

APPENDIX C: NATIONAL AND STATE DESIGNATIONS -- TRAILS, RIVERS AND SPECIAL PLACES

West Virginia's landscape is dotted with regionally and nationally significant trails, rivers, public lands and special places. Described below are those lands, waters and other resources that have received national or state recognition. This listing should help communities develop plans to link significant sites via land and water trails.

NATIONAL- AND STATE- RECOGNIZED TRAIL RESOURCES

Trails link us to our natural environment, and to each other. Programs to encourage their creation, protection and enhancement are also listed.

THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

The National Trails System Act (PL 90-543) created the National Trails System (NTS) in 1968. The act authorized a national system of trails to provide additional outdoor recreation opportunities and to promote the preservation of access to the outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation. The text of the legislation is available online at: www.public.iastate.edu/~sfr/nts/nts_act.html.

The National Trails System began with only two scenic trails: the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, stretching 2,160 miles from Maine to Georgia and the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, covering 2,665 miles from Canada to Mexico. Today, the federal portion of the system consists of 20 national trails (eight scenic trails, 12 historic trails) extending nearly 40,000 miles. In addition, the act has authorized more than 800 national recreation trails and two connecting or side trails. Receiving such designation enhances funding opportunities for these trails and provides some protection against nearby development.

Additional information: National Park Service, National Center for Recreation and Conservation, 1849 C Street NW, Room 3606, Washington, D.C. 20240; (202) 565-1200.

There are four categories of trails in the NTS:

1. National Scenic Trails

National Scenic Trails (NSTs) are protected continuous scenic corridors designated by Congress. They provide outdoor recreation opportunities while conserving significant scenic, historic, natural or cultural resources. There are eight NSTs in the United States, including one in West Virginia:

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail (1968)—The Appalachian Trail (AT) extends approximately 2,160 miles along the Appalachian Mountain range, from Georgia to Maine. The hiking trail passes into West Virginia at Harpers Ferry. The Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) developed and maintains the trail in partnership with the National Park Service. Contact: ATC, P.O. Box 807, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425; (304) 535-6331; www.atconf.org. Additional information: NPS, Appalachian National Scenic Trail Office, c/o Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425; (304) 535-6278; www.nps.gov/aptr.
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail—Although not Congressionally authorized in West Virginia, this proposed corridor does parallel streams in the Potomac River watershed. The trail system is comprised of a number of routes and includes the popular Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historic Park, a 184-mile canal towpath from Cumberland, Md. to Washington, D.C. Other trails in the system are not federally managed, thereby creating a new collaborative model for the National Trails System. Contact: NPS, Potomac Valley Field Office, PO Box B, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425; (304) 535-4014; www.nps.gov/pohe.

2. National Historic Trails

National Historic Trails (NHTs) follow routes of national historic significance. These trails recognize broad facets of history such as prominent routes of exploration, migration, trade, communication and military action. The historic trails generally consist of remnant sites and trail segments, and thus are not necessarily continuous. None of the 11 NHTs is in West Virginia.

3. National Recreation Trails

National Recreation Trails (NRTs) are typically reasonably accessible to urban areas. They may be on federal, state or private lands. Public and private agencies manage the trails at the local, state or federal level. NRTs may include nature trails, river routes and historic trails. Applications are made through NPS Regional Offices. As of 2001, four of the 822 NRTs in the nation are in West Virginia:

- Huntington Museum of Art System (1984)—0.4 miles long, administered by the Huntington Museum of Art.
- North Bend Rail-Trail (1992)—60.5 miles long, administered by North Bend State Park and the North Bend Rails-to-Trails Foundation.
- Whispering Spruce (1980)—0.5 miles long, administered by the Monongahela National Forest.
- Weston-Gauley Bridge Turnpike (2001)—10 miles long, administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

4. Connecting or Side Trails

These trails provide access to or among the other classes of trails. There are 2 in the U.S., but neither is in West Virginia.

MILLENNIUM TRAILS

This novel category of trail was developed in celebration of the new millennium. The initiative was a collaborative effort by the White House Millennium Council, the Department of Transportation, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the American Hiking Society and the National Endowment for the Arts. The goal was to promote the creation of trails to "Honor the Past and Imagine the Future" as part of America's legacy for the year 2000. As a national effort, Millennium Trails promoted trail development as a means of preserving open space, interpreting history and culture and enhancing recreation and tourism.

Under this initiative, more than 2,000 trails across America were recognized, enhanced or built. These included hiking trails, bicycle paths, greenways, scenic byways, cultural and heritage trails through rural and urban landscapes.

Additional information: www.millenniumtrails.org/MT_active_pages/Overview/main.asp.

There are three categories of Millennium Trails:

1. National Millennium Trails

These are trails of national significance—large, visionary projects that allow users to walk or bike to national wonders, trace historic canals and commercial routes or commemorate trails of discovery and migration. Sixteen trails nationally have received this designation, including three in West Virginia:

- Hatfield-McCoy Trail System (1999)—A 2,000-mile, eight-county trail system employing an entirely new approach to trail building by forging collaborative partnerships with the corporations who own the coal fields of southwest West Virginia and surrounding states. This route will accommodate off-highway motorcycle and vehicle riders, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers and other trail users. Three trailheads and over 300 miles of trail are currently open to the public. Additional information: www.trailsheaven.com.
- American Discovery Trail—This 6,340-mile route spans the continent from Cape Henlopen, Delaware to Point Reyes, California. The trail passes through West Virginia trending east to west for over 275 miles, varying from mountain hiking and roadside trekking to rail-trail biking or horseback riding. Additional information: www.discoverytrail.org.

- Appalachian National Scenic Trail (1999)—The need to protect the nation’s first purposely built trail from encroaching development led to the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968. The AT passes through West Virginia at Harpers Ferry in the eastern panhandle and parallels the West Virginia-Virginia boundary along Peters Mountain in Monroe County. Additional information: www.atconf.org.

2. Millennium Legacy Trails

Fifty-two Millennium Legacy Trails, selected from nominations by governors of the states and territories, reflect the unique spirit of the areas they represent. One trail per state receives this designation and special Millennium Trails marker. Designation brings the potential for increased funding and heightened visibility for the trail in the media and the community. West Virginia's Millennium Legacy Trail is:

- Greenbrier River Trail—Designated in 1999 as West Virginia’s Millennium Legacy Trail, the Greenbrier River Trail (GRT) is considered one of the finest rail trails in the nation. Following the route of a former C&O rail line, the 75-mile trail passes through some of the most spectacular scenery in West Virginia, yet provides an easy course for travelers through the demanding terrain it traverses. Additional information on the GRT is available at: www.greenbrierrivertrail.com.

