.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING HELD ON VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL

On Tuesday April 25 at Washington, D.C. the hearing was held on the Virginia wilderness bill by the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs & Public lands of the House Interior Committee. Most of you have already seen some public report on it.

Five state-wide conservation organizations had witnesses present who testified for the bill, H.R. 7970: Conservation Council of Virginia, Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited, Virginia Division of Izaak Walton League, Old Dominion Chapter (Virginia) of Sierra Club, and Virginia Wilderness Committee. Additionally four national or regional organizations testified favorably: Friends of the Earth, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, and Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs. Congressman William Whitehurst (Norfolk & Virginia Beach) who originally introduced the complete Virginia wilderness bill, personally appeared and testified for the bill.

Testifying against the bill were two representatives of logging interests who offered the mossy-old objections heard ever since the first wilderness bill was introduced in Congress in 1956 that the lumber industry would be severely injured economically by the non-availability for timber harvest of this 52,750 acres (out of 1,600,000 acres of national forest land in Virginia). This thread-bare argument did not impress the committee.

Westvaco, the big, national pulp and paper company, with a major pulp mill at Covington, Va., in Alleghany County, presented a group of three witnesses to speak against the bill. They came up with a new angle to object to wilderness designation: they claimed that under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1977 that the standards set for air about statutory wilderness might very well force Westvaco either to cut back operations or not to expand an operation such as their Covington mill, resulting in loss of jobs and other economic deficits. In our view, their argument was grossly distorted and exaggerated. While it is true that under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1977 areas already in the Wilderness System are in Class I, all areas designated as wilderness after 1977 are automatically in Class II. Class I requires a fairly high standard of air cleanness, yet one which even a coal-fired electric generating plant, properly equipped and of greater KW capacity than any yet built, could meet even if located in the immediate vicinity. Class II is a relatively easy standard and one which practically any factory would have to meet simply to stay in business under the Clean Air Act. Having discovered this

element in Westvaco's testimony the day before, it was rebutted by V.W.C.'s witness, Ernie Dickerman, in our oral testimony.

Be all the above as it may, two witnesses appeared who shot the bill down. Both the Congressmen in whose districts the five areas in the bill lie, i.e., Congressman Wampler of the 9th Congressional District and Butler of the 6th, testified against the bill, each rejecting the proposals in his district.

Rep. Wampler, in whose district we had not been able to build sufficient public support to outweigh the strong opposition in Giles County (where Mountain Lake and Peters Mountain porposals lie), simply testified that he believed the Congress should not consider any additions to the National Wilderness System until after the RARE 2 study of potential wilderness area on all national forests has been completed in December 1978; that therefore no action should be taken on H.R. 7970.

Rep. Butler based his objection to H.R. 7970 on three points: (a) the RARE 2 argument, as offered by Rep. Wampler; (b) that the adverse resolution of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors as passed in June 1977 had not been rescinded, wherefor since the board is the official representative of the people in any county, he was reluctant to act against their formal opinion; and (c) that he considered as valid Westvaco's argument that given the Clean Air Act as amended in 1977 wilderness designation as proposed in H.R. 7970 would be harmful to industry in Virginia, wherefor he opposed wilderness designation of the three areas in his district (St. Marys River, Ramseys Draft and Rich Hole).

Concerning Rep. Butler's second point re the Board of Supervisors, wilderness leaders in Augusta County are confident adequate public support had been developed overriding the Supervisors' 1977 resolution as a valid measure of public opinion in 1978. The Board, like any other group of juman beings, was simply reluctant to reverse itself after having publicly taken a position.

Virginia wilderness advocates should have discovered long before the day before the hearing that Westvaco and Rep. Butler would use the Clean Air Act as a brand new weapon to attack wilderness designation. Possibly earlier Mr. Butler could have been influenced to reject this argument of Westvaco's. This argument is too weak to stand up under scrutiny and factual consideration of the specific provisions of the Clean Air Act relating to statutory wilderness. Unfortunately it has the same plausability as do the misunderstandings and plain misinformation about the Wilderness Act which regularly have to be overcome in any wilderness campaign. Wilderness proponents in Virginia and in all other states will now be obliged to assemble and publicize the facts of the amended Clean Air Act and its application, so that Members of Congress will not be tempted to accept it and so the public will not be mislead by it.

Where does this hearing record leave us? For better or for worse -- mostly worst -- the House of Representatives almost never will pass any bill directly affecting a Congressman's district to which that Congressman objects. Wherefor, sad as it is to say, the Virginia wilderness bill is finished for this Congress (which Congress itself is finished on or before December 31, 1978).

A great many Virginians have put a great deal of effort into working for passage of H.R. 7970. The fight has been long, it has been difficult at times, but folks thruout Virginia have stayed in it all the way. Our thanks to each and everyone who has taken part and who has contributed in his or her way to this campaign for the preservation of some of Virginia's finest wild country.

We expect to return during the next Congress (the 96th), again seeking the protection of the Wilderness Act for outstanding natural areas on the Jefferson and the George Washington National Forests. Some areas will be the same as in H.R. 7970; and likely a few areas identified under RARE 2 will also be proposed. You win in the Congress by showing that your will is stronger and more persistent -- tougher and more stubborn - than the will of Congress. We'll be back!

COME TO BUFFALO GAP FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF V.W.C.

The annual meeting of the Virginia Wilderness Committee will be held this year Saturday June 17, beginning at 10:00 AM, at the Buffalo Gap mountain farm where Ernie Dickerman lives (11 miles due west of Staunton, Va., ½ mile north off state highway 42--see below for detailed driving directions). Plenty of room for camping. Bring your own gear and food. Everybody is welcome to arrive Friday evening and to stay for the walk in the proposed St. Marys River wilderness on Sunday June 25.

We've got things to discuss, like:

--How are we doing on exploring the 29 RARE 2 areas in Virginia;
--What sort of Virginia wilderness bill do we want to have in the next Congress (1979);
--How valid is the Clean Air Act argument against wilderness designation and how can we defeat this argument (which Rep. Butler bought when presented to him by Westvaco);
--What part is V.W.C. prepared to play in moving the Alaska conservation lands bill thru the Senate later this summer;
--Let's add some fresh, young blood to our group of officers when we hold the annual election at this June 17 meeting.

Lead NRA Dinner!

$2 Dues

Besides the above topics for discussion and decision, likely you have one or two ideas of your own you want to bring up. Just let Ernie Dickerman know by letter or telephone or at the meeting and we'll be glad to put them on the agenda.

After Saturday's discussion of issues and how to win more wilderness protection in Virginia, on Sunday a walk is scheduled in the St. Marys River proposed wilderness. We'll follow the river upward, mostly by an ancient logging grade, and return mostly by an old woods road thru the forest. Plan to bring a lunch. We'll return to our automobiles by three or four o'clock. Anyone who may have less time for any reason, can turn around at any point before lunch and back-track by the same trail just ascended. St. Marys River lies in the southeast corner of Augusta County and is only 6 or 7 miles from I-81 abd US 11--convenient for everyone's return drive home in any direction.

