

product. The living forest conserves the soil and water; purifies the air; provides essential habitat for many species of animals, birds and fish; and it is beauty and inspiration for mankind. Statutory wilderness assures these benefits of the living forest undiminished, and without interruption. Wilderness is multiple use.

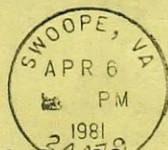
THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, POBox 7, Flint Hill VA 22627 (703) 675-3414
 Vice-Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
 Treasurer Rowland Creamer, Rt 2 Box 95, Charles City VA 23030 (804)829-2884

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 written to a public official OR by sending \$2.00 or more per year to Treasurer Rowland Creamer (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials describing wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing & mailing the newsletter--all cost money!

The date above your name on your newsletter address label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the Treasurer.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
 Swoope VA 24479



FIRST CLASS



FIRST CLASS

10 80
 Dr. James J. Murray
 Dept. of Biology
 University of Virginia
 Charlottesville VA 22903

LIST OF VIRGINIA WILDERNESS PROPOSALS READIED FOR CONGRESS

At the annual meeting on May 9 a list of Virginia wilderness proposals to be recommended to the current 97th Congress for wilderness designation was adopted. The areas were selected on the basis of comment received from organizations belonging to the Wilderness Coalition of Virginia and from individuals who responded with suggestions as requested in the V.W.C. newsletters for January and April 1981--which newsletters were also mailed to many organizations and individuals not members of the Virginia Wilderness Committee.

LIST OF VIRGINIA WILDERNESS CANDIDATES, 1981-82

| Acres | Name of Area | County | Congressman |
|--------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 11,800 | Southern Massanutten | Page, Rockingham | Kenneth Robinson |
| 9,100 | Rough Mountain | Bath | Caldwell Butler |
| 5,730 | Rich Hole | Rockbridge, Alleghany | " " |
| 10,695 | St. Marys River | Augusta | " " |
| 6,700 | Ramseys Draft | Augusta | " " |
| 2,530 | Thunder Ridge | Rockbridge, Bedford & Botetourt | " " |
| 6,375 | Beartown | Tazewell | William Wampler |
| 2,998 | Little Dry Run | Mt. Rogers NRA | " " |
| 5,771 | Lewis Fork | Mt. Rogers NRA | " " |
| 3,568 | Little Wilson Creek | Mt. Rogers NRA | " " |
| 5,887 | Devils Fork | Scott | " " |
| 11,000 | Mountain Lake | Giles, Craig & West Va. | " " |

The first five areas are on the George Washington National Forest and the last seven on the Jefferson National Forest.

This list differs from the list recommended to the previous Congress (1979-80) by the dropping of two areas. Roaring Branch (2,500 acres) in Wise County, despite its being physically an excellent, even tho small, area, was dropped because regrettably no nucleus of local residents was willing to work for its permanent protection as wilderness. Without visible local support, no Congressman is apt to be willing to support any wilderness proposal. Most reluctantly Dolly Anne (1,850 acres) in Alleghany County is omitted. Dolly Anne is located only two miles from WESTVACO's big pulp & paper mill at Covington, Virginia. Because of potential problems under the Clean Air Act at this short distance, both under the present statute and as it may be revised by this Congress, WESTVACO completely opposes wilderness designation for Dolly Anne -- not because of any timber supply considerations, which timber supply WESTVACO generally recognizes as abundant for its purposes thruout the region. Furthermore, very little visible support for wilderness designation anywhere in Alleghany County has been developed either during the previous Congress or presently. Given these basic facts, it does not appear

productive to push Dolly Anne for wilderness designation at this time. We will, however, urge the Forest Service to continue to protect Dolly Anne--and Roaring Branch--by administrative policy and regulation as undeveloped, natural areas, not to be changed by the works of man.

It was agreed that should local support develop and suitable boundaries be drawn for one or two additional proposals (particularly Big Schloss in Shenandoah County, Virginia and adjacent Hardy County, West Virginia) before any wilderness bills are actually introduced in the Congress, such areas would be added to the list.

11th ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT BUFFALO GAP

Members of the Virginia Wilderness Committee held the annual meeting on Saturday May 9 at Buffalo Gap, with President Ed Clark presiding. Selecting the Virginia areas to be recommended to this Congress for wilderness designation was the prime item of business. It was further agreed that early in June representatives of the Wilderness Coalition of Virginia will travel to Washington to visit Congressmen Caldwell Butler (6th Congressional District), Kenneth Robinson (7th C.D.) and William Wampler (9th C.D.) and ask each to introduce a bill to designate as wilderness the recommended Virginia proposals lying in each Congressman's district. Anyone who would like to be part of this Washington action is invited to come along; just telephone Ernie Dickerman beforehand (703) 885-8330.

Senate bill S. 842, misleadingly titled "RARE 2 Review Act of 1981", was discussed. This bill would terminate the protection of eastern national forest areas recommended for wilderness or further planning under RARE 2 as of January 1, 1983, that is, at the end of this Congress; and by other provisions would seriously undermine the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act. Increased citizen action against S. 842 will soon be needed. See the article re S. 842 elsewhere in this newsletter.

Paul Bratton, Jr. reported on the recent rejection by the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture of the Forest Service's plan to build a new permanent road along the western side of Crawford Mountain on the George Washington National Forest in Augusta County. This road had been opposed by several regional groups, led by the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, on economic and wildlife grounds, and the Forest Service had successively denied appeals made at three levels of the agency. Paul Bratton over a period of two-plus years had done the major work of preparing and presenting the appeals. Congratulations, Paul--and to Judy Price of Deerfield Valley who assisted Paul greatly!

Officers elected for the new year of 1981-82 are: Ed Clark of Flint Hill, President; Ernie Dickerman of Buffalo Gap, Vice President; Paul Bratton, Jr. of Deerfield, Secretary; and Nancy Sheffield of Waynesboro as the new Treasurer.