3. Community Millennium Trails

These exemplary projects have been acknowledged for the benefits they bring to the people and communities they connect. The following West Virginia trails have been designated Community Millennium Trails:

- Allegheny Trail
- Allegheny Highlands Trail
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Brooke County Pioneer Trail
- Brooks Memorial Arboretum
- Lincoln Highway
- Mon Valley Green Space Coalition Trails
- North Bend Rail-Trail

NATIONAL DISCOVERY TRAILS

This category of nationally recognized trails is still under consideration by Congress. These trails would be designated as an element of a “Trails for all Americans” program. This trail passes through West Virginia:

- American Discovery Trail—Congressional legislation is pending to officially establish the American Discovery Trail (ADT) as the first National Discovery Trail. This 6,340-mile trail crosses the continent from Cape Henlopen, Delaware to Point Reyes, California. The ADT enters West Virginia from the west at Parkersburg, follows the route of the North Bend Rail Trail and continues eastward through the Monongahela National Forest before exiting the state along the Potomac at Green Spring. There are a total of 276 miles of the American Discovery Trail in West Virginia. Additional information: www.discoverytrail.org.

NATIONAL AND STATE RECOGNITION PROGRAMS FOR RIVERS

Rivers have defined our country and its citizens. Programs developed to protect outstanding river resources are listed below.

THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS PROGRAM

After recognizing that many of our rivers were imperiled, in 1968 Congress created the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is to preserve America's finest rivers in their free-flowing condition, simultaneously protecting their outstanding values—including scenery, recreation and fisheries. Amendments are made to the act as new rivers are authorized for study and/or designation. The text of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542) can be found at www.nps.gov/rivers/wsract.html. The National Park Service maintains the current list of 156 designated and 136 study rivers at www.nps.gov/rivers/wildriverslist.html.

The Study and Designation Process

In the Northeast, most studies of potential Wild and Scenic rivers are initiated by local interests and are subsequently authorized by Congress. Concerned stakeholders utilize the study process as a tool through which to focus attention on river conservation, growth management and other local quality of life issues.

Wild and Scenic studies typically require three years for completion. From the outset, NPS or USFS staff work closely with an advisory committee composed of representatives of local and state governments, river conservation groups and other concerned constituencies. Together, this study team determines whether the river satisfies the designation criteria. More importantly, they develop a conservation plan to protect the river's free-flowing character and significant resources. Such plans generally rely on state and local land use requirements and nonfederal land acquisition to achieve river conservation goals.

The research results are then summarized in a report that serves as the basis for a designation recommendation. If the river is found eligible—and there is sufficient grassroots support for designation among residents of riverfront communities—the study team assists local members of Congress in drafting legislation to place the river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

For rivers in the Northeast that flow through private lands, such legislation often includes special provisions limiting direct federal land acquisition and creating a permanent partnership among all levels of government, river advocacy groups and other interests to address long-term management of the river. Typically, local governments assume management authority over designated rivers bordered by private properties, while federal agencies have management responsibility for rivers bordered by federal lands.

If the river is initially determined not suitable for addition to the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System, it can still ultimately be determined eligible through the support of the governor, an act of the state legislature and provisions of Section 2(a)(ii) and Section 11 of the WSRA.

Classifications

- **Wild River Areas:** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, generally accessible only by trail, with essentially primitive watersheds or shorelines and unpolluted waters. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- **Scenic River Areas:** Those rivers or river segments that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational River Areas:** Those rivers or sections of rivers readily accessible by road or railroad that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversions in the past.

Benefits Of Wild And Scenic River Studies

Although not every request for potential Wild and Scenic River status results in a positive recommendation, the process often yields important benefits to study area communities. Because the study provides sustained professional staff support and a modest budget for conservation work, new information about important river resources is collected and made available for local use. The study also helps unite communities and state government agencies as they tackle water

quality, flow protection, recreation management and land conservation issues. Whether the river ultimately receives Wild and Scenic designation, the conservation plan prepared during the study period can guide decisions by agencies, municipal governments, conservation organizations and landowners as they work to protect a valued community resource.

Protections

Protective management of federal lands within a river study area begins at the time the river has been found eligible for addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The identified “outstandingly remarkable values” (ORVs) are afforded adequate protection, subject to valid existing rights. Affording adequate protection requires sound resource management decisions based on National Environmental Policy Act analysis.

For Section 5(a) Rivers, also known as Study Rivers, the protections afforded by Section 7(b), which limits certain public works and water resources projects; Section 8(b), which limits disposition of public lands; and Section 9(b), which limits removal of minerals, last for three years after the president has sent his final recommendation to Congress. If Congress designates the river during those three years, the protections then become permanent. If the river does not receive designation and the governor hasn't requested designation pursuant to 2(a)(ii) of the Act, the river loses its Sections 7(b), 8(b) and 9(b) protections after three years. If federal land is located adjacent to the river, the managing agency must protect potential ORVs during this three-year period. If the ORVs are not on federal land and a potential threat to the ORVs is not from a water resources project requiring federal assistance, the federal government is powerless to protect the ORVs.

River corridors are recognized as living landscapes. Therefore, development compatible with the outstanding resources of a designated river is usually allowed. Change is expected to happen—the intention is not to halt development or use of a river, but to preserve the stream's outstanding characteristics.

WEST VIRGINIA'S FEDERALLY DESIGNATED RIVERS

NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

- Bluestone National Scenic River (1988)—A 10.5-mile segment of the Bluestone River was added to the National Wild and Scenic River System via WSRA Section 3(a)(65). The Bluestone preserves relatively unspoiled land in Summers and Mercer counties in southern West Virginia and contains natural and historic features of the Appalachian plateau. This section of the lower Bluestone River offers excellent warm water fishing, hiking, boating and scenery. This river area is administered by the Secretary of Interior (via the National Park Service) in consultation with state and local governments and the interested public, and is subject to existing and renewed leases for Bluestone State Park and the Bluestone Public Hunting and Fishing Area. The Bluestone River designation may not affect or impair the management of the Bluestone (flood control) project. Additional information: www.nps.gov/blue.

RIVERS PROTECTED THROUGH OTHER FEDERAL DESIGNATION

- New River Gorge National River (1978)—The National Park Service's New River Gorge National River preserves a 53-mile segment of one of the oldest rivers in the world. The NPS facility encompasses over 70,000 acres of land between Hinton and Fayetteville, in Summers, Raleigh and Fayette counties in southern West Virginia. The rugged New River flows northward through deep canyons and is among the premier whitewater streams in the eastern United States. Commercial whitewater outfitters conduct trips down the New River from April through October. Over 100 miles of trails can be found within the park. Additional information: www.nps.gov/neri.
- Gauley River National Recreation Area (1988)—A 25.7-mile segment of the lower Gauley River and 6 miles of the Meadow River were established as a National Recreation Area in Nicholas and Fayette counties. These rivers were examined as part of a National Wild and Scenic Rivers study. The designation is intended to protect the natural area and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, including whitewater boating, picnicking, camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, trapping and sightseeing. The Gauley area provides world-class whitewater rafting during the Summersville Lake drawdown each autumn. Additional information: www.nps.gov/gari.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDIES

The following West Virginia rivers have been studied for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The accompanying table provides more detail about those rivers that have been studied.