DIRECTIONS TO THE 1978 ANNUAL MEETING PLACE: Assuming most people will drive via I-81 or I-64, turn off at Staunton Exit #57 and drive into Staunton. Pick up State 254 and proceed due west for 10 miles to Buffalo Gap. Continue straight ahead past the Buffalo Gap grocery and gas station (at junction with State 42) for one mile; then turn right (north) at white church on to State 688. Go on-half mile on State 688, where asphalt paving ends and gravel begins. You have arrived. "Dickerman" is name on mailboc and house is on left--dark red and white, set well back from the road, somewhat concealed by trees. Drive in and WELCOME!

Come to the V.W.C. annual meeting the weekend of June 17 & 18 and there make your own plans for what you are ready and willing to do to help keep some of Virginia's wonderful wilderness like it is evermore! V.W.C. member or not, you will be welcome!!

FIRST VICTORY FOR THE GREAT ALASKA CONSERVATION BILL!

On Friday May 19 at 1:00 PM the House of Representatives passed the Alaska Conservation Lands bill, a mildly modified version of H.R. 39 as reported by the House Interior Committee, by the overwhelming vote of 277 to 31.

Passage by the first house of Congress is due to the skillful, unceasing Congressional guidance of Mo Udall (Arizona), Chairman of the House Interior Committee, and to the dedicated and inspiring leadership of John Seiberling (Ohio), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Alaska, who worked out the innumerable refinements and compromises necessary to get a passable bill and then by his series of public hearings in the "Lower 48" states and thruout Alaska persuaded the American people of the merits of the bill. It is further due to the intensive, persistent lobbying by the Alaska Coalition (an organization of many, many citizen environmental organizations), which agter a year of planning and preliminary operation, launched a solid month of lobbying of all Members of the House of Representatives and sent back reports daily to the citizens back home as to how their particular Congressman was reacting. Then, most important of all to winning, the folks back home poured the heat on their Members in the House until the question became not whether the House would pass an Alaska lands bill, but what should certain particular procisions of the bill be. As one who has been a part of Washington legistative campaigns before and who was one of the month-long lobbying team of the Alaska Coalition, let me say that never before have conservationists mounted an environmental campaign with the breadth, the depth, the man and woman power, and the coordination between Washington and the grass-roots which this operation on the House of Representatives has wielded. Each and every person can feel proud and pleased at whatever he or she has done to win this first and vital victory in the House. Don't let anyone tell you that the environmental movement in America is dying. The current Members of the House of Representatives will tell you differently. They know!

We've won the first round in the Alaska lands bill fight, with approximately 124,000,000 acres of the great land of Alaska given some important degree of protection ranging from wildlife refuge status to the full protection of the Wilderness Act. Round two will probably begin in the Senate some time in July. Senator Henry Jackson, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, expects to report a bill about July 1. It will be another tough fight, with the two Alaska Senators opposing every protective provision tooth and nail. (you'd expect almost anybody who lives in Alaska would want to protect a substantial part of the natural wonders there!)

Remember that what is being discussed is the management of the public lands there which belong equally to all Americans. Neither the State of Alaska not the only 400,000 people who live in this state more than twice as big as Texas have exclusive ownership of these public lands. Already the State of Alaska has been granted 104 million acres of the public lands to da as it pleases with. The native people have been granted another 44 million acres to use as they please. Let's see to it that a substantial part of the remaining 227 million acres which we all own are treated with care and discrimination and with an eye to the future health of this planet and the happiness of the people living on it. This is the basic objective of H.R. 39.

"ROADLESS AREA REVIEW AND EVALUATION" FIELD STUDIES

Spring has finally arrived and the hills and mountains, the streams and forests are delightful places in which to roam. Since many of will be doing a good bit of that during the next few months, let's plan to do some of it in the roadless areas

of the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests which have been identified by the Forest Service under RARE 2 as having high wilderness qualities. Come the expected public meetings or other face-to-face communication with the Forest Service in late summer or early fall, individuals are going to be needed who can present the case for each roadless area which any of us Virginians think should be recommended by the Forest Service to the Congress for wilderness designations.

To be able to make such a case by means of a factual report that one writes, supplemented by oral comment, one needs to have prowled the roadless area a few times; have given thought to a desirable boundary; have checked with the Forest Supervisor for date re the quality of the standing timber, future timber sales, any future "developments" (as proposed new dams, public roads, recreational facilities or other works of man); draw up a list of the special natural characteristics of the area as streams, high peaks, grassy balds, unusual species of birds, fish, other animals and plants; and otherwise learned sufficient about the area to make an informative written statement (NOT in nor on any special form) showing why the area should be designated as wilderness. Once you get started, you will find you are getting real pleasure and satisfaction out of doing this.

The official list or roadless areas identified under RARE 2 appeared in the March VWC Newsletter. To find out the location of the area nearest you, write to the Forest Supervisor at the address below and also request a map showing the preliminary boundary:

Forest Supervisor
Jefferson National Forest
Federal Building
Roanoke, Virginia

Forest Supervisor
George Washington National Forest
Federal Building
Harrisonburg, Virginia

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
Vice Pres: Chris Wise, Box 368, Lexington VA 24450
Secretary: David Tice, Box 6475, Charlottesville VA 22906 (804) 263-5949
Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond VA 23225 (804) 320-7034

MEMBERSHIP in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone . . . .

Virginia Wilderness Committee
3506 Pinebrook Dr.
Richmond, VA 23225

Virginia Wilderness Committee

Newsletter
October, 1978

CURRENT WILDERNESS POLICIES ADOPTED AT V.W.C ANNUAL MEETING

Twenty enthusiastic conservationists attended the Virginia Wilderness Committee's annual meeting on June 17, 1978 at Ernie Dickerman's mountain farm in Buffalo Gap. After elections for the 1978-79 offices (President and Treasurer re-elected, new V-P and Secretary, as listed on last page), discussion revolved around a general evaluation of the 29 RARE 2 areas in Virginia, the implications of the Clean Air Act as an obstacle to wilderness designation, the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (NRA), the current status of Alaska conservation lands legislation, and guidelines for the Virginia wilderness bill to be submitted in the next Congress (1979).

Jim Murray summarized the Mt. Rogers NRA plans and recognized 3 general levels of recreation: highly developed, moderately developed, and primitive. Jim emphasized the necessity to limit motorized access in the fragile spruce-fir crest zone, to increase the acreage proposed for wilderness designation, and to decrease the capacity of new proposed campgrounds. The following points were suggested for inclusion in the V.W.C.'s response to the Forest Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement: opposition to the proposed commercial ski development; a decrease in the number of impoundments planned on the trout streams; limitation of the number of off-road vehicle trails; and opposition to the proposed scenic highway traversing the length of the NRA. (Note: The V.W.C.'s response to the Mt. Rogers draft EIS as subsequently submitted incorporated these and other points.)

Most members at the annual meeting agreed it was probably premature to draft a new Virginia wilderness bill before the RARE 2 study was completed. The importance was noted of attaining a complete understanding of the Clean Air Act as amended August 7, 1977 (CAA), especially of the CAA requirements associated with wilderness areas. While Class 2 (the middle of three classes) clean air classification for wilderness--the same class which applies generally throughout Virginia;; seems acceptable to industry, business is concerned about the possibility of the classification of wilderness being raised to Class 1 (the highest), as can be done under the law. It was agreed that this concern of industry must be faced and a satisfactory solution developed; otherwise the likelihood of industry blocking a 1979 Virginia wilderness bill, as it did this year, is too great.

