

Carol Smith, Bess Murray, Jim Murray and Francis Fife, as leaders of the Charlottesville team which sold Albemarle County on wilderness preservation.

*** Jack Bostic and Paul Pollack of Craig County, as the Come-From-Behind Champions in getting 2 worthy Craig County areas added to the bill.

*** Reps. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin as Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives, who fought for wilderness from the start of this Congress, who introduced the House wilderness bill, & who won its House passage.

*** Senators John Warner and Paul Trible as Republican leaders in the Senate, who introduced the wilderness bill in the Senate and who are now leading the fight for its early enactment by the Senate.

*** Ed Clark, President of V.W.C., as Chief Wrestler with Members of Congress and their expert staffs.

*** Bill Cochran of Roanoke, Chris Simmons of Harrisonburg and George Beetham of Waynesboro, as self-starting, informed news reporters of the Virginia wilderness campaign continuously.

*** Jim Loesel of Lexington, as the indefatigable and also very hard to tire skilled publicist of the Virginia wilderness campaign. (By V.W.C. Editor)

*** Matt Paxton of Lexington, Evelyn Opie of Staunton and Bob Willis of Roanoke, as frequent producers of timely, hard-hitting editorials urging wilderness designation in Virginia now.

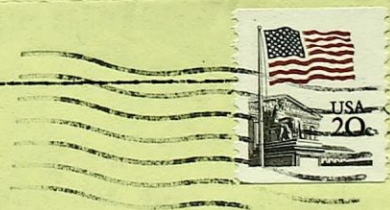
*** Ernie Dickerman, as the Guru of Buffalo Gap for the cause of wilderness in Virginia.

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	Christina Bolgiano Rt. 2, Box 59 Broadway 22815	(703) 896-8333
Treasurer	Carol Smith 1612 Trailridge Charlottesville 22903	(804) 971-8864

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 Carol Smith (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials about Virginia wilderness and the Wilderness Act for public distribution, producing and mailing the newsletter--all cost money!

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



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

02 84
Bess Murray
Rt. 8, Box 149
Charlottesville 22901

VICTORY!

On Tuesday October 9, 1984 the 98th Congress enacted the Virginia Wilderness bill! On that afternoon the House of Representatives approved by a voice vote the slightly different (two minor procedural provisions) & previously passed (on October 4) Senate bill; thus both bodies passed an identically worded bill. The Virginia Wilderness Act now goes to the President to sign into law.

VICTORY !

VICTORY !

VICTORY !

VICTORY !

By this Act ten new Wildernesses in Virginia totaling 55,784 acres and four Wilderness Study Areas totaling 25,075 acres are established, plus 200 acres are added to the existing James River Face Wilderness--for a combined total of 81,059 acres. The Wilderness Study Areas, though not officially part of the National Wilderness System, will meanwhile have virtually the same protection and without time limit, i.e., to quote the Act, ". . . until Congress otherwise acts". See below the list of areas by name.

This is a tremendous victory after ten years of persevering effort --since 1974 when the only national forest wilderness (James River Face) and four wilderness study areas were established in Virginia by Congress. Two prime factors brought victory. First was the election in 1982 of two new Virginia Congressmen who favored Wilderness Act protection and in whose Congressional Districts lie most of Virginia's 1,600,000 acres of national forest: Rep. Rick Boucher of the 9th and Rep. Jim Olin of the 6th. Second was the way in which Virginians all over the state rallied to the cause of wilderness protection as the Virginia wilderness campaign progressed until it rolled over the inevitable opposition, convinced Virginia's two United States Senators John Warner and Paul Trible to actively support wilderness legislation, and defeated the arrogant, spurious demands of Westvaco Corporation, a big multi-state pulp & paper company with a large plant at Covington, Virginia, who sought to cut the heart out of the bill. Each one of us who took part in any way in winning this victory can feel pleased, happy, proud and triumphant!

The House action Tuesday afternoon October 9 which brought passage of the Virginia Wilderness Act was intensely interesting. On the preceding Thursday October 4--the day on which the Senate passed its bill about 3:00 AM in the wee hours of the morning during an all-night session --an effort was made to obtain passage in the House by unanimous consent, i.e., without objection by any Member. But four Congressmen objected, one from Kentucky, one from South Carolina and two from Virginia, namely Kenneth Robinson and Thomas Bliley--all at the behest of Westvaco Corp-

oration. So the next day Friday it was necessary to get a "rule", i.e., a scheduled time and procedure, from the House Rules Committee. This Friday October 5 was the day on which the 98th Congress had intended to adjourn permanently. The Rules Committee was willing to grant the desired procedure of no amendments allowed to the bill and only the usual majority vote needed for passage; but the voting was not to occur until Tuesday October 9 (Monday being a legal holiday, Congress would not be in session). Only because the House and Senate still had not resolved their differences about a big appropriations bill covering several government Departments was Congress obliged to remain in session beyond Friday, into the succeeding week.

The House met Tuesday at twelve noon. About two o'clock the Virginia wilderness bill was taken up. Less than five minutes would have been needed to vote on the bill, but it turned out that quite a few Members wanted to speak in favor of the bill first. Of course Congressmen Olin and Boucher spoke, as introducers of the bill, commending its benefits to Virginia; also Rep. Bill Whitehurst of Norfolk & Virginia Beach; Rep. Mo Udall as Chairman of the House Interior Committee and Rep. John Seiberling as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands, both of whom had given the fullest support to our bill in committee; and surprisingly and pleasingly, Rep. Manuel Lujan of New Mexico. One Member spoke against the bill, a Virginia Congressman no less, complaining because under the "rule" the bill could be amended to suit Westvaco Corporation: Thomas J. Bliley, Jr. of Richmond and vicinity. After half an hour of speech-making and it being obvious that support for passage was strong both by Republicans and Democrats, a vote was called for. The voice vote was so overwhelmingly in favor that no one asked for a roll-call vote. At last, our Virginia Wilderness Act had passed both Houses and was ready to go to the President for signing! Because of the strong bi-partisan support thruout Congress, including Virginia's two Republican Senators, there is virtually no question about the President's signing. Glory, Hallelujah!!