S. 842: QUICK DEATH FOR RARE 2 PROTECTION

On March 31, 1981 was introduced in the United States Senate S. 842, considered by its sponsors Senators James McClure of Idaho, Sam Hayakawa of California and Jesse Helms of North Carolina as the "Rare 2 Review Act of 1981," considered by others as the loggers' anti-wilderness bill. You have to read the actual bill to appreciate its fine points!

By either name, in the east the bill would end on January 1, 1983 the protection of areas recommended under RARE 2 for wilderness or further planning. In the west, protection would end on January 1, 1985. Further, the Forest Service would be prohibited henceforth from managing national forests to protect their wilderness values (except as an area is designated as statutory wilderness by specific act of Congress). For good measure, there is a nasty little Sec. 3 designed to forestall retroactively any suit challenging the Final Environmental Impact Statement of RARE 2, EXCEPT that a suit already filed by a timber company in North Carolina is particularly excluded from this restriction--all innocently phrased in deceptive legalese.

But S. 842 goes beyond the RARE 2 program and would directly undermine the fundamental principle of the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act. This it does by providing under Sec. 4(b) that any areas in the east which were formally reviewed under RARE 2 and are not meanwhile designated as wilderness by Congress, shall not be managed for wilderness uses after January 1, 1983. And the final Sec. 7 says that no national forest lands anywhere shall be managed to protect their suitability for possible wilderness designation, except by express authorization from Congress.

All this is directly contrary to the provisions of the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act, which Act includes wilderness under the enumerated multiple uses and which requires the Forest Service to give generally equal consideration to all such uses. This Act has been one of the effective bulwarks for protecting wilderness until the Congress can be induced to place an area in the National Wilderness Preservation System. It has enabled the Forest Service to deny insistent requests from commercial interests to harvest the timber or otherwise develop an area deemed to possess significant wilderness qualities. Wilderness advocates have the strongest incentive to maintain unweakened the provisions of the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act and to vigorously oppose this attack upon it by S. 842.

When on April 22 & 23 the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on S. 842 at Washington--a scant three weeks after the bill was introduced, Ed Clark and Ernie Dickerman testified before the committee against S. 842 on behalf of the Virginia Wilderness Committee, the Conservation Council of Virginia, the Virginia B.A.S.S. State Federation and the Float Fishermen of Virginia. Other impressive testimony against the bill was given by national environmental organizations and regional or local groups. In due course, additional citizen action will be needed to re-write S. 842 into a decent piece of legislation, limited strictly to RARE 2 and to a satisfactory manner of ultimately terminating its protection. From the wilderness point of view, this will mean a bill based on the method developed in the last Congress when wilderness proponents in such states as Colorado, New Mexico and California bargained with the timber industry and agreed essentially to terminate RARE 2 in those states (by appropriate provisionⁱⁿ each state's wilderness bill) in exchange for no opposition to a substantial list of wilderness proposals in each state.

You will hear from V.W.C. and other wilderness organizations when it is time for you and me and all of us to speak up again against S. 842!

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, POBox 7, Flint Hill VA 22627 (703) 675-3414
 Vice-Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
 Treasurer Nancy Sheffield, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 942-5635

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 written to a public official OR by sending \$2.00 or more per year to Treasurer Nancy Sheffield (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials describing wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing & mailing the newsletter--all cost money!

The date above your name on your newsletter address label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the V.W.C., Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
 Swoope VA 24479

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

07 79
 Nancy A. Sheffield
 3409 Cool Spring Road
 Adelphi MD 20782

CONGRESSIONAL PROSPECTS FOR VIRGINIA WILDERNESS

In what is becoming an annual ritual, we are again marching up Capitol Hill in an effort to persuade our Virginia Congressional delegation to introduce and support a Virginia wilderness bill. As usual, hopes are high that this year's campaign will produce the success that has eluded us thus far. Several factors suggest that these hopes may be well-founded.

First, on July 30 V.W.C. President Ed Clark had a lengthy meeting with Congressman William Wampler of Virginia's 9th District. While no firm action was promised, this meeting was the most encouraging contact we have had with any key member of the Virginia delegation to date.

Congressman Wampler expressed support for the concept of wilderness and indicated that he felt the opposition to designations in Virginia was based on a misunderstanding of the issue. When pressed about his lack of action on legislation, Rep. Wampler responded that since no imminent threat to the candidate areas was present, wilderness had a low priority when compared to the recent tax and budget battles.

Mr. Wampler assured the V.W.C. representative that he would turn his attention to this matter following the August recess. Reservations were voiced by him on only one area, Devils Fork. The privately owned, retained mineral rights there raise questions in his mind about the effect of wilderness designation on such private property. He expressed a desire to protect the Devils Fork area while not blocking the owners of retained rights in benefiting from any underground minerals. We suggested that deep mining, with the adit commencing outside the wilderness boundary, offers one solution to the problem. V.W.C. will work toward resolving this issue and including Devils Fork in the Wilderness System.

Contacts with Congressmen Butler and Robinson are being pursued actively, tho there is nothing specific to report as yet. We are in touch with staff members in the respective offices and expect to meet with both Rep. Butler and Robinson shortly after the August recess.

An encouraging new factor which may affect the outcome of the present campaign is an interest newly expressed by Senator John Warner in Virginia wilderness. Mr. Warner, himself an outdoorsman, has expressed his willingness to get involved in the discussion and work toward development of a comprehensive Virginia wilderness bill.

It is with cautious optimism that we view this development. We are in touch with the Senator's staff and are urging that any action be fully discussed with V.W.C. We are hopeful that any bill which may develop will include all of the areas recommended by the Wilderness Coalition of Virginia and will not contain unacceptable provisions. We certainly do not want to be put in a position of having to oppose any legislation.

At this stage of the game, Virginia wilderness supporters need to

contact their Representatives who are home for the August recess (until September 9) and seek their support for the Virginia proposals. We may have our best shot yet at getting additional national forest wilderness in Virginia. But it won't be easy with mounting sentiments within the government against environmental and conservation activities. Let's get moving!

