

# VISIONS

FOREST WATCH *Spring 2006* NEWSLETTER

*A Wild-Eyed  
Look at Forests*

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## Answering the People's Call for Wilderness

*by Bill McKibben*

Looking east from the shoulder of Romance Mountain in Vermont's Green Mountain Range, you could easily be 2,000 miles away in the Rockies. The landscape is corrugated, crenellated, cragged, coniferous, a place as wild and as lovely as any on the continent.

And looking east, if you squint, you can also see the past and the future—a future that offers some hope for American values after a dark stretch of extremist opposition to anything environmental.

This is land that Vermont's congressman and senators included in their recent proposal for new wilderness in the state. Not a huge patch—the proposed Battell Wilderness would cover just 12,000 acres, and along the entire spine of the Greens the delegation included only 48,000 acres in its plan.

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FOREST



WATCH

[www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org)

*The body repeats the landscape. They are the source of each other and create each other.*

—Meridel LeSueur

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# Vermont Wilderness Bill Introduced

*by Dick Andrews*



**A**s a first draft, the proposed Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006 (S. 2526 and H.R. 5157) has much to commend it, but more and better wilderness protections are needed. (To see maps of the proposal, go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org), or call 802-434-2388 to request hard copies.)

If passed as is by Congress, the proposal would designate 48,161 acres of the Green Mountain National Forest as wilderness. This is an enormous improvement over the final forest plan, which recommended only 27,473 acres—itsself an improvement over the draft plan, which recommended only 17,900 acres of new wilderness in the 400,000-acre national forest. The impact of the delegation's proposal on the national forest's timber program would be nearly negligible, as would be the effect on the state's 7,000 mile snowmobile trail system (about five miles of secondary or connector trails would be closed).

However, conservationists initially urged designation of 78,000 acres. This figure increased to about 100,000 acres, as five years of further study revealed the extent of roadless land on the forest. About 200,000 acres of the national forest have very low road densities, and as much as 170,000 acres could be considered for wilderness protection with proper screening criteria.

Designation of the areas proposed for wilderness by conservationists would provide multiple benefits, including wildlife habitat protection, clean water, recreational opportunities, and the provision of a scientific control by which to measure the impacts of humans on the rest of the landscape.

The following summary provides Forest Watch's perspective on what's in, and what's been left out of, the wilderness proposal in the current bills.

### ► Glastenbury Wilderness

*What's in:* 28,491 acres of rugged terrain northeast of Bennington, including Bald Mountain, West Ridge, and much of Glastenbury Mountain's slopes and ridgeline. This wilderness could be 40,000 acres, and if linked with an enlarged Lye Brook Wilderness, it would anchor one of the largest wild areas in the Northeast (see "The Last of the Wild," page 4).

*What's out:* About 2,000 acres on the east side of Glastenbury Mountain, omitted to accommodate a steep, difficult, one-way and historically little used secondary snowmobile loop trail to the summit. The summit, the symbolic center of this large, wild area, was also left out of the bill.

Up to 12,000 acres to the north of the current bill's Glastenbury Wilderness that could extend it to Kelley Stand Road. This area was apparently omitted from the bill to permit continued use of secondary snowmobile trails which do not provide essential access to other portions of the snowmobile trail network.

### ► Joseph Battell Wilderness

*What's in:* 12,437 acres south of Middlebury Gap, including the Monastery Mountain-Philadelphia Peak Ridge and several miles of the Long Trail.

*What's out:* Thousands of ecologically rich, lower elevation acres in the remote Bingo Brook basin southeast of the proposed wilderness. Logging roads and private inholdings present complications, but do not preclude wilderness (e.g., roads can be closed).

### ► Additions to Breadloaf Wilderness

*What's in:* A total of 4,223 acres on its eastern and western sides, principally places affected by timber sales when the wilderness was designated in 1984. This would bring its size to 25,374 acres.

*What's out:* Small tracts of roadless land totalling 5,098 acres, including a beautiful streamside forest along the Hancock Branch, on the southeast corner—an area ideally suited for handicapped access into wilderness.