Areas in the Virginia Wilderness Act

WILDERNESSES

Acres	Name of Area	County	National Forest
6,725	Ramseys Draft	Augusta	Geo. Washington
10,090	St. Marys	Augusta	Geo. Washington
6,375	Beartown	Tazewell	Jefferson
5,580	Kimberling Creek	Bland	Jefferson
5,730	Lewis Fork	Mt. Rogers NRA	Jefferson
3,400	Little Dry Run	Mt. Rogers NRA	Jefferson
3,855	Little Wilson Creek	Mt. Rogers NRA	Jefferson
8,253	Mountain Lake	Giles, Craig	Jefferson
3,326	Peters Mountain	Giles	Jefferson
2,450	Thunder Ridge	Rockbridge, Bedford & Botetourt	Jefferson
200	James River Face Addition	Rockbridge, Bedford	Jefferson

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Acres	Name of Area	County	National Forest
9,300	Rough Mountain	Bath, Alleghany	Geo. Washington
5,600	Rich Hole	Rockbridge, Alleghany	Geo. Washington
5,875	Barbours Creek	Craig	Jefferson
4,300	Shawvers Run	Craig	Jefferson

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 Christina Bolgiano Rt. 2, Box 59 Broadway 22815 (703) 896-8333
 Treasurer Carol Smith 1612 Trailridge Charlottesville 22903 (804) 971-8864

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 Carol Smith (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials about Virginia wilderness and the Wilderness Act for public distribution, producing and 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., Box 156, Swoope VA 24479

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



VICTORY!
 9 OCTOBER 1984

First Class First Class

02 84
 Jim and Bess Murray
 Rt. 8, Box 149
 Charlottesville 22901

! VIRGINIA WILDERNESS VICTORY CELEBRATION !

You and your family are invited to the great victory celebration to be staged at the country home of Jim and Bess Murray north of Charlottesville on Sunday October 28. A lot of us want to rejoice together over winning the permanent protection of the Wilderness Act for some of Virginia's choicest natural areas by passage of the Virginia Wilderness Act by Congress on October 9, 1984!

It will be a potluck affair, with each person or family asked to bring a generous main course, salad or desert. Assorted liquids and all tableware will be provided by the hosts. Lunch will be served about one o'clock. You are welcome to arrive earlier to enjoy the company and to roam about the farm, including walking down to the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Rivanna River.

DIRECTIONS to Jim and Bess Murray's, whose country home lies north of Charlottesville off US 29 on county road 643 and whose telephone number is (804) 973-6693:

(A) County road 643 is about 5 miles north from the intersection of US 29 and US 250 in Charlottesville and is immediately north of the US 29 bridge over the South Rivanna River.

(B) If traveling via Interstate 64, exit at No. 22B on to US 29 Bypass and go about 4 miles or so to exit US 29 North (to Washington D.C.). US 29 North is Emmett Street.

1. Everyone turn EAST off US 29 North on to 643, a small paved road which later becomes gravel or dirt.

2. After about 2 miles you will go thru a railroad underpass on a steep curve. Continue 100 yards or so to a jog in the road, where there is a white fence and a sign "Bentivar"; here turn RIGHT.

3. Making the short jog, quickly turn LEFT; then proceed 1 mile on dirt road to its end. You have arrived at the Murray's!

! GLORY, HALLELUJAH !

Jim and Bess Murray and the Virginia Wilderness Committee, Hosts

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

A CITIZENS' GROUP DEDICATED
TO THE PRESERVATION OF
VIRGINIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER SUMMER, 1985

ANNUAL MEETING *** SATURDAY JUNE 1 *** NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE

VWC members met on a gorgeous summer day at Jim and Bess Murray's lovely farm to discuss actions and issues for the coming year. A major order of business was the election of officers: Ed Clark and Chris Bolgiano were reelected as President and Secretary, respectively, and David Cockrell of Eggleston was elected as Vice President and Faye Cooper of Ivy as Treasurer. Many thanks to Ernie Dickerman, former VP, and Carol Smith, former Treasurer, for their commitment and hard work in previous years.

GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST PLANS

Much in-depth discussion was held concerning these Plans, which the VWC and many other individuals and organizations feel place an illegal emphasis on timbering as the top priority product of the Forests. There is a possibility of a lawsuit if this emphasis is not modified; because these Plans are among the first in the country to be issued, they are being viewed as precedent-setting. Ed Clark and Jim Loesel appeared in June before the House Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy to testify against the Plans. Staff at the GWNF have indicated that intense criticism will cause them to write a new Alternative Proposal, to be published next October and then followed by a 90 day public response period.

MORE CANDIDATES FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION

With the help of Dan Miles, whose knowledge of and dedication to Mt. Pleasant was a pleasure to behold, Ernie Dickerman made two eloquent presentations on potential wilderness areas, and wrote up the major points of consideration for the VWC Newsletter:

Enjoy a Walk in the Mt. Pleasant Area!
by Ernie Dickerman

Mt. Pleasant, elevation 4071 ft., rises in the heart of a 9,000 tract in the Pedlar Ranger District of George Washington National Forest (Amherst County). Located on the east side of the Blue Ridge, just north of US #60, its special attractions include:

- * 4 mountain peaks in excess of 4,000 feet high
- * 6 sparkling mountain streams, often cascading over granite beds, and home to brook trout
- * stands of virgin oak and tulip poplar, with trees 4 & more feet in diameter
- * many spectacular granite rock outcrops on ridge crests and mountain slopes, with boulders ranging from garage to house size
- * a large bald--Cole Mtn.--unusual in VA, with a 360 degree view

Logging is the big threat--one sale has already been let. Legal wilderness designation is the ultimate goal, but the first objective is to persuade the Forest Service to give the area Special Management status--i.e., no logging, no roading, no other development. Discussions have been held with Forest officials, and they are looking into the matter.

What is needed now are letters requesting Special Management protection for the 9,000 acre Mt. Pleasant area and giving a reason or two why. To get more for your effort, send a copy of your letter to Congressman Jim Olin, in whose District Mt. Pleasant lies.