Completed Studies and Reports

- Birch River—17.5 miles were found eligible to be added to national system; preservation of river by state and local action recommended (study completed in 1985).
- Bluestone River—25.5 miles were found eligible to be included in the national system; preservation of river by state and local action recommended (study completed in 1988). 10.5 miles of this section was subsequently designated a National Scenic River, managed by the National Park Service.
- Cacapon River, including Lost and North Rivers—80 miles of the Lost & Cacapon Rivers were found eligible to be added to national system; preservation of river by state and local action recommended (study completed in 1985).
- Greenbrier River, including the East & West Forks—199 miles were determined eligible for inclusion in the national system. USFS Preferred Alternative 5 recommends 133 miles to be designated (study completed in 1993).
- Gauley River System: The following segments of rivers were included in this study (study completed in 1988):
 - Cranberry River—33.4 miles of the entire river were found eligible to be added to the National System.
 - Gauley (Lower)—25.7 miles were determined eligible for addition to the national system. This segment was subsequently designated a National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service.
 - Gauley (Upper)—24.7 miles were found eligible for inclusion in the national system.
 - Meadow (Lower)—27.8 miles were found eligible to be added to the national system. A 6-mile segment was then designated a National Recreation Area, managed by the National Park Service.

Completed Studies with Reports In Progress

- New River (Upper)—A National Park Service eligibility study in 1994 found 19.3 miles eligible for addition to the national system. A final report is currently in progress.
- Monongahela National Forest rivers—A recent US Forest Service investigation determined that segments from 12 different Mon Forest streams (totaling 269.6 miles) are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. USFS Preferred Alternative H recommends 75.4 miles to be designated for addition to the national system. A final report is currently being prepared. The following rivers were found eligible:
 - Blackwater River: 8.7 miles
 - North Fork of Cherry River: 15.6 miles
 - Dry Fork: 13.7 miles
 - Glady Fork: 31.6 miles
 - Laurel Fork: 29.1 miles
 - Otter Creek: 10.5 miles
 - South Branch Potomac River: 22.5 miles
 - North Fork South Branch Potomac River: 3.2 miles
 - Red Creek: 8.7 miles
 - Seneca Creek: 13.0 miles
 - Shavers Fork: 77.9 miles.
 - Williams River: 25.5 miles

RIVERS STUDIED IN WEST VIRGINIA AS POTENTIAL NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

River	Section Studied, Law, Date, Agency	Miles Studied	"River Area" Section Eligible & Classification	Miles Eligible	Section Suitable	Miles Suitable	Section Designated	Miles Designated	Status	Status Date
Birch	Cora Brown Bridge to the confluence with the Elk River. PL 96-199. 1980. WSRA Sec 5(a)(76). NPS	17.5	Cora Brown Bridge to the confluence with the Elk River. 17.5 miles Scenic	17.5	None for federal admin. "River Area" by state action, and state/local admin.	0.0 for federal admin. 17.5 for state/local admin.	0.0	0.0	Final report complete, Aug. 1983. Transmitted to Congress 4-26-85.	1985
Blackwater Part of Monongalea National Forest Study	Blackwater Falls State Park Bridge to the confluence of Dry Fork. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	9.9	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-2: Blackwater Falls State Park Bridge upstream from Blackwater Falls to Hickory Lick Run about 1-1/2 miles from Hendricks. 8.7 miles Scenic	8.7	Preferred Alternative H: Streams with most outstanding values. "River Area"	8.7			Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Bluestone	WV / VA State line to 1410' normal pool elevation of Bluestone Lake. PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(73). NPS	60.0	Breached dam at Spanishburg to 1410' pool elevation of Bluestone Lake. 25.5 miles Scenic	25.5	None for federal admin. "River Area" by state action, and state/local admin.	0.0 for federal admin. 25.5 for state/local admin.	From a point approx. 2 miles upstream of the Summers and Mercer county lines down to 1410' pool elevation at Bluestone Lake	10.5 National Scenic River	Final report complete Aug. 1983. Transmitted to Congress & designation decision made PL 100-534 10-26-88	1988
Cacapon Including Lost and North Rivers	Headwaters to the confluence with the Potomac River. PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(68). NPS	154.0	<u>Total Length:</u> Seg. A-D: Rt. 259 Bridge to confluence with Potomac R. 77.5 mi Cacapon R & 2.5 mi Lost R. <u>Segments:</u> Seg. A: Rt 259 Bridge to Wardensville. Seg. C: Capon Bridge to Largent. 31.5 miles Scenic Seg. B: Wardensville to Capon Bridge. Seg. D: Largent to confluence with Potomac R at Great Cacapon. 48.5 miles Recreational	80.0	None for federal admin. "River Area" by state action, and state/local admin.	0.0 for federal admin. 80.0 for state/local admin.	0.0	0.0	Wild & Scenic River study report complete Sept 1982. Transmitted to Congress 4-26-85.	1985
Cheat Part of MNF study	Confluence of Shavers Fork and Black Fork to the Monongahela National Forest boundary. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	21.4	None	0.0	None	0.0	None	0.0	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Cherry-	Confluence of Darnell	16.7	Alternative A: All eligible sections	15.6					Wild and	1995

River	Section Studied, Law, Date, Agency	Miles Studied	"River Area" Section Eligible & Classification	Miles Eligible	Section Suitable	Miles Suitable	Section Designated	Miles Designated	Status	Status Date
North Fork Part of MNF study	Run to the confluence of the South Fork of Cherry. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS		of all 12 rivers. Seg 1-2: Darnell Run to private land ½ mile from Richwood. 15.6 miles Recreational						Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	
Cherry-South Fork Part of MNF study	Headwaters to the confluence of the Cherry WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	16.5	None	0.0	None	0.0	None	0.0	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Cranberry Part of Gauley study	Headwaters to the confluence with the Gauley River PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(74). NPS	33.4	Upper – headwaters to USFS Cranberry Campground. 20.4 miles Wild Lower – USFS Cranberry Campground to the confluence with the Gauley River. 13.0 miles Scenic	33.4	Headwaters to the confluence with the Gauley River	33.4	--	--	Final Wild and Scenic River study complete, Aug 1983. <u>Transmitted to Congress, date:</u>	1995? ?
Dry Fork Part of MNF study	Confluence of Laurel Fork near Jennings to confluence with the Blackwater River at Hendricks. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	13.7	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-3 Laurel Fork to Blackwater 13.7 miles Recreational	13.7	--	--	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress	1995
Gauley - Lower Part of Gauley study	Summersville Dam to confluence with New River. PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(74). NPS	35.7	Summersville Dam to Swiss. 25.5 miles Wild	25.7	None for federal admin. "River Area" by state action, and state/local admin.	-- 25.7	--	25.7 National Recreation Area	Wild and Scenic study report complete, Aug. 1983. Transmitted to Congress, Designation decision made 10-26-88	1988
Gauley - Upper Part of Gauley study	Headwaters to Summersville Dam. PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(74). NPS	72.6	Confluence with Williams River to confluence with Panther Creek. 24.6 miles Scenic	24.6	None for federal admin. "River Area" by state action, and state/local admin.	-- 4.6	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report complete, Aug. 1983. Transmitted to Congress	1988