### ► Additions to Lye Brook Wilderness

*What's in:* An addition to the northeast of Lye Brook Wilderness of 2,171 acres, covering part of the headwaters of the Winhall River and increasing it to 17,985 acres.

*What's out:* Thousands of acres to the south and east of Lye Brook Wilderness that could extend it to the

Glastenbury Wilderness proposed by conservationists, effectively creating a permanently protected area of about 70,000 acres separated only by a seasonal gravel road snowmobiled in winter. As currently in the bill, the Lye Brook Wilderness fails to protect the highest headwaters of Lye Brook, the Winhall River and the Deerfield River—a tragic and needless omission.

### ► Lamb Brook Wilderness

*What's out:* The entire Lamb Brook area, south of Route 9 and between Route 8 and Harriman Reservoir. Potential size depends on whether land is left out to accommodate wind energy development, but it could be as high as 4,000 acres.

### ► Abbey Pond Wilderness

*What's out:* Some 5,400 acres in an area with one of the richest, most diverse assemblages of natural communities in Vermont.

### ► Additions to Peru Peak/Big Branch Wildernesses

*What's in:* Additions to Peru Peak Wilderness totalling 797 acres, generally in areas affected by timber sales at the time of its designation in 1984. Would be enlarged to 7,844 acres.

Forty-two acres added to Big Branch Wilderness, making it 6,547 acres.

*What's out:* Several tracts of roadless land totalling 5,485 acres, that could further enlarge Peru Peak and Big Branch Wildernesses with no impact on timber or snowmobiling.

### ► Additions to George D. Aiken Wilderness

*What's out:* 1,882 acres east of existing wilderness in an area constrained in 1984 by a north-south snowmobile trail, since relocated.

### ► Lincoln Ridge Wilderness

*What's out:* 6,776 acres proposed for protection to recognize the special scenic and ecological qualities of the west slope of Lincoln Ridge. This is the land philanthropist Joseph Battell bequeathed for a national park. Lasting protection of this area would bring to completion the fulfillment of Battell's last wishes. ■

*To view maps of the areas proposed for wilderness designation, and for the latest updates on the status of the Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006, go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org).*

# The Last of the Wild: Glastenbury-Lye Brook

by Mollie Matteson

In the 1960s, the very first photograph taken from outer space did more to shift humans' understanding of the ground under their feet than any other single event in history.

The NASA image of Earth, brilliant blue, swathed in veils of clouds, and alone against the blackness of the cosmos, moved and shook us. We—humanity—knew from that photo, in a way that dry theory could never inform us, that this small, exquisite planet was our only home.

Today, high-resolution, computer-generated satellite images continue to reshape the way we see ourselves, giving us the clarity of distance, revealing our impacts to this vulnerable, interconnected globe at regional and local scales.

Images of the Northeastern United States are sobering. With satellite-based maps, we have a visual means of grasping the enormous extent to which our region is affected by houses, roads, industry, agriculture, and other human activities.

By the same means, it is clear how little is left of what once covered this region, from the seashore to the highest summits: wild Nature, the life support system for our region and for the planet.

In 2002, the Wildlife Conservation Society published a study—"The Human Footprint and the Last of the Wild" ([http://www.wcs.org/media/file/human\\_footprint2.pdf](http://www.wcs.org/media/file/human_footprint2.pdf))—that utilized the wealth of satellite imagery now available. This ambitious project was an attempt to quantify the impact of humans across the planet, and to identify those places that were still wild, or relatively free of intensive human influence.

Not surprisingly, the study showed the Northeast to be a heavily developed region dominated by human inhabitation and activity. Nearly the entire Eastern Seaboard is color-coded red and orange, indicating intense use and alteration from its former natural state. Other parts of the planet dominated by human use to such a degree include central Europe and the Indian subcontinent.

In this region, however, there are a few small patches of green—the "last of the wild"—still visible from the



illuminating perspective of space. The most sizeable is the Adirondack Park, in New York State. Surprisingly however, another, though much smaller, wild place shows up in Vermont.