Supervisor George Smith
Geo. Washington Natl. Forest
Federal Building
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Rep. Jim Olin
U. S. House of Rep.
Washington DC 20515

Roam a Wildlife Refuge While Seeking Wilderness
by Ernie Dickerman

Chincoteague, Back Bay, and Great Dismal Swamp are all National Wildlife Refuges in Tidewater Virginia, administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Chincoteague (9,460 acres) is on Virginia's eastern shore and is the southern half of the barrier island Assateague. Back Bay (4,608 acres of land plus water) is south of Virginia Beach and is adjoined on the south by False Cape State Park. Great Dismal Swamp lies SE of Suffolk, encompasses most of the swamp including Lake Drummond, and extends into North Carolina. All are extremely interesting and highly productive of bird, fur-bearing, and fish life.

Wildlife refuges, intended as sanctuaries, too often are subject to serious interfering uses. The most effective way to prevent encroachment by political or commercial interests is to give suitable portions of the areas the protection of the Wilderness Act.

Individuals are needed to explore and study any of these three refuges to suggest what parts would benefit from Wilderness Act protection. Anyone who would like to help develop a wilderness proposal for Back Bay, Great Dismal Swamp, or Chincoteague Refuges is asked to contact Ernie Dickerman, Rt. 1 Box 156, Swoope VA 24479, 703-885-8330.

PEOPLE NEEDED TO FIGHT FOR COASTAL WILDERNESS PROTECTION!

If you, or someone you know, are willing to move the fight for wilderness eastward to the lovely and vulnerable coastal areas that need protection, let a VWC officer know:
President Ed Clark, Route 1, Box 35, Waynesboro, VA 22980 703-943-3445
VP David Cockrell, Rt. 1, Box 229B, Eggleston, VA 24086 703-921-4001
Treasurer Faye C. Cooper, P. O. Box 181, Ivy, VA 22945 804-296-7573
Secretary Chris Bolgiano, Rt. 1, Box 331, Fulks Run, VA 22830 703-896-4407

MEMBERSHIP: Membership in the VWC 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 the VWC Treasurer, address above.

Virginia Wilderness Committee
Rt. 1, Box 331
Fulks Run, VA 22830

these national wildlife refuges. For a variety of reasons the efforts were unsuccessful and the proposals were dropped. The need for wilderness protection, however, continues to be essential, primarily because threats stirred by commercial interests continually arise and the permanent way to end them is to place major portions of each refuge in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Back Bay is a perfect example of commercial problems threatening a refuge.

Individuals living in the general vicinity are needed who are willing to take the leadership in developing a wilderness proposal for each of these refuges and for organizing a nucleus of citizen support. Only as there is a nucleus of local support can any wilderness proposal be won. Building on that local nucleus other individuals and other organizations in the state can be influenced to become active, and effective state-wide support can be created.

Is Chincoteague, Back Bay or Great Dismal Swamp Refuge of particular interest to you? Do you want to be sure it stays like it is? Then write or telephone Ernie Dickerman (see back page for address & telephone number), tell him how you feel and what you are willing to do, please!

WHITHER V.W.C. ?

To the officers of the Virginia Wilderness Committee it seems that V.W.C. is at a cross-roads in determining its future course.

After a ten-year effort (since 1974 when the first Virginia area was added by Congress to the Wilderness System, the James River Face Wilderness), substantial additions on Virginia's two national forests were won in 1984. For reasons suggested elsewhere in this newsletter, it appears improbable that any new national forest areas can be added in the two-year life of the present 99th Congress. Also as discussed elsewhere herein, while important portions of Virginia's three large National Wildlife Refuges need the protection of the Wilderness Act, a considerable amount of preliminary work needs to be accomplished before Virginians can profitably seek the introduction of appropriate wilderness bills in the Congress. And while Cumberland Gap National Historical Park deserves Wilderness Act protection, because it lies in the three states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia and geographically is far remote from the rest of the Commonwealth of Virginia, probably the initiative for successful action will have to arise in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Certainly there needs to be a continuing wilderness movement in Virginia. But new wilderness leadership is needed in the state. Some of us have gotten more than a bit old. Others have become involved in other important public issues and cannot give the time and energy needed. Most of the present officers of V.W.C. will not be available to continue in office, to give primary leadership. While V.W.C. might simply go out of business and disappear, we doubt that any wilderness-minded Virginian wants that to happen. Another choice is for V.W.C. to be come latent, simply being inactive for the next couple of years. A third choice is for V.W.C. to merge into some other existing wilderness-oriented organization, with that organization henceforth carrying the ball. No doubt other alternatives will occur to other readers.

The individual officers of V.W.C. will appreciate hearing by letter

or telephone from members and from any wilderness-minded Virginians as to what each thinks the new course for the Virginia Wilderness Committee can and should be. Please write or telephone one of the officers listed on the back of this newsletter and give him or her your thoughts.

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	Chris Bolgiano	Rt. 1, Box 331	Fulks Run 22830	(703) 896-4407
Treasurer	Carol Smith	1612 Trailridge	Charlottesville 22903	(804) 971-8864

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 Carol Smith (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials about Virginia wilderness and the Wilderness Act for public distribution, producing and 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., Box 156, Swoope VA 24479

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



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

02 83
E. Carol Smith
1612 Trailridge Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903

LOOKING AHEAD

Time has flowed by since the historic day of October 9, 1984 when Congress passed the "Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984" and sent it to the White House to be signed into law on October 30, 1984. This Act effectively gave the protection of the Wilderness Act to 14 areas totaling 81,059 acres (including four Wilderness Study Areas to be managed essentially as wilderness indefinitely, i.e., ". . . until Congress otherwise acts.").

The hearing records for the House Interior Committee hearing on H.R. 5121 (held at Washington April 6, 1984) and the Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on S. 2805 and H.R. 5121 (held at Washington July 25, 1984) have now been printed. Likewise the "Virginia Wilderness Act of 1984", officially identified as Public Law 98-586, has been printed. Copies of the two hearing records and of Public Law 98-586 can be obtained by writing your Congressman or to either of Virginia's two U.S. Senators John Warner or Paul Trible and requesting them.