River	Section Studied, Law, Date, Agency	Miles Studied	"River Area" Section Eligible & Classification	Miles Eligible	Section Suitable	Miles Suitable	Section Designated	Miles Designated	Status	Status Date
									DATE	
Glady Fork Part of MNF study	Headwaters to the confluence with the Dry Fork WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	36.4	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Total Length: Seg. 2-5: Forks near Glady to Dry Fork near Gladwin. Segments: Seg. 2: 4.5 mi.--Forks to Frazier Creek. Seg. 4: 4.3 mi.—1/2 mi. above Rt. 33 to Waterfall Run. 8.8 miles Recreational Seg. 3: Frazier Creek to 1/2 mi. above Rt. 33. 7.7 miles Wild Seg. 5: Waterfall Run to Dry Fork. 15.1 miles Scenic	31.6	--	--	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Greenbrier River Includes East and West forks	Headwaters of both forks to confluence with the New River PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(75). USFS	199	Alternative 2: Full Designation of all eligible segments. Seg. A: 10 mi--Headwaters of E.. Fork to FR36 near Island Campground. Seg. D: 109 mi--Mainstem at the confluence of the forks at Durbin to the I-64 bridge at Caldwell. 119 miles Scenic Seg. B: 9 mi--E Fk at Island Campground to confluence with W Fk at Durbin. Seg. C: 18 mi--Entire W Fork. Seg. E: 53 mi--I-64 Bridge at Caldwell to confluence with New River at Hinton. 80 miles Recreational	199	None for federal administration. Preferred alternative 5 (Seg. A-C, & Seg. D adjusted to 96 mi, ending at Anthony) by state action, and state/local admin.	-- 133	--	--	Draft EIS and study report complete 1983. Transmitted to Congress 1-7-93	1993
Laurel Fork Part of MNF study	From the upstream entrance to Laurel Fork South Wilderness to the confluence with the Dry Fork. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	38.2	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-6: all Seg. 1-2: 20.9 mi—Enter L.Fk.S. Wilderness.to private land near Burnt Ridge Run Seg. 4: 4.9 mi—1/2 mi. north of Rt. 33 to Shears Hollow. 25.8 miles Scenic Seg. 3: 4.7 mi--Pvt land to 1/2 mi. north of Rt. 33. Seg. 6: 1.1 mi—Pvt land to Dry Fk. 5.8 miles Recreational Seg. 5: Shears Hollow to private land 1.1 mi. from Dry Fork. 6.6 miles Wild	38.2	Preferred Alternative H: Streams with most outstanding values. Seg. 3: Downstream portion & Seg. 4-6: Rt. 33 to Dry Fork. 6.6 miles Wild 4.9 miles Scenic 1.6 miles Recreational	13.1	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Meadow Part of	Headwaters to confluence with the Gauley River. PL 95-625. 1978.	57.8	Confluence of Meadow Creek to Rt. 19 Bridge. 23.3 miles Scenic Rt. 19 Bridge to confluence with	27.8	None for federal admin. "River Area" by	-- 27.8	--	6.0 National Recreation Area	Wild and Scenic study report complete,	1988

River	Section Studied, Law, Date, Agency	Miles Studied	"River Area" Section Eligible & Classification	Miles Eligible	Section Suitable	Miles Suitable	Section Designated	Miles Designated	Status	Status Date
Gauley study	WSRA Sec 5(a)(74). NPS		Gauley River 4.5 miles Wild		state action, and state/local admin.				Aug. 1983. Transmitted to Congress, designation decision made 10-26-88.	
New, Upper	Rt. 460 Bridge near Glen Lyn, VA to the summer pool elevation 1410' of Bluestone Lake, W.Va., with boundary to include federally owned lands that encase the river. PL 102-525. 1992. WSRA Sec 5(a)(134). NPS	19.3	½ mile downstream of Rt. 460 Bridge and adjacent to the mouth of Adair Run, near Glen Lyn, Va., to the summer pool elevation of 1410', near Steer Island, of Bluestone Lake W.Va. 18.8 miles Scenic	18.8	no suitability determination made	--	--	--	Draft eligibility and Classification report complete July 1994. Final report in progress. River still under study provisions protection.	1994
North River Part of Cacapon study	Headwaters to the confluence with the Cacapon River. PL 95-625. 1978. WSRA Sec 5(a)(68). NPS	49	None	0.0	--	--	--	--	Wild & Scenic River study report complete Sept 1982. Transmitted to Congress 4-26-85	1995? ?
Otter Creek Part of MNF study	Headwaters to the confluence with the Dry Fork. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	11.5	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 2: Otter Cr. Wilderness Area. 10.5 miles Scenic Seg. 3: Wilderness exit to Dry Fork. 0.5 miles Recreational	11.0	--	--	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Potomac River - North Fork of South Branch Part of MNF study	Confluence of Seneca Creek to the confluence with the South Branch of the Potomac. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	19.5	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 2: High Ridge Run to outskirts of Hopeville 3.2 miles Scenic	3.2	--	--	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Potomac River - South Branch Part of MNF study	Jake Hill Road Bridge near Upper Tract to the downstream exit from the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area near Petersburg. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1).	22.5	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-2: 10.0 mi—Jake Hill Rd Bridge to Big Bend Campground. Seg. 4: 3.2 mi—Canyon exit to National Rec Area Boundary. 13.2 miles Recreational Seg. 3: Big Bend Campground to	22.5	Preferred Alternative H: Streams with most outstanding values. Seg.1-3: Jake Hill Bridge to exit Smoke Hole Canyon. Sections	19.3	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to	1995

River	Section Studied, Law, Date, Agency	Miles Studied	"River Area" Section Eligible & Classification	Miles Eligible	Section Suitable	Miles Suitable	Section Designated	Miles Designated	Status	Status Date
	USFS		Canyon exit. 9.3 miles Scenic		Seg. 1-2: 10.0 miles Recreational Seg. 3: 9.3 miles Scenic				Congress.	
Red Creek Part of MNF study	Perennial stream at forks to the confluence with the South Fork of Red Creek. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	8.9	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-2: Perennial stream to exit from Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. 8.7 miles Scenic	8.7	--	--	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Seneca Creek Part of MNF study	Confluence of Trussel Run west of Spruce Knob to the boundary of Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area near Rt. 33. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	13.0	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-4: All. Seg. 1-2: Trussel Run to private land above Falls. 8.0 miles Wild Seg. 3-4: Private land above Falls to NRA boundary near Rt. 33. 5.0 miles Recreational	13.0	Preferred alternative H: Streams with most outstanding values. Seg. 1-2: Trussel Run to private land above falls. 8.0 miles Wild	8.0	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Shavers Fork Part of MNF study	Snowshoe Dam to confluence with the Black Fork. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	86.8	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-5: Snowshoe Dam to US 33. 56 miles Recreational Seg. 7: WV 33/8 to Jobs Run. 21.9 miles Scenic	77.9	Preferred alternative H: Streams with most outstanding values. "River Area" 56 miles Recreational 21.9 miles Scenic	77.9	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
Williams Part of MNF study	Boundary of Monongahela National Forest land near Mountain Lick Run to Gauley River near Cowen. WSRA Sec 5(d)(1). USFS	31.5	Alternative A: All eligible sections of all 12 rivers. Seg. 1-3: Boundary of MNF land near Mountain Lick Run to Spice Run, about 2 miles upstream from Dyer. 25.5 miles Recreational	25.5	--	--	--	--	Wild and Scenic study report and draft EIS released, Jan. 1995. Not yet transmitted to Congress.	1995
TOTALS		1044.8		721.9						

DEFINITIONS FOR WILD & SCENIC RIVER PROJECTS

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

Classification: The determination of which of the classes (wild, scenic or recreational) best fit the river or its various segments.

