

ARCTIC REFUGE, con't.

Even the Department of Interior's report, in the back part, acknowledges that oil production would do significant harm to the great caribou herd and other wildlife and to the wild character of the country. With 1,100 other miles of Alaska Arctic shoreline available for oil development, onshore and offshore, plus other extensive Alaska offshore and land areas recognized as having oil potential, it is not necessary to sacrifice this single 125 mile strip. We can and should wait.

It should be noted that Alaska Native opinion is divided on whether to open the area under discussion to oil development. Certain native corporations, hard pressed financially, want it opened. Many individual natives, recognizing the damage which could occur, are opposed. Under wilderness designation, customary subsistence practices would continue to be lawful. It should also be noted that under present law the Arctic Refuge coastal plain would remain closed to oil production, unless opened by new legislation. However, for Congress to ignore or delay a decision will only prolong the argument and the uncertainty.

So what to do? Even before the 100th Congress convened in January, the oil industry had begun systematically lobbying. Conservationists need to move in with their own action. So, like each of us has done many times before, please write promptly to your own Congressman and both Senators. Ask your Congressman to support H.R. 39, the Arctic Refuge coastal plain wilderness bill. Ask your two Senators to support introduction of a similar bill in the Senate. And thank you for whatever you are willing to do to keep the 1,500,000 acres of the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge a true haven for wildlife and a wonderful wild place.

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.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

NEW VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL FILED !

Great news! Only July 1 Reps. Jim Olin and Rick Boucher in the House of Representatives and Senators John Warner and Paul Trible in the U.S. Senate introduced similar bills to convert the four Wilderness Study Areas established by the 1984 Virginia Wilderness Act to full-fledged Wildernesses in the National Wilderness Preservation System. The House bill is co-sponsored by Virginia Congressmen Stan Parris, Norman Sisisky, Owen Pickett, French Slaughter, Herbert Bateman, Frank Wolf, and Thomas Billey, Jr. Only Rep. Dan Daniel (D VA-5) is out in the cold alone, as of now.

H.R. 2878 is the House bill number. S. 1460 is the Senate bill number.

The areas in the bill are Rough Mountain (in Bath County) at 9,300 acres, Rich Hole (in Rockbridge County) at 6,450 acres, Barbour's Creek (in Craig County) at 5,700 acres, and Shawvers Run (also in Craig County) at 3,570 acres, totaling just over 25,000 acres.

Also included in the House bill is another 2,500 acres lying in West Virginia, which was part of the original citizens proposal for the Mountain Lake Wilderness but which was omitted from the 1984 Virginia Wilderness Act as passed. Now the West Virginia Congressman Harley Staggers, Jr. is in favor of this 2,500 acre addition to Mountain Lake Wilderness. However, this addition is not yet supported by West Virginia's Senators, so is not in the Senate bill as introduced--but it could be added later.

In both the House and Senate bills is a 72 acre addition to the Lewis Fork Wilderness lying close to the summit of Mt. Rogers (highest point in Virginia, 5,729 ft.), which was accidentally omitted from the official boundary map in 1984. This is a technical correction and does not need to be worried about.

How did all this happen so much sooner than expected? In April Westvaco Corporation, which had blocked full wilderness designation for Rough Mountain, Rich Hole, Barbour's Creek and Shawvers Run in 1984 because of Clean Air Act concerns, sent a letter to Rep. Jim Olin stating it would no longer oppose wilderness designation for these areas nearest its big Covington VA pulp & paper mill. Whereupon Congressmen Olin and Boucher, with the full support of Senators Warner and Trible, immediately began preparation of an appropriate bill. For this prompt springing to action, we again express our deep appreciation and thanks to each and all of them.

In the new bill, the boundary of Rich Hole has been enlarged to take in most of that portion of the formerly privately-owned Bailey Estate since acquired by the U.S. Forest Service. The boundaries of Barbour's Creek and Shawvers Run, which were quickly drawn for the 1984 Act, have been re-studied and somewhat reduced. Also in the new bill, Sec. 6(d)

of the 1984 Act which required an air quality study in the vicinity of Westvaco's Covington VA plant is repealed, being no longer needed.

Effective Action

H.R. 2878 in the House and S. 1460 in the Senate have been filed, but it takes a lot of work by the key Congressmen and Senators to get any bill thru the extensive Congressional process. Unless they are encouraged by the folks back home and thereby feel that the effort is politically worthwhile--particularly after opposition shows up, as it always does in some degree, Reps. Rick Boucher and Jim Olin and Senators John Warner and Paul Trible could perfectly well--and with some justification, let the bill die in committee.

Your identical letters to your Congressman (address: U.S. House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515) and to Senators John Warner and Paul Trible (address: United States Senate, Washington DC 20510) can be short and sweet: just thank each for introducing or co-sponsoring the bill to put the four Wilderness Study Areas (Rough Mountain, Rich Hole, Barbours Creek and Shawvers Run) into the Wilderness System as regular Wildernesses and urge each to actively support the bill in committee. Of course if your Congressman is Dan Daniel, he needs to be asked to co-sponsor the House bill--give him a chance!

If you are willing to add another short sentence, tell the Member of Congress that you want the 2,500 acres in West Virginia added to the existing Mountain Lake Wilderness. This provision is in the House bill now; but not yet in the Senate bill.

With this legislation we stand to gain the protection of the Wilderness Act for 27,592 acres more of outstanding wildland on the two national forests in Virginia--assuring that they will never be clearcut nor roaded by the Forest Service. Please let your Congressman and two Senators know by letter, by telephone or in person you want this protection given to these wild areas.

THANK YOU!

ANNUAL MEETING OF V.W.C. HELD JUNE 27

On Saturday June 27 members of the Virginia Wilderness Committee met at the Ivy Creek Nature Center near Charlottesville. Action was agreed on concerning monitoring of the new Jefferson and the pending George Washington National Forest management plans, field study of a 65,000 acre tract on the Dry River and Deerfield Ranger Districts of the GWNF for potential wilderness areas, and review of the V.W.C.'s structure to increase its effectiveness. Officers for the year 1987-88 were elected.

Elected as the new President of the Virginia Wilderness Committee was Charles D. Pierce of Winchester, a long-time journalist and former official of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC.

