

“It is the quiet and the beauty of wild places which refresh the human mind and spirit, which restore a decent perspective to our lives.”
– Ernie Dickerman

The Wilderness Act of 1964

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established the National Wilderness Preservation System. The Act directs Congress to designate Wilderness Areas to assure that some of our wild places remain natural and undeveloped.



Little Wilson Creek Wilderness, Grayson County

Wilderness Recreation

In our National Forests, federal law allows the following activities in Wilderness:

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Bird Watching
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Hiking

Wilderness Preservation

Once so designated, Wilderness is protected from:

- Logging
- Roads
- Wind turbines
- Development
- Fracking
- Communication towers



Beartown Wilderness, Tazewell County

Our Successes

Virginia Wilderness Committee (VWC) has been the driving force behind every Virginia Wilderness bill. Today, the largest unprotected roadless lands in the East remain in Virginia’s George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. Our work continues to be crucial.

Historical milestones for Wilderness in Virginia:

1964 – Passage of the Wilderness Act

1969 – Formation of the VWC

1975 – Passage of Eastern Wilderness Act: added 200,000 acres to the NWPS, including Virginia’s first Wilderness area, James River Face, and four Wilderness Study Areas: Mill Creek, Peters Mtn, Mtn Lake, and Ramseys Draft

1976 – Passage of an act adding 80,000 acres of Wilderness in Shenandoah National Park

1984 – Passage of the Virginia Wilderness Act: Added to the NWPS Ramseys Draft, St. Marys, Thunder Ridge, Mtn Lake, Peters Mtn, Kimberling Creek, Beartown, Little Dry Run, Lewis Fork, Little Wilson Creek, James River Face addition, and four Wilderness Study Areas, Rough Mtn, Rich Hole, Barbours Creek, and Shawvers Run

1988 - Passage of the Virginia Wilderness Act: Four new areas, Barbours Creek, Shawvers Run, Rich Hole, and Rough Mtn, and additions to Mtn Lake and Lewis Fork

1994 - Passage of Mt. Pleasant Nat. Scenic Area Act

2000 - Passage of the Virginia Wilderness Act: Added Three Ridges and The Priest

2009 - Passage of the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act: Added Brush Mtn, Brush Mtn East, Garden Mtn, Hunting Camp Creek, Raccoon Branch, & Stone Mtn; established Nat. Scenic Area designation for Bear Creek & Seng Mtn, and Wilderness Study Area for Lynn Camp Creek.



Pioneering Wilderness Protection in Virginia Since 1969



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Beech Lick Knob, Rockingham County

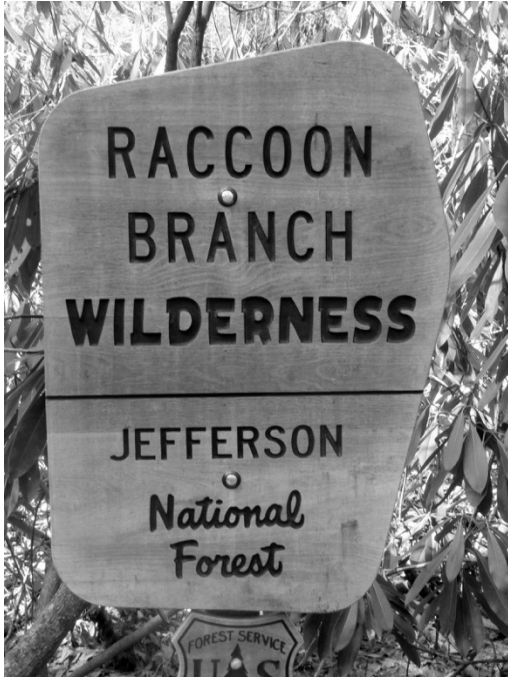
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About Us

The Virginia Wilderness Committee (VWC) identifies and works to safeguard Virginia's most outstanding remaining wild places. Securing Congressional protection for suitable wild lands is at the heart of our mission.

Wilderness designation by Congress provides the highest form of protection available for our public lands and is the best way to leave a lasting wild legacy in Virginia.



Raccoon Branch Wilderness, Smyth County

Land Suitable for Wilderness Designation

In order to be classified as Wilderness, the land must be wild, roadless, and free of the works of humans. It must also be located within our national forest, national park, or national wildlife refuge.

Leave a Wild Legacy

We work to conserve wild lands and protect wildlife so that our family, friends, and future generations can enjoy the great outdoors and appreciate our natural heritage.

Help Protect Virginia's Wilderness

The VWC invites wilderness lovers to support federal legislation to permanently protect outstanding wild areas on our public lands.

Public Benefits of Wilderness

Clean water: Wilderness areas provide clean water for drinking and aquatic life.

Recreation: Hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, canoeing, and horseback riding are all enjoyed in Wilderness areas.

Wildlife Protection: Wilderness protects nesting sites for peregrine falcons, dens for black bears, deep litter for rare Appalachian salamanders, nest holes for woodpeckers and flying squirrels, and much more.

Economics: Wilderness benefits local businesses by increasing tourism and outdoor recreation.

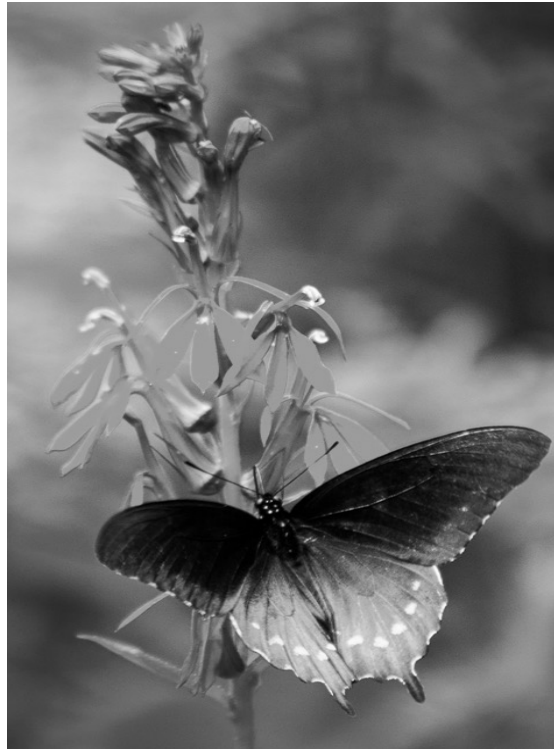


photo by Bradley Striebig

Our mission is to:

- Permanently protect the best of Virginia's wild places for future generations,
- Foster understanding and appreciation of Wilderness, and
- Promote enjoyment and stewardship of our last remaining wildlands.



Visit Our Website and Find Us On Facebook

You can visit www.vawilderness.org to:

- Become informed about our current Wilderness proposals
- Learn how you can help
- Get out and explore these areas!

Join VWC

Help preserve Virginia's special places!

Please send your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address along with a tax-deductible contribution, or a recent letter to your U.S. Representative or Senator supporting federal Wilderness designation in Virginia to:

Virginia Wilderness Committee
P.O. Box 1235, Lexington, VA 24450

Or make a secure online tax-deductible donation at www.vawilderness.org. Thank you!