Designation: Inclusion of a river area in the National Wild and Scenic River (NWSR) System either by act of Congress or by authority of the Secretary of the Interior.

Eligibility: Qualification of a river for inclusion in the NWSR system through determination that it is free-flowing and with its adjacent land area (usually ¼ mile from each bank) possesses at least one outstandingly remarkable value.

Final report complete: The final report has been published on specified date, and submitted to the Congress/president.

Final report in progress: The final report has been completed, but has not yet been submitted to the Congress/president for approval or designation.

Free-flowing: As applied to any river or section of a river, means existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modifications of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion to the NWSR system shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion. This shall not be construed to authorize, intend or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the NWSR system.

ORV: Outstandingly remarkable value

NPS: National Park Service

NWSR: National Wild and Scenic River

River area: The part of the study area and its immediate environment eligible for inclusion in the NWSR system.

State/local action recommended: While not suitable for federal management, under WSRA Sec. 2(a)(ii) and Sec. 11, the river area can be added to the NWSR system through state-initiated action, with state and local government and private landowner agreement.

Study river: The river segment authorized for study for possible inclusion into the NWSR system and amended into the WSRA Section 5(a).

Suitability: A determination as to whether an eligible segment should be included in the NWSR system by weighing natural and cultural resource values and threats to those values with such factors as extent of public lands in the river area; costs required for acquisition, development, management and operation; public, local or state interest in acting to protect and manage the river; and the feasibility and timeliness of such action.

USFS: United States Forest Service

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WSRA: Wild and Scenic River Act

THE NATIONWIDE RIVERS INVENTORY

Which Rivers Qualify?

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) is a listing of free-flowing rivers in the United States that are believed to possess one or more outstandingly remarkable natural or cultural values (ORV). Exceptional scenery, fishing or boating, unusual geologic formations, rare plant and animal life, cultural or historic artifacts judged to be of more than local or regional significance are the values that qualify a river segment for listing.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation originally assembled the NRI. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, and its successor agency, the National Park Service, maintain it. Under a 1980 directive from the President's Council on Environmental Quality, all federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would have an adverse effect on NRI segments.

The Park Service maintains the Nationwide Rivers Inventory list on the web at

<http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/programs/rtca/nri/>. A river or river segment listing on the NRI indicates that the stream meets the minimum criteria for further study for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and that such a study is deemed appropriate. The NRI is incomplete and many rivers not on the NRI also may be considered for study. Rivers can vary in size and need not be considered important for recreational use—ecological, historical, geological and other values can make a river an appropriate study candidate.

The NRI has many uses. It is a source of statewide river assessment information and a valuable resource for any group involved with stream-related projects. For those concerned with ecosystem management, the inventory can provide the location of the nearest naturally functioning system that might serve as a reference for their monitoring activities. It may also serve as a guide to source populations of plant and animal species for restoration efforts on a similar section of river.

The following table lists the West Virginia rivers currently listed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory.

THE NATIONWIDE RIVER INVENTORY IN WEST VIRGINIA

River	Section (downstream to upstream)	Miles
Big Sandy Creek	Confluence with the Cheat River to Bruceton Mills	10.0
Blackwater River	Hendricks to headwaters	32.0
	State Park Bridge to Hickory Lick Run	8.7
Buckhannon River	Confluence with the Tygart Valley River to headwaters	60.0
Cheat River	Albright to Parsons	49.0
Dry Fork of Cheat	Blackwater River to Gladwin	9.0
Dry Fork of Cheat	Confluence with Laurel Fork to confluence with Blackwater	13.7
Gladly Fork of Cheat	Confluence with Dry Fork to Forks	31.7
Laurel Fork of Cheat	Confluence with Dry Fork to Monongahela National Forest lands	38.2
Shavers Fork of Cheat	Jobs Run near Porterwood to US 33/8	21.9
Shavers Fork of Cheat	US 33 near Bowden to Snowshoe Dam	56.0
Cherry River-South Fork	Richwood to headwaters	13.0
Cherry River-North Fork	0.5 mile to above Richwood to Darnell Run	15.6
Cranberry River	Confluence with Gauley River to headwaters	33.0
Elk River and Left Fork	Sutton Lake Reservoir to Webster Springs	73.0
Gauley River	Donaldson to the confluence of Panther Creek	25.0
Greenbrier River	Confluence with New River to confluence of East and West Forks	162.0
East Fork of Greenbrier	Confluence with the West Fork to headwaters	19.0
West Fork of Greenbrier	Confluence with the East Fork to headwaters	18.0
Holly River and Left Fork	Sutton Lake Reservoir to Holly River State Park	25.0
Hughes River- North Fork	Cairo to Harrisville	8.0
Little Kanawha River	Confluence with Ohio River to confluence with West Fork	30.0
Middle Fork River	Tygart Valley River to Lantz	13.0
Middle Fork River	Lantz to headwaters	28.0
Mud River	Confluence with Guyandotte River to headwaters	70.0
New River	Bluestone Dam to confluence with Gauley River	66.0
North River	Confluence with Cacapon River to headwaters	44.0
Ohio River	Ohio / Pennsylvania state line to Wellsburg	18.0
Otter Creek	Upstream boundary of Otter Creek Wilderness to confluence with Dry Fork	10.5
Potomac River	Hancock to Old Town	52.0
North Fork of the South Branch	Confluence with South Branch to mouth of Seneca	19.0
North Fork of the South Branch	High Ridge Run to outskirts of Hopeville	3.2
South Branch	Confluence with North Branch to US 220 crossing north of Moorefield	34.0
South Branch	Petersburg to National Recreation Area Boundary	48.5
South Fork of South Branch	One mile south of Moorefield to Palo Alto	55.0
Red Creek	Dolly Sods Wilderness to headwaters	8.7
Seneca Creek	Trussel Run to the Spruce Knob/Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area Boundary	13.0
Tygart Valley River	Belington to headwaters	71.0
Williams River	National Forest property boundary above Black Mountain Run to Spice Run above Dyer	25.5
33 rivers	Total	1,331.2

AMERICAN HERITAGE RIVERS

This presidential initiative supports community-based efforts to restore and protect the environmental, economic, cultural and historic values of the nation's rivers and to help communities revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution. For more information about American Heritage Rivers, visit www.epa.gov/OWOW/heritage/rivers.html.