Charles Pierce succeeds Ed Clark of Waynesboro, who stepped down from the presidency to become the organization's Vice President because of his increasing responsibilities as an official with the Virginia

Wildlife Center and as a member of the Virginia Governor's Council on the Environment.

Re-elected as Secretary of the Virginia Wilderness Committee was Christina Bolgiano of Fulks Run. Elected as Treasurer, succeeding Faye Cooper, was Jo Anne Pierce of Lynchburg.

Chris Bolgiano was also named to head a subcommittee to develop plans for monitoring the long-range plans for national forests in Virginia.

Jim Loesel, who is an official of the Citizens Task Force on national forest management based at Roanoke, has agreed to serve again as the Conservation Chair for V.W.C.

Pierce noted that the Virginia Wilderness Committee has benefited greatly "from the wise guidance of Ernie Dickerman, a leading figure behind wilderness proposals in the East." He added that the Committee owes much of its success in recent years to the "skillful and dedicated leadership of Ed Clark."

New President Charles Pierce encourages all members across the state to use their individual influence to build support for the new Virginia wilderness bill (described in the lead article above) which would increase by 27,592 acres the unspoiled natural lands in Virginia protected by the Wilderness Act from logging, roading and all other man-made development.



THE VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

Membership in the V.W.C. is open to anyone who believes in the need for preservation of wilderness. You will be welcome. To join, please send a copy of a recent letter supporting wilderness written to a public official OR send \$2.00 or more per year to the V.W.C. Treasurer as listed below. Thank you.


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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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

NEWSLETTER November, 1987

1987 VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL PASSED BY HOUSE by Ernie Dickerman

On Tuesday Oct. 6 the House of Representatives passed the 1987 Virginia Wilderness bill H.R. 2878 as introduced by Congressmen Jim Olin and Rick Boucher, by voice vote on the suspension-of-rules calendar. This quick action (the bill was filed July 1) is due principally to the dedication of Reps. Boucher and Olin, who skillfully guided the bill over the complex hurdles required for any legislation. The bill was co-sponsored by Virginia Congressmen Parris, Sisisky, Pickett, Slaughter, Bateman, Wolf, and Bliley (only Rep. Dan Daniels refrained). We extend our deep thanks to each of these nine Congressmen for this success. Likewise we warmly thank Rep. Harley Staggers, Jr. of West Virginia for supporting the addition lying in his Congressional District (WVA-2) to the Mountain Lake Wilderness.

This bill would add 27,592 acres to the national forest lands of Virginia protected by the Wilderness Act. H.R. 2878 designates as full wilderness the four Wilderness Study Areas of Rough Mtn. (Bath Cty.), Rich Hole (Rockbridge Cty.), Barbours Creek and Shawvers Run (Craig Cty.), and 2,500 additional acres of the Jefferson National Forest in West Virginia adjacent to the Mountain Lake Wilderness in Virginia. It also adds the 72 acres near the summit of Mt. Rogers (at 5729 ft. the highest point in Virginia) inadvertently omitted in 1984 because of a mapping error.

As noted in the July 1987 VWC newsletter, this progress became politically possible when Westvaco Corp., owner of a big pulp and paper mill at Covington Va., withdrew its opposition to wilderness designation of the five areas by letter dated April 24, 1987 to Rep. Jim Olin. Westvaco had determined there would be no interference with operation of an expanded Covington mill due to the Clean Air Act's provisions regarding wilderness.

H.R. 2878 now moves to the Senate for consideration, together with S. 1460 introduced by Virginia Senators John Warner and Paul Trible on July 1. The Senate bill has one difference from the House bill: it does not include the 2,500 acre addition lying in West Virginia to the Mountain Lake Wilderness because Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia has not yet agreed to its inclusion. Our friends in West Virginia and Senators Warner and Trible are seeking to gain Senator Byrd's consent. No committee hearing date has been set nor other action scheduled yet by the Senate.

Many thanks to those who have already written to Senators Warner and Trible about the 1987 Virginia Wilderness Bill. To those who have not yet written, your letter now to them will help encourage them to continue to push the Virginia bill and particularly to persuade Senator Byrd (Majority Leader of the Senate) to approve the Mountain Lake wilderness addition. This addition was part of the Mountain Lake proposal from the beginning, 15 years ago; unfortunately, it got trapped in Westvaco's opposition in 1984 which caused the West Virginia Congressman and both Senators to oppose it.

Again we express our special thanks to Reps. Jim Olin and Rick Boucher for their skilled action in quickly winning enactment by the House of their 1987 Virginia Wilderness Bill!

A VICTORY IN THE GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST
by Charles Pierce

Conservationists fighting to halt the U.S. Forest Service Plan for the George Washington National Forest, with its heavy emphasis on clear-cutting and road building, have scored a major advance. F. Dale Robertson, U.S.F.S Chief, directed on Oct. 9 that consideration of Plan appeals be suspended to provide time for further analysis of Plan options, a process to be completed by Aug. 1, 1989. Although the Chief ruled the Plan will be in effect during this time, he stressed that the concerns of all appellants should be respected. He also placed a ceiling on annual timber sales during the period of suspension of 38 million board feet (MMBF) a year.

Kaid Benefield, National Resources Defense Council lawyer, wrote Oct. 19 to the VWC as a co-appellant that "as many of you know, the conservation appellants have achieved substantial success in our appeal of the new GWNF plan and EIS. We can indeed celebrate our victory, but we must also realize that, with replanning, much of our work is just beginning. We will have to work hard during the next 2 years to achieve better management for the GW and, as part of that effort, should redouble our efforts to generate political and public support for our position."

Benefield also commented that "as far as I know, this is the first time the Chief's office has ordered a logging program to be scaled back while a faulty planning process is revisited as a result of a forest plan appeal. The magnitude of our success can be appreciated most dramatically when compared to the original proposed plan, which would have authorized annual sales of over 70 MMBF in the first decade."