FOREST SERVICE REJECTS MOUNTAIN LAKE FOR WILDERNESS

Mountain Lake is one of the two or three finest wilderness candidates on the 1,600,000 acres of national forest in Virginia. Yet the Forest Service in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued this summer opposes wilderness designation for any part of the Mountain Lake Wilderness Study Area (11,827 acres), and instead recommends that it be classified as ordinary national forest land (except for a 1,543-acre Scenic Area) subject to logging, road building, mining, private motor vehicle use, etc., as usual.

Reading the draft EIS, one wonders what sort of mind could have written it and then come up with a non-wilderness recommendation, for thruout the draft statement the special natural characteristics of the Mountain Lake WSA are repeatedly and favorably described. For example, on page 37 under the heading "Suitability" (meaning does the area have natural characteristics qualifying it for inclusion in the National Wilderness System) the statement is fulsome in its praise of the area's wild character, its sense of remoteness, its opportunities for solitude, its unique physiographic features, its usefulness for scientific and educational study, no outstanding mineral rights, and that it can be managed satisfactorily as statutory wilderness.

In rejecting wilderness designation, the draft EIS refers to an electric transmission line in the extreme southern portion of the area as "a major non-conforming use". It then goes on to rest its case for rejection of wilderness status on such factors as an alleged lack of need for wilderness in the region, public opposition, and a desire to keep any minerals available for development. How valid are these objections?

The Mountain Lake WSA of 11,827 acres as established by Congress in 1975 (and to which this EIS is now responding) includes the transmission line within its boundary. But the Wilderness Coalition of Virginia proposal does not--and never has. Rather the citizens proposal uses the edge of the power line right of way as part of its proposed boundary, thereby eliminating the line and the small acreage south of it.

Concerning need for wilderness, the draft simply takes the position that "evidence of need has not been demonstrated"; and blithely suggests that the designated wilderness in Shenandoah National Park located in northern Virginia and the 8,800-acre James River Face Wilderness located in the Blue Ridge forty miles northeast of Roanoke is all the wilderness needed for the folks living in southwest Virginia!

Concerning public opinion, it is the old story of what statistics do you use? At the wilderness workshop held by the Forest Service in the fall of 1976 in Giles County (where the major portion of the Mountain Lake WSA lies), 70 percent of the 96 persons present supported wilderness designation. Later on, in responding to the RARE 2 inquiries, 72 percent of the 1,081 persons (from Virginia and neighboring states) sending in

written comment were opposed to wilderness status. It is pertinent for the Forest Service to consider public opinion in arriving at its decisions on its management of the national forests. However, where the question is one of what recommendation the Service should make to the Congress whether an area should be given the protection of the Wilderness Act, the agency is being asked to give its professional opinion based primarily on the physical and economic factors relevant to the candidate area. Then the Congress, as the representative of the people, makes the decision according to how it sees the people's wishes and the public interest.

Concerning minerals, the official report of the U.S. Geological Survey dated 1978 indicates no commercial deposits of minerals nor of oil; but does recognize that geologically there could be some gas below the Mountain Lake WSA. Commercially the timber is mostly of low quality; and the generally low site indices (a measure of potential timber productivity) range only between 40 to 60. On the entire Jefferson National Forest, the annual timber harvest is only 27 percent of potential yield --indicating that exclusion of Mountain Lake from commercial harvesting would be economically inconsequential.

Under RARE 2 in 1979 the Forest Service had previously rejected Mountain Lake, giving the area only 18 points out of a possible 28 maximum--with 19 points being the lowest rating that could qualify for wilderness. People knowledgeable about Mountain Lake still wonder how the Forest Service could come up with so few points. Less than 19 points under RARE 2 automatically drew a non-wilderness recommendation; but because Mountain Lake is a Congressionally designated Wilderness Study Area, it was officially recommended for Further Planning.

The fundamental deficiency of this draft EIS is that it gives no value to the benefits of wilderness designation, while giving weight to every possible use or benefit which might be foregone if the Mountain Lake area were placed in the Wilderness System. Further, it refuses to recognize that the existing wilderness characteristics would be severely damaged once logging, roading and other developments were permitted to resume. And even tho the Jefferson National Forest contains some 600,000 acres, the draft denies the wisdom of giving the permanent protection of the Wilderness Act to this mere 11,000-acre area with its unusual natural qualities. Instead, it declares that this outstanding area should be reduced to the ordinary status of practically all the rest of the forest!

The record is open for comment on this draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mountain Lake Wilderness Study Area until August 24. If you don't like the Forest Service' anti-wilderness recommendation, you can tell them so by writing to: Thomas Hoots, Forest Supervisor, Jefferson National Forest, Federal Building, Roanoke VA 24001. Sending a carbon or photo copy to your Congressman (especially Rep. William Wampler) and to Senator John Warner is very worthwhile.

MORE ANTI-WILDERNESS BILLS FILED IN CONGRESS

Two anti-wilderness bills similar to S. 842 ("RARE 2 Review Act of 1981") have been filed in the House. H.R. 3358 (Hendon, R-NC) is the same as S. 842. H.R. 4047 (Young, R-Alaska and Huckaby, D-LA), while similar, goes even further than S. 842 in creating obstacles to wilderness protection. These two bills have been referred to both the House Interior and the House Agriculture Committees, and are still in committee.

The evils of H.R. 3358 and H.R. 4047 are basically the same as those of S. 842 as described in the May 1981 V.W.C. Newsletter. Objectionably each would: (a) both retroactively and henceforth prohibit any suits challenging the RARE 2 Final Environmental Impact Statement; (b) end the protection of areas recommended under RARE 2 for Wilderness or Further Planning, in the east on January 1, 1983, in the west on January 1, 1985--both too quick, making it easy for opponents to stall any wilderness bills until protection ceased; (3) specifically prohibit the Forest Service from managing any national forest land to protect its wilderness values (except wilderness designated by Congress); and (4), by (3) above seriously undermine the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act which specifically includes wilderness under the enumerated Multiple Uses of national forests.

