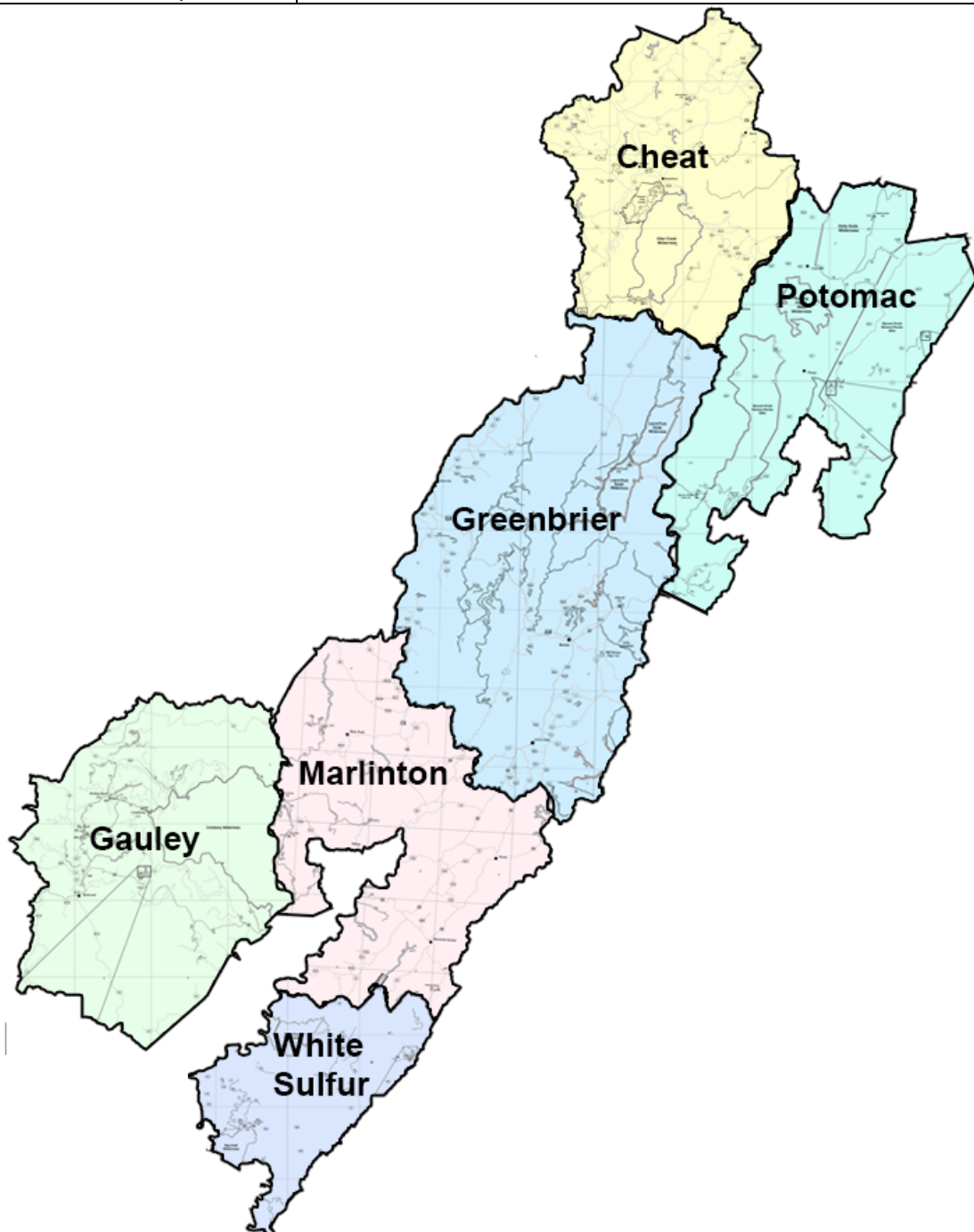




## Ranger Districts

| <b>Ranger Districts</b>                                                         | <b>Areas within the District</b>                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cheat-Potomac Ranger District,<br>Headquarters: Parsons, WV                     | Otter Creek Wilderness, Canaan Mountain Backcountry, Dolly Sods Wilderness, Roaring Plains West Wilderness, Spruce Knob - Seneca Creek Backcountry |
| Gauley Ranger District,<br>Headquarters: Richwood, WV                           | Highland Scenic Highway, Falls of Hills Creek, Cranberry Mountain Nature Center                                                                    |
| Greenbrier Ranger District,<br>Headquarters: Bartow, WV                         | <i>Laurel Fork Wilderness, Gaudineer Scenic Area</i>                                                                                               |
| Marlinton-White Sulphur Springs Ranger District,<br>Headquarters: Marlinton, WV | <i>Marlin Mountain Trails, Rimel Area Trails, Tea Creek Trail System, Lake Sherwood Area Trail System, Big Draft Wilderness</i>                    |