RARE 2: LOOKING BEYOND THE BUREAUCRATIC PHASE

With the October 1 closing date of RARE 2 input past, the Virginia Wilderness Committee is now turning its sights toward a 1979 Virginia wilderness bill, which in due course will be presented to the Congress for consideration. But before the Forest Service cut off public testimony, the V.W.C. took the opportunity to express its views in a 9-page

(RARE 2: Continued)

statement on the subject. The V.W.C. turned all its guns on the scheme of "Alternatives" in the Draft Environmental Statement designed to determine whether the Forest Service should recommend or reject a roadless area as a wilderness candidate. The main thrust of the V.W.C. position centered around the feeling that all of the seven Alternatives were heavily biased against wilderness and not even tokenly fair to pro-wilderness points of view. The entire group of possible options offered by the Forest Service in the RARE 2 DES were denounced as being "one of the most skewed, baldly prejudiced array of devices for allegedly determining which units of a large number qualify and which do not, that it has been our misfortune ever to review."

The V.W.C. testimony went on to state that it was neither the Forest Service's place nor privilege to declare which of the possible areas should be included in the Wilderness System. This, it was pointed out, is the job of the Congress and the legislative process, not the duty of an administrative agency. We therefore took the position that all 29 of the Virginia roadless areas be included in the favorable list which will be sent to Congress by the Forest Service, with the process of elimination to be conducted by the people's representatives, the Congress.

Having voiced their opinions on the DES, the supporters of wilderness can now begin their own process of deciding which of the roadless areas in Virginia should be included in the 1979 bill. In coming to this decision, not only the characteristics of the individual roadless areas should be considered, but, perhaps more importantly, the political situation which surrounds each of the areas must also be weighed. Some hard lessons were learned in the 1978 defeat of the Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970. We don't want a repeat performance of this.

The single most important point of consideration re. the ultimate inclusion of any individual area in the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill will be : ARE THE SUPPORTERS OF THIS AREA WILLING TO WORK FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL? Good intentions cut no ice with the Congress. Without hard work to build public support and lots of it, Virginia's hopes for new wilderness areas will be smashed. The V.W.C. executive committee is asking that all interested persons submit a list of the areas that they wish to see included in the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill, areas for which they are willing to work. Your suggested areas should be sent to Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, Va. 24479; by November 30, 1978, preferably sooner if you will. Below is a complete list of the 29 RARE 2 roadless areas in Virginia.

George Washington National Forest (14 areas):

Rough Mountain. Rich Hole. Head of Dry River. St. Marys River. Southern Massanutten. Crawford Mountain. Ramseys Draft (2 combined). Laurel Fork. Little River. Big Schloss. Dry River. Dolly Anne. Elliot Knob.

JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST (15 areas):

Bear Town. Thunder Ridge. Lewis Fork. Little Wilson Creek. Little Dry Run. Roaring Branch. Little Stony Creek. Big Stony. Devils Fork. Kimberling Creek. Barbours Creek. Hoop Hole. Mill Creek (WSA). Mountain Lake (WSA). Peters Mountain (WSA).

HELP MAKE THE COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT A WILDERNESS ALLY!

The Council on the Environment has given considerable time and attention to the subject of wilderness during 1978. The Council is a Virginia state agency whose prime duties are to advise the governor on environmental subjects, to coordinate policy and action on environmental matters among other state agnecies, and to serve as a "trustee of the environment for the present and future generations."

After the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill has been introduced in the Congress, the Council on the Environment will be examining the candidate wilderness areas and will be conferring with other state agencies. Then the Council will report its views, together with those of other agencies, to the governor. You will recall that the Congress, through its appropriate committees, regularly invites the governor of each state in which it is proposed to establish any new wilderness areas to express his opinion as to whether such new wildernesses should or should not be established. Since the governor can be expected to follow the advice of the Council, it is obvious that the Council plays an important role in determining what new wilderness areas will be designated in Virginia.

This year V.W.C. (represented by Ernie Dickerman) has twice appeared before the Council to plead the cause of wilderness, and has in other ways communicated with the Council and its staff. While it is true that the Council at its quarterly meeting September 29, 1978, endorsed the shallow, somewhat self-contradictory resolution recently passed by the Southern Governors Conference objecting to designation as wilderness of any of the RARE 2 areas and also refused to pass a resolution introduced by one of its members generally favoring wilderness under the Wilderness Act, it is clear from talking with members of the Council and its staff that the Council is still informing itself on the subject of wilderness.

The Council needs to hear from other Virginians in favor of wilderness, so it will be aware of the wide-spread support for wilderness designation of suitable areas in Virginia. Write a short letter to Chairman Richard D. Robertson (address: Council on the Environment, Ninth Street Office Bldg., Richmond VA 23219), telling him your feeling about wilderness and the desirability of designating new areas in Virginia. If you live in or near Richmond, drop in on Mr. J. B. Jackson, Administrator, and chat with him about wilderness. The Council needs to know that Virginians want wilderness protected under the Wilderness Act.

WILDERNESS AND THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Under the Clean Air Act as amended August 7, 1977, all wilderness established AFTER that date automatically takes a Class 2 rating. And all of the state of Virginia has the same rating, Class 2 (the middle of three classes), except for limited areas.* At the time of the April 25 hearing on the Virginia wilderness bill, H.R. 7970, some Members of Congress and heads of Virginia state agencies mistakenly believed that new wilderness would take a higher rating under the Clean Air Act (CAA). Most of these folks have since found out what the Act in fact says, i.e., that wilderness established after Aug. 7, 1977, takes a Class 2 rating.

* The 8,800 acre James River Face Wilderness and all of Shenandoah National Park are the only parts of Va. with Class 1 rating. The CAA provides that all wilderness larger than 5,000 acres and all regular national parks larger than 6,000 acres which were established before August 7, 1977 are rated as Class 1.

CLEAN AIR ACT (Continued)

The Clean Air Act provides that wilderness established as Class 2 may be raised to Class 1 (the highest rating) by the state in which it is located. Industry sources have already complained of this possibility, claiming that while prepared to meet the Class 2 standard--the standard generally prevailing throughout Virginia--they foresee as unavoidable if Class 2 wilderness areas are later changed to Class 1 (a) reduction in volume of production and employment and (b) cancellation of plans for plant additions and for building new plants.

On Sept. 23, 1978, four residents of Augusta County favoring wilderness and representing the V.W.C. and the Va. Division of Trout Unlimited met with three officials of Westvaco Corporation at the latter's plant in Covington, Va. Westvaco expressed concern about any future raising of the rating for wilderness from Class 2 to the higher, more demanding Class 1, and on this ground Westvaco implied that it would continue to oppose any additions to the Wilderness System in Virginia. While this article is written with respect to the situation in Virginia, the subject is obviously of national concern and a solution can only be reached by full discussion among national and state wilderness-oriented organizations-- not to mention interested industries. The thoughts of readers will be welcomed; please send yours to Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA 24479

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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Vice-Pres: Ed Clark, Jr., P.O. Box 7, Flint Hill, VA 24401 (703) 675-3414
Secretary: David Strider, Jr., 112 Cleveland Ave., Charlottesville, VA Zipcode: 22903; (804) 296-6687
Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond, VA 23225 Phone: (804) 320-7034

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the Virginia Wilderness Committee is open to anyone in favor of wilderness preservation''by sending a copy of a recent letter supporting wilderness which he or she has written to a state or national legislator or government agency, OR by sending $2.00 or more per year to the Treasurer Rowland Creamer (address above). Postage, long distance phone calls, printed materials describing the wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing and mailing the newsletter--- all cost money.