This patch of wild land is the 100,000-acre Glastenbury-Lye Brook wilderness complex in the southern Green Mountain National Forest. This is land large enough for a moose, bear, or fisher—or for that matter, a human—to roam for days and never see or hear a car, never pass by a house, never look upon anything but trees, beaver ponds, clear-running brooks, the mossy-soft forest floor, and the sky above.

This lovely, verdant jewel is at risk. Logging, road-building, and off-road motorized recreation

threaten to shatter the integrity of the area, most of which is not yet permanently protected. The recently introduced Vermont wilderness bill, as currently written, would shelter some but not nearly enough of the area from these intrusions.

For example, the very heart of the Glastenbury Mountain area—its gentle, 3,748' summit—is left out of the bill. Other vital lands, including a 12,000-acre swath at the north end of the Glastenbury area, and the headwaters of Lye Brook and the Winhall and Deerfield Rivers, are also omitted.

Without congressional designation of the entire Glastenbury-Lye Brook complex as wilderness, this rare outpost of wild Nature will probably not be large and intact enough to show up as a small green island on the next satellite map. It will fade into the matrix of lands we humans have appropriated and altered to serve largely human needs.

If we cannot protect one of the biggest remaining wild places in our home region, how do we expect to live within the limits of our home planet? We need to ask, "What room will we leave for wild Nature on this planet? What room will we leave for the systems that support all life?"

From the perspective of space, these questions are more urgent than ever. ■

# Wilderness: Envisioning a Living Legacy

by Carl Reidel

A few weeks ago an ancient oak on the shore of Lake Champlain collapsed in a strong wind. Already a stately tree when the French explorer Samuel de Champlain came to the lake in 1609, it had a broad crown above a trunk nearly 20 feet around when it fell.

History passed by this venerable tree for centuries: generations of Iroquois and Algonquin people, English and French armadas, American presidents, heroes and rogues; birch canoes, sailing ships and steamboats. No one saw it fall.

This tree, and a few yet remaining nearby, are among the last remnants of the magnificent landscape that enraptured Champlain. He described a land of “fine trees, snow-capped mountains and an abundance of fowl, stags, deer, bears, and beaver.” Here was a forest beyond our imaginations—a wilderness that would fuel a vast new commercial empire.

By the mid-1800’s most of the grand Vermont forest was gone, eroded soils clogged rivers, and most fish and wildlife were nearly extinct. The expansive wilderness that Champlain encountered had been replaced by cultivated landscapes.

Vermont and New York are planning a celebration of the 400th anniversary of Champlain’s “discovery” of the lake he named for himself. On past anniversaries we built a memorial bridge and lighthouse, and held picnics where Presidents spoke. Like many such celebrations, little of significance remained after the party. This time we can and must do a lot better. This time we are capable of creating a *living* memorial.

Within a few days of the fall of the ancient oak on Lake Champlain, Vermont’s congressional delegation introduced legislation to establish 48,000 acres of new wilderness areas in the Green Mountain National Forest, whose snow-capped mountain summits inspired Champlain centuries ago.

Senator Leahy described the legislation as “a vision for the Green Mountain Forest for this and future generations.” He echoed the words of President Reagan who signed the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1984: “No task facing us is more important than preserving the American Land... Generations hence, parents will take their children to these woods to show them how the land must have looked to the first Pilgrims and pioneers.”

The new wilderness designations proposed by Senators Jeffords and Leahy and Representative Sanders are a fitting memorial for the 400th anniversary of Champlain’s arrival. They will be the nucleus of a *living* legacy for future generations, and a permanent reminder that the American character is rooted in the wilderness experience.

This is not a simple undertaking. Several special interest groups object to new wilderness designations that will constrain their *private* use of these *public* lands. Some claim that increased wilderness reserves will hurt us who hunt and fish, or earn our living in the woods.

That is simply untrue. After creation of the new areas, less than two percent of Vermont’s land will be reserved, little of it capable of commercial wood production. Claims that wildlife will suffer are also untrue. Champlain reported “abundant” wildlife long before land clearing and commercial logging began.