More letters are needed to Senator John Warner, a member of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee where the bill now sits, asking him to use his influence to kill S. 842. In the House, your letter is needed to your Congressman asking him or her to oppose H.R. 3358 & 4047, please.

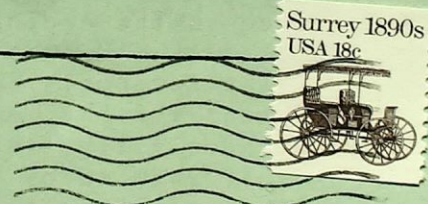
THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, POBox 7, Flint Hill VA 22627 (703) 675-3414
 Vice-Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
 Treasurer Nancy Sheffield, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 942-5635

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 written to a public official OR by sending \$2.00 or more per year to Treasurer Nancy Sheffield (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials describing wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing & mailing the newsletter--all cost money!

The date above your name on your newsletter address label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the V.W.C., Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
 Swoope VA 24479



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

10 80
 Dr. James J. Murray
 UVa Biological Station
 Rt. 1
 Pembroke VA 24136

THE 1981-82 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS CANDIDATES
OF THE WILDERNESS COALITION OF VIRGINIA

| <u>Acres</u> | <u>Name of Area</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Congressman</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 11,800 | Southern Massanutten | Page, Rockingham | Kenneth Robinson |
| 9,100 | Rough Mountain | Bath | Caldwell Butler |
| 5,730 | Rich Hole | Rockbridge, Alleghany | " " |
| 10,695 | St. Marys River | Augusta | " " |
| 6,700 | Ramseys Draft | Augusta | " " |
| 2,530 | Thunder Ridge | Rockbridge, Bedford & Botetourt | " " |
| 6,375 | Beartown | Tazewell | William Wampler |
| 2,998 | Little Dry Run | Mt. Rogers NRA | " " |
| 5,771 | Lewis Fork | Mt. Rogers NRA | " " |
| 3,568 | Little Wilson Creek | Mt. Rogers NRA | " " |
| 5,887 | Devils Fork | Scott | " " |
| 11,000 | Mountain Lake | Giles, Craig & West Va. | " " |
| <u>82,154</u> | <u>Total Acres</u> | | |

The first five areas are on the George Washington National Forest and the last seven on the Jefferson National Forest. As earlier said, qualified areas can be added to this list.

THE WAYS OF THREE CONGRESSMEN ON THE WILDERNESS TRAIL

Since the August V.W.C. newsletter a limited number of letters from Virginians have continued to flow into Congressmen William Wampler, Kenneth Robinson and Caldwell Butler, asking each to introduce the needed wilderness bills. In these three Congressmen's Districts lie the 12 Virginia wilderness proposals. V.W.C. President Ed Clark has continued his direct contacts with their offices on Capitol Hill. All of which is right and good. Howsoever, the simple fact is that none of these three representatives of the people is a wilderness enthusiast by any stretch of the imagination and it requires a lot of pressure--using the plain, understandable word--to move them to protect wilderness values, that is, the natural beauty of wilderness, its inspiration, its undisturbed wildlife habitat, its vital water conservation, the green living forest with its cool tumbling waters.

Rep. Wampler expresses his interest in the wilderness proposals in his district and suggests an intention of doing something about the matter. What he needs is a strong push to get him off his nicely balanced position, to push him into positive action, i.e., filing a wilderness bill covering the six areas on the Jefferson National Forest in southwest Virginia. What will push Bill Wampler are: (a) letters from people who have not written him yet (have you

got a friend or two or three who will write him if you encourage them?); (b) telephone his Washington office (202--225-3861) and tell him or a staff person how you feel about a particular wilderness proposal in his district; (c) arrange a meeting with him at one of his four local offices at Pulaski, Richlands, Big Stone Gap or Bristol (he comes home most weekends); (d) attend a meeting in the 9th District where he will be speaking, walk up to him before or after the talk and tell him you want him to introduce a Virginia wilderness bill. Rep. Wampler is very sensitive to his constituents. That is why he has been the Congressman from southwest Virginia continuously since 1967--for 14 years.

Rep. Kenneth Robinson is still beating about the bush, hoping to avoid actually doing anything about the Southern Massanutten wilderness proposal in his 7th district. He expresses reluctance to support a Massanutten proposal because the Forest Service did not recommend it for wilderness in its RARE 2 program. Whether the Forest Service did or did not recommend it for wilderness is hardly a relevant consideration for a Congressman who is supposed to represent his constituents, not a government agency. Furthermore, the Forest Service automatically rated Southern Massanutten under RARE 2 for "Further Planning" simply because it was not on the Service's original list of roadless areas but was added later at the request of interested persons (chiefly members of the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society) who knew of its wild character and believed it deserved the protection of the Wilderness Act. He is ripe to yield to more persuasion from folks living in the 7th Congressional District and especially from those in Page and Rockingham Counties where the Southern Massanutten is located. Rep. Robinson's Washington office telephone number is (202) 225-6561. He has district offices at Winchester, Fredricksburg and Charlottesville, which he frequently visits and where he can be conveniently met.

Which brings us to Congressman Caldwell Butler of the 6th District, where five of the Virginia wilderness proposals lie. Mr. Butler's current ploy is to use the pending Congressional action on the Clean Air Act as grounds for his doing nothing about wilderness. The fact is that any proposed area designated by Congress as wilderness takes a Class 2 rating under the Clean Air Act, the same rating as practically all the rest of Virginia; which means that designation as wilderness of any of the Virginia proposals will have no affect one way or the other so far as the Clean Air Act is concerned. Well, Mr. Butler says, this Congress may change the Clean Air Act and he wants to wait and see. The answer to that weak excuse is for Rep. Butler to file a wilderness bill now covering the five proposals in his district to show his willingness to respond to his constituents; then during the lengthy Congressional procedure, there will be every opportunity to modify the bill if changes in the Clean Air Act make it necessary. There is nothing more usual than amending a bill after it has been filed. It is worthwhile for you and me and many other voters to let our Representative Butler know that we know how the game is played--and that we want him to file a Virginia wilderness bill now!