VWC CANNOT SUPPORT PROPOSED SHENANDOAH WILDERNESS
by Chris Bolgiano

Some of you may have noticed newspaper accounts of the Earth First! demonstration in Harrisonburg in September for the wilderness designation that group has proposed for 65,000 acres surrounding the present Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area west of Staunton in the George Washington National Forest. To assess that proposal, a VWC subcommittee which included Ernie Dickerman, long-time wilderness advocate, drove around and through the proposed area on a drizzly Saturday in August, stopping at various points of special interest such as Reddish Knob and Puffenbarger Pond. A well-established 32-mile road system, now completely restored after the 1985 flood and easily traversed by passenger cars, cuts through the middle of this proposed wilderness. Despite the weather we counted many dozens of campers and vehicles. At the end of the day we agreed that the road system was so heavily used that it constitutes a major obstacle to wilderness designation, and that we would join with The Wilderness Society and the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club in declining to endorse the Shenandoah Wilderness proposal. However, we felt that two or three smaller, separate wilderness areas that excluded the established roads have distinct wilderness possibilities. Anyone interested in preliminary planning of such wilderness areas should contact any VWC officer--see the last page of the newsletter for a listing.

Editorial, con't.

We mulled over some of these recommendations when we recently traveled from our home on North Mountain outside Winchester through the chain of Southern Appalachian national forests to the Chattahoochee National Forest's Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the Appalachian trail. We marveled at the seemingly endless display of glorious fall colors in the linked George Washington, Jefferson, Cherokee, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Chattahoochee national forests. These forests, together with the Great Smoky and Shenandoah National Parks, form a magnificent superforest which is receiving increasing recognition.

On the way home we drove through bumper to bumper traffic to Clingman's Dome, highest point in the Great Smoky Mountains NP. After we reached the peak, we had to park illegally on the fringe of a sprawling but jammed parking lot to join thousands of other people in admiring the dazzling fall colors of the woods below. However, this was a beauty marred by the bare and peeling bark on the many dead and dying trees in the heights of this park. An intensive investigation is now underway to determine if acid rain is the cause. We returned home to read in the local newspapers about similar overcrowding in Shenandoah Park, where thousands of people had also gathered to witness the splendid colors of the changing season.

Although management to provide timber will remain a legitimate function in our eastern national forests, it has become increasingly clear that the Forest Service has an extraordinary challenge and opportunity to devise appropriate ways of handling the mounting tide of visitors headed for the woods. While many of the people are going to the forests for traditional recreational activities such as hunting and fishing, more and more are turning to the woods for their beauty and as a refuge from the sterility of urban life.

One of many opportunities in the GWNF that the Forest Service may want to explore is the possibility of bolstering the current efforts being made to provide educational or interpretive programs in the Lee District, which embraces the Massanutten Mountain and the Big Schloss scenic areas. One reason the F.S. has tended to overlook the enormous potential of this district as a setting to tell the dramatic and exciting story of modern forestry is that the Massanutten is timber poor. The chestnut and scarlet oaks growing on the Massanutten's bony ridges lack the grandeur of western redwoods and other giant conifers. Yet even the dry Massanutten's struggling trees have their own special beauty. Anyone who doesn't recognize it should examine some of the work of that gifted photographer, Eliot Porter, who could capture the magic in even the crookedest sapling.

The VWC hopes to offer constructive suggestions as change comes to the GWNF. The nature of the new policies will be determined ultimately by public opinion as Gifford Pinchot, father of American forestry, recognized in the following comment we found on a plaque in a Pisgah National Forest District Ranger office on our recent trip through the Southern Appalachians:

"There are many great interests on the national forests which sometimes conflict a little. They must all be made to fit into one another so that the machine runs smoothly as a whole. It is often necessary for one man to give way a little here, another a little there. But by giving way a little at present they both profit by it a great deal in the end. National forests exist today because the people want them. To make them accomplish the most good the people themselves must make clear how they want them to run."

VWC WILDERNESS FIELD TRIP TO RICH HOLE, NOV. 14

A one day trip to Rich Hole, one of the new wilderness sites in the bill now awaiting final passage in Congress, will be held Saturday, Nov. 14, rain or shine. Those interested should meet at 10 am (sharp) at the Ponderosa Truck Stop, just off Exit 10 (Longdale Furnace) on U.S. Rt. 64, 20 miles west of the 64 and U.S. 81 interchange. The 6,450 acres of the Rich Hole area include stands of virgin timber, small streams that cascade down steep slopes, and trails highly regarded by hikers. Any questions, phone Charles Pierce (703-667-3184), VWC President and trip leader. Bring your lunch.

NATIONAL FORESTS MONITORING HANDBOOK

The Citizens Task Force is compiling a "how-to" handbook for activists to use in monitoring the management of the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Anyone interested in helping to keep track of how management decisions are being implemented on the ground in the Jefferson should contact James Loesel, CTF secretary and chairman of the VWC Conservation Subcommittee, at 703-774-6690. For the George Washington, contact Chris Bolgiano, VWC chairman of the GWNF monitoring subcommittee, at 703-896-4407.

DAWN OF A NEW ERA

Editorial by Charles D. Pierce, VWC President

This issue of the VWC Newsletter has the pleasant task of reporting on major progress in preserving and protecting our national forests in Virginia.

As U.S.F.S. officials begin to rethink the future of the GWNF, they may want to review a widely respected study of the eastern forests titled, The Lands Nobody Wanted, published in 1977 by the prestigious Conservation Foundation in Washington, D.C. This study, which so far has received mostly lip service by foresters, recommended that two basic principles be given priority in future management of the eastern national forests:

- "Providing public benefits that cannot be supplied by private land"--the point being that if we are to manage these public forests like all other land, we might as well sell them off.

- "Restoring the forests as natural environments, distinct from the man-made environments otherwise dominant in the East. The forests and their products should be used only to the extent that this continuing process of restoration is not interrupted."

These recommendations have raised fears in some foresters that a campaign is underway to turn the national forests into parks, although the study foreword notes that "national forests are not parks and that their historic role as working forests" is their special excitement. Nevertheless, the book did point out that "in many instances national forests relieve the pressure on the more popular national parks, as the Thomas Jefferson and George Washington national forests in Virginia do for the Shenandoah National Park." Another point stressed was that since "the largest single recreational use of eastern national forests is driving for pleasure," forest managers should pay close attention to the view from the road.

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(If more than a year has passed since payment of your VWC dues, please consider sending our VWC Treasurer a check for \$2, or more, made out to VWC. Thank you.)



