

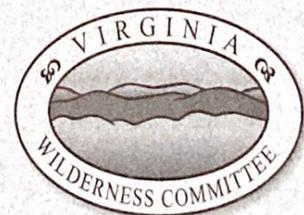
# Virginia's Mountain Treasures

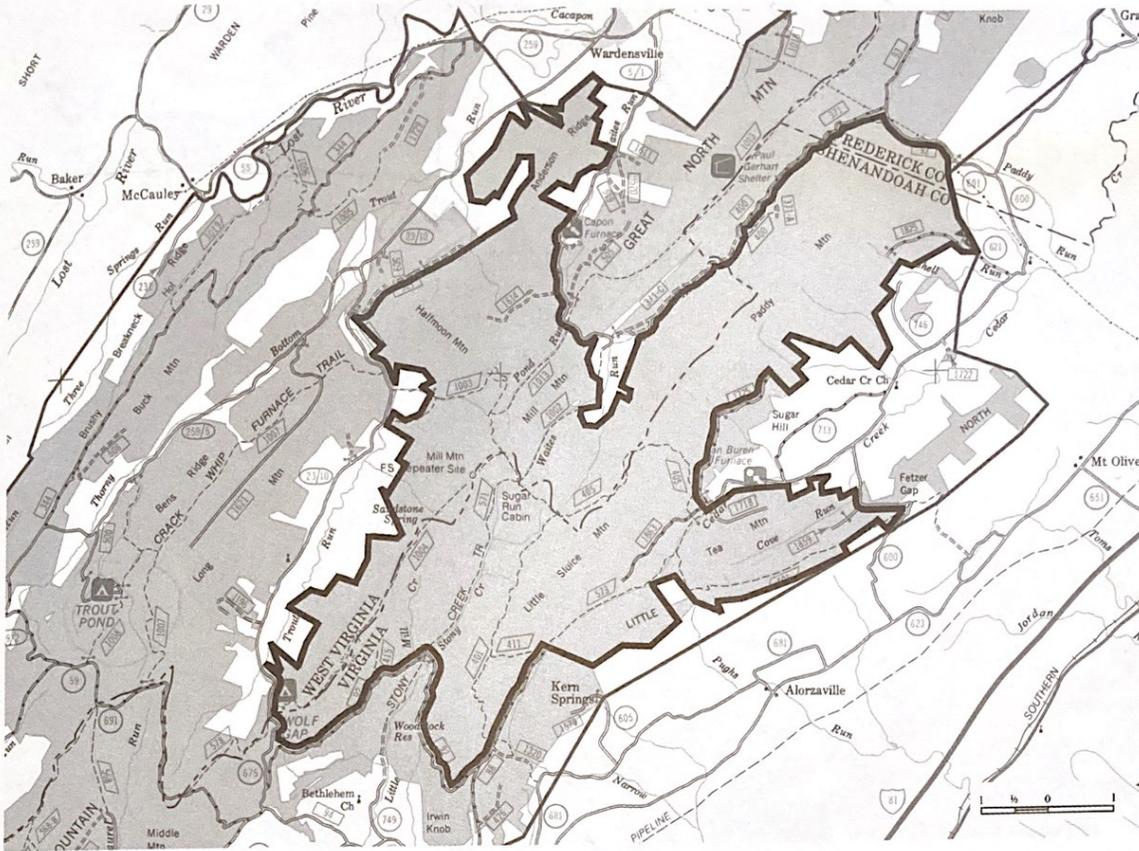


## *The Unprotected Wildlands of the George Washington National Forest*



A report by The Wilderness Society





## Big Schloss

Big Schloss is one of the largest inventoried roadless areas not only on the George Washington National Forest, but in all of the eastern National Forest. The elevations of this area range from 1600 feet to almost 3300 at the top of Mill Mountain. The ridgetops are capped with sandstone which creates the many rock outcrops the area is noted for. Some of these include Big Schloss, Little Schloss, Halfmoon, and Three High Heads. These rocky knobs are "hacking sites" where endangered Peregrine Falcons were reintroduced to the wild.

The upper reaches of Stony Creek, Paddy Run, and Cove Run have their beginnings in the Big Schloss. These are all tributaries of Cedar Creek and

the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Approximately 7500 acres of this roadless area lie within the Big Schloss Special Management Area. It is considered unsuitable for timber harvesting and is managed to maintain a natural appearance.