Rep. Caldwell Butler's Washington office telephone number is (202) 225-5431. His district offices are at Lynchburg, Roanoke and Waynesboro. Cheer his day with a letter, a telephone call or a visit!

The mail address for all Congressmen is simply: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. For all Senators: United States Senate, Washington, D.C.

MOUNTAIN LAKE: THE FOREST SERVICE IS THINKING.

Following issuance this past summer of its draft (preliminary) Environmental Impact Statement on the Mountain Lake Wilderness Study Area, the Forest Service received a large volume of comments supporting a wilderness recommendation for this outstanding natural area. Clearly a good many people are aware of the beauty, the wildness, the opportunity for uninterrupted scientific study, the wide variety of plant and animal species, and the high quality outdoor recreation of the Mountain Lake area and want to keep it like it is permanently. These and other natural assets coupled with the fact that the area has very little commercial timber or mineral values leave little ground for arguing against giving the Mountain Lake WSA the protection of the Wilderness Act.

The Jefferson National Forest staff is continuing to mull over the strongly pro-wilderness response its draft EIS evoked from Virginians. Now it is trying to screw up its courage and reverse its preliminary non-wilderness recommendation; to recognize that the data in its own draft EIS in fact fully supports wilderness designation, and that a pro-wilderness recommendation for this 11,000 acres on the total 600,000 acre Jefferson National Forest is sound.

If you are in Roanoke any time soon, drop by the Jefferson Forest headquarters in the post office building downtown and encourage Forest Supervisor Tom Hoots and his staff to recommend Mountain Lake for Wilderness!

WILDERNESS AND MULTIPLE USE

The five prime uses of national forests cited in the federal Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act are: water conservation; wildlife; recreation; grazing; and timber. Of these five uses, wilderness serves the first four importantly and the fifth (timber) to a less, yet significant degree.

Concerning the first use (water conservation), undisturbed wild land is a most effective means of initially retarding, then slowly releasing the natural precipitation which falls on the earth. Concerning wildlife, many forms of life--large, small and miniscule--need substantial areas undisturbed by the works of man and his machines, i.e., wilderness, for their daily living and to breed and raise their young. Recreation by human beings is recognized by nearly everyone as a prime use of wilderness. Grazing previously established on national forest wilderness may continue under the Wilderness Act by order of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Timber, when one stops to think of it, serves more than the single purpose of logging it off for commercial sale as a useful product. As a living forest, it conserves the soil and water; it purifies the air; it provides essential habitat necessary for food, shelter and breeding of specific species of animals and birds; it is beauty and inspiration for mankind. Statutory wilderness assures the uninterrupted usefulness of these values of the living forest.

Additionally, statutory wilderness provides essential opportunity for the scientific study of the processes of nature uninterrupted by the actions of man; and assures a genetic reserve of plant

and animal types elsewhere being altered or destroyed indiscriminately. And the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act says this about wilderness on national forests: "The establishment and maintenance of areas of wilderness are consistent with the purposes and provisions of (this Act)."

Wilderness protected under the Wilderness Act is multiple use, in fact and in law.

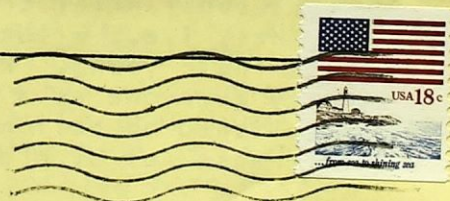
THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, POBox 7, Flint Hill VA 22627 (703) 675-3414
 Vice-Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
 Treasurer Nancy Sheffield, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 942-5635

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 written to a public official OR by sending \$2.00 or more per year to Treasurer Nancy Sheffield (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials describing wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing & mailing the newsletter--all cost money!

The date above your name on your newsletter address label indicates the time of your last contribution. If there appears to be an error, please contact the V.W.C., Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
 Swoope VA 24479



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

10 80
 Dr. James J. Murray
 Dept. of Biology
 University of Virginia
 Charlottesville, VA 22903

Jilma

"WAMPLER FOR WILDERNESS" IS THE GOAL IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA!

We can get a Virginia wilderness bill introduced in this 97th Congress, early in 1982. For many months Congressman Wampler has been saying he intends to file a wilderness bill covering areas in his district--without doing it yet. There are folks in southwest Virginia working to inspire the man to overcome his procrastination. Folks like Dan Long at Bristol, June Slomp at Marion, Dave Jenkins at Blacksburg, Vic Bates in Scott County, and Harold Harkins at Tazewell, all of whom, together with friends, are meeting with Bill Wampler at different times and places during this long January recess of the Congress to tell him his constituents want him to introduce a wilderness bill covering the areas in his district NOW. With this sort of direct contact, Rep. Wampler will return to Washington on January 25 sharply aware that a significant part of his constituents want wilderness protected and a bill filed by him now.

Then comes the next part of the southwest Virginians' campaign. With Rep. Wampler back in Washington, he will need letters arriving at his Washington office--in large numbers. The New River Group of the Sierra Club centered around Blacksburg and Radford but reaching all the way to Lee County is making a mass mailing to all its members urging each one to write Mr. Wampler to introduce a Virginia wilderness bill now. The Highlands Chapter of Trout Unlimited based around Bristol and Abingdon is doing the same. And other organizations are being solicited to do likewise. The more groups of any sort in the 9th Congressional District which can be persuaded to do this, the more effective the pressure on Rep. Wampler will be. We need 200 letters or more going into this Representative of the people between now and early March. If you live in southwest Virginia, please write Rep. William Wampler (address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) and tell him you want him to introduce a Virginia wilderness bill now--that you want your favorite areas on the Jefferson National Forest given the permanent protection of the Wilderness Act. Enjoy yourself and tell your Congressman what is on your mind!