The date above your name on your Newsletter mailing label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the Treasurer.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
3506 Pinebrook Drive
Richmond, VA 23225

FIRST CLASS

09 77
Dr. James J. Murray
Dept. of Biology
Univ. of Virginia
Charlottesville VA 22903

Virginia Wilderness Committee

Newsletter

February, 1979

COMMENT ON RARE 2 FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

On January 4, 1979 the U.S. Forest Service formally announced its official recommendations based on its "Roadless Area Review and Evaluation," commonly referred to as RARE 2 ("2" because it had done a partial, unsatisfactory such review a few years before). Public reaction has varied widely, depending on whether one were a timber operator, a wilderness advocate, or in which state of the Union one lives.

For Virginia 18 areas totalling 118,919 acres were affirmatively recommended: 12 acres totalling 64,030 acres for Wilderness (W), and 6 acres totalling 54,889 acres for Further Planning (FP). By and large most people who are familiar with the Wilderness Act and are favorably disposed toward the concept of wilderness protection feel that the total of "Wilderness" and "Further Planning" recommendations for the two national forests in Virginia represent a fair-minded judgement. That does not mean that one necessarily agrees with each individual recommendation by the Forest Service; most of us can point to two or three or maybe more recommendations that he or she believes should be different for a variety of reasons. Considering the size, the complexity, and the diversity of public input involved in the RARE 2 program, such differences of opinion are inevitable. The executive committee of V.W.C. considers that in Virginia the final RARE 2 recommendations show a careful regard for the policies and intent of the Wilderness Act; and that the "Wilderness" and "Further Planning" recommendations in total demonstrate a genuine acceptance by officials of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests of the legitimacy of citizens' desires to protect suitable areas through application of the Wilderness Act.

Regrettably the above cannot be said of the RARE 2 recommendations in some other states. In Vermont, with 6 roadless areas identified, the entire lot was rejected--recommended for "Non-wilderness (NW)." Anyone who knows anything about Vermont knows that it contains a number of qualified wilderness candidates. In Tennessee, with 21 roadless areas identified and totalling 135,779 acres, just one area of 3,887 acres was recommended for Wilderness--plus 6 acres totalling 38,000 acres for Further Planning. On the other hand, New Hampshire did well: 4 acres totalling 169,176 acres recommended for Wilderness, 6 acres totalling 73,107 acres for Further Planning. The distribution of the three recommendations (W, FP, NW) varied widely from state to state.

It is well to bear in mind that the RARE 2 recommendations are simply the official opinion of the Forest Service. They are in no sense a decision. By the terms of the Wilderness Act, only the Congress can designate an area as wilderness, i.e., can place an area in the National Wilderness System and thereby give it the protection of the Wilderness Act. The meaningful action comes next: when the citizens go to the Congress and ask that body to designate specific areas as wilderness. See the next article in this Newsletter for what Virginians are planning to do -- of which action you can be a part!

WHAT AREAS DO YOU WANT IN THE 1979 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL?

With the RARE 2 process completed, it becomes time for Virginians to decide which areas in the two national forests in Virginia we want Congress to give the protection of the Wilderness Act. The George Washington National Forest (approximately 950,000 acres of federally owned land) lies generally north of the James River in the Blue

1979 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL (continued)

Ridge and the Alleghany Mountains; the Jefferson National Forest (approximately 650,000 acres of federally owned land) lies generally south of the James in the same mountains; for a total of just over 1,600,000 acres of federally owned national forest land in Virginia.

The executive committee of V.W.C. recently met to consider the question of what national forest areas to ask the current 96th Congress to put in the National Wilderness System. The committee decided to draw up a strictly preliminary list among interested outdoor-oriented organizations and individuals in Virginia to get their views, and finally to draft a bill reflecting within practical limits the consensus of such views. A dozen Virginia citizens' organizations have been mailed this list, with a request for their comments.

Here is the strictly preliminary list:

RARE 2 No.	Name of Area	Total Acres	County	USFS Recom.
Geo. Washington N.F.:				
08040	Rough Mountain	9,300	Bath	W
08041	Rich Hole	5,730	Rockbridge Alleghany	W
08042	St. Marys River	10,695	Augusta	W
08044 08174	Ramseys Draft (WSA & Addition)	20,175	Augusta Highland	W & FP
08171	Dolly Anne	7,900	Alleghany	FP
08175	Southern Massanutten	11,800	Page Rockingham	FP
	Total	65,600		
Jefferson N.F.:				
A8048	Beartown	6,375	Tazewell	W
08049	Little Dry Run	2,998	Mt. Rogers NRA	W
08050	Lewis Fork	5,771	Mt. Rogers NRA	W
08053	Little Wilson Creek	3,568	Mt. Rogers NRA	W
08051	Roaring Branch	3,160	Wise	NW
08180	Devils Fork	5,887	Scott	FP
08181	Big Stony	4,115	Scott	NW

RARE 2 No.	Name of Area	Total Acres	County	USFS Recom.
08182	Kimberling Creek	5,580	Bland	W
08185	Thunder Ridge	2,530	Rockbridge Bedford Botetourt	W
08187	Mountain Lake	12,225	Giles Craig West Virginia	FP
	Total	52,049		

In selecting the areas for this preliminary list both the physical characteristics of an area and the political factors (i.e., the possibility of being able to build sufficient public support within the county) were considered. The Forest Service RARE 2 recommendations were not a factor.

Your own ideas of what areas should or should not be in the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill may differ widely from this list for sound reasons. That is all the more reason why the executive committee would like to hear from you; the committee may have overlooked some vital considerations.

By way of illustrating how the executive committee went about drafting the preliminary list of candidate areas and to offer some pertinent thoughts for individuals to consider as they draft their own list, lets review why certain specific areas are not on the preliminary list but conceivably could be on the final list.

The southern portion of Big Schloss, lying in Shenandoah County, Virginia and Hardy County, West Virginia, has all the qualities of a first class wilderness area and in addition is located close to Metropolitan Washington. But it also has some serious non-wilderness characteristics, viz., a score of recent clearcuts and an old dirt road regularly used by Forest Service vehicles in maintaining a radio relay tower on Mill Mountain. This road cuts diagonally across the proposed wilderness area. These conditions have so far defied efforts to draw a satisfactory wilderness boundary. Maybe some sufficiently familiar with this area can be done.

Laurel Fork in Highland County is physically one of the finest statutory wilderness possibilities in Virginia; but there is a distinct lack of optimism that the local opposition to wilderness designation can be overcome. Perhaps someone knows the key to this adverse situation and is in a position to convert the multitude.

In Agusta County five (5) roadless areas are identified under RARE 2. Each is a well qualified natural wilderness. Even though there are 192,000 acres of national forest land in Augusta County, the optimist has not yet come forward who claims to be able to build adequate public support for all five areas. Therefore, a choice has to be made among them.