The initiative has the following goals:

- Designate rivers nominated by their communities.
- Support local community goals for that river or river segment.
- Help streamline the bureaucratic process and provide focused federal support to designated rivers. A "River Navigator" will be available to help match community needs with available resources from existing programs.
- Develop additional information for the use of all river communities.

American Heritage River Services—Online Funding and Assistance Catalog

Available to all river communities, this catalog of services (funding sources, talent banks, tools, etc.) can help communities revitalize their waterfronts and clean up pollution. You can search available resources by categories of assistance (financial support, etc.), or by topic (historic preservation, economic revitalization, etc.). For additional information, please visit www.epa.gov/rivers/services.

West Virginia's Designated American Heritage Rivers

Two of the nation's 11 American Heritage Rivers have segments in West Virginia—the New River and the Potomac River. Please contact the following people for more information:

New River

- Community Contact: Patrick Woodie, executive director, New River Community Partners; PO Box 1897, Sparta, N.C. 28675; (336) 372-8118; fax: (336) 372-8135; pwoodie@skybest.com.
- River Navigator: Ben Borda, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District; 502 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701; (304) 529-5712; fax: (304) 529-5136; benb@lrh.usace.army.mil.

Potomac River

- Community Contact: Friends of the Potomac, 1730 K Street NW, Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20006; (202) 467-4000; fax: (202) 467-4007; info@potomacfriends.org.
- River Navigator: Glenn Kinser, National Park Service, P.O. Box 447, Shepherdstown, WV 25443; (304) 535-2906; fax: (304) 535-6059; glenn_kinser@nps.gov.

West Virginia's Nominated American Heritage Rivers

The Cheat River, Kanawha River and Ohio Rivers were nominated by their communities and have received special recognition through the American Heritage Rivers Program. Please visit www.epa.gov/rivers/nominees.html.

WEST VIRGINIA'S STATE-DESIGNATED RIVERS AND STREAMS

NATURAL STREAMS PRESERVATION ACT OF 1969

This act was passed to protect rivers with outstanding natural and scenic qualities in West Virginia. The five streams designated for protection under this act include the Greenbrier River, Anthony Creek, Cranberry River, Birch River and the New River (see the following table for section and mileage information).

WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS NAMED IN THE NATURAL STREAMS PRESERVATION ACT

River	Section	Miles
Anthony Creek	Headwaters to its confluence with the Greenbrier River	30.8
Birch River	Cora Brown Bridge to the confluence with the Elk River	17.5
Cranberry River	Headwaters to its confluence with the Gauley River	33.4
Greenbrier River	Confluence with Knapps Creek to its confluence with the New River	108.8
New River	Confluence with the Greenbrier River to its confluence with the Gauley River	65.0
	Total	255.5

There is no established process to study and designate rivers; no streams have been added since 1969. New designations would require action by the governor and the Legislature. The construction of impoundments or diversions on protected streams is controlled through a Division of Water Resources review and permitting process. The act does not authorize any land purchase or land-use controls along designated rivers. The text of the legislation is available at www.amrivers.localweb.com/wscodewv.pdf.

COMMERCIAL WHITEWATER ZONES

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) is directed by the West Virginia Code section 20.2-23a to provide law enforcement and regulate all aspects of commercial river use within designated "whitewater zones" (text of the legislation is available at www.caf.wvu.edu/for/pandr/wvww/code/Regs.htm). Rivers designated as whitewater zones are as follows:

River	Section	Miles
Cheat River	Confluence of Saltlick Creek to the confluence with Big Sandy Creek	24.8
Gauley River	Summersville Dam to the bridge at Jodie	27.8
New River	Confluence of the Greenbrier River to the confluence with the Gauley River	65.0
Shenandoah River	Potomac Edison Power Station Dam to the confluence with the Potomac River	6.0
Tygart Valley River	Confluence of Mill Creek (near Bellington) to the CR 62 Bridge at Colfax	56.2
	Total	179.8

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Created in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) resulted from one of the most successful and far-reaching pieces of conservation and recreation legislation in American history. The LWCF was established with vigorous bipartisan support and annual funding levels were increased several times during the 1970s. Congress extended the life of the program by 25 years in 1989. LWCF remains a crucial source of funding for land acquisition and recreational facility development projects for local and state parks.

For fiscal year 2000, West Virginia received \$426,147 in LWCF funds. Funding for fiscal year 2001 totaled \$965,140. The fiscal year 2002 request for record appropriations would provide West Virginia with approximately \$4.8 million of LWCF funds.

Public Law 88-578
Enacted: Sept. 3, 1964

Effective dates: Jan. 1, 1965—Sept. 30, 2015

The LWCF:

- Provides a system for funding of federal, state and local parks and conservation areas.
- Gives states and localities incentives to plan and invest in their own park systems.

Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF act contains strong provisions to protect federal investments and the quality of assisted resources. The law is firm but flexible. It recognizes the likelihood that changes in land use or development may make some assisted areas obsolete over time, particularly in rapidly changing urban areas. At the same time, the law discourages casual "discards" of park and recreation facilities by ensuring that changes or "conversions from recreation use" will bear a cost—a cost that assures taxpayers that investments in the "national recreation estate" will not be squandered. The LWCF act contains a clear and common-sense provision to protect grant-assisted areas from conversions.

SEC. 6(f)(3) No property acquired or developed with assistance under this section shall, without the approval of the secretary, be converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses. The secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the then existing comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the substitution of other recreation properties of at least equal fair market value and of reasonably equivalent usefulness and location.

This "anti-conversion" requirement applies to all parks and other sites that have been the subject of land and water grants of any type, whether for acquisition of parkland, development or rehabilitation of facilities.

NPS Contact:

Sylvia Wood, National Park Service, Recreation Programs Division
1849 C Street NW, Room 3622, Washington, DC 20240
(202) 565-1200; <http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/PROGRAMS/LWCF/>

WV Contact:

Bobby Lewis, Community Development, West Virginia Development Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 558-4010

NATIONAL AND STATE RECOGNITION PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL PLACES

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS

National Scenic Byways are exceptional roads through areas that exemplify regional characteristics. They possess distinctive cultural, historic, natural or other qualities unique among neighboring states. Under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), approximately \$25 million is available annually through the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the scenic byways discretionary grant program. The funds may be used for planning as well as enhancing and promoting the byways. FHWA manages the program.

The National Scenic Byways Program, which includes both All-American Roads and National Scenic Byways, was created to preserve and protect the nation's scenic roadways and simultaneously promote tourism and economic development. The National Scenic Byways Program emphasizes local involvement. For additional information, please visit www.byways.org.

WEST VIRGINIA BYWAYS AND BACKWAYS PROGRAM

The purpose of the West Virginia Byways Program is to recognize, interpret, enhance and preserve the intrinsic qualities of West Virginia byway corridors. A primary tenet of the program is local support for designation. Therefore, communities are an integral part of the designation process.