The proposed wilderness designations,  
*continued on page 8*



# Honoring Battell's Wilderness Bequest

by Tom Butler

**T**he view from Camel's Hump's open summit is sublime. (At least it is on a clear day, it seems I've more often been there in clouds and cold drizzle.) Rain or shine, many thousands of Vermonters ascend to those rocky heights each year.

Romance Mountain, some 25 miles south, is less traveled. Hikers on the Long Trail near Middlebury Gap pass over it, but few will linger in the scrubby, spruce-fir thicket there. Few views, but wild beauty of a more subtle nature abounds.

Joseph Battell once owned, and later donated, both places—and went to his grave in 1915 believing that he had preserved Camel's Hump, Romance Mountain, and his other properties in their “virgin and primeval state.” History partially thwarted his wishes.

Vermont's congressional delegation, by introducing legislation this April that would designate a new Joseph Battell Wilderness Area in the Green Mountain National Forest—encompassing Romance Mountain and the rugged country around it—has taken a large step toward completing Battell's conservation legacy.

Born to one of the state's most influential families in 1839, Joseph Battell served in the Vermont legislature, was a nationally known breeder of Morgan horses, published the Middlebury newspaper, and owned an inn in Ripton that later became Middlebury College's Breadloaf campus.

In 1911 he gave nearly two square miles on Camel's Hump, including the summit, to the state of Vermont to become a wild forest park, the genesis of today's expansive natural area. With the gift, Battell noted, “Trees growing on the land herein conveyed are not to be cut except those which it is necessary to remove in building paths or roads, and the whole forest is to be preserved in a primeval state.”

During his life Battell amassed roughly 50 square miles of forestland in central Vermont, primarily in Addison County. Upon his death he willed cash, buildings, and these woodlands to Middlebury College, except about four thousand acres along the spine of the Green Mountains, which he gave to the federal government to become a national park.

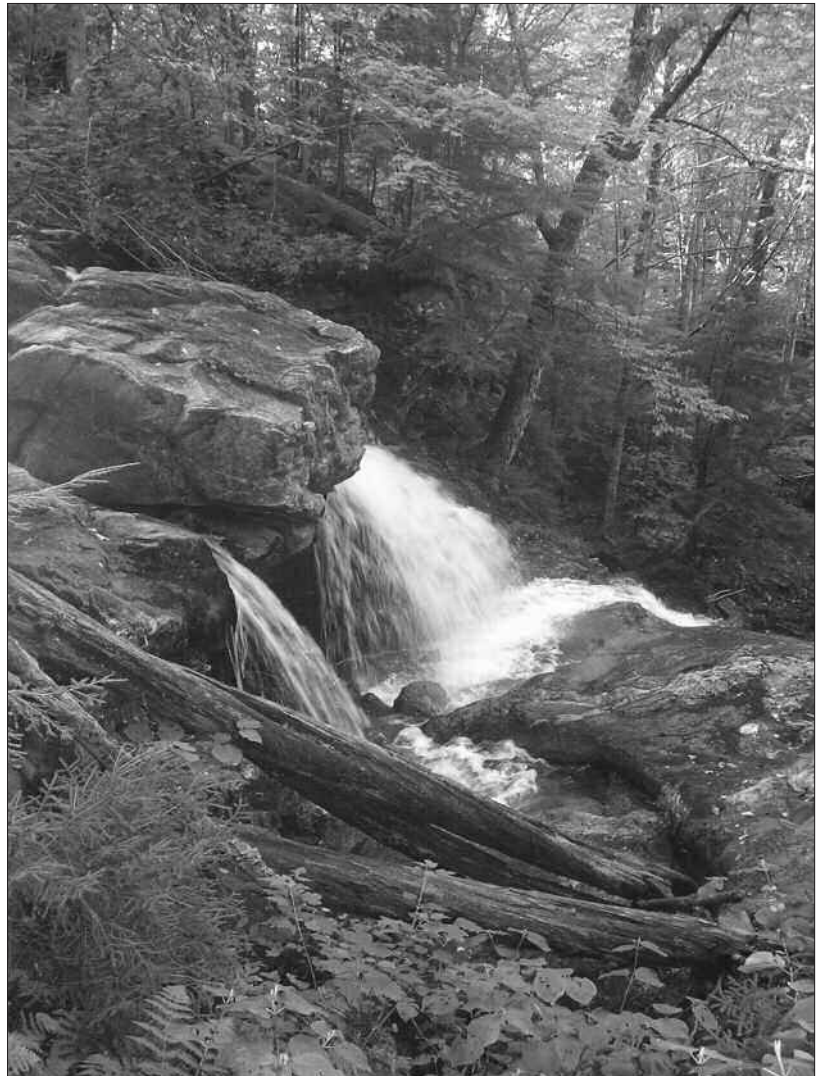
There were no national parks in the East at that time, the National Park Service had not yet been created, and Congress declined the