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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

NEWSLETTER May, 1988

WILDERNESS TRIUMPH!

PASSAGE BY CONGRESS OF VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL TO BE CELEBRATED
AT ANNUAL VWC MEETING AT IVY CREEK NATURE CENTER, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.,
AT 10 A.M. SATURDAY, JUNE 25.

The Virginia Wilderness Committee will hold its annual meeting Saturday, June 25, to savor passage by Congress of the new Virginia Wilderness bill. (See article below) The VWC will also develop strategy for the future and elect new officers. Plans for hiking in the new wilderness will be explored. Management of existing wilderness will be assessed. Possibilities for adding to the present wilderness system will be analyzed. Status of the long-range plan for the G.W. National Forest will be pondered. Monitoring activities in our national forests will be reviewed. Please come and help guide our new directions! Shelter is available in a large barn at Ivy Creek so rain won't cancel us. Bring bag lunch and drink and wear hiking boots. Meet at Ivy Creek Study Center on Hydraulic Rd. (Rt. 743), 1.2 miles north of Albermale High School.

(Directions: From Rt. 29 at the northern edge of Charlottesville, turn west onto Hydraulic Rd., Rt. 743 (there is a K-Mart on the east side of road at turn). Go about 3/4 mile to the Albermale 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 Rt. 743 and reach the Center.)

VIRGINIA WILDERNESS BILL ENACTED BY SENATE MAY 19

By Ernie Dickerman

Great surprise! Suddenly the Virginia Wilderness bill passed the Senate on May 19. And because the Senate enacted H. R. 2878, the bill passed by the House in October 1987, no further action by the House was needed. Wherefor this Act, officially approved by both House and Senate, moves directly to the President to sign into law.

After being in a deep coma since last October when passed by the House as H. R. 2878, without ever stirring so much as a comma meanwhile, the Virginia wilderness bill abruptly came to life the first week in May. Then it was that Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, the powerful Senate majority leader, after months of dead silence, let it be known that he was agreeable to wilderness designation of the 2,500 acres lying in West Virginia--adjacent to the existing Mountain Lake Wilderness and to be added thereto. The agreement of Senator Jay Rockefeller was readily given. Whereupon Senators John Warner and Paul Trible of Virginia, who in July, 1987, had jointly introduced the bill in the Senate, leapt into action and quickly arranged with Chairman Patrick Leahy of the Senate Agriculture Committee (which handles eastern national forest wilderness proposals in the Senate) for expedited consideration by the latter's committee. And that is what Senator Leahy did in overflowing measure.

Bypassing usual committee procedure and without a public hearing, Senator Leahy arranged for Senator Robert Byrd to move on the Senate floor that H. R. 2878 be discharged from the Agriculture Committee and that unanimous consent be given to passage thereof. Which is exactly what happened in the Senate Thursday evening, May 19, 1988. Meanwhile, Reps. Jim Olin and Rick Boucher, who originated this legislation in their Districts, were alert and ready to act if their influence were needed. A glorious victory! The original goals of the 1984 Virginia Wilderness Act have now been fully accomplished.

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

It is to Congressmen Rick Boucher and Jim Olin that we most happily give our praise and thanks; for it is they who labored so long, so skilfully and so steadfastly to achieve this full victory. Likewise to Senators John Warner and Paul Trible we express our deep appreciation and thanks for their unwavering dedication both in the 98 and 100th Congresses to winning Senate passage. This law converts the four Wilderness Study areas in Virginia listed below into full-fledged Wildernesses, plus adding the 2,500 acres in West Virginia to the existing Mountain Lake Wilderness, plus adding 72 acres to the Lewis Fork Wilderness (a technical correction). Total national forest wilderness in Virginia becomes 92,279 acres.

ACRES	NAME	COUNTY	NATL. FOR.
9,300	ROUGH MTN.	BATH, ALLEGHANY	GWNF
6,450	RICH HOLE	ROCKBRIDGE, ALLEGHANY	GWNF
5,700	BARBOURS CREEK	CRAIG	JNF
3,570	SHAWVERS RUN	CRAIG	JNF
2,500	ADD. MTN. LAKE	MONROE, W.VA.	JNF
72	ADD. LEWIS FORK	(MT. ROGERS NRA)	JNF

COMPARING MANAGEMENT STYLES IN VIRGINIA'S TWO NATIONAL FORESTS by James Loesel

The management direction of the George Washington (GWNF) and Jefferson (JNF) National Forests is a study in contrasts. Since the JNF staff revised their management plan to settle the administrative appeal by conservationists, they have followed a policy of public involvement. Evidence that the JNF staff has defined realistic goals and is attempting to change budget, personnel, and management priorities follows:

1. The first annual conference to discuss management of the JNF was held last January. VWC Pres. Charles Pierce set up a display (jointly with the Sierra Club) and participated in the day-long meeting attended by 200 people. Planning by a citizen/Forest Service (FS) steering group has already begun work on next year's conference.
2. The JNF Supervisor, Tom Hoots, was promoted for his efforts to change from a confrontational to a cooperative policy. In March he became Supervisor of the White River National Forest in Colorado. Our Regional Forester in Atlanta has promised a continuation of Hoots' policies, and has announced the appointment of Charles (Chip) Cartwright, Jr., a native of Winchester and a 1970 VPI graduate, beginning in July. Acting Supervisor Tom Poulin, Forest Engineer, had been helpful during the settlement of the appeal. When conservationists get along with the engineer in charge of road building, something is going right.
3. Signs of change are apparent throughout the JNF District offices. In part this is the result of participation by conservationists in planning timber sales and road building at the District level. The Monitoring Manual prepared by the Citizens Task Force has promoted effective public participation. Anyone interested in monitoring JNF activities should contact VWC Conservation Chairman Jim Loesel (2753 Tanglewood Dr. SW, Roanoke VA 24018; 703-774-6690).
4. In 1984 the FS opposed wilderness designation of Shawvers Run and Barboours Creek. Now the JNF supports it. When a fire broke out in Barboours Creek Wilderness Study Area last fall, Robert Boardwine, New Castle District Ranger, treated the area as if it already had wilderness designation. He (and the Supervisor) took considerable "heat" from the Appalachian Forest Management Group (a trade group for loggers) because bulldozers were not used. The fire was a cool burn which did no long term damage to the ecosystem.