In southwest Virginia the three RARE 2 roadless areas on Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area appear on the preliminary list. There has been much controversy about the extensive development plans of the Forest Service for the NRA. Many folks living on it or nearby love that country the way it is and want it kept that way -- not overly developed. There is no stronger way of keeping a place the way it is than to have it designated as wilderness and given the protection of the Wilderness Act. The three areas located on the Mt. Rogers NRA are on the preliminary list to encourage

people living in southwest Virginia to express their opinions one way or the other.

We want the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill to truly reflect the views of Virginians who believe in the benefits of the Wilderness Act. Please take a careful look at the "Preliminary List of Virginia Wilderness Candidates." Reflect on what additions or deletions or major changes in boundaries you want. Then write a brief note giving your suggested changes and why you think they are neeeded, and mail it to:

Ernie Dickerman Rt. 1, Box 156 Swoope, VA 24479

Thank you for taking time to study the preliminary list in terms of your own ideas. Your response will help directly in drawing a strong Virginia wilderness bill which all wilderness-minded Virginians can willingly support. We plan to get the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill introduced in the Congress by late spring.

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
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Virginia Wilderness Committee
3506 Pinebrook Drive
Richmond, VA 23225

FIRST CLASS

Dr. James J. Murray
Dept. of Biology
Univ. of Virginia

NEWSLETTER
April, 1979

Virginia Wilderness Committee

14 AREAS, TOTALLING 86,504 ACRES, PLANNED FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL (OUT OF 1,600,000 ACRES OF NATIONAL FOREST LAND IN VIRGINIA)

In the February 1979 VWC Newsletter appeared a "preliminary List of Virginia Wilderness Candidates" with the request that members offer their comments and suggestions for additions or deletions of areas. This "Preliminary List was also sent to two dozen other Virginia outdoor organizations and key individuals for their comment. On the basis of comments received from these sources during a two-month period, the executive committee of the Virginia Wilderness Committee has developed a list of candidate wilderness areas representing a consensus of those comments, taking into account both physical and political factors.

It is intended that the following candidate areas will be named in the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill as and when introduced in Congress (probably in May). The number after the dash in the column "RARE 2 Number" indicates the Congressional District in which the area lies. The 6th Congressional District is represented by Rep. Coldwell Butler; the 7th by Rep. Kenneth Robinson; and the 9th by Rep. William Wampler. Acreage figures are not always the same as originally given for the RARE 2 roadless areas because in some cases we have modified the boundary for physical or political reasons (as, to delete private land adjacent to the boundary, to get a more logical and obvious boundary on the ground, or to avoid including insignificant acreage that extended into another county).

CANDIDATE AREAS FOR 1979 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL

RARE 2 Number	Name of Area	Total Acres	County	USFS Recom.
George Washington Nat. Forest:				
08040-6	Rough Mountain	9,100	Bath	W
08041-6	Rich Hole	5,730	Rockbridge Alleghany	W
08042-6	St. Marys River	10,695	Augusta	W
08044-6	Ramseys Draft WSA	6,700	Augusta	W
08171-6	Dolly Anne	1,850	Alleghany	FP
08175-7	Southern Massanutten	11,800	Page Rockingham	FP
	TOTAL	45,875		
Jefferson Nat. Forest:				
08048-9	Beartown	6,375	Tazewell	W
08049-9	Little Dry Run	2,998	Mt. Rogers NRA	W
08050-9	Lewis Fork	5,771	" " "	W
08053-9	Little Wilson Creek	3.568	" " "	W
08051-9	Roaring Branch	2.500	Wise	NW
08180-9	Devils Fork	5,887	Scott	FP
08185-6	Thunder Ridge	2.530	Rockbridge, Bedford, Botetourt	W
08187-9	Mountain Lake	11,000	Giles, Craig, and West Virginia	FP
	TOTAL	40,629		

It is time to start inviting your Congressman, whoever he may be, to support the 1979 Virginia Wilderness Bill, to be introduced in May!

Bring the Wilderness Experience to your Club or Group

The Virginia Wilderness Committee has prepared a program of slides which is available, at no charge, for presentation to any club or group interested in the wilderness idea. The slides will be accompanied by the explanatory remarks of one of VWC's officers. Included in the program are spectacular shots of wildlife, a variety of unusual geological features, and some of the most beautiful scenery in the Appalachians. The nearly one hundred slides give an entertaining and educational look at Virginia's wilderness resources.

While the length of each presentation varies slightly, 35-40 minutes is the average. The focus of the presentation can be tailored to meet any special needs or interests of your group. While some organizations prohibit anyone from advocating political action in such programs, other groups want to find out how they can have an influence in the legislative process leading to wilderness designation. We are able to meet most requirements with ease. For more information, or to schedule this presentation, contact Ed Clark, VWC vice-president, and the coordinator of this aspect of VWC's witness to wilderness. We need to get the word out to as many people as possible. Please contact the program chairpersons of any clubs, civic or service groups in your area and ask them to schedule this wilderness program in the near future. Call or write: Ed Clark, Vice President: Va. Wilderness Committee, P.O.Box 7, Flint Hill, VA. 22627; (703)-675-3414.

COME TO BUFFALO GAP FOR THE ANNUAL V.W.C. MEETING

The annual meeting of the Virginia Wilderness Committee will be held this year on Sat., May 12, beginning at 10 a.m.; at the Buffalo Gap mountain farm where Ernie Dickerman lives (11 miles due west of Staunton, ½ mile north off state highway 42--see below for detailed directions.) Bring your own gear and food. Everyone is welcome to arrive Friday evening and to stay over Sunday, May 13, for the special wilderness Strategy Session (see article on the proceeding page). Items to be discussed at this VWC meeting include:

(1) The 1979 Virginia Wilderness Bill (which will probably be introduced in Congress in May).
(2) The Clean Air Act and wilderness: How can we meet this new threat to wilderness, a threat which certain key Virginia Congressmen welcome with open arms.?
(3) The Alaska Lands Conservation lands legislation: What can we do to get a strong bill enacted?
(4) Election of officers: Fresh energy will do us good!

Besides the above topics for discussion and decision, you may have ideas of your own to bring up. Let Ernie Dickerman know by letter, by telephone, or at the meeting and we'll be glad to put them on the agenda.

DIRECTIONS TO THE 1979 VWC MEETING AT BUFFALO GAP

Assuming most people will drive via I-81 or I-64, turn off at Staunton Exit #57 and drive into Staunton. Pick up State 254 and proceed due west for 10 miles to Buffalo Gap. Continue straight ahead past the Buffalo Gap gas station and grocery (at junction with State 242) for one mile; then turn right (north) at white church on to State 688. Go ½ mile on 688, where asphalt paving ends and gravel begins. You will see mailbox marked "Dickerman," and house is on left--dark red and white; set back from the road, and somewhat concealed by trees.

Please come to the VWC annual meeting on Sat., May 12, 10 a.m. and the special wilderness Strategy Session on Sun., May 13. There you can make your own plans for helping to preserve some of Virginia's wonderful wilderness.

V.W.C. member or not, you will be welcome!

ALASKA, TRULY THE GREAT LAND

The battle in Congress for the Alaska lands conservation lands legislation is getting tough, meaning that we should encourage all of Virginia's Congressmen to support and vote for the "UDALL-ANDERSON SUBSTITUTE." It will be offered on the House floor when debate begins about Monday, April 30.

