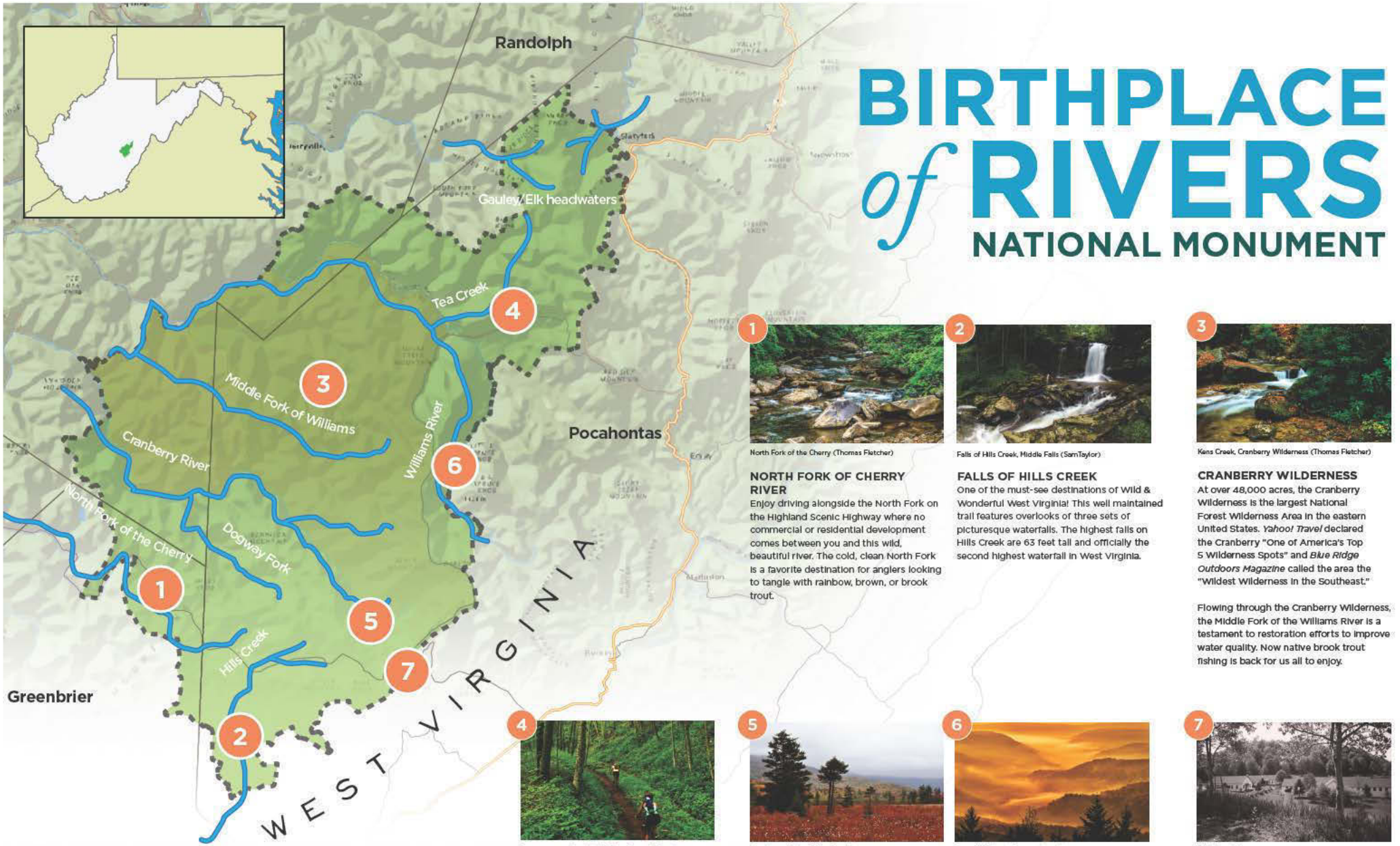
BIRTHPLACE of RIVERS NATIONAL MONUMENT



North Fork of the Cherry (Thomas Fletcher)

NORTH FORK OF CHERRY RIVER

Enjoy driving alongside the North Fork on the Highland Scenic Highway where no commercial or residential development comes between you and this wild, beautiful river. The cold, clean North Fork is a favorite destination for anglers looking to tangle with rainbow, brown, or brook trout.