## Points of Interest

| <b>Name</b>                     | <b>Area</b>    | <b>Elev.</b>    | <b>Est.</b> | <b>Mountain</b>       | <b>Waterway</b>                                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Canaan Mountain Backcountry     | 13,532 acres   | 3100 to 4145 ft |             | Canaan Mtn            | Lindy Run, Red Run                                   |
| Canaan Wildlife Refuge          | 16,550 acres   |                 | 1994        | Brown Mtn, Canaan Mtn | Blackwater Rvr, Sand Run, Glade Run                  |
| Chimney Top                     | 5.2 mile trail | 1130 to 3180 ft |             | North Fork Mtn        |                                                      |
| Cranberry Glades Botanical Area | 750 acres      | 3400 ft         | 1974        |                       | South Fork Cranberry River                           |
| Douglas Falls                   |                | 2741 ft         |             | Blackwater Gorge      | North Fork Blackwater River                          |
| Eagle Rocks                     |                | 1620 ft         |             | Smoke Hole Canyon     | South Branch Potomac River                           |
| Falls of Hills Creek            | 114 acres      | 3400 ft         |             |                       | Hills Creek                                          |
| Fernow Experimental Forest      | 4600 acres     | 1750 to 3650 ft | 1934        |                       | Bear Run, Shavers Fork, Elk Lick Run, Big Spring Run |
| Gaudineer Scenic Area           | 140 acres      | 4432 ft         |             |                       | Shavers Fork, West Fork Greenbrier River             |
| Green Bank                      |                |                 | 1956        |                       |                                                      |
| High Falls of Cheat             |                | 2800 ft         |             | Shavers Mtn           | Shavers Fork                                         |
| Highland Scenic Highway         | 22.5 miles     | 2325 to 4500 ft | 1980        |                       |                                                      |
| Olsen Tower                     |                | 3,736 ft        | 1922        | Backbone Mountain     |                                                      |
| Seneca Creek Backcountry        | 19,600 acres   | 3000 to 4800 ft | 1965        | Allegheny Mtns        | Seneca Creek, Big Run, Swallow Rock Run, Gandy Creek |
| Seneca Rocks                    | 1.3 mile trail | 1568 ft         | 1965        |                       | North Fork South Branch Potomac River; Seneca Creek  |
| Sites Homestead                 |                |                 | 1839        | Seneca Rocks          |                                                      |
| Spruce Knob                     | 11.4 mile road | 4863 ft         | 1965        |                       |                                                      |
| Tea Creek                       | 5400 acres     | 2968 to 4541 ft |             | Gauley Mtn            | Tea Creek, Williams Rvr                              |

## Mon National Forest Wilderness Areas

| Name                | Area         | Elev.           | Est.       | Mountains                                         | Waterways                                   |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Dolly Sods          | 17,776 acres | 2500 to 4700 ft | 1975       | Coal Knob, Breathed Mtn, Blackbird Knob           | Red Creek                                   |
| Otter Creek         | 20,698 acres | 1800 to 3900 ft | 1975       | McGowan Mtn, Shavers Mtn                          | Otter Creek                                 |
| Roaring Plains West | 6,792 acres  | 3000 to 4700 ft | 2009       | Allegheny Mtns, Mount Porte Crayon                | South Fork Big Run, Red Run, Flatrock Creek |
| Laurel Fork         | 11,839 acre  | 2900 to 3700 ft | 1983       | Middle Mtn                                        | Laurel Fork                                 |
| Cranberry           | 47,815 acres | 2400 to 4600 ft | 1983; 2009 | Allegheny Mtns, Yew Mtn, Black Mtn, Cranberry Mtn | Cranberry Rvr, Williams Rvr                 |
| Spice Run           | 6,030 acres  | 2000 to 2800 ft | 2009       |                                                   | Spice Run, Greenbrier Rvr                   |
| Big Draft           | 5,144 acres  | 1800 to 3100 ft | 2009       | Greenbrier Mtn                                    | Big Draft, Anthony Creek, Greenbrier Rvr    |