gift. That land was lumped with the residual estate and also went to the college.

In his appreciation for wild, unlogged forests, Battell was far ahead of his time. He described in his will a “desire to preserve considerable tracts of mountain forests...in their original and primeval condition.” He made plain that his purpose would “be defeated by the cutting of trees on said lands.”

Unfortunately, the Middlebury College committee charged with implementing the will had a more utilitarian outlook on forests. Today an outstanding small college but then a relatively obscure, cash-strapped institution, Middlebury soon began logging the property and later built its own ski area on land Battell had intended to remain forever wild.

In subsequent decades the college sold the vast majority of the former Battell lands to the U.S. Forest



## Invest in their Future

Please support Forest Watch's efforts to restore and protect wilderness and wildlife. This year we have the best opportunity in decades to restore and permanently safeguard the precious pockets of wild Nature that make this part of the world so exceptional. With so much at stake, there couldn't be a better time to invest in the future of our wild forests—for our children's sake, and for all things wild—by investing in Forest Watch.

### *What can you do to help?*

#### **Renew or Join**

For only \$25 annually, you can be a member of a bold and visionary group committed to the conservation of New England's wild landscapes and native wildlife. Renew your membership today, or if you haven't become a member yet, please join us! Use the enclosed envelope, or go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org) to renew or join online.

#### **Donate**

Your additional donation funds our crucial wilderness outreach and education work. Please be generous, and give today.

#### **Help Grow our "Businesses for Wild Nature" Program**

Learn more about the growing network of businesses that support the protection of wild Nature in this beautiful place we call home. See page 12, this issue, or go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org) and click on "Businesses for Wild Nature."

Working together, we can leave an enduring legacy of hope, beauty, and connection to the more-than-human world. Please help today. Thank you very much!



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Service. The lands form the nucleus of the Green Mountain National Forest's northern unit. Some of the acreage was incorporated into the Breadloaf Wilderness but much was logged, and the sprawling Sugarbush ski resort, built largely on land leased from the Forest Service, now degrades the east side of the wild ridgeline Battell had envisioned, purchased, and donated for a national park.

Unfortunately, the still-undeveloped portion of those lands along the west flank of Lincoln Ridge was not recommended for protection in the Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006. It should be added to the legislation, along with other roadless areas ideal for wilderness designation such as the black bear-rich Lamb Brook basin, the

pristine headwaters of Lye Brook, and remote lands to the north and east of Glastenbury Mountain.

Vermont Senators Leahy and Jeffords and Representative Sanders deserve thanks for working to expand wilderness in our national forest, and to complete Joseph Battell's intended wild legacy. Every Vermonter who appreciates Camel's Hump's leonine profile unscarred by ski lifts, or the modest wildness of Romance Mountain is a beneficiary of Battell's generous nature. ■

*Tom Butler, of Huntington, Vermont is the author of  
Wildlands Philanthropy: An American Tradition,  
due to be published in 2007.*

## Answering the People's Call

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If it is adopted by the House and Senate and signed by the president, the plan, even combined with existing wildernesses, will still leave Vermont with barely 1½ percent of its land protected as forever wild—much less than New Hampshire (3 percent) or New York, with its mighty Adirondacks (7 percent of the state preserved forever).

The wilderness proposal should have been thousands of acres larger—important tracts along the southern flank of the Green Mountains were left unprotected. Still, for all its modesty, it's a remarkably sweet prospect because it honors both the intentions of a few visionaries from the past and the wishes of an enormous majority in the present.

