

Mountain State

Fishing Guide





Whether you're seeking secluded wilderness trout fishing or a family vacation, a quality angling experience awaits you in the Mountain State. More than 20,000 miles of streams and over 100 public fishing lakes provide anglers of all ages with a wide variety of prospects.

Year-round fishing, including an open-season for trout, is available. West Virginia offers catch-and-release and fly-fishing-only streams to challenge the enthusiast, as well as shoreline fishing, boat launching, and facilities for the physically challenged throughout the state. All children under 15 fish for FREE.

TROUT

Hunt for native brook trout in headwater streams in Monongahela National Forest or cast for rainbow trout in one of more than 120 stocked trout streams. Small public fishing lakes are stocked beginning in January and stocking of catchable rainbows, browns, brook and West Virginia golden rainbows continues through May in suitable waters.

SMALLMOUTH BASS

Prized for their fighting ability, smallmouth bass are one of the most popular game fish in West Virginia. Put your angling skills to the test with a float trip on one of the oldest rivers in the world, the New River. If you're looking for something a little more tame, relax lakeside at Summersville Lake.

MUSKELLUNGE

Increase your odds with the fish of 10,000 casts. Long-standing management and stocking efforts have established outstanding stream musky fishing. Trophy muskies over 40 inches are not uncommon from native and stocked waters.

PREMIER FISHING DESTINATIONS

Trout

Cranberry River, Dogway Fork, Otter Creek, Blackwater River, Elk River, Back Fork of Elk River, Shavers Fork of Cheat River, Slatyfork section of Elk River, Williams River, North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River

Smallmouth Bass

Greenbrier River, New River, South Branch of the Potomac River, Gauley River

Largemouth Bass

Stonewall Jackson Lake, Sleepy Creek Lake, O'Brien Lake, Woodrum Lake, Upper Mud Lake, Cheat Lake, Ohio River, Elk Fork

Walleye

Kanawha River, Ohio River, New River, Gauley River, Tygart Lake, Summersville Lake

Channel Catfish

Stonewall Jackson Lake, Bluestone Lake, East Lynn Lake, Kanawha River, Ohio River

Musky

Middle Island Creek, Buckhannon River, Mud River, Hughes River, Little Kanawha River, New River, Kanawha River, Gauley River, Stonewall Jackson Lake, Burnsville Lake, Stonecoal Lake



West Virginia State Parks, Forests and Wildlife Management Areas

Many state parks, forests and WMAs are located on lakes, rivers and streams. With a wide variety of accommodations to choose from, West Virginia offers excellent fishing opportunities for the whole family to enjoy. Please call **1-800-CALL WVA** or visit www.wvdnr.gov for more information.

Babcock State Park – trout, smallmouth bass

Beech Fork State Park/WMA – largemouth bass, hybrid striped bass

Blackwater Falls State Park – trout

Bluestone State Park/WMA – smallmouth bass, hybrid striped bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish

Hawks Nest State Park – smallmouth bass, channel catfish

Greenbrier River Trail – smallmouth bass

Greenbrier State Forest – smallmouth bass

Kanawha Falls Public Fishing Area – smallmouth bass, walleye, musky, hybrid striped bass

Kumbrabow State Forest – trout

Moncove Lake State Park/WMA – largemouth bass, channel catfish

North Bend State Park – largemouth bass, musky

Pipstem Resort State Park – largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout

Seneca State Forest – smallmouth bass, trout

Stonewall Resort State Park/WMA – largemouth bass, channel catfish, musky, crappie, trout

Tygart Lake State Park – largemouth bass, walleye

Watoga State Park – smallmouth bass, trout

POPULAR FLOAT FISHING TRIPS

From	To	Distance (miles)
South Branch Float Trips		
Mouth of North Fork	Petersburg Bridge	4.5
Petersburg Bridge	Vernon Welton Park	3.0
Vernon Welton Park	Fisher Bridge South	5.5
Fisher Bridge South	Fisher Bridge	2.5
Fisher Bridge	Old Fields Bridge	4.5
Old Fields Bridge	Trough Entrance (McNeill)	5.0
Trough Entrance	Harmisons	7.0
Harmisons	Stony Run	1.5
Stony Run	Romney Bridge	8.75
Romney Bridge	Hanging Rock	5.0
Hanging Rock	Blues Beach Bridge	4.5
Blues Beach Bridge	Millesons Mill	7.5
Millesons Mill	Millesons Mill Bridge	2.0
Millesons Mill Bridge	Blue Ford	4.75
Blue Ford	Indian Rock	4.0
Indian Rock	Mouth	4.5