Where does this get us with respect to wilderness proposals elsewhere on the national forests in Virginia? Without a Virginia wilderness bill of some kind, we get nowhere. Once, however, a Virginia bill is filed, no matter how limited in number of areas, we can take advantage of the Congressional process to add additional areas to the original bill. This opportunity particularly occurs when the House Interior Committee (to which all House wilderness bills are referred) holds its public hearing at Washington; then by testifying in person and by individual letters to the Chairman of the Committee, we can ask that other areas in Virginia be added to the bill.

As and when a wilderness bill is filed, those of us who are constituents of Rep. Butler (6th District) and of Rep. Kenneth Robinson (7th District) need to write them and to speak to them when home in the district on weekends, urging each to file his own bill or to tell the House Interior Committee to add areas in his district to the Virginia wilderness bill

already before the committee. Politics is a great game--and it is a game! Give yourself some fun!

Once a bill is filed, then Virginians all over the Commonwealth can get into the act and be effective by telling their own Congressman to support the Virginia wilderness bill. More on this tactic later once the southwest Virginians have got Rep. Bill Wampler to do right--to file his bill now.

ABOUT VIRGINIA'S SENATORS AND WILDERNESS

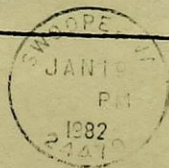
Wilderness advocates like Mary Moran Shart of Alexandria and others have been working on Senator John Warner to persuade him to support Virginia wilderness proposals. At a December meeting with him in his Washington office he declared his readiness to move in the Senate any House-passed Virginia wilderness bill as and when it comes to the Senate. That is encouraging. ~~Maybe Sen Harry Byrd, Jr., soon to retire, would like to establish a lasting monument to his 17-year tenure by leading in the designation of a dozen wilderness areas in the Old Dominion.~~

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, POBox 7, Flint Hill VA 22627 (703) 675-3414
 Vice-Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box IIIA, Deertfield VA 24432
 Treasurer Nancy Sheffield, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 942-5635

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 written to a public official OR by sending \$2.00 or more per year to Treasurer Nancy Sheffield (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials describing wilderness proposals for public distribution, producing & mailing the newsletter--all cost money!

Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
 Swoope VA 24479



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

Please Renew

10 80
 Dr. James J. Murray
 Dept. of Biology
 University of Virginia
 Charlottesville VA 22903

*Gilmer Hall
 McCormick
 Rd.*

AT LAST! REP. WAMPLER ISSUES A DRAFT WILDERNESS BILL!!

It is true! Congressman William Creed Wampler of Virginia's 9th Congressional District has issued his long-promised draft wilderness bill covering areas in his district on the Jefferson National Forest. The announcement was made by press release received by the media on Monday April 12 and by copies of the draft bill itself received the same date or the next day by numerous individuals who had written to Mr. Wampler urging him to introduce a wilderness bill. This draft bill has not been introduced, but is simply being circulated for review.

His "Discussion Draft" bill (as Mr. Wampler refers to it in his covering letter) lists seven areas for wilderness designation, totaling 34,840 acres and all on the Jefferson National Forest in southwest Virginia:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 5,000 acres | Beartown, in Tazewell County |
| 5,600 " | Kimberling Creek, in Bland County |
| 5,500 " | Lewis Fork, on Mt. Rogers NRA |
| 2,940 " | Little Dry Run, on Mt. Rogers NRA |
| 3,470 " | Little Wilson Creek, on Mt. Rogers NRA |
| 3,330 " | Peters Mountain, in Giles County |
| <u>9,000</u> " | <u>Mt. Lake, in Giles County</u> |
| 34,840 acres | Total in draft bill |

*Hoots
12,300
Gene Camp*

Under RARE 2 all these areas were recommended for "Wilderness" except Mountain Lake which was recommended for "Further Planning".

Desirable Areas Omitted

Devils Fork (5,887 acres in Scott County) is the one area omitted which is on the list of Jefferson Forest proposals currently advocated by the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness (a group of 13 Virginia citizens environmental organizations, including the Virginia Wilderness Committee). The Wampler press release indicated the main reason for omission of Devils Fork is that on 100% of the total area the mineral rights are in private ownership, that is, the Forest Service owns only the surface rights (confirmed by the F.S.). The validity of this objection to wilderness designation needs to be--and will be--carefully examined by wilderness supporters. It may be the fact that Devils Fork has been proposed by Appalachian Power Co. for a pumped storage electric power project (as well as the Brumley Gap site in Washington County) further accounts for the omission of Devils Fork from this initial draft bill. Be that as it may, everyone interested in winning the protection of the Wilderness Act for choice areas on Virginia's national forests is urged to continue to wrk for wilderness designation for Devils Fork--and particularly to ask Rep. Wampler to add Devils Fork to his bill when he introduces it!

Roaring Branch (2,500 acres in Wise County) is also omitted. That is because to date it has not been possible to find people there willing to work for it. Not that there aren't folks in Wise County who want this attractive mountain valley with its sparkling stream kept permanently just like it is. There are. If they will just decide to speak up and let Bill Wampler know, he can be persuaded to add Roaring Branch to his bill.

Acreage Figures Different From Citizens Proposals

The acreage figures for each of the seven areas in the Wampler draft bill are different from the acreages proposed by the Coalition for Virginia Wilderness. In four areas the differences are only slightly smaller and appear to be explainable, based on a telephone conversation with the Jefferson Forest headquarters at Roanoke, by such factors as re-calculation of the acreage, excluding a small private holding along the edge of a boundary or a trifling change in a boundary to more managable or easily recognized boundary. However, in the case of Beartown it appears that 3 or 4 significant inholdings have been omitted thereby reducing the acreage of the bill's boundary. Something of the same sort appears to have happened in the case of Mountain Lake. And on Peters Mountain some 500 acres has been excluded near the extreme southwest corner because of retained underground mineral rights, even tho the Forest Service owns the surface.

Until we have a chance to inspect the maps cited in the Wampler draft bill, we are refraining from saying anything more about the acreages or boundaries. Anyone who lives near one of the 7 areas listed in the bill would do well to drop into the nearest Forest Service District Ranger office to see what he or she can learn about the acreage and boundary.