Falls of Hills Creek, Middle Falls (SamTaylor)

FALLS OF HILLS CREEK

One of the must-see destinations of Wild & Wonderful West Virginia! This well maintained trail features overlooks of three sets of picturesque waterfalls. The highest falls on Hills Creek are 63 feet tall and officially the second highest waterfall in West Virginia.

Kens Creek, Cranberry Wilderness (Thomas Fletcher)

CRANBERRY WILDERNESS

At over 48,000 acres, the Cranberry Wilderness is the largest National Forest Wilderness Area in the eastern United States. *Yahoo! Travel* declared the Cranberry "One of America's Top 5 Wilderness Spots" and *Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine* called the area the "Wildest Wilderness in the Southeast."

Flowing through the Cranberry Wilderness, the Middle Fork of the Williams River is a testament to restoration efforts to improve water quality. Now native brook trout fishing is back for us all to enjoy.

Props run single track (Elk River Touring Center)

TEA CREEK BACKCOUNTRY

Tea Creek Mountain and Turkey Mountain make up this legendary roadless area, popular for its hunting, fishing, and recreational trails. Restoration efforts have made Tea Creek home to a healthy population of native brook trout. With a vast network of trails, the area is one of the top mountain biking destinations in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Cranberry Glades (Mike Costello)

CRANBERRY GLADES

Adjacent to the Cranberry Wilderness and Backcountry Areas, Cranberry Glades is one of the most visited natural features in the Mountain State. Known for its biodiversity, the Glades is accessible via a half-mile boardwalk, and is popular among birders, botanists, and nature photographers.

Scenic Highway (Thomas Fletcher)

HIGHLAND SCENIC HIGHWAY

With several overlooks at over 4500 feet, the Highland Scenic Highway is the highest average-elevation highway in the eastern United States. The Scenic Highway borders the Cranberry Wilderness, and provides access to over 100 miles of recreation trails.

U.S. Forest Service

MILL POINT FEDERAL PRISON

A prison for moonshiners during Prohibition, then for conscientious objectors during World War II, the Mill Point Federal Prison Camp is a fascinating piece of American history. Foundations of many buildings can be seen in what are now wetlands or dense forests. Mill Point became known as the "prison without walls" after renowned author and former inmate Howard Fast wrote of his experiences at the facility.

BIRTHPLACE of RIVERS

NATIONAL MONUMENT

– Celebrating "Wild & Wonderful"

FOR WEST VIRGINIA, BY WEST VIRGINIANS

Stunning vistas, exhilarating trails, treasured hunting grounds, and cold mountain streams. These wild and wonderful features have always brought West Virginians to the Monongahela National Forest to connect with our outdoor heritage. Preserving these experiences for current and future generations is why people of all backgrounds have come together to protect the Birthplace of Rivers as a national monument.

SUPPORT FOR BIRTHPLACE OF RIVERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

West Virginians are proud of the state's conservation legacy, but the Birthplace of Rivers National Monument isn't conservation as usual. Never before have so many user groups and other stakeholders collaborated to protect the Monongahela in a way that honors our lands and waters, our history, and our rich mountain culture. Small business owners, hunters and anglers, outdoor recreationists, local elected officials, faith leaders, and veterans all support a Birthplace of Rivers National Monument.

AN OUTDOOR RECREATION HAVEN

From thrilling mountain biking trails and backcountry whitewater paddling runs to meandering boardwalks and scenic overlooks, the Birthplace of Rivers has something for everyone. No matter the level of adventure you seek, this area has it all.

These outdoor experiences are exactly what make this region so special. A national monument would protect access to all recreational activities so the Birthplace of Rivers can forever be explored and enjoyed.

Photo: International Mountain Biking Association

Photo: Geoff Gallice

Photo: Smoothingit.com

CASHING IN ON 'WILD AND WONDERFUL'

The backcountry trails, trout streams, and scenic drives of the Monongahela National Forest mean big business for the local tourism economy. Birthplace of Rivers National Monument would tell the nation that West Virginia has an abundance of clean mountain streams and amazing wild places worth visiting, exploring, and protecting.