Rallying behind the right Alaska bill in this Congress has been difficult for conservationists because of the profusion of bills from both sides. Make it simple for your Representative and yourself by forgetting all the other bill names you've been hearing. Rep. Morris Udall, Democrat and Chairman of the House Interior Committee, and Rep. John Anderson, Republican and member of the Rules Committee, have united on a strong Alaska lands bill designed to attract both Democrats and Republicans. It will give full protection to millions of acres of unbroken tracts for new national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness. At the same time some 250 million acres of Alaska will remain open fpr every sort of commercial development that Alaska's 365,000 residents want to engage in! With time short, a Mailgram or telephone call is best to your Representative, asking him to support and vote for the UDALL-ANDERSON SUBSTITUTE.

STATE-WIDE STRATEGY SESSION TO PLAN 1979 WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN

On Sunday afternoon, May 13, beginning at 1:00 p.m. ; following the annual meeting of V.W.C. the previous day, there will be a Strategy Session to lay plans for the state-wide campaign to win passage of the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill. It also will be held at Mr. Dickerman's mountain farm near Buffalo Gap (See directions on page Two.). To this Strategy Session will be invited representatives of a dozen or more Virginia organizations who are known to support the Wilderness Act and individuals who have previously shown an interest in working for the Virginia wilderness bill.

Whatever the merits or demerits of RARE 2, it has stirred some opposition to statutory wilderness not previously present. To overcome this opposition will require intensive and widespread action by believers in the wisdom of the Wilderness Act. One way to develop effective action is to lay out a list of things needed to be done and get agreement by specific organizations and individuals to do some of these necessary duties. To develop such a list and to get such agreements will be the prime purpose of this Strategy Session. Some of the things which will need to be done for an effective wilderness campaign include:

(1) Preparation, printing, and financing a flyer or folder telling about the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill and urging Virginians to help build public support for it.
(2) Putting together a slide show (with one or two sets) showing scenes from as many of the 14 wilderness proposals in the Virginia bill as possible, and planning for showings throughout the state.
(3) Scheduling a series of public walks into each proposed wilderness area, to be led by local persons familiar with the area.
(4) Publicity in the media; such as preparing editorials and Letters to the Editor to local newspapers, obtaining coverage on local TV and radio programs, and assuring that pertinent news, like the introduction of the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill in Congress, would get ample coverage by the media.

STATE-WIDE STRATEGY SESSION (Continued)

(5) Arrange talks before local groups (civic clubs, garden clubs, outdoor organizations) to inform them of the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill and the Wilderness Act.

(6) Political action: Let the local, state, and national politicians know what you want!

These above items are just some of the things which will need to be done in order to win! Add your own ideas-- and plan to stay over from the V.W.C. annual meeting Saturday to take part in the wilderness Strategy Session on Sunday afternoon, May 13, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President: Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA. 24479 (703)-885-8330
Vice-Pres: Ed Clark, Jr., P.O. Box 7, Flint Hill, VA. 24401 (703)-675-3414
Secretary: David Strider,Jr.; 112 Cleveland Ave., Charlottesville,Va. 22903(804-296-6687)
Treasurer: Rowland Creamer, 3506 Pinebrook Dr., Richmond,VA. 23225; (804)-320-7034

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Virginia Wilderness Committee
3506 Pinebrook Drive
Richmond, VA. 23225

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Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER
June, 1979

3 U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WANTED TO INTRODUCE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL

Recently Ed Clark and Ernie Dickerman of V.W.C. and Jim Jubak of the Old Dominion Chapter of the Sierra Club travelled to Washington and talked with Congressman Caldwell Butler (6th C.D.), Kenneth Robinson (7th C.D.), and William Wampler (9th C.D.) about the 1979 Virginia wilderness proposals. 6 areas lie in Butler's district, 7 in Wampler's, and 1 in Robinson's (Southern Massanutten: 11,800 acres). The objective was to tell each of these Congressmen about the areas in his district and ask them to jointly introduce the complete 1979 Virginia wilderness bill. As was expected, the Congressmen were polite and each stated he would consider introducing the bill; however none displayed anything which might be termed a positive attitude. Individually and collectively, we are obviously going to have to generate some positive enthusiasm in these gentlemen!

How do we do that? It's the old story: let them hear from the voters back home! Persuade yourself and your friends to write to any one of the three, asking him to introduce the complete bill (all 14 areas) jointly with the other two congressmen. When he comes home over the weekend (as most Virginia representatives do), telephone him or attend a meeting where he will be speaking, and ask him to introduce the complete bill. Also, and very importantly, ask local political leaders and especially County Supervisors to do the same. Congressmen rely very heavily on what they hear, or don't hear, from local persons of political influence.

Introduction of a single bill in the House of Representatives containing all 14 areas is absolutely essential to waging an effective statewide Virginia wilderness campaign. Such a bill gives us a target upon which all of us across the state can concentrate our efforts and publicity. It also provides a single bill which, later, the other seven Virginia representatives can be asked to co-sponsor. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a complete list of the 1979 Virginia wilderness proposals. It is printed so that it will photocopy clearly. Please reproduce more copies and give them to prospective Virginia wilderness supporters. Thank you!

ASK NOW, BY LETTER, TELEPHONE, OR IN PERSON, REPS. BUTLER, ROBINSON, AND WAMPLER TO JOINTLY INTRODUCE THE COMPLETE (ALL 14 AREAS) 1979 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL!!

CEREBRATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

V.W.C. members met at Ernie Dickerman's Buffalo Gap farm in Augusta County on Saturday, May 12, and laid solid plans for wilderness action in the coming year, plus electing officers for 1979-1980.

Jim Murray of Charlottesville reported that progress is being made by the US Forest Service in substantially reducing the scale of development for the Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. It is a year since the Forest Service published its draft EIS concerning development plans for Mt. Rogers NRA. The public response to the draft EIS, including V.W.C.'s statement, so overwhelmingly recommended substantial reduction in the type and extent of practically every sort of

proposed development that the Supervisor of the Jefferson National Forest decided that such reduction of plans should be made. Subject to what may actually appear in the final EIS (expected by late summer), it seems now that any ski resort and mechanized slopes are out; only a couple of artificial ponds will be built; the size of automobile campgrounds will be reduced; and while a scenic highway on Iron Mountain will not be completely rejected, highway construction will proceed in sections only as the need for a particular section becomes clear.

The problem of the Clean Air Act and wilderness was reviewed. Communication with Congressman Caldwell Butler is continuing on this subject. Most importantly, discussions with Westvaco (a big pulp and paper company with large mills in 5 states, including a big mill at Covington, Va.) seem to be progressing. Being discussed is an arrangement whereby in exchange for a provision in the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill prohibiting any wilderness established thereby from being raised later to Class 1 for Clean Air Act purposes, Westvaco would withdraw its opposition to the bill. If this can be arranged, other Virginia corporations and state officials will be approached and asked to do likewise.

Election of officers for the year 1979-80 were held. Ed Clark, previously vice-president and living at Flint Hill (Rappahannock County), was elected president. Ernie Dickerman, after 3 years as president, preferred to step down and was elected Vice-President. Rowland Creamer of Richmond was re-elected Treasurer, and David Strider of Charlottesville was re-elected Secretary.

