



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

A 501(c)(3) Non-profit

Pioneering Wilderness Protection since 1969

VWC's mission is to permanently protect outstanding wild areas on federal lands for future generations, and to promote understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of Wilderness Areas.

VWC has led efforts to designate every Wilderness Area in Virginia since 1969. Today, VWC has ongoing programs to protect wild areas that meet the Wilderness Act criteria: *"affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable."*

For our current programs, board members, and participation in the innovative Stakeholder Collaborative, please see WWW.VAWILDERNESS.ORG



(Top-Left) VWC Director *Mark Miller* accepts the Forest Service Partnership Award on behalf of the Stakeholder Collaborative. This diverse group works with the Forest Service toward common goals of forest stewardship, including Wilderness.

(Top-Right) VWC's all-volunteer board at a workshop on Old Growth forests.

(Bottom) View South, Stone Mountain Wilderness, Lee County



LEAVE NO TRACE

Wilderness Behavior from the *Center for Outdoor Ethics*

- 1 **PLAN & PREPARE:** Get maps, check weather, pack appropriately. Don't rely on GPS or cell service.
- 2 **TRAVEL & CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES:** Camp 200 feet from water. Replace anything you disturb.
- 3 **DISPOSE OF WASTE:** Pack out everything. Bring digging tool for toilet hole.
- 4 **LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND:** Don't pick plants or damage trees or rocks.
- 5 **MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE:** Use a stove instead. If you must burn, use an existing rock ring, never leave fire unattended, and douse thoroughly.
- 6 **RESPECT WILDLIFE:** Do not approach or feed. Bring rope to suspend food 10 feet high from a tree limb at night against bears. *Unleashed dogs can bring a bear back to you.*
- 7 **BE CONSIDERATE:** Give right of way to horseback riders. Leave all gates as found. Maintain quiet; use headphones for music.

Learn more at www.lnt.org

WILDERNESS

A UNIQUELY AMERICAN HERITAGE

Find it in Virginia!



VIRGINIA WILDERNESS COMMITTEE
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Milky Way Galaxy from Shenandoah Mountain in the George Washington National Forest. From the book-awaiting-publisher, *Daughters of the Stars*, by Daniel Stein and Shanil Virani, John C. Wells Planetarium, James Madison University.



Front Cover: © Briana Nolt, Ramsey's Draft Wilderness, Augusta County

THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

A landmark law that allows
permanent protection of wild areas on federal lands.

Wilderness Areas are created by a bill passed by Congress. Individuals and groups work with the U.S. Forest Service and federal legislators to write Wilderness bills.

WILDERNESS AREAS ARE FOUND IN:

*National Parks *National Forests *National Wildlife Refuges
*Bureau of Land Management Lands (mostly out west)