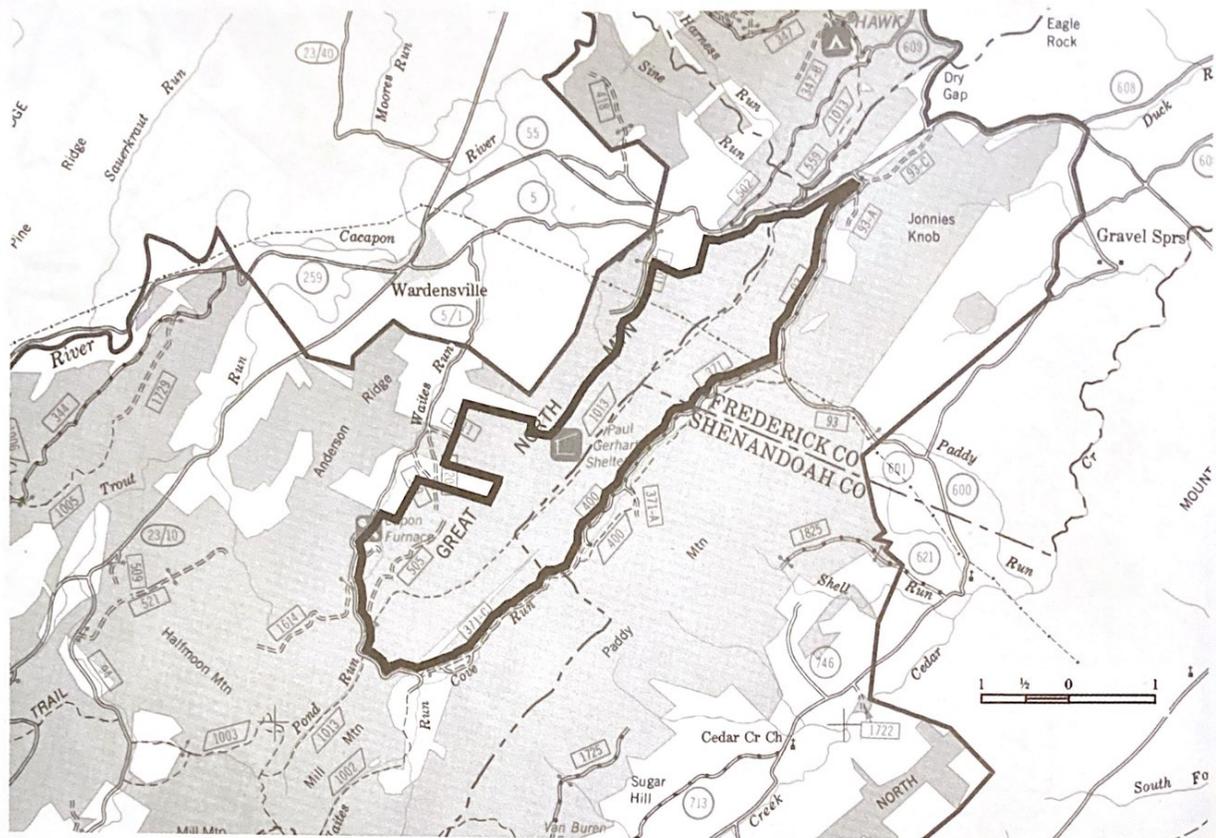
Recreational activities are the highlight of the area. Hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, and mountain biking are the primary recreational activities. In the late fall hunters take to the woods in large numbers, and fishing opportunities are well known in Little Stony Creek, a native trout stream.

There is an 866 acre forest plan Special Biological Area as well as 4825 acres of possible old growth.

**Approximate Size:** 31,204 acres

**Location:** Frederick and Shenandoah Counties, Virginia and Hardy County, West Virginia in the Lee District

**Topos:** Baker, Mountain Falls, Wardensville, Wolf Gap, Woodstock



## Great North Mountain

This large section of Great North Mountain lies astride the state line northeast of Capon Furnace. This roadless tract is adjacent to and contiguous with the "inventoried" Big Schloss Roadless Area. The area meets the requirements for being officially designated a roadless area, but it was not.

The steep slopes of Great North Mountain support the tributaries of Paddy Run, Cove Run, and Slate Rock Run. Elevations here range from 1800 feet to 2700 feet above sea level with mixed oak woodlands predominant. Remote habitat and solitude can be found in the interior of the Great North Mountain area.

The Tuscarora Trail, running from the Shenandoah National Park to Blue Mountain in Pennsylvania, traverses the stateline/ridgecrest for seven miles, connecting US 55 to FDR 371. The Paul Gerhart Shelter is midway on this trail. The Gerhart Shelter Trail connects the Tuscarora to Paddy Run to the east.

Great North Mountain contains 756 acres of possible old growth.

**Approximate Size:** 6681 acres

**Location:** Frederick and Shenandoah Counties, Virginia and Hardy County, West Virginia in the Lee District

**Topos:** Wardensville