The West Virginia Byways and Backways Program demonstrates a commitment to celebrating and preserving the rich culture and history, the scenic beauty and the recreational opportunities of the state's transportation system and the archaeological and natural features of the state. The goal of the program is to balance the development and preservation of the scenic, cultural, historic, recreational, natural and archaeological resources adjacent to the corridors throughout the state, while promoting travel, tourism and community-based economic development in West Virginia.

A West Virginia Backway is similar to a byway, but offers a slower pace and more intimate relationship with the land. Backway routes may be considered recreational experiences and/or resources. For additional information regarding the West Virginia Byways and Backways Program, contact: Karen Ebert Allen, Byways and Backways Program Coordinator, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Building 5, Room A-863, Charleston, WV 25305; (304) 558-3165; kallen@dot.state.wv.us; http://www.byways.org/travel/state.html?CX_STATE=WV

NATIONAL AND STATE SCENIC BYWAYS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Name	National Scenic Byway	State Byway	State Backway	Description	Length
Back Mountain			X	Pocahontas County (CR 1)	2.70 miles
Camp Allegheny			X	Pocahontas County (CR 3)	10.58 miles
Cedar Creek Road			X	Braxton & Gilmer counties—Begins at Flatwoods	41.42 miles
Cheat River Byway		X		W.Va. Route 72 south through Rowlesburg to intersection with U.S. 50	14.14 miles
Cheat Mountain			X	Randolph County (CR 250/4)	3.32 miles
Coal Heritage Trail	X	X		U.S. 60 to U.S. 19 from Fayetteville to Beckley U.S. Route 16 between Beckley and Welch; U.S. Route 52 from Welch to Bluefield	165.94 miles
Farm Heritage Road		X		From Peterstown it travels W.Va. 12, W.Va. 122, U.S. 219, and WV 3 through Monroe and Summers County	59.45 miles
Glade Creek			X	Fayette County and under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service from junction with W.Va. 41	9.2 miles
Highland Scenic Highway	X	X		Between Richwood, W.Va. and U.S. 219 north of Marlinton, W.Va. Includes W.Va. 55, 39, and 150.	44.00 miles
Little Kanawha Parkway		X		State Route 5 from Burnsville to Elizabeth and W.Va. 14 to Mineral Wells	77.63 miles
Midland Trail	X	X		U.S. Route 60 between Charleston and White Sulphur Springs	116.80 miles
Monongahela Byway				Portions of U.S. Routes 219, 32, 72 forming a loop between Parsons, Thomas, Davis, Red Creek, Hendricks	54.39 miles
Mountain Parkway		X	X	W.Va. 20 in Webster County	33.93 miles
Mountain's Shadow Trail			X	From Gap Mills in Monroe County take CR 29 and 219/24	29.57 miles
Mountain Waters		X		Pocahontas County	29.2 miles
National Road		X		U.S. 40 in Ohio County	16.04 miles
Northwestern Turnpike		X		U.S. 50 from I-79 to the W.Va/Md. border	54.00 miles
Old Route 7 Byway		X		Old Route 7 from intersection with I-68 near Morgantown to the Maryland state border	43.00 miles
Roosevelt-McCausland Trail		X	X	Putnam County	29.59 miles
Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike		X		U.S. 250 west from the W.Va./Va. State line to Huttonsville; then U.S. 219 north to Elkins; U.S. 33 to CR 151; U.S. 33 through Weston to W.Va. 47 in Gilmer County to Parkersburg	0000 miles
Washington Heritage Trail	X	X		Loop through eastern panhandle counties (encompasses far too many routes to list)	136.72 miles
Rich Mountain			X	Begins in Beverly and ends at CR 151	12.57 miles
Williams River			X	Pocahontas County	28.86 miles

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

National Coal Heritage Area, 1996

Citation: Public Law 104-333, Division II, Title II; 110 STAT. 4243

Corrections: Public Law 106-176, Title II, Sec. 201;

www.ncrc.nps.gov/heritage/coal.htm

Jeff Harpold, director, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., Charleston, WV 25305; (304) 558-2779; coalheritage@wvculture.org; www.coalheritage.org.

The National Coal Heritage Area (NCHA) is one of only 22 nationally designated heritage areas in the entire United States. It represents a part of the growing effort by the National Park Service to develop resource protection initiatives for areas of national significance that rely on partnerships and private ownership rather than the traditional methods of federally owned parklands. The mission of the National Coal Heritage Area is to preserve, protect and interpret lands, structures and communities associated with the coal mining heritage of West Virginia. The NCHA encompasses the following 11 counties in the southern part of the state: Boone, Cabell, Fayette, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne and Wyoming.

Wheeling National Heritage Area, 2000

Wheeling National Heritage Area Act of 2000

Citation: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_cong_bills&docid=f:h4578enr.txt.pdf

Hydie Friend, Wheeling National Heritage Area Coalition, PO Box 350, Wheeling, WV 26003;

(304) 232-3087; Email: heritage@stratuswave.net;

www.wheelingcvb.com/oldguide/history.html

Oral History Database: <http://wheeling.weirton.lib.wv.us/wahp/WHAP.htm>

The Wheeling National Heritage Area (WNHAC) is a planned \$50 million redevelopment of downtown Wheeling, building upon the city's national significance as a gateway to the West during the 1800s and a classic industrial city on the Ohio River. Conserving and celebrating this rich heritage is the primary goal of WNHAC.

NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

A National Natural Landmark (NNL) is a nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the secretary of the interior. A site must be one of the best examples of a type of biotic community or geologic feature in its physiographic province.

The NNL program was established in 1962 under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C 461-467). It is administered by the NPS. The revised National Natural Landmark Program Regulations (36 CFR, Part 62) were published in the Federal Register May 12, 1999, and provide better protection of the interests of private landowners who participate in the program. A National Registry of Natural Landmarks has been published.

The secretary of the interior makes the NNL designation following in-depth scientific study of a potential site; all new designations must have owner permission. The Park Service regularly monitors the physical condition of NNLs. Regional coordinators can advise landowners on how to care for their special sites. In some cases, small grants have been awarded to assist in conservation of resources. The NNL designation is meaningful to many program participants—it affords them recognition and supports their conservation efforts.

Land acquisition by the federal government is not the goal of this program. NNLs are nationally significant sites owned by a variety of land stewards, and participation in the program is voluntary. Designation is not a land withdrawal, does not change the ownership of a site and does not dictate activity. However, federal agencies should consider the unique properties of the landmark in NEPA compliance. There may also be state or local planning and land-use implications.

The NNL program encourages and supports voluntary preservation of sites that illustrate the geological and ecological history of the United States, to enhance the scientific and educational value of the sites preserved and to strengthen the public's appreciation of America's natural heritage.

The NNL program offers participants the opportunity to share information, solve problems cooperatively and conserve important natural areas. For nearly 40 years, the NNL Program has involved private, municipal, state and federal landowners, all working toward the conservation of significant natural resources.

The 587 NNLs designated nationally include public and private lands with a variety of uses, including ranching, agriculture, recreation, nature preserves, research areas, camps, conference centers and commercial ventures. All of these uses can be compatible with NNL designation. In West Virginia, there are currently 15 NNLs. For additional information, contact: NNL Program, NPS, 1849 C Street NW, Room 3021, Washington, D.C. 20240; nnl@nps.gov. For regional information, contact: Michelle Batcheller, National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Regional NNL coordinator; (814) 863-9414.