Cacapon River Float Trips

Wardensville	Capon Lake	8.5
Capon Lake	Hooks Mill Road Ford	8.0
Hooks Mill Road Ford	Cold Stream	11.0
Cold Stream	Rt. 127 Bridge	7.0
Rt. 127 Bridge	Cacapon Crossings	9.0
Cacapon Crossings	Largent South	6.7
Largent South	Fisher Ford Bridge	11.0
Fisher Ford Bridge	Power Plant	9.0
Power Plant	Rt. 9 Bridge	1.75

Greenbrier River Float Trips

Renick	Anthony Bridge	10.0
Anthony Bridge	Caldwell	12.7
Caldwell	Ronceverte	6.0
Ronceverte	Fort Spring	8.5
Fort Spring*	Alderson	6.0
Alderson	Pence Springs	8.5
Pence Springs	Talcott Bridge	4.5
Talcott Bridge**	Barger Springs	4.5
Barger Springs	Willow Wood Bridge	6.0

*Contains rapids for experienced canoeists only.

**Contains two falls to be portaged.

New River Float Trips

Shanklins Ferry*	Mouth of Indian Crk	6.0
Below Sandstone Falls*	Prince	12.0
Prince*	Thurmond	12.0

*Contains rapids for experienced canoeists only.

FISH FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON-LINE

Web-savvy anglers can find a wealth of information at the touch of their fingertips at www.wvdnr.gov. They can look under Public Fishing Areas on the DNR Web site to search by county for information on public access sites, float trips, trout stocking, and contour maps of small lakes.

TROUT STREAM MAP



Trout anglers can plan a trip using an interactive trout stream map which employs satellite imagery. You can search the state by specific stream or lake, by county, or by nearest town. You can narrow down the search if you just want to find catch-and-release or fly-fishing-only areas. Once you locate the stream you will find information on stocking frequency, description of the stocked section of stream and driving directions from major highways. The map highlights sections of streams stocked with trout and public access sites. The daily stocking report is also online.

Trout Stocking Hotline: 304.558.3399

ANGLERS ALERT

Spread of Unwanted Organisms

Moving live fish or other aquatic animals and plants from one body of water to another can cause long term damage to the ecological stability of lakes and streams and can threaten recreational fishing. Please take these precautions to prevent problems.

- do not move fish from one body of water to another
- drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area
- do not release live baitfish or aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters
- remove all visible plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, nets and all fishing gear before leaving an access area

Landowner – Angler Relations

West Virginia anglers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, fishing would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon anglers' attitudes and conduct. Most stream closures are the result of disrespect for private property.

Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

- Wade with a fishing buddy.
- Wear your PFD.
- Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.
- Shuffle your feet or probe with a stick along the bottom to avoid holes.
- Study how swiftly the water is moving.
- Wear appropriate foot wear (considering water temperature and bottom substrate).

WV Division of Natural Resources

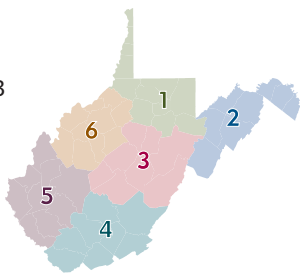
WILDLIFE RESOURCES OFFICES

Main Office

324 Fourth Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303
304.558.2771

District 1

1110 Railroad Street
Farmington, WV 26571
304.825.6787



District 2

1 Depot Street
Romney, WV 26757
304.822.3551

District 5

1163 Wildlife Road
Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304.675.0871

District 3

P.O. Box 38
French Creek, WV 26218
304.924.6211

District 6

2311 Ohio Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101
304.420.4550

District 4

2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive
Beckley, WV 25801-8320
304.256.6947

Operations Center

P.O. Box 67
Elkins, WV 26241
304.637.0245



BUYING A LICENSE

Call **304-558-2758**, visit a local agent, or
go online at www.wvfish.com.

wvdnrcustomerservice@wv.gov

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, services, programs, and employment opportunities to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability, or other protected group status.

5M 3/10