

The Good News!

On Jan. 4th, 1979 the U.S. Forest Service released to the public a list of Roadless Areas which will be recommended to Congress for Wilderness Designation. Among those recommended is the 37,884 acre Sandwich Range. By this recommendation the Forest Service is acknowledging that the Sandwich Range has high wilderness resource potential, and that there is strong public support for the action. Prominent among the organizations recommending Wilderness Designation for the Sandwich Range are the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Society For The Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the New England Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Satisfying as the Forest Service recommendation is, and a necessary step in the Wilderness Designation process, the struggle we have been engaged in is my no means won.

The Next Step

The next, a decisive step, is urging New England Congressmen to support and vote for Wilderness when the legislation is being debated and voted in the Houses of Congress. Of crucial significance will be the votes of New Hampshire Congressmen. Presently there is not a single New Hampshire Congressman who has expressed openly his support for more Designated Wilderness in New Hampshire. Unless you, the interested public, persuade Congressmen by your voices and letters that large segments of the American public--especially voting citizens of New Hampshire--want Wilderness, it is unlikely the legislation will pass in Congress during 1979.

What Must Be Done

Officers of WODC are in communication with New England conservation groups; and in a recent meeting have agreed on the crucial importance of joint action. There is agreement that the next 45 days are critical to the cause of wilderness. Wilderness advocates are advised to participate in two activities:

ONE: The New Hampshire Congressional Delegation (Humphrey, Cleveland, Durkin and D'Amours) has scheduled a special hearing to learn first-hand the opinions of their constituents on the Wilderness issue. This meeting will be crucial for your Wilderness interests. Your presence is essential! Bring as many friends (New Hampshire residents) as possible. Bring written testimony to submit; testify before the meeting if possible.

The hearing will be held on Friday, Jan. 26th, 1979 at 6:00 pm at the New Hampshire Technical Institute off Route 93 in Concord (adjacent to the New Hampshire Motel).

TWO: Almost as convincing as your presence in Concord on the 26th will be letters to Congressmen and Governors, especially New Hampshire Congressmen and Governor Gallen. Although letters from in-state are critical, letters from out-of-state friends of wilderness are needed also. Legislators from New Hampshire need to learn that tourists and second-home owners who bring dollars to the State support wilderness.

Write at least one letter to each Congressman (addresses below). The letter need not be long or detailed----a postcard will help. And write your own state congressmen if you are not a N.H. resident. It is believed Senator Tsongas will be influential with key people in Washington, as will Senator Kennedy. Every vote counts!

Time is of the essence! There is a 45 day period (Jan. 4- Feb. 20) during which Congressmen and Governors are to express their personal views to the Forest Service.

ONE LETTER NOW IS WORTH A THOUSAND IN MAY!

Senator Gordon J. Humphrey  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator John A. Durkin  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

1st District James C. Cleveland, M.C.  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20514

2nd District Norman D'Amours, M.C.  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Governor Hugh Gallen  
State House  
Concord, N.H. 03301

*Written in haste by  
George E. Zink*