

# Birthplace of Rivers National Monument



## Conserve

Hunting and fishing would be core values, ensuring that fish & game conservation is highest priority.

## Protect

The area would be protected from future threats from development and industrial activity.

## Restore

Restoration of streams will be a key component of the statute, making restoration needs paramount.

## A flexible designation for permanent enjoyment

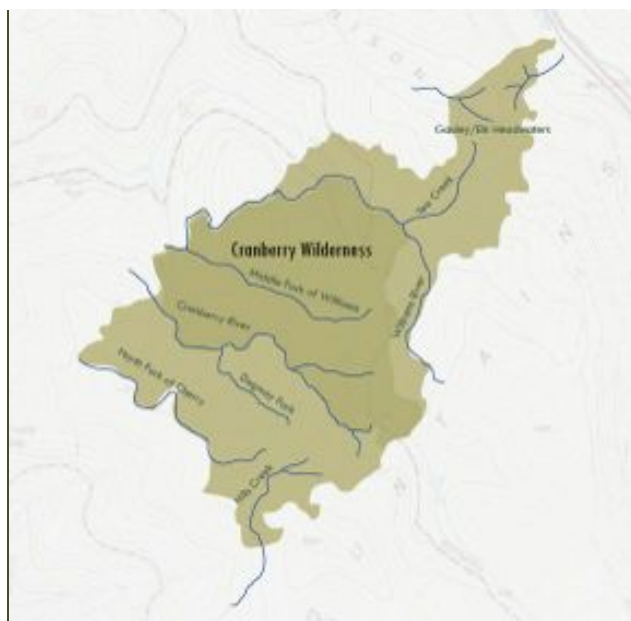
National Monument status would celebrate our sporting heritage for generations

With six trout-rich watersheds contained within its potential boundaries, the Birthplace of Rivers National Monument would preserve one of West Virginia's core trout fishing experiences for future generations. It would protect access for sportsmen to continue the traditions of hunting, fishing and trapping. This area is

one of the most important landscapes for the Mountain State's sportsmen, and we share a desire to keep the area just like it is. We need to be able to pass on our hunting and angling traditions on to future Mountaineers. However, potential changes in the management of these lands threaten to change the way these

lands are enjoyed in the future. National Monuments are developed from the bottom up and the sportsmen of West Virginia have the opportunity to ensure that our recreational needs are protected forever through this exciting opportunity.





As industrial pressures on public lands may change the way our woods and waters are enjoyed,

**TROUT UNLIMITED...**

believes this area is too important not to set aside for future generations of West Virginia Sportsmen.

**The Monument's establishment would preserve current management emphasis of backcountry recreation and spruce and spruce-hardwood restoration,** rather than leaving these areas subject to changes at the hands of a future administration.

**Each monument is managed differently, according to place-specific needs and community input.** This flexibility allows for collaboration to determine how the designation may be crafted to fit this unique area's needs, while safeguarding access for sportsmen and land managers.

**The Monument would be managed by the U.S. Forest Service.** Trout Unlimited and other Monument partners oppose future management of current Monongahela National Forest lands by the National Park Service.

**The Birthplace of Rivers initiative remains in a concept development stage,** with input from user groups, managing agencies and the general public to determine management objectives and proposed boundaries.

**No additional Wilderness would be created as a part of the**

**Monument.** Actually, statutory goals of trout restoration and spruce and spruce-hardwood restoration would make it more difficult to add any Wilderness in the future.

According to the vision of Trout Unlimited and other Monument advocates, the Monument would ensure:

- ➔ **Hunting, fishing and trapping.** These are cornerstone activities of the area, they won't in any way be restricted. Hunting and fishing are traditional uses commonly enjoyed on two dozen National Monuments managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service.
- ➔ **Fish and wildlife management** duties continued under the direction of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.
- ➔ **Habitat manipulation to provide quality hunting and fishing experiences.** Simply allowing hunting and fishing is not enough, because the streams and forest of the Monongahela will require continued management by

WVDNR and USFS to improve habitat and sustain fish and game populations.

- ➔ **Stocking of trout under discretion of the WVDNR,** a practice common in several existing National Monuments.
- ➔ **Spruce and Spruce-hardwood restoration** using a variety of means including stewardship agreements and service contracts to accomplish restoration objectives and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- ➔ **Access to all roads currently open to the public.**
- ➔ **Construction of roads, if necessary** to meet objectives of the monument, such as stream restoration and forestry restoration.
- ➔ **Gathering of wild edible plants,** another important Appalachian tradition enjoyed in several existing National Monuments.