Concerning the four Wilderness Study Areas, we will want to have Congress place them in the National Wilderness preservation System as full-fledged Wildernesses as soon as practical. "Practical", however, means that we will have to wait until the air quality study required by Sec. 6(d) of the Virginia Wilderness Act is completed and a report submitted to Congress within two years from October 9, 1984, and it also probably means waiting until Congress decides how it will amend the present Clean Air Act--at the moment quite unpredictable.

Other areas of Virginia's George Washington and Jefferson National Forests need the protection of the Wilderness Act to avoid being clear-cut, roaded and otherwise having their outstanding natural values damaged--areas such as Roaring Branch in Wise County, Devils Fork in Scott County, Laurel Fork in Highland County (when the folks there decide they want it), Southern Massanutten in Page & Rockingham Counties, Mt. Pleasant in Amherst County, etc. In all these cases local support first needs to be generated before introduction of Congressional legislation is worthwhile.

CHINCOTEAGUE, BACK BAY, GREAT DISMAL SWAMP AS WILDERNESS CANDIDATES?

Virginia is blessed with three large and important National Wildlife Refuges, all located in tidewater: Back Bay (south of Virginia Beach), Great Dismal Swamp (southeast of Suffolk and partly in North Carolina) and Chincoteague (on the Eastern Shore and sharing the barrier island Assateague with the Assateague National Seashore). To preserve their natural qualities and to assure their continuance as effective havens for wildlife, the protection of the Wilderness Act is needed.

Back in the late 1960's and early 1970's positive efforts were made to build public support and to develop wilderness proposals for each of

these national wildlife refuges. For a variety of reasons the efforts were unsuccessful and the proposals were dropped. The need for wilderness protection, however, continues to be essential, primarily because threats stirred by commercial interests continually arise and the permanent way to end them is to place major portions of each refuge in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Back Bay is a perfect example of commercial problems threatening a refuge.

Individuals living in the general vicinity are needed who are willing to take the leadership in developing a wilderness proposal for each of these refuges and for organizing a nucleus of citizen support. Only as there is a nucleus of local support can any wilderness proposal be won. Building on that local nucleus other individuals and other organizations in the state can be influenced to become active, and effective state-wide support can be created.

Is Chincoteague, Back Bay or Great Dismal Swamp Refuge of particular interest to you? Do you want to be sure it stays like it is? Then write or telephone Ernie Dickerman (see back page for address & telephone number), tell him how you feel and what you are willing to do, please!

WHITHER V.W.C. ?

To the officers of the Virginia Wilderness Committee it seems that V.W.C. is at a cross-roads in determining its future course.

After a ten-year effort (since 1974 when the first Virginia area was added by Congress to the Wilderness System, the James River Face Wilderness), substantial additions on Virginia's two national forests were won in 1984. For reasons suggested elsewhere in this newsletter, it appears improbable that any new national forest areas can be added in the two-year life of the present 99th Congress. Also as discussed elsewhere herein, while important portions of Virginia's three large National Wildlife Refuges need the protection of the Wilderness Act, a considerable amount of preliminary work needs to be accomplished before Virginians can profitably seek the introduction of appropriate wilderness bills in the Congress. And while Cumberland Gap National Historical Park deserves Wilderness Act protection, because it lies in the three states of Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia and geographically is far remote from the rest of the Commonwealth of Virginia, probably the initiative for successful action will have to arise in Kentucky or Tennessee.

Certainly there needs to be a continuing wilderness movement in Virginia. But new wilderness leadership is needed in the state. Some of us have gotten more than a bit old. Others have become involved in other important public issues and cannot give the time and energy needed. Most of the present officers of V.W.C. will not be available to continue in office, to give primary leadership. While V.W.C. might simply go out of business and disappear, we doubt that any wilderness-minded Virginian wants that to happen. Another choice is for V.W.C. to be come latent, simply being inactive for the next couple of years. A third choice is for V.W.C. to merge into some other existing wilderness-oriented organization, with that organization henceforth carrying the ball. No doubt other alternatives will occur to other readers.

The individual officers of V.W.C. will appreciate hearing by letter

or telephone from members and from any wilderness-minded Virginians as to what each thinks the new course for the Virginia Wilderness Committee can and should be. Please write or telephone one of the officers listed on the back of this newsletter and give him or her your thoughts.

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	Chris Bolgiano	Rt. 1, Box 331	Fulks Run 22830	(703) 896-4407
Treasurer	Carol Smith	1612 Trailridge	Charlottesville 22903	(804) 971-8864

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 Carol Smith (address above). Postage, long distance telephone calls, printed materials about Virginia wilderness and the Wilderness Act for public distribution, producing and 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., Box 156, Swoope VA 24479

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



FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

02 84
James J. Murray
Department of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE



MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the VWC is open to anyone who believes in the need for preservation of wilderness. To join, send a copy of a recent letter supporting wilderness written to a public official, OR send \$2.00 or more per year to the VWC Treasurer, address below.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Ed Clark, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro, VA 22980
703-943-3445

VICE-PRESIDENT: David Cockrell, Rt. 1, Box 229B, Eggleston, VA
24086 703-921-4001

TREASURER: Faye Cooper, P.O. Box 181, Ivy, VA 22945
804-296-7573

SECRETARY: Chris Bolgiano, Rt. 1, Box 331, Fulks Run, VA
22830 703-896-4407

Newsletter Editor,
Virginia Wilderness Committee
P. O. Box 331
Fulks Run, VA 22830



FIRST CLASS MAIL

2/84
James J. Murray
Dept. of Biology
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22903





VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

A CITIZENS' GROUP DEDICATED
TO THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER JANUARY, 1986

THE MOST IMPORTANT MEETING ON WILDERNESS IN MANY YEARS

You are invited to participate in the First Annual Virginia Wilderness Resource Management Conference, to be held Friday, January 31 through Sunday, February 2, at the West Central 4-H Center on Smith Mountain Lake. Sponsored by the Virginia Wilderness Resource Council, a partnership between Forest Service personnel and the public, the conference is designed to stimulate public involvement in the development of management strategies for Virginia's National Forest Wilderness areas.