Sec. 3, Ending of RARE 2 Protection

Section 3, "Release of Lands for Uses Other Than Wilderness", raises a serious question. The word "release" refers to eliminating the special protection from development (including logging) of those RARE 2 areas recommended by the Forest Service to the Congress for wilderness designation and for further study. It is one thing simply to terminate this special RARE 2 protection and return any areas presently so protected to ordinary national forest status. However, we strongly oppose any attempt to prohibit the Forest Service from ever managing them to protect their wilderness values or from recommending them to Congress for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act. This latter is what Sec. 3 of the Wampler draft bill would do. In fact, Sec. 3 would apply not just to RARE 2 areas but to the entire 600,000 acres of the Jefferson National Forest! This is bad, completely bad. Sec. 3 as presently worded would have the effect of eliminating wilderness as a forest value to be taken into account in planning for and in managing the Jefferson National Forest. (Legal note: The Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, and the Forest Management Act of 1976 authorize or require the Forest Service to recognize and protect wilderness values. Sec. 3 as written would effectively amend these laws and positively forbid such recognition and protection--except for Congressional designated areas.)

The language of Sec. 3 is part of a national effort by anti-wilderness forces thruout the United States to prevent any additional areas on all national forests from being given the protection of the Wilderness Act. With the Forest Service permitted to plan and manage only for uses other than wilderness, most potential wilderness candidates would be cut up with roads, logged off, rivers dammed, etc., before it would be possible for interested citizens to persuade the Congress to designate such areas as wilderness under the Wilderness Act. By all means, each of us needs to tell Rep. Wampler that Sec. 3 as drafted is bad; that it should be changed to simply remove the protection of RARE 2 from the Jefferson National Forest, nothing more.

What Needs To Be Done Now!

To get Rep. Wampler to actually file a Jefferson National Forest wilderness bill, he needs to be:

- a. Thanked for putting out a draft bill for comment.
- b. Informed of your feelings about any particular areas listed in the draft bill; be told you support all seven areas listed; and if an area like Devils Fork or Roaring Branch which you favor is omitted, tell him you want it added to the bill.
- c. Advised that Sec. 3 about release of RARE 2 areas is bad as worded and should be changed simply to end the RARE 2 protection without changing any other national forest laws.

Sure, write to Rep. William Wampler (address U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515) now while it is on your mind. An early flood of letters is the surest way to convince him that immediate filing of a wilderness bill is the right thing for him to do. Send Bill Wampler your letter and make it easy for him to decide to introduce a Jefferson National Forest wilderness bill now.

(For wilderness supporters who live elsewhere than the 9th Congressional District, see the next article, please.)

IF YOU LIVE OUTSIDE WAMPLER'S DISTRICT, WHAT NEXT?

For individuals who live in other than the 9th District, there is not much point in writing to Rep. Wampler at this time. However, for organizations with members living in Wampler's district, it is definitely worth each organization's writing to Mr. Wampler in line with the suggestions above and indicating that the organization has members in his district.

For Virginians who are represented by a different Congressman, it is time to inform him that Rep. Wampler will soon be filing a wilderness bill and urge him to co-sponsor Wampler's bill. It may be necessary to tactfully remind your Congressman (excepting Rep. Robinson and Butler) that, since there is no national forest in his district, he has something to gain (some voters' support) and nothing to lose by doing so. Approaches by other Virginia Congressmen will encourage Mr. Wampler to push his own bill more forcefully.

In the case of folks living in Rep. Caldwell Butler's 6th District and Kenneth Robinson 7th, this is the time to encourage these two Representatives either to introduce their own wilderness bills or to add areas in their own districts to the Wampler bill. The citizens wilderness proposals in Butler's district are: Rough Mountain (9,100 acres), Rich Hole (5,730 acres), St. Marys River (10,695 acres), Ramseys Draft (6,700 acres) and Thunder Ridge (2,530 acres). In Robinson's district there is at present only one proposal: Southern Massanutten (11,800 acres). Also in the 7th District, efforts being led by "Wilderness Quest" based in northern Virginia seek to develop a suitable wilderness boundary centered on Big Schloss which takes account of such problems as a public road running diagonally thru the area, numerous recent clearcuts and a radio relay station.

ANNUAL MEETING OF V.W.C. PLANNED FOR SATURDAY JUNE 12

Come to the annual meeting Saturday June 12 and help plan the action to assure the introduction of a Virginia wilderness bill by Rep. William Wampler and the addition to it of other areas in Rep. Butler's and Robinson's districts. That will be the prime purpose of this meeting! 10:00 AM is the starting time. End by or before 4:00 PM.

Besides deciding how most effectively to push a Wampler wilderness bill, you will also participate in the discussion of how to move Congressman Caldwell Butler and Kenneth Robinson to wilderness action. With Bill Wampler breaking the ice, the aim is to stimulate Messrs. Robinson and Butler to follow his lead along the forested wilderness path. And by June 12 it should be time to consider in detail how to bring Virginia's other seven Congressmen into the fight on the side of wilderness. There will also be a discussion of the oil and gas situation on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, particularly as it may affect potential wilderness.

This June 12 meeting will be held on the farm where President Ed Clark and Treasurer Nancy Sheffield live together in wedded bliss, about 4 miles northwest of Waynesboro in Augusta County. The attached map gives detailed directions and their telephone number (703) 943-3445. You are invited to bring your family, including children--but no dogs, please, because there are already four on the place. There is a tennis court, a creek to fish in, and lots of open space to run and play. Folks who want to arrive Friday evening and camp out on the farm are welcome to do so--bringing your own food and gear. Everyone will want to bring their own lunch for Saturday noon.