The Battell Wilderness, for instance, carries the name of Joseph Battell, one of those 19th-century figures it's nearly impossible to imagine today.

He used his inherited wealth for any number of projects—ensuring the future of the Morgan horse breed, donating the summit of Camel's Hump to the state of Vermont, and building the fabulous Breadloaf compound high on the western slope of the Greens where Robert Frost would later hold court for decades.

Battell left most of his land to his alma mater, Middlebury College, with the hope that it would stay unlogged and open to the public for generations to come.

Some of that legacy was protected two decades ago with the creation of the Breadloaf Wilderness, and more of his land will be preserved under this new bill.

But where conservation was once a product of a few far-seeing elites, in the years since World War II it emerged as one of the very few things that almost all

Americans could firmly agree on.

Huge majorities cheered as Democratic and Republican leaders combined to set aside wilderness land across the country.

People understood that this permanent protection was one of the few promises they could make to the generations that will follow us, and to the rest of creation as well.

Those majorities are still intact. In Vermont, for example, polling clearly shows that 80 percent of the state's residents favor more wilderness land in the state. There are very few things aside from maple syrup and Ben & Jerry's ice cream that would draw those kinds of numbers.

Even in the towns right along the national forest, like my home of Ripton, huge majorities want more wildlands. And they're in line with Americans as a whole, 75 percent of whom recently told pollsters that "protecting the environment is so important requirements and standards cannot be too high."

In recent years, though, the effort to protect such places has foundered, here and around the country. Special interests with plenty of money have managed to turn public lands into their own profit centers.

With proposals like the Vermont Wilderness Act, it's high time to get back on the consensus road to long-term protection.

There will be some opposition—even in Vermont there are big mill owners, for instance, who want every single acre of the state left open to logging. But it's clear what the people as a whole want—wildlands permanently protected along the spine of the Greens. Washington should give it to them. ■

*Bill McKibben is the author of nine books, most recently Wandering Home about his travels through the Champlain Valley and the Adirondacks.*

## Envisioning a Living Legacy

*continued from page 5*

as Senator Leahy stated, are about "a vision...for this and future generations"—a vision worthy of our best efforts and American values. These new designations are truly a vision for the future, although a bit short of a truly *grand* vision. In order to accommodate some of the special interests demanding "not one more acre of wilderness," the legislation inappropriately leaves out key lands in Glastenbury, Lye Brook, Lamb Brook, and elsewhere—omissions that need to be addressed in the final bill.

As the debate over these wilderness areas proceed, we must remember that this is not just a contest over private claims to public lands, be it for logging or ATVs or tree-huggers. Nor is it only about a short-term forest plan or designated wilderness reserves. This is about an issue of far greater significance. It is a vision of restoring and sustaining the American Spirit; it is about our common heritage and a living legacy for those yet unborn. ■

*Carl Reidel of Ferrisburgh is UVM Professor Emeritus of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy, a past president of Forest Watch and the American Forestry Association, and a former District Forest Ranger with the U.S. Forest Service.*

## *Vermont*

### Forest Plan Disappoints

After more than four years, scores of public meetings, and receipt of more than 10,000 public comments, the U.S. Forest Service released in early April a final management plan for the Green Mountain National Forest for the next 15 to 20 years.

Few people are happy with it. Deep disappointment has been expressed by loggers, elected officials, and conservationists. Some threaten to formally appeal aspects of the plan.

The general citizenry is upset too. Over 95 percent of the 10,000 public comments on the draft plan called for a substantial increase in wilderness acreage and an outright ban on recreational all-terrain vehicles, identical to the ban imposed on the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. The final plan delivered neither.

The furor is unfortunate, but not unexpected. The big question is: "Will it ever end?"

Probably not, at least not without bold, innovative leadership from the Forest Service and Vermont's congressional delegation.

Without such leadership, the newly released plan will be a recipe for disaster and another 15 to 20 years of squabbling; cooperation among various groups will be impossible.

With leadership, there's a chance that the fighting can end, and that folks will be able to

work together to simultaneously achieve a better timber program and better protection of wild Nature on the 400,000-acre national forest.