Plans laid to win enactment of the 1979 Virginia wilderness proposals (14 areas totalling 86,000 acres) and action already underway to secure introduction of this bill in Congress, are reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

STRATEGY FOR WINNING VIRGINIA WILDERNESS PLANNED

On Sunday, May 13, the day after the V.W.C. 1979 annual meeting, a work session was held at Ernie Dickerman's Buffalo Gap residence, during which the strategy for the 1979 Virginia wilderness campaign was mapped. Invitations were issued to a large number of conservation leaders about the state to participate in this session. Participants represented several groups including V.W.C., Trout Unlimited, and the Sierra Club.

Undaunted by the rainy chill, the group labored for nearly four and one-half hours, plotting the course for the days ahead. Topics of discussion included the preparation of a new and better pamphlet, revision of the slide program, a vigorous political push, and a major press campaign. One of the most ambitious goals for the supporters of wilderness in Virginia will be a series of regional workshops to be held across the state.

Fortunately, among the participants in the strategy session were a newspaper reporter and a graphic arts specialist. Their input added a new perspective to the planning process. The pamphlet which is to be produced this year should reflect this insight. Among the topics to be addressed by the pamphlet will be: (1) a general discussion of the wilderness concept, (2) answers to the most frequently asked questions about wilderness, (3) an outline of the uses and benefits of wilderness, and (4) provision for local inserts to provide specific information on nearby wilderness proposals. The insert is the most significant new idea, as it will enable the pamphlet to accomplish both general and local goals, with the

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CANDIDATE AREAS FOR 1979 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL

14 areas, totaling 86,504 acres, will be proposed for wilderness designation in the 1979 Virginia wilderness bill--out of 1,600,000 acres of federally owned national forest land on the George Washington and the Jefferson National Forests in Virginia.

RARE 2 Number*	Name of Area	Total Acres	County	USFS Recom.
George Washington N.F.:				
08040-6	Rough Mountain	9,100	Bath	W
08041-6	Rich Hole	5,730	Rockbridge Alleghany	W
08042-6	St. Marys River	10,695	Augusta	W
08044-6	Ramseys Draft WSA	6,700	Augusta	W
08171-6	Dolly Anne	1,850	Alleghany	FP
08175-7	Southern Massanutten	11,800	Page Rockingham	FP
	Total	45,875		
Jefferson N.F.:				
A8048-9	Beartown	6,375	Tazewell	W
08049-9	Little Dry Run	2,998	Mt.Rogers NRA	W
08050-9	Lewis Fork	5,771	" " "	W
08053-9	Little Wilson Creek	3,568	" " "	W
08051-9	Roaring Branch	2,500	Wise	NW
08180-9	Devils Fork	5,887	Scott	FP
08185-6	Thunder Ridge	2,530	Rockbridge Bedford Botetourt	W
08187-9	Mountain Lake	11,000	Giles, Craig & West Va.	FP
	Total	40,629		

* Number after the dash in the column "RARE 2 Number" indicates the Congressional District in which the area lies.

For further information please contact:

Ernie Dickerman
Virginia Wilderness Committee
Rt. 1, Box 156
Swoope, Virginia 24479
Telephone (703) 885-8330

inserts adaptable to a multitude of situations. Funding for production of the pamphlet is being sought from various organizations across Virginia. The Virginia Council of Trout Unlimited has already contributed $100 to set the pace.

It is hoped that the slide program, which is presently undergoing revision, can be produced for loan (or even duplicated for sale) to interested groups in the near future. A taped narration is being prepared to accompany the slides. Requests have already started to come in from organizations interested in purchasing the program. V.W.C. is looking for opportunities to show the slides, accompanied by "live" remarks, to any group which would like to see and hear them.

One of the most difficult tasks outlined by the strategy planners involves the series of regional workshops which is proposed by V.W.C. These one-day workshops will be conducted in half a dozen locations around Virginia. The goal of these workshops is to build local support by providing information and suggestions to those individuals and organizations seeking an active role in the fight to save Virginia's diminishing wilderness resource.

Local individuals and groups will be needed to host these one-day wilderness workshops. If you would like to help, please contact Ed Clark, P.O. Box 7, Flint Hill, VA 22627, phone (703) 675-3414.

ALASKA, MAY IT REMAIN THE GREAT LAND!

We all won a tremendous victory on May 16, when the House of Representatives passed the Udall-Anderson bill, protecting approximately 123 million acres of new national parks, wildlife refuges, and wild & scenic rivers (including 67 million acres of new wilderness) located in Alaska--- located on the public lands owned by all Americans everywhere! The key vote, when the House chose the Udall-Anderson bill over the combined Huckaby-Breaux-Dingell bill, was won by a 111 vote majority (268 for, 157 against). The vote for passage of the Udall-Anderson bill was an amazing 360 for to 65 against! Obviously quite a few members of the House switched and got on the bandwagon for the final vote.

On the key vote, four of Virginia's ten Congressmen, Representatives Fisher, Harris, Trible, and Whitehurst, voted for the Udall-Anderson bill over the other one. On the final vote for passage, Representatives Butler and Wampler switched and voted for Udall-Anderson--together with the above four.

It is uncertain when the Senate will take up the Alaska conservation lands legislation. The opposition forces are clearly upset by their severe defeat in the House, however they will regroup and counterattack fiercely! It seems almost certain that the Senate will have to act this time (instead of stalling and filibustering), because opponents have expressed more objections in President Carter's December 1978 proclamation of millions of acres of new national monuments and Secretary of Interior Andrus' establishment of millions of acres of new national wildlife refuges, than in the House-passed Udall-Anderson bill which includes provisions for subsistence, commercial access, sport hunting, federal mineral surveys, and accelerated oil development. Meanwhile, it is time to start encouraging our two reluctant Virginia senators to co-sponsor and actively support Bill S. 222, the Senate equivalent of the Udall-Anderson bill!

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Postage, long-distance phone calls, printed materials describing the wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing and mailing the newsletter--- all cost money! The date above your name on the Newsletter mailing label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the Treasurer, Rowland Creamer.

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Virginia Wilderness Committee

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER, 1979

WILDERNESS ADVOCATES GO TO WASHINGTON AGAIN

During the first half of October, Ed Clark of Flint Hill (Rappahanock County) and Ernie Dickerman of Buffalo Gap (Augusta County) made separate trips to Washington, D.C. and visited Congressmen Caldwell Butler (6th C.D.), Kenneth Robinson (7th C.D.) and William Wampler (9th C.D.), again to encourage them to introduce the proposed 1979 Virginia wilderness bill. For some months Virginia wilderness supporters have been working to induce these three Representatives (in whose districts the 14 proposals lie) to jointly introduce the Virginia wilderness bill with its 14 wilderness areas totalling 86,504 acres.

Prior to the above visits and adopting a somewhat different tactic, letters were sent to these same three Congressmen inquiring whether they would be willing to agree to the introduction of the Virginia bill by some other Virginia Representative or a Member of the House Interior Committee which regularly handles all wilderness bills. Since the proposed wilderness areas are all located on national forests--on land owned by all Virginians and all Americans equally--it seems reasonable for such a bill to be introduced by any Member of the Congress.