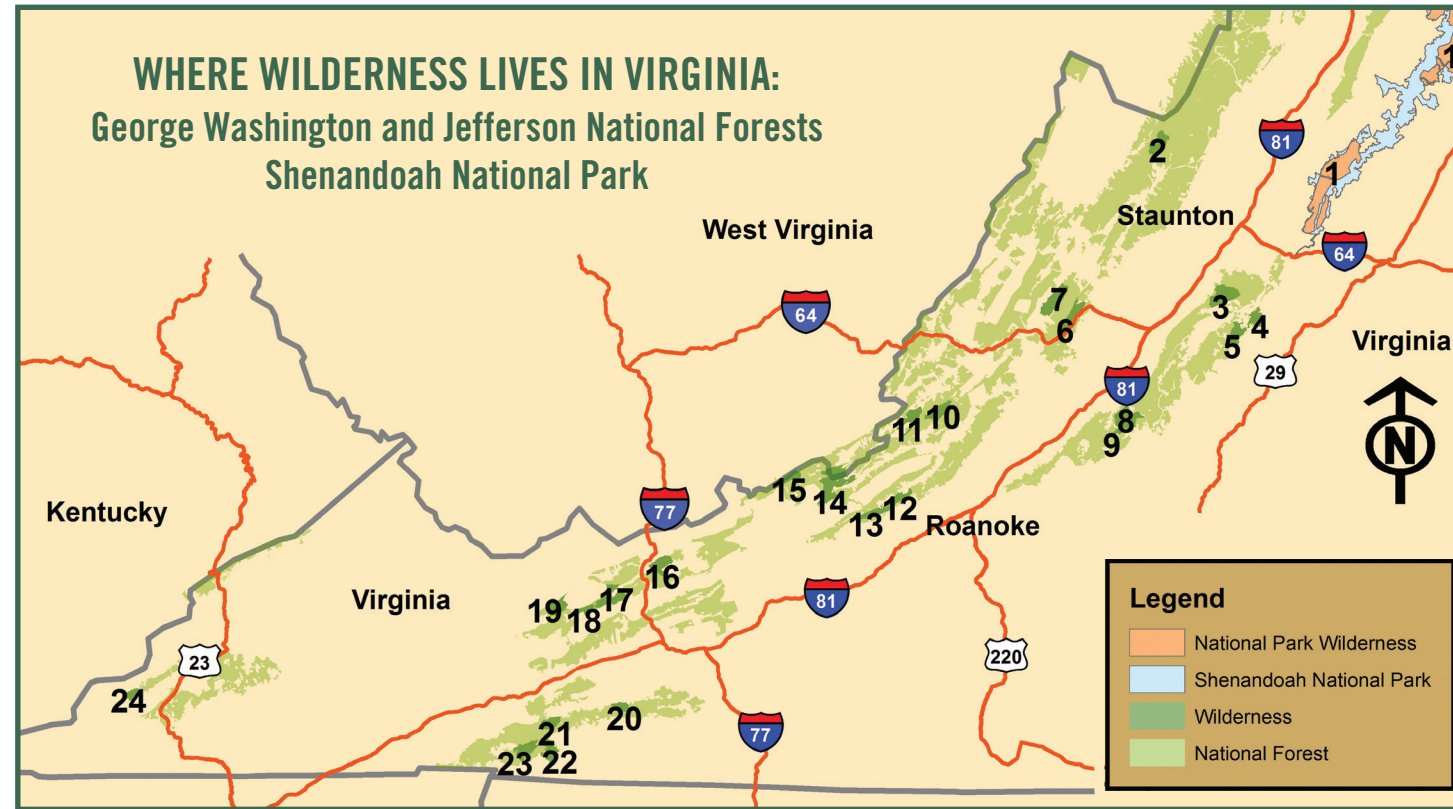
The Wilderness Act allows traditional wilderness activities, including **HUNTING, FISHING, HIKING, CAMPING,** and **HORSEBACK RIDING.** Fire-fighting to protect public safety is also permitted.

To maintain the rare opportunity to experience nature without the distractions of industrialized society, activities inconsistent with wilderness traditions, such as drilling, mining, logging, and other uses of mechanized equipment, are not allowed.



See www.vawilderness.org for more information

WHERE WILDERNESS LIVES IN VIRGINIA: George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Shenandoah National Park



WILDERNESS AREAS

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Shenandoah National Park | 7 Rough Mountain | 13 Brush Mountain | 19 Beartown |
| 2 Ramseys Draft | 8 James River Face | 14 Mountain Lake | 20 Little Dry Run |
| 3 Saint Marys | 9 Thunder Ridge | 15 Peters Mountain | 21 Raccoon Branch |
| 4 Three Ridges | 10 Barbours Creek | 16 Kimberling Creek | 22 Little Wilson |
| 5 The Priest | 11 Shawvers Run | 17 Hunting Camp Creek | 23 Lewis Fork |
| 6 Rich Hole | 12 Brush Mountain East | 18 Garden Mountain | 24 Little Stony |

Total Wilderness Areas acreage is less than 1% of Virginia's land.

Descriptions of wilderness areas along with the map above are available at www.vawilderness.org.



HOW WILDERNESS AREAS BENEFIT US ALL

CLEAN WATER: Millions of people rely on rivers that begin in Wilderness and other undisturbed forests.

CLEAN AIR: Trees emit vast quantities of oxygen.

WILDLIFE HABITAT: Many species need unfragmented forests to survive.

RECREATION: Scenic beauty, hiking and hunting are just a few examples of our region's true wealth.

SILENCE & SOLITUDE: Unique connection with nature in quietest places available.

DARK SKIES: Some of the starriest viewing in the East.

SCIENTIFIC STUDY: Endless lessons in ecology.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION: Trees absorb carbon dioxide, reducing this major greenhouse gas.

Help protect wild areas for future generations.
Join the Virginia Wilderness Committee at
WWW.VAWILDERNESS.ORG.

