

## 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.), 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](mailto:bamford2@verizon.net)

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



Virginia Forest Watch

I am interested in attending the Tour de Cut on:

[ ] Jun. 28, '08 [ ] Sept. 6, '08 [ ] Oct. 4, 08

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 – 2008 Season

June 28, Sept. 6, & Oct. 4



Our October 2007 hike at Warm Springs Mountain, Bath Co.

**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?**



## 2008 Events: Three Hikes

### Marshall Run hike (Saturday, June 28, 2008)



Root Run (photo by Steve Krichbaum, 2007)

**Description:** We will visit the site of the proposed Forest Service Marshall Run timber sale, where 185 acres of logging threatens the heart of the Root Run watershed on the southeastern side of a 17,000 acre backcountry area. The Forest Service proposes to upgrade and extend over 3 miles of Forest Service route 235A through the area, which is, by all accounts, actually a rough trail. Large floods have occurred in the area since the 1980s,

scouring many of the streambeds. In the late 1800s, much of this sizable area was owned by a logging and development company from the northeastern US that operated Yankeetown, a settlement here. In the decades since, the area has gradually recovered and now boasts several hollows with significant stands of older trees. Beech Lick Knob area boasts rich forests with undulating hills and trout waters.

#### Hike Difficulty:

Easy-Moderate - 900 ft. elevation gain/2 mi. in one stretch; 600 ft. elevation gain/1 mi. in one stretch. Length - approximately 6.25 mi. Note: There may be several stream crossings on this hike. Bring sport sandals for wading.

#### Meeting Time and Location:

We will meet and depart at 10AM, June 28, at the parking lot of the Shenandoah Valley Tourist Information Center, Off of Interstate 81, Exit 264. There is a Seven-Eleven Store nearby, and other places to buy quick food. We will leave some cars at another location a short distance away. We plan to return to the original meeting location by 4PM.

### North Mountain Trail hike (Saturday, Sept. 6, 2008)

**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. Note: there will be a shuttle as part of this trip, wait time approx. 1 hr. Cars in the shuttle will need to be able to go up a gravel road that is steep, with narrow turns, but suitable for passenger cars.



North Mountain Trail

#### Meeting Time and Location:

We will meet and depart at 9:30AM, Sept. 6, at the parking lot of the Shenandoah County Library. At Interstate 81, Exit 279, go east (towards Edin-

burg). 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.

### Chestnut Oak Knob hike (Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008)

**Hike description:** We will begin with a pleasant 2 3/4 mile ascent of the Dowells Draft Trail, a wooded trail surrounded by the peaks of distant Ramseys Draft Wilderness and Crawford Mountain. We will then hike cross-country a short distance to visit several recent clearcuts surrounding nearby 2798 ft. high Chestnut Oak Knob. After this, we will follow a road to the bottom of

the mountain, passing several tributaries of Dowells Draft.

**Difficulty:** Moderate. Total Length - approx. 7 mi. Elevation gain of over 800 ft./2.75 miles on the Dowells Draft trail; followed by descent of 800 ft./4.25 mi., mostly on a road. Note: there will be at least 1/4 - 1/2 mi. of off-trail hiking.

**Meeting time and Location:** We will meet and depart at 10AM, Oct. 4, at the parking lot of the Holiday Inn north of Staunton.



Clearcut on Chestnut Oak Knob, May '08

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.

**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.