YOUR MISSION: COMMUNICATE YOUR IDEAS ON HOW VIRGINIA'S WILDERNESS AREAS SHOULD BE MANAGED

The conference is open to all interested persons. Friday afternoon and evening there will be sessions on wilderness recreational activities, with several featured speakers. Saturday morning and afternoon there will be presentations and discussions on wilderness management, with George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Supervisors George Smith and Thomas Hoots, and other speakers. Sunday morning there will be an organizational meeting of the Wilderness Resource Council. Friday and Saturday nights there will be old time music and dancing.

COST:	Friday, Jan. 31--Dinner & Lodging:	\$18.00
	Sat. Feb. 1--All Meals & Lodging:	25.00
	Sat.--Lunch only:	5.00
	Sun. Feb. 2--Breakfast & Lunch:	7.00
	WEEKEND PACKAGE:	50.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 1986

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: NRVPDC

SEND CHECK TO: WILDERNESS RESOURCE COUNCIL OF VIRGINIA
C/O ATC
P. O. BOX 738
BLACKSBURG, VA 24060

LOCATION: WEST CENTRAL 4-H CENTER ON SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, RT. 944
IN FRANKLIN CTY., APPROXIMATELY 23 MILES SOUTHEAST OF ROANOKE, VA.

For more information, write the Wilderness Resource Council or call
703-639-9313 or 703-982-6270.

WILDERNESS AREAS DESIGNATED BY THE 1984 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS ACT

NAME OF AREA	ACRES
Ramseys Draft, GWNF, Augusta Cty.	6,725
St. Marys, GWNF, Augusta Cty.	10,090
Beartown, JNF, Tazewell Cty.	6,375
Kimberling Creek, JNF, Bland Cty.	5,580
Lewis Fork, JNF, Mt. Rogers NRA	5,730
Little Dry Run, JNF, Mt. Rogers NRA	3,400
Little Wilson Creek, JNF, Mt. Rogers NRA	3,855
Mountain Lake, JNF, Giles & Craig Cties.	8,253
Peters Mtn., JNF, Giles Cty.	3,326
Thunder Ridge, JNF, Rockbridge, Bedford, & Botetourt Cties.	2,450
James River Face (Add.), JNF, Rockbridge & Bedford Cties.	200

ATTEND THE FIRST ANNUAL VIRGINIA WILDERNESS RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE, AND TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THESE WILDERNESS AREAS!

BATTLE FOR PRESERVATION OF CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Chincoteague NWR, on Assateague Island, is the most heavily visited refuge in the country. The town of Chincoteague wants to capitalize on that extensive tourism by rebuilding the washed-out beach access road, paving 1,000+ more parking spaces, and generally providing more and more accommodations of all kinds for an ever increasing number of visitors. These would be built at the degradation and loss of the very refuge lands that attract people in the first place.

Chincoteague NWR is a vital nesting and feeding area for many species of migratory birds. Several endangered and threatened species, including peregrine falcons, depend on the area. Wildlife values should and must have prime consideration here. Isn't that what a Wildlife Refuge is for?

The Committee to Preserve Assateague Island (616 Piccadilly Road, Towson, MD 21204) feels that the Refuge and the fragile barrier island may have already exceeded their visitor capacity. The Committee is attempting to fight local greed and reassert that the prime purpose of the Refuge is to protect its natural resources for posterity. Letters to that effect may be sent to the Refuge Manager, Box 62, Chincoteague, VA 23336; to The Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240; to the Regional Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, One Gateway Center, Newton Corner, MA 02153; or to your Senator or Representative in Congress.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS CONTINUE TO BE CONTROVERSIAL

The George Washington National Forest Management Plan, first issued last winter, evoked so much public criticism that the GWNF staff prepared a Supplemental Alternative. Designed to address the two major issues of public concern, the Supplemental Alternative does reduce somewhat the proposed extent of clearcutting and the amount of land considered suitable for logging. Opinions vary on how acceptable the new alternative is, and you are urged to review it and send your comments before January 30 to Mr. George Smith, Supervisor, George Washington National Forest, P. O. Box 233, Harrisonburg, VA. 22801.

The Jefferson National Forest Plan has been appealed by the Citizen's Task Force and the Citizen's Environmental Council (Roanoke Valley), reports Jim Loesel of Salem. The appellants have asked that the Plan be redone to correct fundamental defects in the planning process. The VWC has not become involved in the litigation, and reserves the right to file comments later on the issue.

Jim Loesel reports further that the Secretary of Agriculture's Office issued a far-reaching decision on appeals of National Forest Plans. In what has come to be known as the "MacCleery decision," the Forest Service was directed to redo the appealed Plans with much greater attention to economic planning. Many Forests, including the George Washington and Jefferson, are characterized by "below-cost sales," which were the focus of the MacCleery decision. The impact of the decision on the actual planning process remains to be seen.

COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE MT. PLEASANT

Dan Miles from Forest, VA. reports that he is chairing the new Committee to Preserve Mount Pleasant, formed by the Thunder Ridge Group of the Sierra Club (Lynchburg area) to take action toward securing Special Management status for the 9,000+ acres of the Mt. Pleasant section of GWNF. Establishment of Special Management status would protect the area from logging and road building, both of which activities are now planned. Generation of widespread interest in the area to spur a barrage of letter writing is the immediate goal of the Committee.

Opposition to potential Wilderness designation for Mt. Pleasant is coming from the Natural Bridge Chapter of the Appalachian Trail Club. ATC members feel that elimination of motorized equipment under the Wilderness Act would jeopardize trail maintenance, and would preclude the possibility of erecting a shelter in the area. Dan Miles, who has long familiarity with Mt. Pleasant, believes he can readily counter these arguments. For more information about the Mt. Pleasant issue, contact Dan at Route 1, Box 512, Forest, VA 24551 (804-525-5669).

If you have an opinion about Mt. Pleasant and want to convey it to the people who make the decisions, write the GWNF (address above), or Congressman Jim Olin, House Office Building, Washington, D.C.



