



TAKE  
ACTION  
NOW!

The Future of the  
Monongahela  
National Forest is at  
Stake

Forest Service has  
Ignored 13,000  
Public Comments

Contact Decision  
Makers Today!

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO PROTECT WEST  
VIRGINIA'S MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST**

On September 18<sup>th</sup> the U.S Forest Service released their Final Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest. In doing so, the Forest Service has ignored the will of the owners of the forest by changing almost nothing from the draft plan released for public comment in August 2005.

During that comment period a record number of nearly 13,000 people commented on the draft plan with over 90% calling for more wilderness designations than what the Forest Service recommended. The public overwhelmingly rejected the Forest Service's "preferred" Alternative 2, which is essentially the same as the final plan, because it opens up several areas that qualify for wilderness designation to logging and road building.

Fortunately, the decision to protect wilderness, which only happens through federal legislation, is in the hands of West Virginia's Congressional Delegation. **Please write a letter or make a phone call to your Senators, Representative, and Governor Manchin!** Now is your chance to have an impact on what special places will be protected through legislation, as these decisions may be made in the next couple of months.



This action alert is sponsored by the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Campaign for America's Wilderness, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Mountaineer Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, West Virginia Citizen Action Group, and West Virginia Environmental Council

Photo Credits: Cover: Jeremy Tooley; Dolly Sods Expansion; Inside panel: Jonathan Jessup  
[www.jonathanjessup.com](http://www.jonathanjessup.com), Seneca Creek

[WWW.WVWILD.ORG](http://WWW.WVWILD.ORG)

SAMPLE TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR  
LETTER OR PHONE CALL:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- The U.S. Forest Service has ignored the will of the public in its final management plan for the Monongahela National Forest, and West Virginia needs you to get involved.
- It is critical that we protect not only the areas recommended by the Forest Service, but also areas that citizens' groups and the public at large have identified as important and in need of protection. Key areas like **Seneca Creek, East Fork of Greenbrier, the Dolly Sods Expansion, Spice Run and Big Draft** have been ignored by the Forest Service, but must be protected permanently.
- The Forest Service plan does not recommend any wilderness in the Greenbrier Watershed which currently has no designated wilderness and is a source of drinking water for many West Virginians.
- Protected public land like wilderness helps diversify and stabilize economies by attracting and retaining new businesses, residents, and a local workforce, in addition to generating travel and tourism, one of the fastest growing sectors of West Virginia's economy.
- Wilderness provides unparalleled outdoor recreation opportunities, such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, birding, whitewater rafting, kayaking, skiing, and much more.

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Please let us know when you've sent your letter by either sending a copy to or notifying us:

WWWC, PO BOX 6  
MASONTOWN, WV 26542  
INFO@WWILD.ORG  
304-864-5530

Those sending copies of letters will be entered into a drawing for a **jacket from Patagonia!**



OTHER WAYS TO HELP PROTECT THE MON:

1. Send your letter to your local newspaper as a letter to the editor.
2. Encourage 3-5 friends or family members to write letters.
3. Host a 'Wild Mon' letter writing party—contact us for a free copy of our DVD and party kit.
4. Get involved with one of the West Virginia Wilderness Coalition Chapters — Contact Matt to find a chapter near you.

contact Matt Keller at  
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Please visit us online  
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