



# HIGH GREEN



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## The End of the Line in Gore, VA



*Alex Mayes photo*

Winchester and Western Railroad's pair of Alco S6s spew smoke from their stacks in true Alco fashion as they round a curve near Gainesboro, VA in May 1984. Coupled behind the Alco switchers is a 34-car train of silica sand, commonly referred to as the "Sand Man," en route to the interchange with CSX in Winchester, VA. The sand was loaded at the huge quarry in Gore, VA, 18 miles west of Winchester. Silica sand is the main ingredient making glass and is also mixed with clay and other materials to make bricks. Sand is also used in foundry cores and molds for metal casting. This mine is the only producer of silica sand in Virginia. The two S6s, Nos. 78 and 80, were built in December 1955 and were used by the Southern Pacific as their numbers 1278 and 1280 respectively.

The sand quarry in Gore is set to close in early 2024, bringing an end to most of the traffic over the line. Ready about it in this High Green!