In contrast, the GWNF staff is following a confrontational and stonewalling policy toward conservationists:

1. In response to the 1986 appeal of the management plan by conservationists, including the VWC, in October 1987 the Chief of the FS ordered the GWNF to redo the plan. A January FS meeting with 70 participants, both loggers and environmentalists, failed to quiet conservationists' concerns about the scope of the replanning efforts, level of timber harvests, the appeal process, and specific interim harvests. Scheduled for completion in mid-1990, the new plan is already behind schedule.

2. VWC President Charles Pierce (jointly with the N. Shenandoah Valley Audubon Soc.) chaired a March 29 open meeting on a FS permit for a new transmitting tower on Signal Knob (Lee District). Although some modifications in the plans were made as a result, the FS later did not carry out some provisions of the agreement.

3. Attempts to engage the GWNF staff in negotiations about individual timber sales have not been productive, and conservationists have filed appeals on many of these sales. Conservationists are planning a request for Stays on many timber harvests from the Chief of the FS. The Appalachian Forest Management Group has Intervened against conservationists in most of the appeals, although the FS has been deciding in favor of the conservationists in most cases.

It is surprising that such different relations can exist between the public and the FS even though the two forests are adjoining and the conservationists are the same parties. The major difference is the attitude and policies in each Forest, enlightened in one case and regressive in the other case. The VWC will continue to work toward improving policies and relations with FS personnel, but will be prepared to join other conservationists in bringing about change through appeals and court challenge if necessary.

MONITORING THE GWNF

by Chris Bolgiano

About 80 VWC members that live in or near the GWNF received letters last February asking for their participation in a monitoring, or Forest Watch, effort. Nine people responded. These intrepid volunteers, plus several other non-VWC people interested in the GWNF, now form a small network of citizens who have asked to be put on their District mailing list to receive scoping notices, which announce proposed actions like timber harvests, and environmental assessments, which detail the impacts of those proposed actions on soil, water, wildlife, scenic beauty, etc. By reviewing these mailings, which vary in volume according to District but probably average about one per month, and by asking the FS for clarification, monitors begin to educate themselves about the 3 major aspects of on-the-ground FS planning: visual quality objectives (VQO's), the recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS), and featured species.

Only through such education about the FS process can citizens effectively influence that process. The idea behind monitoring is to build a core of knowledgeable conservationist citizens who are able to shape FS activity literally at ground level. If you would like to share in GWNF monitoring, contact Chris Bolgiano (see back for address).

THE GYPSY MOTH MONSTER

by Ed Clark

Last fall the FS was notified that Congress had appropriated \$4.5 million for a "Demonstration Integrated Pest Management" program against the gypsy moth in the Appalachians. Apparently the W.Va. Department of Forestry had convinced Senator Byrd that the moth could be eradicated, an assessment with which few scientists would agree. Until then Virginia state and federal foresters had no plans for a widespread control program, believing that particular areas might be protected, but that the general forest was best left to reach equilibrium naturally. But with funds to spend, the FS proposed to spray large forest acreages in Virginia with Dimilin, a relatively mild pesticide but one that affects almost all insects. Due to the response of conservationists, and the moderating influence of the Va. Council on the Environment, spraying with Dimilin has been dramatically reduced.

The program is just now getting underway, and it will be interesting to see how readily the many other techniques of integrated pest management--use of wasps, sterilization, trapping, etc.--are utilized. The bottom line is that although the gypsy moth can be a terrible nuisance to people in wooded residential areas, it has been exaggerated as a threat to the forest. The forest will not die, the forest industry will not collapse, and since the moth is here to stay, we'd better learn to live with it.

MORE GLASNOST, PLEASE

Editorial by Charles Pierce, VWC President

One of the many goals we hope the GWNF leaders will consider in revamping the long-range plan for this woodland is the inclusion of measures to help clear away the bureaucratic underbrush obscuring how the Forest is run.

We need more openness, or what the Soviets call "glasnost," in Harrisonburg.

We recognize that GWNF officials, particularly District rangers like John Coleman in Lee District, usually respond in an effective and timely manner to inquiries and concerns voiced by special interest groups. As representatives of one of these special constituencies, we appreciate the answers provided by the FS. However, we recognize that this type of service, welcome as it is, is a passive reaction. We wonder if the FS shouldn't try to reach out and tell its story to a broader audience.

Frankly, we think the FS office in Harrisonburg may be suffering from the early stages of a "bunker mentality." In dealing with critics, these FS leaders tend to hunker down and hope the storm will soon pass.

To some degree, the FS is limited by budget and personnel restrictions in its ability to be more effective in telling its story. Yet there is a step the GWNF can take which we think would be helpful, useful, and relatively inexpensive: holding an annual conference where representatives of the public could review and comment on forest activities.

We attended this type of conference sponsored by the JNF in Blacksburg last January and found it to be an illuminating session. It provided an opportunity for the JNF Supervisor to present and discuss a "report to the stockholders"--the taxpayers and users of this Forest. Representatives of a wide range of users, including loggers, horse riders, hikers, and wilderness supporters exchanged views. In addition, officials of the FS regional office in Atlanta and university professors discussed various phases of forest operations. The net result was a healthy and open exchange of views.

Yes, but, some may ask, isn't this type of information provided by annual and other special reports now distributed by the GWNF? The vital difference is that the annual conference is a live show rather than a canned handout. Live shows are always a little risky, but they offer a dynamic opportunity to ferret out the truth. The reward to the FS is that the live performance provides a matchless opportunity to build credibility. One of the most effective and gutsy displays of this technique we've ever witnessed was provided by the Chief of the FS, F. Dale Robertson, at a seminar on Eastern Forests sponsored by the Sierra Club a little over a year ago at Georgetown University in D.C.

Robertson agreed to meet with this group on a Saturday night. Then he stood up and fielded all questions hurled at him non-stop for more than 3 hours by hard-nosed interrogators, not all of whom are widely known for their admiration for the FS. At the end, all Sierra Club members gave Robertson a standing ovation.