Neither Rep. Robinson nor Rep. Wampler gave any direct response to this alternative, that some other Congressman introduce the Virginia bill. We got a direct response from Congressman Butler: He expressed himself as positively opposed to the bill's introduction by any other Virginia Congressman or any other Member of the Congress so far as areas in his district are concerned; indeed, he said that he would be offended by such introduction by any other Congressman!

We have two thoughts on Rep. Butler's negative response to the request that he acquiesce in the introduction of the Virginia wilderness bill by some other member of the House of Representatives. One is that it is most regrettable that any Member of Congress object to the simple introduction by any other Congressman of a bill dealing with federally owned land that happens to be physically located in the district which he represents. After all, such land belongs equally to all of us Americans--not to the Congressman nor just to the voters in that congressional district. The second thought is that as Virginians, as Americans, as believers in the Constitution of the United States, let's all of us by letters and in person undertake to straighten out Rep. Caldwell Butler's thinking and advise him that we expect him to agree to the introduction of the Virginia wilderness bill by some other Member of the House of Representatives since he does not choose to do so.

As things now stand, to have the bill introduced by some other Congressman would gain nothing, for it would simply make Mr. Butler mad and he would blindly oppose all six areas located in the 6th Congressional District. A very narrow attitude indeed! We are not asking any Member of the Congress yet to pledge his or her support for the proposed Virginia bill. The objective has been and is first to get the bill introduced. Then we have a big, visible target around which to rally support all across Virginia!

WILDERNESS WORKSHOPS PLANNED

A one-day wilderness workshop is being planned by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society. It is tentatively scheduled for Sat., January 26; somewhere near New Market, Virginia in Shenandoah County. The workshop offers a pleasant, effective way to learn more about the 14 wilderness proposals and the Wilderness Act, and how to use the many tools available to win the protection of the Wilderness Act for these areas. Plan to come--and to meet other Virginians who believe in the preservation of wilderness and its values. Specific information will be announced later.

Also, a wilderness workshop will be held at Charlottesville, probably early in February, planned by the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club and the Thomas Jefferson Chapter of Trout Unlimited. More information about it later. You will be welcomed!

COUNTY SUPERVISORS NEED ADVICE AND COUNSEL

Rep. Butler, Robinson, and Wampler frequently say that they are not supporting certain of the Virginia wilderness proposals because the County Board of Supervisors in a county in which one or more of the proposals lie is officially on record as opposing the proposals. It is true that six County Boards of Supervisors are on record in opposition to wilderness designation. In most cases the RARE 2 process of the Forest Service inspired them; without bothering to carefully inform themselves as to just what was in fact involved and having no particular areas in mind, the Board simply passed a motion or resolution expressing a general "NO" to wilderness protection. County Boards of Supervisors known to have adopted such a negative postion include Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Alleghany, Giles, and Bland.

Thanks to the November 6 elections, the persons on some of these Boards have changed. In any event, these Boards need to be turned around. The most effective and simple way to accomplish this is for you and other county residents to telephone or see in person the Supervisors in your county and urge each one to introduce and support a resolution at the next Supervisors' meeting endorsing the specific wilderness proposal (s) located in your county. The Supervisors will change their position when they realize there is definite local support for the proposals. Let your Supervisors know how you and your friends feel!

PROGRESS ON CLEAN AIR ACT/WILDERNESS PROBLEM

Westvaco, the big pulp and paper corporation with a major plant at Covington, Virginia has agreed in writing not to oppose any of the 14 Va. wilderness proposals in exchange for a provision in the Virginia wilderness bill which prohibits raising the Clean Air classification of any of the 14 areas from Class 2 (the middle and generally prevailing class) to Class 1 (the highest and most strict class). This agreement was negotiated with Westvaco by a joint committee representing Trout Unlimited and the Virginia Wilderness Committee. Such a provision is now part of the draft Virginia wilderness bill.

We are seeking a similar agreement with other large pulp and paper companies in Virginia and with Virginia Electric and Power Co. While under the Clean Air Act as amended in August, 1977, the likelihood of the government of Virginia raising any statutory wilderness from Class 2 to Class 1

for Clean Air Act purposes is exceedingly remote, industrial interests simply do not want to be faced with that remote risk, which could directly affect the siting of any new industry or the enlargement of any existing operation within a 20 to 30 mile radius from a statutory wilderness.

(As a matter of information, the Clean Air Act as amended August 7, 1977 provides that statutory wilderness existing at that date shall be Class 1 for Clean Air Act purposes. This makes the only national forest wilderenss in Virginia, the James River Face Wilderness (8,800 acres, near Buena Vista, on the Jefferson National Forest) which was established in January, 1975, a Class 1 area. Likewise, the wilderness in Shenandoah National Park is Class 1 because it was established in 1976; however, the entire Park, including the wilderness, is Class 1 because all national parks are Class 1 for Clean Air Act purposes. BUT: Statutory wilderness designation after August 7, 1977 comes in as Class 2--and remains Class 2 unless changed by the state government under a complicated process.)

CITIZENS GROUPS ENDORSE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

As of early November, the following citizens organizations have formally put themselves on record in support of the 14 Virginia wilderness proposals. These organizations include:

Citizens Environmental Council (Roanoke area)
Citizens for Southwest Virginia
Coalition of Appalachian Energy Consumers
Conservation Council of Virginia
Float Fishermen of Virginia
Izaak Walton League, Virginia Division
Old Dominion Chapter, Sierra Club
Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Rappahannock League for Environmental Protection
Rockbridge Area Conservation Council
Trout Unlimited, Virginia Council
Virginia Wilderness Committee

This is a good start; obviously more are needed! Has the club or group of which you are an influential member officially gone on record--by resolution or simple motion--in support of all 14 proposed wilderness areas? If not, encourage them to act at the next meeting of the members or the Board of Directors. And then send a letter, signed by an officer of the club, to: Ernie Dickerman, Virginia Wilderness Committee, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope, VA 24479; reporting the action.

Copies of such letters already received have been given to Rep. Butler, Robinson, and Wampler; to inform them of the Virginia organizations supporting the 14 Virginia wilderness proposals. As additional letters are received, photocopies will be forwarded to these same three Virginia Congressmen. They need to be impressed! For publicity purposes, all supporting organizations will be referred to collectively as the VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COALITION. A list of the 14 Virginia Wilderness Proposals is shown on the following page.

Acres	Name of Area	County	Congressman
11,800	Southern Massanutten	Rockingham, Page	Robinson
9,100	Rough Mountain	Bath	Butler
5,730	Rich Hole	Rockbridge, Alleghany	Butler
10,695	St. Marys River	Augusta	Butler
6,700	Ramseys Draft	Augusta	Butler
1,850	Dolly Anne	Alleghany	Butler
2,530	Thunder Ridge	Rockbridge, Bedford, Botetourt	Butler
6,375	Beartown	Tazewell	Wampler
2,998	Little Dry Run	Mt. Rogers N.R.A.	Wampler
5,771	Lewis Fork	" " "	Wampler
3,568	Little Wilson Creek	" " "	Wampler
2,500	Roaring Branch	"Wise County	Wampler
5,887	Devils Fork	Scott County	Wampler
11,000	Mountain Lake	Giles, Craig, and West Va.	Wampler
86,504	TOTAL (out of 1,600,000 acres of Virginia national forests)		

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