

What is the Tour de Cut?:

The Tour de Cut is a hiking event sponsored by the Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club, Virginia Forest Watch, and often other groups.

It is designed to be a fun and educational event for people of all walks of life who have not seen the negative impacts of logging, roadbuilding, mineral development, off-highway vehicle routes or other development on public lands. It is also designed to show people the positive aspects of natural forest ecosystems.

Participants are encouraged to get to know particular places on the national forest that have personal significance to them.

In past years, we have led hikes to an old growth site that was subsequently logged at Hoover Creek (Alleghany Co.), Little River Roadless Area (Augusta Co.), Great North Mountain Virginia mountain treasure area (Shenandoah Co.), Signal Corps Knob (Augusta Co.), Warm Springs Mountain Nature Conservancy preserve (Bath Co.), Beech Lick Knob area (Rockingham Co.) and several Forest Service timber sale sites.

To Sign up:

To reserve a space, send an email, fill in this form, or call us at:

Sherman Bamford, Forest Committee Chair Virginia Chapter-Sierra Club, and Public Lands Coordinator, Virginia Forest Watch

PO Box 3102, Roanoke, Va. 24015-1102, (540) 343-6359,

bamford2@verizon.net

Look for details & information on how you can help protect these areas at: www.virginiaforestwatch.org and <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/issues/forests.html>



Virginia Forest Watch

I am interested in attending the Tour de Cut on:

May 30, '09 Jun 20, '09 Aug. 29, '09

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Additional Information: _____

Send to VAFW, PO Box 3102, Roanoke, Va 24105

**A great way to get
to know Virginia's
forests !**

Tour de Cut – 2009 Season

May 30, June 20, & Aug. 29



Are you interested in exploring Virginia's national forests, hearing about the latest issues, and learning what steps you can take to protect threatened areas on these forests?



2009 Events: Three Hikes

Walker Mountain hike (Bath and Augusta Counties) Saturday, May 30, 2009

Hike description: Walker Mountain is a long forested ridge above the Calfpasture River. The mountain serves as a connector between Shenandoah Mountain to the west and Great North Mountain to the east. We will hike the Back Draft Trail and a trail along the scenic crest of the mountain. The area is threatened by a timber sale and a logging road.

Difficulty: Moderate. 920 ft. elevation gain/1 mi. in one stretch. Total length – approx. 5 mi.

Meeting Time and Location:

We will meet and depart at 10AM, May 30, at the parking lot of the Holiday Inn north of Staunton. At Interstate 81, Exit 225, go north (towards Staunton) on Rt. 275. Signs to the Holiday Inn are on the right side of the road a short distance from the exit. We plan to return to the original meeting location by 5PM.



Back Draft area, Walker Mountain

North Mountain Trail hike (Shenandoah County) (Saturday, June 20, 2009)

Hike description: We'll hike a superb ridgetop trail surrounded by spectacular views of the northern Shenandoah Valley. Enjoy high grassy ridges, rock formations of a variety of colors and sizes, and wooded groves atop North Mountain. The trail

overlooks the site of the future Laurel Run/Road timber sale 1000 ft. below, where the Forest Service plans to cut 484 acres of the forest in 22 separate even-aged cutting units. In addition, a 15 mile long industrial wind turbine development is proposed on the very ridge where we will hike, and other remote areas just to the south of us.

Difficulty: Easy, with one short moderate section. Occasional small ups and downs along the ridgeline, with one section with an elevation gain of approx. 300 ft over 1/4 mile. Total length – approx. 5 mi.



North Mountain Trail

Meeting Time and Location:

We will meet and depart at 9:30AM, June 20, at the parking lot of the Shenandoah County Library. At Interstate 81, Exit 279, go east (towards Edinburg). The library is on the left side of this road a short distance from the exit. We plan to return to the original meeting location by 4:30PM.

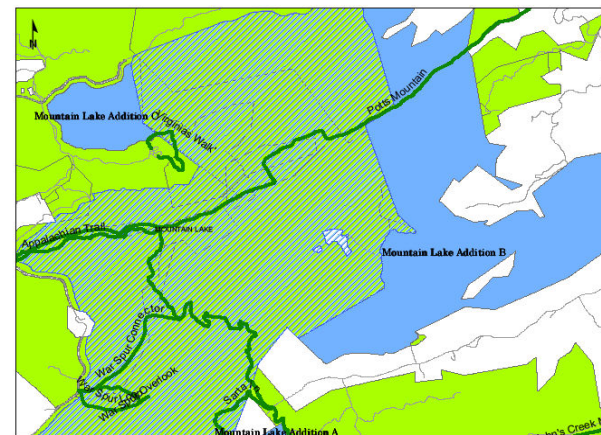
Mountain Lake Wilderness/Potts Mountain Trail (Giles County) (Saturday, Aug. 29, 2008)

Hike description: Come out and celebrate the addition of approximately 5400 acres to the Mountain Lake Wilderness, north of Blacksburg. On March 30, 2009, President Obama signed legislation protecting 53,000 acres of new wilderness and national scenic areas in southwest Virginia. We will hike parts of the Potts Mountain Trail, a ridgetop trail with several rock outcrops and boulders. Size of the group strictly limited to 10 people.

Difficulty: Moderate. Total Length – approx. 5 mi.

Meeting time and Location: We will meet and depart at 9:30AM, Aug. 29 at the Forest Service's Eastern Divide Ranger District office, Blacksburg. The office is located at 110 Southpark Drive, off of South Main Street, just north of the intersection between Business 460 (South Main) and Four-Lane 460.

Mountain Lake area: Trails and New Wilderness



(See www.virginiaforestwatch.org for larger map)

Cost: The events are free. Participants are encouraged to join with others and carpool to the event. We can let you know if any others from your area are interested in carpooling

What to Bring: Bring water, packable lunch, rain gear, and sturdy hiking boots. Encourage friends to come along!

For your Safety: While these hikes are designed for persons of most hiking abilities, as part of these hikes we may walk a short distance off-trail. Also, as with all other hikes, dependent on local weather conditions and other factors, hikes may include hot, cold, or muggy weather, rain, lightning, stream crossings, occasional travel through steep or rocky terrain, poison ivy, animal hazards, and other hazards. Itineraries may change due to various factors beyond our control. Hike leaders will do their best to ensure that hikes are safe and meet everyone's needs.