We may not always agree with him, but we certainly left that meeting with a lot more respect and understanding for the Chief and his problems. The FS, in general, and the GWNF, in particular, could learn a lot from Robertson in how to deal with critics.

Some people may ask why the public should be concerned about a national forest like the GWNF. Shouldn't we just leave the forests to the foresters? After all, they're the experts, aren't they?

In the first place, the GWNF, with more than one million acres of woodland, is a treasure we all need to understand and cherish. And just as war is too important to be left to generals, our forests are far too valuable to be left to foresters alone. While we respect foresters and value their judgment, we know that the people must have a greater say in how these mysterious public institutions--the national forests--are managed.

We now live in a participatory democracy. The old days when a subservient public left major decisions to doctors, engineers, or foresters, are gone. We have recognized that many professionals, even with the best of intentions, made decisions that didn't necessarily reflect our best interests. In the case of the FS, the experts have used the concept of "multiple-use" too long as a screen to conceal what they were really up to. Listen to Neil Sampson, executive VP of the American Forestry Association, in a recent editorial in the magazine American Forests:

"Most foresters tout the multiple-use management philosophy, but one gets the feeling that it means doing timber management while allowing other uses if they don't interfere too much. That's not good enough. The public feels it is entitled to access on public lands, and once there, they expect to both feel welcome and find the land managed so as to enhance their experiences."

FS Chief Robertson has recognized that "the National Forests represent one of the best, least costly, big-gain opportunities to satisfy the growing demand for outdoor recreation in this country." How long will it take for this recognition to filter down through the FS bureaucracy and how will it be interpreted?

A hopeful sign is that the GWNF headquarters staff, we're told, has decided to make wilderness the major theme in the next issue of its annual newspaper tabloid due this fall. We are encouraged by the selection of this subject and await with keen interest its publication. Meanwhile, we hope that the reservations Harrisonburg has about sponsoring an annual public conference and including a requirement for such a meeting in the long-range plan will gradually melt. A little clearcutting of bureaucratic barriers to more public scrutiny could open the way for a remarkable disinfectant and dispeller of ominous rumors--sunlight.

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.

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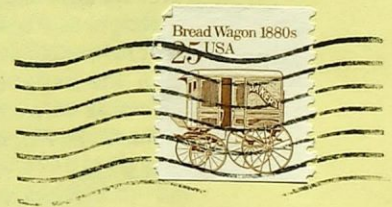
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VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

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

*ON P. 6: GWNF
LOGGING LOSES
BIG \$\$\$\$\$\$\$

NEWSLETTER December, 1988

WHICH WAY? SOME CHOICES FOR THE VWC by Ernie Dickerman

Since its beginning in 1969 the Virginia Wilderness Committee (VWC) has concerned itself mainly with promoting wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act for suitable areas on the federally owned lands in Virginia. That was the purpose for which VWC was created. It still is and should remain our prime concern.

However, with the passage of time, conditions change and new needs appear. The question arises whether the scope of VWC's activities, while continuing to be founded on natural area preservation and protection, might properly be extended beyond seeking the application of the Wilderness Act.

Perhaps the active promotion of federal and state wild and scenic rivers designation might be appropriate. Or, for Virginia state, county, and municipal parks, promotion of the concept of wilderness management in new parks and portions of existing parks. And the thought is gaining increasing public attention that substantial eastern areas, perhaps as much as a few hundred thousand acres each, could be managed by an appropriate agency to maintain unimpaired their ecological values while permitting compatible residential and commercial activities—roughly comparable in objective to New York State's two million acre Adirondack Park. It should be noted that the VWC has within the last three years become directly involved in the management planning of Virginia's national forests, as necessary to assure continuance of potential wilderness areas.

While currently no wilderness candidates are being advocated in Virginia, I suspect that this situation is not so much because of any lack of potential candidate areas but rather because not enough scouting is being done by interested individuals to identify, inventory, and design preliminary boundaries for possible new wildernesses. An area becomes a serious wilderness candidate in consequence of a few local individuals carefully studying the area: by becoming familiar with it through a series of thorough scouting trips, analyzing its strong and weak points as potential wilderness, and determining a practical boundary environmentally and politically. Perhaps because we came to rely too much on the intensive scouting done in the 1970's and on the Forest Service's RARE II inventory of roadless areas completed in 1979, we forgot about the fundamental importance of frequent field trips by concerned persons to develop wilderness proposals.

Many of the "Special Management Areas" described in the new management plans for the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are potential wilderness candidates. While a certain amount of information is already available on each as to its natural qualities, much additional field study by enthusiastic roamers of wild land is needed to produce solid wilderness proposals which can be sold to the public and the Congress.

Besides Virginia's national forests, other federal lands in Virginia should be examined for potential wilderness: Cumberland Gap National Historic Park in sw Virginia, and Chincoteague and Back Bay National Wildlife Refuges in Tidewater (political problems have dominated public concern in recent years on both these Refuges). The Great Dismal Swamp NWR unfortunately is probably

precluded from wilderness designation because of the numerous lengthy, old drainage ditches and conspicuous dirt roads often paralleling them.

These thoughts on the future activity of the VWC are offered mainly as ideas to be reflected upon by the reader in terms of the part he or she would like to take as an active member of VWC. If an expanded program is believed to be desirable, its elements are dependent on the readiness of members, new and old, to provide the needed leadership and active participation. Here is an opportunity to gain the personal satisfaction of working to keep and to enhance the extraordinarily fine natural environment which for the most part Virginia still offers each of us today!

EARTH FIRST! ARRIVES IN THE EAST

The radical group, Earth First!, held what its leader described as "an historic conference" marking its arrival in the east at a meeting Sept. 17-18 in Harrisonburg, Va.

Dave Foreman said the meeting was "a proud and revolutionary moment in the history of Earth First!," an organization which has often been engaged in militant opposition to Forest Service clearcutting in the west. Speaking in support of designating major wilderness areas in the east, Foreman predicted that "people in the east will begin to question 'why should I have to go to Arizona to see the track of the mountain lion or to see a bison?'"

Commenting that Earth First!'s role is "to serve as a creative unit" in the environmental movement, Foreman cautioned members "not to get bogged down in details. We pay Congressmen and bureaucrats for that type of work." He also predicted at the meeting of approximately 50 people on the campus of James Madison University that Earth First!'s ideas will "infect" other environmental groups.