Let's consider how this might work.

The plan itself allows great discretion when it comes to logging. A better timber program on the national forest will only result if Forest Service leaders commit themselves to logging in the right ways, in the right

75,000 acres or so. Many vitally important wild places are not protected by the plan and, even if they were, administrative protections are ephemeral and change from one plan or one administration to the next.

Protecting a substantial portion of the Green Mountain National Forest's wild, roadless areas with strong and lasting wilderness designation would eliminate the need for conservation organizations to defend



places, and at the right times, thus avoiding appeals and litigation to stop ill-conceived timber sales.

Moreover, the plan's wild-land protections do not go nearly far enough. The Forest Service inventoried over 125,000 acres of wild, roadless land and may have unlawfully overlooked another

Vermont's wildlands one timber sale and road building proposal at a time.

Unfortunately, the current wilderness bill would protect only about 30 percent of the eligible roadless lands. Bolder, more visionary leadership is needed if the battles of the past are to be finally resolved. ■

# Tell the Vermont Delegation, “Thanks, but More Wilderness is Needed!”



**V**ermont has a new wilderness bill, at last! On April 6, Senators Patrick Leahy and Jim Jeffords, and Congressman Bernie Sanders, introduced the Vermont Wilderness Act of 2006 into Congress. The bill would designate 48,161 acres of new wilderness on the Green Mountain National Forest.

The Vermont Congressional delegation deserves a big round of applause for its work thus far to provide lasting protection for Vermont’s wildest landscapes.

But, some 50,000 acres of wilderness-quality land were left out and these areas could someday be logged, roaded, or crisscrossed with ATV and snowmobile trails. (See summary of these areas on pages 2 and 3.)

The opportunity to protect these precious gems may not come again. Please act today. We must show the Vermont delegation and the country that wild Nature and our grandchildren deserve more wilderness.

### Key Points

- 1) Vermont’s congressional delegation deserves much thanks for this important step, but important areas were left out (see “Vermont Wilderness Bill Introduced,” this issue, pages 2 and 3).
- 2) Vermonters want more wilderness. A 2002 survey done by the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont found 73 percent of Vermont voters supported more Green Mountain National Forest wilderness.
- 3) Public comments on the Green Mountain National Forest plan draft were overwhelmingly in favor of more wilderness. According to an analysis by the Wilderness Society, of the 10,003 public comments received by the U.S. Forest Service, fewer than 150 opposed wilderness and/or supported ATV access to the national forest.

### What You Can Do

- 1) Write an online letter to the Vermont congressional delegation. Go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org) and click on “Take Action.”
- 2) Make a phone call, or send a letter or e-mail to members of the Vermont delegation (see box).
- 3) Write the editor of your local newspaper. You can find addresses at [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org). Click on “Take Action” and follow the links.
- 4) Join others in your community to support your local wilderness area. Contact Forest Watch for more information.
- 5) Join our growing list of businesses that endorse wilderness protection. Go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org) and click on “Businesses for Wild Nature.” Or call (802) 434-2388 for more information.
- 6) Get updates on the wilderness proposal, and find links to maps by going to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org).



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# Ryan Talbott

2006 Justin Brande Intern

Forest Watch is pleased to announce that this year's Justin Brande intern is Ryan Talbott, a Vermont Law School student in the Masters of Environmental Law program.

The internship was created in 2000 to honor the late Justin Brande, a leading conservationist in Vermont and a former professor of natural resources at the University of Vermont.

Ryan grew up in a small, rural town in the heart of the Allegheny National Forest, and witnessed first hand the devastation of rampant oil and gas drilling, logging, and motorized off-road recreation. He has been assisting Forest Watch in a number of areas this winter and spring, including Vermont wilderness outreach, business outreach, and organizing college students around forest protection issues.

In the fall, Ryan will be attending Vermont Law School as a first year law student. We hope Ryan will stay involved in Vermont conservation issues. He is hard working, a fast learner, and has the kind of passion for wild places that makes for an inspiring, effective activist and conservation leader.

