



## **BOARD RESOLUTION**

### Vermont Wilderness Proposal

*Whereas:* Only 1% of Vermont or 60,000 acres is protected as wilderness, and

*Whereas:* Conservation biologists conclude that ecological reserves of at least 25,000 to 40,000 acres are needed to protect and restore the full diversity of native wildlife and plants, and

*Whereas:* The national forest covers six percent of Vermont. Other federal and state land covers another six percent, and

*Whereas:* The U.S. Forest Service says, public land in Vermont is scarce and precious, and should be managed to provide what private land does not wilderness, backcountry recreation and deepwoods wildlife habitats, and

*Whereas:* Since the Vermont Wilderness Act was passed 15 years ago, about 100,000 acres have been added to the Green Mountain NF, creating opportunities to expand existing Wildernesses and establish large new ones, and

*Whereas:* At the US Forest Service Forum held in Middlebury Vermont on November 14, 2001 the support for the Vermont Wilderness Association proposal to create additional Wilderness on the Green Mountain National Forest was one more demonstration of Vermonters overwhelming support for the protection of Wilderness in Vermont.

*Now therefore:* The Board of Audubon Vermont hereby endorses the Vermont Wilderness Association proposal to create 106,000 acres of new Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas, and National Conservation Areas in the Green Mountain National Forest, and calls upon the Vermont Congressional Delegation to introduce legislation in January 2002 to establish these areas before the end of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Passed by the  
Audubon Vermont Board  
November 29, 2001