### Easy Hikes in the Monongahela National Forest

Freeland Boardwalk, Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge  
 Beall Trail, Canaan Valley Wildlife Refuge  
 Cranberry Glades Boardwalk, Cranberry Wilderness  
 Whispering Spruce Trail, Spruce Knob  
 Blackwater Canyon Rail Trail, Thomas, WV – Hendricks, WV

### Scenic Views in the Monongahela National Forest

Chimney Top, North Fork Mountain Trail (North)  
 Olsen Tower, Blackwater Canyon  
 Whispering Spruce Trail, Spruce Knob  
 Seneca Rocks Trail, Seneca Rocks  
 Cranberry Glades Boardwalk, Cranberry Wilderness  
 Highland Scenic Highway  
 Falls of Hills Creek Trail, Falls of Hills Creek  
 Bear Rocks, Dolly Sods  
 Rocky Ridge Trail, Dolly Sods

During WWII, parts of the forest were part of the WV Maneuver Area, esp the climbing school and Seneca Rocks and artillery & mortar ranges at Dolly Sods (you are still warned about UXO at Dolly Sods)

### Scenic Driving Areas

Highland Scenic Highway  
 Williams River  
 Smoke Hole Canyon

## State Parks in the Monongahela National Forest

| <b>Park</b>                | <b>Nearest Town</b> | <b>Counties</b>         | <b>Area (acres)</b> | <b>Elevation (ft)</b> | <b>Est</b> |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Beartown                   | Resnick             | Greenbrier & Pocahontas | 110                 | 3425                  | 1970       |
| Blackwater Falls           | Davis               | Tucker                  | 2358                | 2897                  | 1937       |
| Calvin Price State Forest  | Marlinton           | Greenbrier, Pocahontas  | 9482                | 2730                  | 1953       |
| Canaan Valley              | Canaan Valley       | Tucker                  | 6015                | 3430 – 4280           | 1963       |
| Cass Scenic Railroad       | Cass                | Pocahontas              | 940                 | 2438                  | 1961       |
| Droop Mountain Battlefield | Hillsboro           | Pocahontas              | 287                 | 3104                  | 1928       |
| Fairfax Stone              | Egion               | Grant, Preston & Tucker | 4                   | 3169                  | 1957       |
| Greenbrier River Trail     | Caldwell to         | Cass                    | 78 miles            |                       |            |
| Seneca State Forest        | Sunmore             | Pocahontas              | 12,884              | 3245                  | 1924       |
| Watoga                     | Seebert             | Pocahontas              | 10100               | 2894                  | 1937       |

## National Radio Quiet Zone

13000 square mile area centered on the Green Bank Telescope



## Guides

[Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide, 9<sup>th</sup> edition](#) (2018) Allen de Hart and Bruce Sundquist  
[West Virginia Hiking Trails, 2nd: Hiking the Mountain State](#) (1997) Allen de Hart  
[Five-Star Trails: West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest](#) (2016) Johnny Molloy  
[Hiking Waterfalls in West Virginia](#) (2017) Johnny Molloy  
[West Virginia Atlas & Gazetteer](#) published by DeLorme  
[Scenic Driving West Virginia: Including Harpers Ferry, Historic Railroads, and Waterfalls](#), 3rd Edition (2021) Su Clauson-Wicker

## Resources

[Monongahela National Forest](#)  
[Mon Nation Forest Maps](#)  
[Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge](#)  
[West Virginia State Parks](#)

[Highland Scenic Highway](#)  
[Seneca Rocks](#)  
[Cranberry Glades Botanical Area](#)  
[Falls of Hills Creek](#)  
[Spruce Knob](#)  
[Cranberry Wilderness](#)  
[Dolly Sods Wilderness](#)  
[Spice Run Wilderness](#)

[National Radio Quiet Zone](#)  
[Green Bank Observatory](#)

[Now a treasure, Monongahela Forest was a wasteland when created 100 years ago](#)  
[Corps acts quickly to remove mortar found along Dolly Sods trails](#) (2014)  
[The Mill Point Prison](#)  
[Seneca Rocks WWII Assault climbing](#)