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

A CITIZENS' GROUP DEDICATED
TO THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER, 1986

1986 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON NOVEMBER 15 IN STAUNTON--ALL
ARE INVITED

Please come to the annual meeting at the Staunton City Library on Saturday morning, November 15, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will last a couple of hours, then we can lunch at one of the several excellent Staunton restaurants. The Library is located at 19 S. Market Street, Staunton: take the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace exit from I81, turn west onto the WW Parkway, then left at the 1st light onto Rt. 11 S and take it into town--bear right at the 1st fork (blinking light), then left at the 2nd toward the church and onto Coalter Street; pass the WW Birthplace and Mary Baldwin College, then go straight through the light and the Fannie Bayly King Library will be on your right. Turn right into the alley; parking is available. The meeting room is on the lower level.

OUR OWN ERNIE DICKERMAN IS PROFILED IN THE NOV./DEC. ISSUE OF
SIERRA MAGAZINE--DON'T MISS IT!

In an article titled "Granddad of the Eastern Wilderness," Ernie Dickerman is the subject of a Grassroots Profile feature by Carolyn Mann in the Nov./Dec. issue of Sierra magazine. For more than 50 years, Ernie has tussled, wrestled, and outright battled to save wild land throughout the Southeast. Starting in 1934, when he took a job for the Tennessee Valley Authority, Ernie began organizing opposition to road-building and commercialization of national parks and forests. He is a 1935 charter member of The Wilderness Society, and in the 1960's and 70's worked for The Society as a grassroots organizer and Washington lobbyist. Anyone who has ever heard Ernie speak knows of his eloquence and passion for wild things.

Ernie has been a guiding light for the VWC (see the VWC history in this issue), and remains an inspiration to all who are concerned about wilderness. We are delighted to see Ernie receive some small part of the recognition due him for his tireless, life-long devotion to the preservation of wilderness.

NEWSLETTER ED.: CHRIS BOLGIANO
RT. 1, BOX 331 FULKS RUN, VA. 22830 703-896-4407

CONTROVERSY CONTINUES OVER THE GEORGE WASHINGTON AND JEFFERSON
NATIONAL FORESTS

by VWC Conservation Chairman Jim Loesel

A coalition of national conservation groups are appealing the George Washington National Forest Plan, the final version of which was released in early August. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, and The Wilderness Society were joined by the Virginia Wilderness Committee. Many other Virginia groups have expressed interest in joining, and because a portion of the GWNF extends into West Virginia, some interest has been shown from the Mountaineer State.

The Jefferson National Forest plan has been under appeal since January. The coalition bringing this appeal, which I have helped lead, has filed over 1500 pages in briefs and supporting documents with the Chief of the Forest Service. A hearing date for an oral presentation was about to be set when the Regional Forester in Atlanta met with the appellants to see if a negotiated settlement might be arranged. I am cautiously optimistic about the outcome. Should a settlement be worked out, it could influence other plan appeals in the southern region, particularly the GWNF plan, which is nearly 10 months behind in the appeal time table.

The two Virginia forest plans are in turn far ahead of the numerous Western forests, where many of the forests have not released even the first drafts of their plans. As these plans for the larger and more numerous forests are released, more national media attention will turn to the subject of National Forest planning. This fall the U.S. Senate took several recorded votes on the Forest Service road budget. Senators Warner and Tribble supported the conservation position.

Ed Clark, Ernie Dickerman, and I attended a strategy conference held by The Wilderness Society and other conservation groups on October 6-7. Leaders from national and state groups appealing forest plans throughout the East and South met to coordinate their efforts.

HISTORY OF THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

Jon and Sally Soest founded the Virginia Wilderness Committee in 1969. At our request, Sally Soest described the early years of the VWC, an account which is presented on the following pages. But it must be noted that Sally, with excessive modesty, does not reveal the time, energy, and thought she and Jon devoted for many years to the VWC until they moved to Washington state in 1976.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
by Sally Soest

The Virginia Wilderness Committee was born in May, 1969, in Richmond, when some wilderness-loving folks gathered together in response to a mailing by The Wilderness Society to its Virginia members.

TWS had seen a need for a powerful grassroots wilderness movement. An unwanted "Eastern Wilderness" bill was in the works. So was an alternative called "backcountry," an administrative designation cooked up by the Forest Service as "just like wilderness" (except, of course, that "backcountry" could be logged whenever they decided to change the designation). The Forest Service claimed that no eastern roadless areas were "pristine" enough to qualify as real wilderness. "Backcountry" was their answer, to avoid diluting the wilderness system with all that "second-class" eastern wilderness!

The battle lines were being drawn. Only widespread public support would win over Virginia Congressmen who had never heard of Wilderness. Only an informed grassroots movement would be able to counteract the spurious arguments of the wilderness opponents. Does a proposed wilderness have to be "pristine?" What does "untrammled" mean? Is this or that area big enough to qualify? Can you hunt and fish in Wilderness? Who decides if an area qualifies as Wilderness? Will my land be condemned?

Enter the VWC, naive but fearless!

At that first organizing meeting, two members of The Wilderness Society's D.C. staff were present: Art Wright and Rupert Cutler. Soon Ernie Dickerman, also of the D.C. staff, became active. Ernie and Art were to become our mentors and confessors over the next years. The first officers of the VWC learned absolutely everything from those wily wilderness gurus.

Why the name Virginia Wilderness Committee? Probably because of a desire to represent the group as an undeniably grassroots organization comprised of individual citizens, rather than, say, a coalition or council.

During the first year we worked on building membership, mostly through the newsletter. Membership grew fairly rapidly to a couple of hundred. Very early we established the dues policy of money or a letter on a issue. We considered active members our most important form of wealth! Another of our first acts was to join the Conservation Council of Virginia as one of the 13 co-founding member organizations. The VWC immediately became the wilderness arm of the CCV, and supported other public land management issues beyond wilderness: Back Bay, Assateague, Dismal Swamp, etc.

The first few years were a time of education: learning how to study public lands with an eye toward wilderness designation. Our officers got acquainted with U.S. Forest Service staff, went on hikes with them to get to know the Forests, and attended forest planning sessions. Initially we concentrated on areas which the Forest Service identified for us as roadless and needing protection: candidates for "backcountry" designation. We visited the areas, studied maps, and plotted how to generate the largest viable wilderness

boundaries. The first areas we looked at were Ramsey's Draft, Laurel Fork, St. Mary's River, James River Face, Massanutten Mountain, Mt. Rogers, and Mountain Lake. We also began wilderness boundary studies in Shenandoah National Park, boundaries that ended up being hotly contested during the hearings. And we began to learn how to lobby.