R. F. Mueller of Staunton, an Earth First! representative in Virginia, called for the designation of major wildernesses in the Virginias, including a 55,000 acre Shenandoah Wilderness. The proposed Shenandoah Wilderness would embrace the present Ramsey's Draft Wilderness west of Staunton in the George Washington National Forest.

UPDATE ON ATV ROUTES

According to the Forest Plan and the Regional Forester's Record of Decision, all George Washington National Forest districts are required to identify an average of 40 miles of ATV trails per district as demand dictates. ATV's are not allowed on any but designated trails in the GW. The northernmost GWNF district, the Lee, was the first to designate ATV routes, and the experience has not been sweet. One of the three routes, the 7-mile Peters Mill Run trail, has been so badly degraded that ATV trail clubs were notified that the route would be closed unless conditions improved. According to John Coleman, Lee district ranger, the clubs responded well, cleaning up trash and passing out literature along the trail in an effort to reach unaffiliated riders. Coleman plans to carry out some maintenance activities he had promised earlier, and then wait and see "through some wet times" how the situation develops.

James River's Environmental Assessment for 21 ATV miles on Jerry's Run near Covington has been approved. The EA for Dry River's highly contested route is still pending. Pedlar, Warm Springs, and Deerfield ATV designations are in earlier stages of planning. All are controversial because of the degradation that experience has shown ATV's cause. Because of strongly adverse impacts on wildlife habitat of illegal ATV use in West Virginia, Monongahela National Forest recently inaugurated aerial detection flights to intensify enforcement efforts.

NEW MONITORING COORDINATOR NAMED

Vernon Garber, of 1508 Armstrong Avenue, Staunton, VA 24401 (703-886-9218), has agreed to coordinate the national forest monitoring efforts of the VWC. Anyone wishing to influence such matters as ATV route designation, construction of forest roads, and planning of timber sales should contact him. Forest monitoring efforts are an effective means for ordinary folks to have a say in what actually happens to specific areas of the national forest.

VOICES OF THE JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST by James Loesel

One of the conditions for dropping conservationists' appeals of the JNF Plan was an annual meeting between the public and the Forest Service (FS). An annual conference would provide a forum for the FS to explain what they were doing and planning, and give the public a chance to ask questions and make both supporting and opposing comments. Through more frequent face-to-face meetings it might be possible to make frequent, small corrections rather than building up to another big explosion.

The first meeting in January, 1988, was in large measure a celebration of the appeal settlement. The Institute of Environmental Negotiation called it a "love-in." VWC President Charles Pierce was impressed enough to strongly urge the George Washington National Forest (GWNF) to hold a similar meeting. (See story below).

The JNF held the second annual meeting on Saturday, November 5, at VPI. More than 160 people attended the all-day conference. Everyone I talked to was pleased with it. Highlights were:

1. The new JNF Supervisor, Charles "Chip" Cartwright, Jr., showed humor, intelligence, and willingness to listen. Since he took over the JNF in mid-summer, he has shown full commitment to implementing the Plan as amended in negotiations with the conservation groups.
2. Fifteen forest user groups, in addition to the six Ranger Districts, set up displays and had representatives to talk to anyone interested. This went on for more than two hours.
3. Plenty of breaks between sessions gave us a chance to talk to the many interesting people wandering about. I had an opportunity to talk to several Region 8 (Atlanta) representatives about the success of the JNF Plan vs. the continuing crisis on the GWNF.

4. The small group sessions focused on visual resource protection, gypsy moth attacks, wildlife management modeling, and group selection timbering. These are some of the areas in which the JNF is moving ahead with a measure of creativity.

5. A one-and-a-half hour Open Forum gave the public a chance to ask questions of eight panelists. Peter Kirby, regional representative of The Wilderness Society, gave a clear exposition of the Society's view of forest management. I was also on the panel. The discussion was lively, but remained more focused than did the open forum at the GWNF meeting.

I talked with JNF staff after the meeting to get their assessment. They felt the agenda for the forest had been moved forward. The field staff particularly got a clearer picture about the need to make the Plan work if they wanted to avoid another storm of controversy. I believe this represents progress.

Planning has begun for next year's conference. Anyone interested in participating should contact Terry Seyden at the JNF's Supervisor's office (703-982-6203).

VOICES OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST by Charles Pierce

Approximately 100 persons attended the GWNF's first general public meeting Saturday, Oct. 22, and offered a wide variety of sometimes clashing views about how the 1.1 million acre forest should be managed.

Among the many user groups represented at the session at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyer's Cave were loggers, hikers, fishermen, hunters, and spokesmen for various conservation groups. The meeting opened with remarks by Wayne Kelley, GWNF Supervisor, and Marvin Meier, Forest Service Deputy Regional Administrator from Atlanta, about improvements being made in the GW and the southern national forests generally. Kelley described FS actions in coping with the increasing number of visitors, efforts to improve law enforcement and fire suppression, steps taken to improve the corridor for the Appalachian Trail, and new projects to carry out the FS's national recreation initiative.

Steve Parsons, GW planning officer, reviewed procedures the GW uses to communicate with the public. Conceding that "we do sometimes make mistakes and we do have room for improvement," Parsons urged his audience "to come talk to us. Let's exchange information and views."

The FS report was promptly attacked by Jim Loesel, secretary of the Citizens Task Force of Roanoke. Loesel warned those attending that while "we've now heard from the spin doctors of the GW, what you've heard ain't necessarily so." Loesel added that "we're not very optimistic about efforts being made by the GW to develop a suitable long-range plan for this forest." He said that he had submitted a draft alternative plan "to help the GW's lagging replanning efforts."

One of the FS's defenders was Jack Campbell, a representative of the Appalachian Forest Management Group. He asked if "the FS is doing such a bad job, why do we have such a nice looking forest? It didn't get that way without management." Campbell added that "only one percent of the GW is harvested each year."