WEST VIRGINIA'S NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARKS

Name of NNL	County	Description	Date of designation	Owner
Big Run Bog	Tucker	The area contains a relic Pleistocene high altitude northern sphagnum-red spruce bog far south of its normal range, with large numbers of rare plants and animals. Seven miles East of Parsons in Monongahela National Forest.	Dec. 1974	Federal
Blackwater Falls and Canyon	Tucker	NNL Study of site #39 recommended 7,000 acres for designation due to its outstanding scenic qualities and educational values. No action taken.		Federal State Private
Blister Run Swamp	Randolph	A good, high-altitude balsam fir swamp, probably the southernmost extension of this type of forest, providing habitat for several uncommon and rare plants. Four miles northwest of Durbin in Monongahela National Forest.	Dec. 1974	Federal
Canaan Valley	Tucker	As a splendid "museum" of Pleistocene habitats, the area contains an aggregation of these habitats seldom found in the eastern U.S. It is unique as a northern boreal relic community at this latitude by virtue of its size, elevation and diversity. Five miles east of Davis.	Dec. 1974	Private
Cathedral Park	Preston	Contains a remnant virgin hemlock forest and dense thickets of great rhododendron. A cool, poorly drained site. Four miles west of U.S. 219 on U.S. 50.	Oct. 1965	State
Cranberry Glades Botanical Area	Pocahontas	The largest and best example of cranberry glades in WV where natural cold air drainage and moist substrate have provided an ideal setting for a northern sphagnum bog. Contains Three major vegetation types: Bog forest, shrub thickets and open glade. Five miles northwest of Hillsboro in Monongahela National Forest.	Dec. 1974	Federal
Cranesville Swamp Nature Sanctuary	Preston Garret, Md.	Occupies a natural bowl where cool, moist conditions are conducive to plant and animal communities more common in northern locations. Nine miles north of Terra Alta.	Oct. 1964	Private
Fisher Spring Run Bog	Tucker	An excellent example of a sphagnum-red spruce bog illustrating vegetation zonation. Eleven miles southeast of Davis in Monongahela National Forest.	Dec. 1974	Federal
Gaudineer Scenic Area	Pocahontas Randolph	The best of the remaining virgin red spruce forests in the State. Five miles north of Durbin in Monongahela National Forest.	Dec. 1974	Federal
Germany Valley Karst Area	Pendleton	One of the largest cove or intermountain karst areas in the country, unique because all the groundwater recharge and solution activities are controlled by precipitation levels within the cove. Several of the cave openings provide habitat	May 1973	Federal, Private

		for bat populations including the Virginia Big Eared Bat, an endangered species. Between Riverton and Mouth of Seneca.		
Greenville Saltpeter Cave	Monroe	The largest of the saltpeter caves in West Virginia, containing rimstone pools and saltpeter deposits. ¼ mile north of Greenville.	Nov. 1973	Private
Lost World Caverns	Greenbrier	Similar to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico, these caverns feature terraced pedestal-like stalagmites, flowstone, curtains, rimstone, domepits, and waterfalls. Two miles north of Lewisburg.	Nov. 1973	Private
Organ Cave System	Greenbrier	The largest cave system in West Virginia, containing seven caves, one of which is Organ Cave. Noted also for its saltpeter troughs and vats. Three miles southeast of Ronceverte, extending north and south of Organ Cave.	Nov. 1973	Private
Shavers Mountain Spruce-Hemlock Stand	Randolph	An old growth red spruce-hemlock stand called a “spruce flat,” a disjunct component of the more northern hemlock-white pine-northern hardwood forest region. Seven miles northwest of Harman in Monongahela National Forest.	Dec. 1974	Federal
Sinnett-Thorn Mountain Cave System	Pendleton	The cave includes rooms at various levels connected by crawlways and vertical shafts, waterfalls and deep pits. One-half mile northwest of Moyers.	Nov. 1973	Private
Swago Karst Area	Pocahontas	A classic illustration of features associated with karst topography and terrain, including caverns and other passages. Three miles west of Marlinton.	Nov. 1973	Federal, Private

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Park Service serves as the national coordinating agency for the National Register of Historic Places. However, the West Virginia state historic preservation officer (SHPO) is the state contact for the program. For additional information regarding the National Register program in West Virginia, contact: Susan Pierce, State Historic Preservation Officer, WV Division of Culture and History, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305; (304) 558-0240; susan.pierce@wvculture.org; www.wvculture.org, <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/>

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT OUR SPECIAL PLACES

Commercial Whitewater Zone Management:

West Virginia Code, Section 20.2-23a.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), 1964

PL 88-578

<http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/PROGRAMS/LWCF/>

National Coal Heritage Area, 1996

P.L. 104-333, Division II, Title II; 110 STAT. 4243

Corrections: Public Law 106-176, Title II, Sec. 201

www.coalheritage.org

National Natural Landmarks Program

Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-467)

<http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>

National Trails System Act of 1968

(PL 90-543)

www.public.iastate.edu/~sfr/nts/nts_act.html

TEA-21, Bike Ped Provisions

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/BP-Broch.htm

TEA-21, Recreational Trails Provisions

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrail.htm

www.railtrails.org/RTC_active_pages/GetInvolved/Legislation/TEA21/main.as

Volunteer Protection Act of 1997

(PL 105-19)

Volunteers in the Forest Act of 1972

(PL 92-300; U.S.C. Title 16, Sec. 558a-d)

<http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>

Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969

(PL 91-357; U.S.C. Title 16, Sec. 18g-j)

<http://uscode.house.gov/usc.htm>

Wheeling National Heritage Area Act of 2000

(H.R. 4576, 106th Congress, Interior Appropriations Bill FY 2001, Sec. 157, p. 42)

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=106_cong_bills&docid=f:h4578enr.txt.pdf

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

(PL 90-542; U.S.C. Title 16, Sec. 1271-1287):

www.nps.gov/rivers/wsraact.html

Amendments:

PL 95-625, 1978 (study Bluestone, Cacapon, Greenbrier, Gauley, Meadow, Cranberry),

PL 96-199, 3-5-80 (study Birch),

PL 100-534, 10-26-88 (add Bluestone)

PL 102-525, 10-26-92 (study New)

West Virginia Natural Streams Preservation Act of 1969

West Virginia Code, Chapter 20, Article 5B.

<http://amrivers.localweb.com/wscodewv.pdf>

West Virginia Rails to Trails Act of 1993:

West Virginia Code, Chapter 5B, Article 1A. Economic Development Act of 1985: "WV Rails-to-Trails Program"

www.legis.state.wv.us/scripts/as_web.exe?codeart+D+2006752

West Virginia Recreational Use Statute:

West Virginia Code, Chapter 19, Article 25. Limiting Liability of Landowners.

www.legis.state.wv.us/scripts/as_web.exe?codeart+D+15648716