

VNRC

BULLETIN

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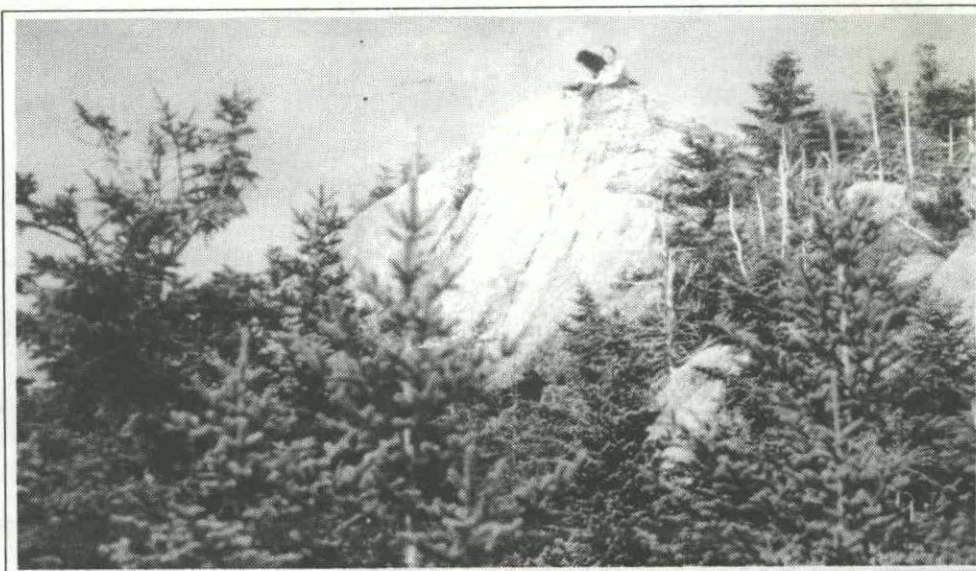
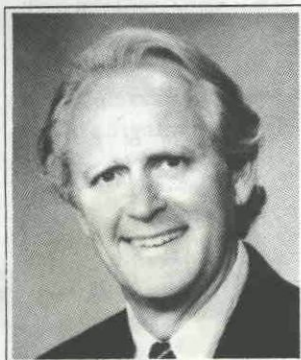
HOLMES LEADS SO. VERMONT OFFICE

VNRC's three-year-old Southern Vermont office in Manchester has tackled many issues of statewide importance, offering guidance, research, support and leadership in protecting Vermont's natural resources in the region.

This fall, VNRC welcomes Stephen Holmes as new Southern Vermont Program Director. Holmes replaces Marcy Mahr, who moved on to pursue graduate studies.

The former Vermont Commissioner of Housing and Community Affairs (1988-91), Holmes also served as head of the

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WORCESTER RANGE: THE FOREST AND THE PEOPLE

Central Vermont landowners, forest users, loggers and local officials have been getting involved this summer and fall in VNRC's Worcester Range project.

At meetings in Stowe, Worcester, Middlesex and Waterbury, residents offered thoughtful input toward the project's final goal: a balanced plan of action that recognizes the 3,000-foot peaks of the Worcester Range both as

an outstanding natural resource, and as the foundation of the region's important forest industry.

Located just a few miles from the state capital, the range is fertile ground for forestry, wildlife, hiking, and wilderness views. But with ownership split among hundreds of landowners, uncoordinated development could threaten the natural resource base.

At the meetings, VNRC's Jim Shallow has heard a

wide range of views on conservation and land use goals and how to achieve them.

"We've heard general agreement that VNRC is on the right track," says Shallow, "with our effort to find common ground among the wide spectrum of users and landowners."

VNRC is completing an economic assessment of the area's forest economy and potential; results will be released later this fall. ●