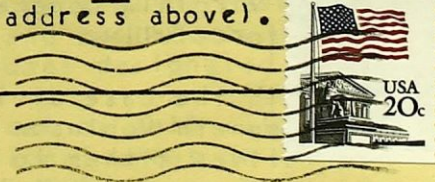
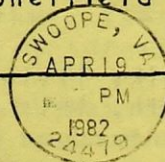
COME AND MEET OLD AND NEW WILDERNESS FRIENDS AT ED & NANCY'S FARM

THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

President Ed Clark, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 943-3445
 Vice Pres Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1, Box 156, Swoope VA 24479 (703) 885-8330
 Secretary Paul Bratton, Jr., Box 111A, Deerfield VA 24432
 Treasurer Nancy Sheffield, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro VA 22980 (703) 943-3445

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 written to a public official OR by sending \$2.00 or more per year to Treasurer Nancy Sheffield (address above).

Virginia Wilderness Committee
 Rt. 1, Box 156
 Swoope VA 24479



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

10 80 *Please Renew!*
 James J. Murray
 Dept. of Biology
 University of Virginia
 Charlottesville VA

REP. WAMPLER VISITED IN WASHINGTON BY V.W.C.

On Wednesday June 2 Ed Clark and Ernie Dickerman traveled to Washington and met with Congressman William Wampler to discuss his draft wilderness bill covering 7 areas, totaling 38,840 acres, on the Jefferson National Forest in southwest Virginia. The areas by name are: Beartown, Kimberling Creek, Lewis Fork, Little Dry Run, Little Wilson Creek, Peters Mountain and Mountain Lake. Among important wilderness values, each area contains a number of cold water trout streams well worth protecting permanently by the Wilderness Act.

Rep. Wampler's draft bill (not yet introduced) is generally a good one and merits wide support. There are two problems, neither of which is overly difficult to resolve. The boundaries of 6 of the 7 proposals are satisfactory, as shown on 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" maps produced by the U.S. Forest Service and available upon request from Mr. Wampler. However, in the case of Mountain Lake, while the Forest Service recommends a 10,600 acre boundary, Rep. Wampler is inclined to want a boundary of under 10,000 acres (because there may be less local argument about a less-than-10,000 acre boundary).

Alternatives have been suggested for Mountain Lake, by the Forest Service. Alternative A would eliminate the southernmost part of the 10,600 acre proposal, i.e., the watersheds of Sartain and Johns Creeks. Both these watersheds are vital to any sound Mountain Lake Wilderness and their elimination would be completely objectionable. Alternative B would eliminate the foreslope extending down from the Wind Rock overlook and a strip of land along the southeastern border; it would result in a proposal totaling 9,846 acres. While not desirable, it could be lived with if necessary. The maps available from Rep. Wampler (mentioned in the paragraph above) show these Mountain Lake alternatives.

The other problem has to do with elimination of the protection presently given to areas reviewed under the RARE 2 study and recommended by the Forest Service for wilderness designation or further study. There is no objection to elimination of the special RARE 2 protection in exchange for wilderness designation of the 7 areas in the draft bill. The problem is that the language in Sec. of the draft bill would also prohibit the Forest Service from ever managing any land on the Jefferson Forest for its wilderness values (a broad range of values) and from ever recommending that any tract on the Forest be designated as wilderness by Congress! There is neither rhyme nor reason to such restrictions--just blind greed on the part of a few commercial interests. It would further have the effect of amending the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act of 1960--all of which are based on multiple use of the national forests, including wilderness. Our impression is that Mr. Wampler was not aware of the hornets nest he was involving himself in with this language (supplied to him by the administration) and that he is prepared to consider different language which would simply end RARE 2 protection on the Jefferson Forest, without changing any existing laws.

At the meeting June 2, we urged Rep. Wampler to immediately introduce his bill in the House. Time is getting short in this Congress; tho a wilderness bill actively supported by the Congressman can be passed. Be that as it may, our friend Congressman William Wampler (address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) definitely needs inspiration from each of us to overcome his reluctance to take the plunge and file his bill. Let him hear from you again--particularly if you live in southwest Virginia!

In addition to meeting with Rep. Wampler, Ed and Ernie also met with Forest Service officials, staff of the House Interior Committee, an aide to Senator John Warner, and with folks at the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth and Audubon Society.

Virginians can count on strong support from the national conservation organizations, including the Wilderness Society, once a Virginia wilderness bill is filed. At that time too we will want to renew efforts to persuade Representatives Caldwell Butler and Kenneth Robinson to add permanent lustre to their Congressional reputations either by introducing their own wilderness bills or by adding proposals on the George Washington National Forest to such a bill!

MANY MATTERS CONSIDERED AT V.W.C. ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 12

The 1982 annual meeting of the Virginia Wilderness Committee was held on June 12, at Common Ground Farm near Waynesboro, Virginia. Tho the weather discouraged some members from attending, a complete agenda of business was conducted and elections held.

Among the items discussed was the status of the draft wilderness legislation which has been circulated by Congressman William C. Wampler. The details of the V.W.C. position on this draft bill are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. Those members present encouraged the V.W.C. officers to continue to oppose the "hard release" language which presently is in the draft bill and to press for the early introduction of the bill by Rep. Wampler.

Donna Shaunese, a member from Nelson County, gave a presentation on the issue of oil and gas leasing which has been a major concern in many localities across the state. She outlined the current levels of lease activity in Virginia's two national forests, including the outstanding leases on a number of the RARE 2⁰⁰⁰⁰⁰ ⁰⁰⁰⁰⁰ on the George Washington National Forest. Donna also brought copies of a new publication put out by the Blue Ridge Group of the Sierra Club titled YOUR LAND . . . YOUR RIGHTS. This excellent booklet details the considerations which should be thoroly examined before leasing oil and gas rights on one's private property. Contained in the booklet is information about lease provisions to protect the value and normal use of one's land if oil or gas exploration is undertaken. The booklet may be obtained from the Blue Ridge Group of Sierra Club, Rt. 1, Box 304-B, Faber VA 22938.

Plans were also discussed for a potential workshop on National Forest Planning which is being considered by V.W.C. and a number of other groups in Virginia. The Wilderness Society has offered to assist local organizations in planning and conducting the workshop later this summer. The staff of the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. has also indic-