A recent study found that a Birthplace of Rivers National Monument would increase visitation by 50,000 people, generating an additional $5.2 million spent in local communities. No wonder local convention and visitors bureaus and roughly 200 West Virginia businesses have rallied to support creation of the Birthplace of Rivers National Monument.

BIRTHPLACE of RIVERS
NATIONAL MONUMENT
West Virginia

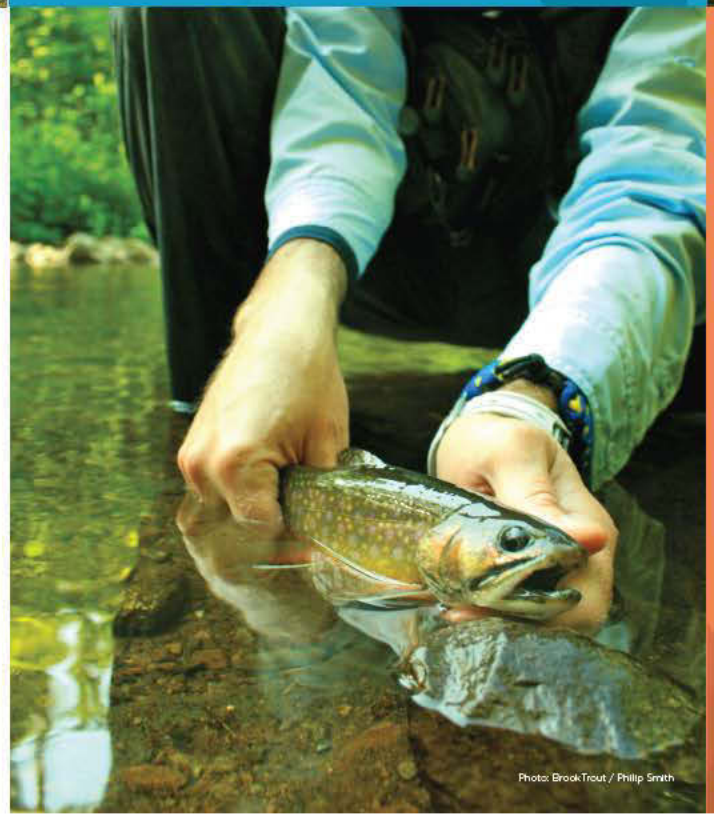


Photo: BrookTrout / Philip Smith

WILDLIFE

The Birthplace of Rivers is home to a variety of wildlife, including deer, turkey, and black bear. The Monongahela National Forest, where the Birthplace of Rivers is located, holds 90 percent of West Virginia's native trout streams.

Sportsmen have played a key role in defining the vision for the Birthplace of Rivers. Access to longstanding traditions of hunting and fishing would be protected, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would maintain control of fish and wildlife management.

CLEAN WATER

Birthplace of Rivers National Monument will safeguard the headwaters of six rivers: the Cranberry, Gauley, Greenbrier, Elk, Williams, and Cherry. These waters contribute drinking water to millions of people downstream, and they provide clean water for fishing and recreation. A national monument will protect some of our state's most prized headwaters, keeping our rivers flowing with cool, clean water for generations to come.

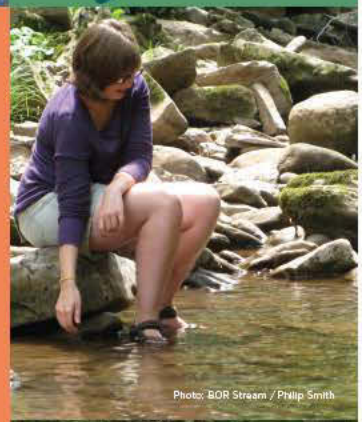


Photo: BOR Stream / Philip Smith

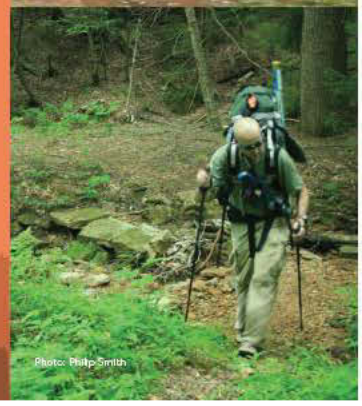


Photo: Philip Smith