What we didn't do well in the beginning--and what has been done much more skillfully in recent years--was to build local support for wilderness. We learned the hard way that you can do everything else right, but if you don't have support from the local public (and hence the Congressmen), forget it! Our initial membership was concentrated in eastern Virginia and suburban D.C., so our lobbying power in the vicinity of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests was weak. Today, in contrast, the VWC has gathered impressive membership strength in the local districts, where it counts most.

Laurel Fork was our first tough lesson in local support. A few of us went to our first public hearing on wilderness in Highland County one night in 1972, and found ourselves in a foreign country, outnumbered hundreds to one. It was downright scary! Our efforts there never recovered, and the Laurel Fork wilderness proposal, which was like a first love for many of us, was dropped.

Some highlights of the first five years:

*** Drenching rain, without fail, at every annual meeting. One unforgettable year it rained so hard that our food floated out of our plates faster than we could eat it, and you could finish the same drink 3 or 4 times. Most of the meeting was held in the ladies' loo. After Ernie became President, it stopped raining at annual meetings. Now there's an effective lobbyist for you!

*** The William & Mary Biology Club, a dauntless crew of crazies led by Professor Gus Hall. One of their talents was to put out the newsletter for us. This grinding task, which previously had taken a whole weekend, the Biology Club accomplished in the span of a couple of 6-packs of cola and 30 minutes. Another of their talents was an eagerness to go anywhere and do anything in the woods, including surveying potential wilderness areas. Laurel Fork was surveyed in one day by dropping off groups of Club members at the top of each watershed and hoping they would eventually filter out at the bottom. They all came out alive!

*** Dedicated people made the difference, of course, as they always do. The Presidents of the VWC, in chronological order: John McKnight, Jim Murray, Carl Holcomb, Jon Soest, Sally Soest, Bob Schaefer, Ernie Dickerman, and currently Ed Clark. Others who did yeoman service include: Joe Davis, Bob Smiley, Eddie and Mavis Nance, Roland Creamer, Ed Waters, Karin Schaefer, Destry Jarvis, Bob Simms, Michael Frome, Liz Sills, and Lloyd Sumner.

*** Establishment of Virginia's first Wilderness Areas: James River Face (1975) and Shenandoah (1976).

So VWC lived and learned, won and lost, and grew ever stronger in its early years. There's nothing like the feeling of making a difference, and nothing like the good friends you make along the way.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the VWC is open to anyone who believes in the need for preservation of wilderness. To join, send a copy of a recent letter supporting wilderness written to a public official, OR send \$2.00 or more per year to the VWC Treasurer, address below.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Ed Clark, Rt. 1, Box 35, Waynesboro, Va.
22980 703-943-3445

VICE-PRESIDENT: David Cockrell, Rt. 1, Box 229B, Eggleston,
Va. 24086 703-953-2423

TREASURER: Faye Cooper, P. O. Box 181, Ivy, Va. 22945
804-296-7573

SECRETARY: Chris Bolgiano, Rt. 1, Box 331, Fulks Run, Va.
22830 703-896-4407

Newsletter Editor,
Virginia Wilderness Committee
Route 1, Box 331
Fulks Run, VA 22830



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

A CITIZENS' GROUP DEDICATED
TO THE PRESERVATION OF VIRGINIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

NEWSLETTER JUNE, 1987

PLEASE COME TO THE
1987 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON SAT., JUNE 27, 10:30 am-12:30 pm
IVY CREEK NATURAL AREA, NEAR CHARLOTTESVILLE

All members and others interested in wilderness are invited to the Virginia Wilderness Committee's 1987 annual meeting. The agenda includes discussion of such wilderness issues as the current status of the appeals of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest Plans, and the new Virginia wilderness bill soon to be introduced (see articles below), as well as the election of officers for the coming year. Shelter is available in a large barn, which serves as the nature study center, so rain won't stop us. There are also picnic facilities, so bring a bag lunch and something to drink. Then saunter along the self-guided nature walk and meet other folks who have the same passion for wild things as you do.

The 350 acre Ivy Creek Natural Area is owned by the city of Charlottesville and Albemarle County, and serves to educate the public in a most enjoyable way about the particular and special beauties of Virginia. There are 6 miles of hiking trails--be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. Ivy Creek boasts the only public composting toilet in the U.S.! It is also one of the most progressive nature study facilities with regard to accommodations for special populations, such as disabled people.

DIRECTIONS TO IVY CREEK NATURAL AREA: The Study Center is located on Hydraulic Road (Route 743) 1.2 miles north of Albemarle High School. From Route 29 at the northern edge of Charlottesville, turn west onto Hydraulic Road/Route 743 (there is a K Mart on the east side of the road at the turn). Go about 3/4 of a mile to the Albemarle High School (on left); then, about 1/2 mile past the school, bear left at the light by a small general store to stay on Route 743 and reach the Study Center.

NEW WILDERNESS BILL SOON TO BE INTRODUCED

Wilderness supporters are anxiously awaiting the introduction of the Virginia Wilderness Act of 1987 which will redesignate four areas in the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests from "Wilderness Study Areas" to full-fledged "Wilderness Areas." The anticipated action will be sponsored in the House of Representatives by Congressmen Rick Boucher (9th District) and Jim Olin (6th District), and in the Senate by Senators John Warner and Paul Trible. Action in Congress has been stimulated by the recent announcement from Westvaco Corporation that it is dropping its traditional opposition to wilderness designation of those areas which are close to its Covington, Va. paper mill.

NEWSLETTER ED.: CHRIS BOLGIANO
RT. 1, BOX 331, FULKS RUN, VA. 22830 703-896-4407

NEW WILDERNESS BILL, con't.