R. F. Mueller from Staunton, a representative of the radical group, Earth First!, declared that removal of trees by excessive logging "is sapping the soil of nutrients and energy." Arguing that trees are being cut when too young in the GW, Mueller said that the rotation period between cuts "should be not less than 150 years. The older a forest gets, the healthier it is. Dying trees are part of the complex web of life. Dead trees are not waste. Their nutrients are put to use to keep the forest growing." Mueller also charged that cutting on the national forest "undercut the private landowners who grow timber. The best thing to do with loggers now cutting on the GW is to give them welfare checks."

Steve Bennett, president of the Appalachian Forest Management Group, protested to presiding FS officials that "this is no way to organize a meeting. This has just resulted in shouting matches and polarizing people."

As president of the VWC, I warned that some of the wildernesses in Virginia are beginning to suffer from overcrowding. Noting that wildernesses in the State are "relatively small and fragile," I called on the FS to develop educational programs, alternative recreational areas, and appropriate administrative mechanisms to protect wilderness from exploitation.

Mueller responded that "the real answer is we need bigger and more wildernesses."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Deputy Regional Administrator Meier commented that the variety of views expressed "show how much demand and competition we have for the forests. I urge you to work together."

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Editorial by Charles Pierce, VWC President

The thoughtful article by Ernie Dickerman in this issue on choices for the VWC provides an illuminating view of what courses the VWC could take in the years ahead. The article is particularly welcome because it is based on the incomparable experience Ernie can draw on during his many years in leading campaigns for eastern wilderness.

One of the stimulating observations offered in Ernie's article is that increasing public attention is being paid to the possibility that areas of as much as a few hundred thousand acres each be managed by an appropriate agency "to maintain unimpaired their ecological values while permitting compatible residential and commercial activities. . ." This concept would be roughly comparable, he writes, "in objective to New York State's two million acre Adirondack Park."

As part of this emerging ability to see the larger picture, more people are also becoming aware that the GWNF is one of seven national forests and two national parks which are part of an extraordinary contiguous treasureland in the Southern Appalachians. The forests, in addition to the GW, are the Monongahela, Jefferson, Cherokee, Nantahala, Pisgah, and Chattahoochee. The parks, of course, are the Shenandoah and the Great Smoky Mountains National Parks, linked by the Blue Ridge Parkway. This stunning array of millions of acres of mountain parks and forests is the largest federal land holding east of the Mississippi River. It is time to think now about steps we could take to preserve the ecological integrity of this magnificent area.

In the next decade and the new century looming ahead these linked national parks and forests could provide weary city residents with unique opportunities to refresh their spirits. These escapees from the bulging urban corridors of the eastern seaboard should be given the opportunity of finding the matchless tranquility and pleasure of wild woodlands.

Turning now from the big picture to the present and the immediate future, we thought the recent action by the GW foresters in holding a general public meeting was a promising step. The session gave the FS an opportunity to hear a wide range of uninhibited opinions (see description of the meeting elsewhere in this issue). As The Wilderness Society has pointed out, allowing the public to express views about appropriate use of the forest "has dramatically expanded the constituency interested in national forest issues" and has improved understanding of the importance of biological diversity, and the need for undisturbed land and responsible stewardship. However, the general public meeting held by the GWNF offered no new insights on the following critical question which will help shape the future of the forest:

Should 60% of the wood continue to be cut for the relatively low value pulp and paper market? Is this an appropriate and wise use of the GWNF?

Perhaps it is. But one has to wonder then why the major pulp and paper companies were so diffident about stepping from the shadows into the light of this public meeting to tell us why.

Anyone who cares about wilderness has to be concerned about the fate of the surrounding forest. Earth First! arrived in Virginia because in the past many forest users have felt frustrated and locked out when the key decisions were made on the GW. This is one reason why the long-range plan the GWNF is now revising is going to receive such intense scrutiny. As FS officials commented at the end of the recent public meeting, the session showed just how much "demand and competition there is for our forests." Indeed, more and more people are beginning to realize the GWNF is a splendid prize worth fighting for.

PUBLIC LOSES BIG \$\$\$\$\$\$ WHEN GWNF SELLS TIMBER

Conservation organizations have issued a new challenge to the FS's defense of below-cost timber sales on the GWNF. An analysis prepared by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), The Wilderness Society, and the Virginia Wilderness Committee rebutted the agency's claimed economic benefits for the million-plus acre Forest.

"Attempting to justify clearcutting scars on the landscape, the FS creates imaginary jobs and income," said Justin Ward, an NRDC forest policy specialist. "Local communities would be better off if GWNF management were geared more toward recreation than subsidized logging."

The GWNF's timber sales program consistently incurs large financial losses. Because of thin soils, rugged sites and other limiting factors, most GWNF trees are simply not worth much commercially. The GWNF Supervisor has conceded that the financial shortfall in logging operations in 1987 was approximately \$1.2 million. However, "even this estimate is unrealistically low," said Richard Rice, an economist for The Wilderness Society. "The accounting methods used seriously understate the FS's outlays in building roads to get out the cut."

The conservation groups also questioned benefits from logging claimed by the FS for recreation, wildlife, and overall forest health. "The apparent presumption is that Forest managers can always do better than natural processes," said Charles Pierce, VWC president. "In reality, intensive logging is generally harmful, not helpful, to the Forest's scenery, diverse habitat, clean water and other valuable assets." He added that clearcutting--a practice that levels all trees on a site--leaves unsightly and long-lasting scars on mountain landscapes, diminishing scenic values and reducing backcountry recreation opportunities.

Clearcutting can also be harmful to some wildlife species, such as songbirds that rely on extensive mature forest habitat. In addition, clearcutting and roadbuilding often threaten black bear habitat and cause serious soil erosion, polluting the GWNF's outstanding mountain streams and harming trout and other fish.

The conservation groups expressed concern that the GWNF's most recent pronouncement on logging benefits could prejudice the revision of the Forest's long-range management plan. That revision, scheduled for completion in 1989, is largely to correct analytic flaws exposed in administrative appeals brought in 1986-87 by NRDC, The Wilderness Society, VWC, and others.

Copies of the new report sponsored by the conservation groups on timber economics in the GWNF can be obtained by writing to Charles Pierce (see address below).

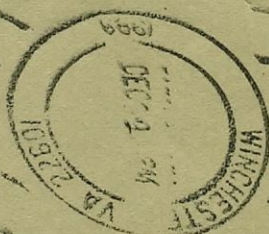
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