## Trails and Routes in Green Mountain Wilderness

Do you want to become better acquainted with one of the areas proposed for wilderness in Vermont? Joining a Forest Watch outing is one way (see our calendar listings at [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org)).



Another way is to get a copy of our hiking guide, "Trails and Routes in Green Mountain Wilderness," and go off on your own explorations. Forest Watch intern Ryan Talbott gathered hike descriptions for several proposed wilderness areas, including Glastenbury, Lamb Brook, and Joseph Battell (formerly known as Romance

Mountain). He's put them together in one handy document that we are currently distributing by request and on-line.

Let us know if you'd like a copy (call 802-434-2388 or e-mail [contact@forestwatch.org](mailto:contact@forestwatch.org)), or go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org) and download your own copy. Happy hiking!

## Suggested Reading

THE ENDURING WILDERNESS:  
PROTECTING OUR NATURAL HERITAGE  
THROUGH THE WILDERNESS ACT

*Doug Scott, Fulcrum Publishing, (2004). 184 pp.*

Doug Scott is policy director for the Campaign for America's Wilderness, a man who has been at the forefront of wilderness advocacy for decades, and is perhaps our nation's leading scholar on the history of the Wilderness Act. His book should serve as both a reference and source of inspiration for all proponents of wilderness.

Scott provides a succinct history of wilderness as an evolving idea in the United States, leading to the passage of the landmark law in 1964. He then follows the important story of the law's implementation over subsequent decades, covering such significant chapters as the debate over eastern wilderness and the "Purity Theory," the development of citizen-initiated wilderness proposals, and the Forest Service's controversial RARE and RARE-II (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation).

The current Bush Administration's hostility to wild lands protection marks a "giant step backward to the pre-Wilderness Act era," according to Scott. But, as he also makes clear, wilderness remains enormously popular with the American public. In fact, persistent and passionate citizen activists have long been the backbone of the movement for wilderness protection.

Scott rightly perceives the traits and motivations of those who work for wilderness: "Passion. Boldness. Steadfastness. A commitment to understanding and participation in our democracy, fueled not only by commitment to wilderness but by love of our participatory democracy itself. These are among the qualities of those who save wilderness. ... At bottom, I think, is a passionately felt sense of moral obligation to the people of the future."

As we lovers of Vermont's wilderness move forward with our work to permanently protect the wild gems of the Green Mountain National Forest, it behooves us to remember the noble work of those who have preceded us. Scott quotes Howard Zahniser, the author of the 1964 Wilderness Act: "We are not fighting progress. We are making it. We are not dealing with a vanishing wilderness. We are working for a wilderness forever."

# Businesses for Wild Nature

*Naturally Good for People and the Land*

**F**orest Watch is helping businesses throughout our region speak out in support of protecting wild Nature. If you own or operate a business, large or small, and if you care about preserving the natural values that make this place on Earth so special, then please join the growing group of entrepreneurs and businesspeople who have declared their support for:

- ▶ the restoration and conservation of wilderness and wildlife habitat, and
- ▶ the aesthetic, social, health, recreational, and economic opportunities afforded by protected wildlife and wild places.

Businesses can support wild Nature in a variety of ways. You can become a signer of our Businesses for Wild Nature Endorsement. You can carry educational brochures and other materials in your place of business. You can enlist other businesses to join this effort.

Please contact us or go to [www.forestwatch.org](http://www.forestwatch.org) and click on "Businesses for Wild Nature" to learn more about the myriad ways you and your business can help protect wild places for our economic vitality, community well-being, and for generations yet to come. It's a naturally good thing to do.

## Attitude Attire

**T-shirts** Show your attitude. Wear a 100% cotton Forest Watch t-shirt with our striking logo on solid color or tie-dye.



New! Women's style (trimmer cut, fitted sleeves) now available.

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**Kids:** Blue Tie-dye, S–L; Blueberry, L only; Natural, S only; all colors \$10.



## Bumpersticker

If you want wilderness, you gotta go wild! Blue, green, and white; \$2 each.

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**Prices include shipping. To order, use the enclosed envelope or give us a call at (802) 434-2388.**



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