Although no strong opposition is anticipated, wilderness supporters should write to the members of the Virginia Congressional delegation and express strong support of the bill. Virginia Wilderness Committee President, Ed Clark, has already been meeting with Congressional staffers and Forest Service personnel to discuss boundary details and similar issues. The momentum built during the wilderness efforts in 1984 seems certain to sweep this bill into law before the end of the year.

The Virginia Wilderness Committee exists only through the support of citizens interested in preserving our natural heritage. If you would like to contribute to the VWC's continuing efforts to secure wilderness areas in Virginia, either by dedicating time for such work as telephoning and letter writing, or by a monetary donation, please contact:

Ed Clark, President, Virginia Wilderness Committee
Route 1, Box 35
Waynesboro, Virginia 22980

GEORGE WASHINGTON FOREST APPEAL SNUBBED BY FOREST SERVICE

In 1986 the National Forest Service issued its final Management Plan for the George Washington National Forest. The plan calls for dramatic increases in roadbuilding and timber harvest levels. The Virginia Wilderness Committee and a coalition of other state and national organizations appealed the plan, seeking to moderate these proposals. In December a lengthy Statement of Reasons, prepared by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, and other experts, was submitted to support the appeal. At the same time, the Forest Service received several appeals from timber interests calling for more roads and more logging to support their industry. (Note: several timber industry appellants submitted one page appeals.)

The Forest Service, in an apparent effort to make itself look good, lumped all of the appeals together and issued one response. The response was essentially to say that since conservationists wanted less roadbuilding and logging while the timber industry wanted more, the plan as written must be an appropriate middle ground. The bottom line is that they are not giving an inch.

The concensus among conservationists is that the GW plan is one of the worst to have been issued nationally. We have made repeated offers to negotiate our differences, but the Forest Service seems determined to resist any changes. It seems clear that the appeal will end up in the hands of the Chief in Washington, and may well be decided by the Courts. The Forest Service has obviously underestimated both our resolve and our capabilities.

SETTLEMENT REACHED ON JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST APPEAL

Through the persistent and tenacious efforts of Jim Loessel, VWC Conservation Chairman and a leader of the Citizens' Task Force on National Forest Planning, a settlement has been reached on the Jefferson National Forest by a coalition of conservation organizations. As originally written, the Jefferson plan called for huge increases in roadbuilding and logging. Through the efforts of the Task Force, new roads and timbering goals were slashed and an innovative process for on-going citizen involvement was established. This settlement may establish a precedent for negotiations on other forests across the country.

While the negotiations over the Jefferson were very successful, they were also very expensive! The Task Force has been left with large bills for telephone calls, copying, travel and other expenses. We are asking that our members show their appreciation for these successful efforts by sending contributions to :

Citizens' Task Force
c/o Jim Loessel
2753 Tanglewood Drive, S.W.
Roanoke, Virginia 24018

Remember, these expenses have been generated on behalf of all national forest users. Donations in any amount will help. Checks should be made to the Citizens' Task Force. Jim will be glad to talk with anyone interested in the details of the settlement; call him at 703-774-6690.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?
by Ernie Dickerman

We can either keep the entire Arctic National Wildlife Refuge a haven for wildlife and an area of extraordinary natural values, as the law establishing it in 1960 intended and as Congress reaffirmed in 1980 when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act was passed. Or, as the present administration in Washington is determined to do, we can open its 1,500,000 acre Arctic coastal plain--the most biologically productive portion of the Refuge--to full development for oil and gas and thus permanently lose most of the unmatched living resources of the coastal plain. The choice can be ours, if we are willing to make the necessary effort.

ARCTIC REFUGE, con't.

Only the question of what to do about the 1,500,000 acre coastal plain portion of this 18,525,000 acre wildlife refuge is currently before the Congress. Located adjacent to and due east of the rich oil and gas Prudhoe Bay region, oil interests are willing to believe that the coastal plain of the Refuge may be equally productive and want Congress to open it to leasing. When in 1980 Congress placed a tract of 8,000,000 acres of the Arctic Refuge in the Wilderness System (effectively closing those acres to commercial production of any sort), the 1,500,000 acre coastal plain was left out. The area was closed to leasing, but exploration for oil by surface means (i.e., no drilling) would be allowed.

Meanwhile, the Department of Interior (which has jurisdiction over all wildlife refuges) was ordered to investigate the coastal plain's oil and gas potential and its wildlife and other natural resources, and report to Congress by September 1986, particularly on the probable effect of oil production on wildlife and other natural values. The Interior Department's disappointing report, strongly biased in favor of oil production, has recently been released. Wherefore, the 100th Congress is now faced with deciding whether to keep this vital part of a great wildlife refuge closed to leasing or not.

H.R. 39 was introduced on January 6, 1987 by House Interior Committee Chairman Mo Udall to add this Arctic coastal plain to the Wilderness System, and is already co-sponsored by some thirty House members. If enacted, this bill would permanently close the Refuge's coastal plain to mineral leasing or other commercial development. However, Don Young of Alaska has also introduced H.R. 1082, which would open the coastal plain for development, and has gathered 130 sponsors.

Is the oil and gas production from this limited area worth more to the nation than the overwhelming and continuing wildlife and other natural values? The Interior Department's report makes enthusiastic predictions for large volumes of oil to be found. But careful analysis of the limited data therein indicates that at best there is only a 19% probability of finding any economically recoverable oil--meaning an 81% chance against finding any. By refining this 19% marginal probability to arrive at a "risked probability" (a common practice in estimating possible oil), the chance is only one in twenty of finding as much as 1.8 billion barrels--little more than 3 months of U.S. consumption!

On the other hand, the coastal plain is the vital calving grounds of the largest migratory herd of caribou on the planet (about 150,000 animals), migrating annually between Canada and the U.S. Here polar bears den and bear their young on land, instead of the usual ice floes at sea. Muskoxen, brown bears, wolves, arctic foxes, wolverines, plus peregrine falcons, huge flocks of snow geese, and over 100 other bird species live here year round or seasonally. Here a majestic sweep of wild land extends from the crest of the Brooks Range to the Arctic shore, offering inspiration and bold adventure to whomever will travel on his own feet. It is one of the last untouched bits of Earth, where nature's ecological processes prevail untrammelled by man.