

Special Notice:

Beginning in August of 1943, the military used the area for maneuvers and mountain training for World War II. Many of the artillery and mortar shells shot into the area for practice still exist. In 1997, a highly trained crew surveyed the trail locations and known campsites for shells. They found 15, some of which were still live. All were exploded on site. Many more may exist and they are dangerous. Since it is impossible to survey every acre of the wilderness, we ask that you follow the recommendations below for your own safety.

- Stay on designated trails.
- Do not create new trails
- Camp at existing campsites. These usually have a fire ring and show bare ground around them.
- If you camp at a place without a fire ring DO NOT create one. Use a backpacker-type stove for your cooking needs and enjoy a night without a campfire.

If you find an Unexploded Ordnance

- Do not touch, move or dig near or around the suspected ordnance.
- Identify the area on a map or by terrain feature. On the ground, from a distance away, you can point out the location by making an arrow using rocks or sticks, or hanging a bandana.
- Walk away in the direction you came.
- Immediately contact the Forest Service:
Cheat-Potomac Ranger District, Petersburg
Monday-Friday 304 257-4488
Monongahela National Forest
Weekends, after hours 888 283-0303



For additional information, contact:

Cheat-Potomac Ranger District
HC59 Box 240
Petersburg, WV 26847
(304) 257-4488, Extension 0

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/>

Nondiscrimination Statement

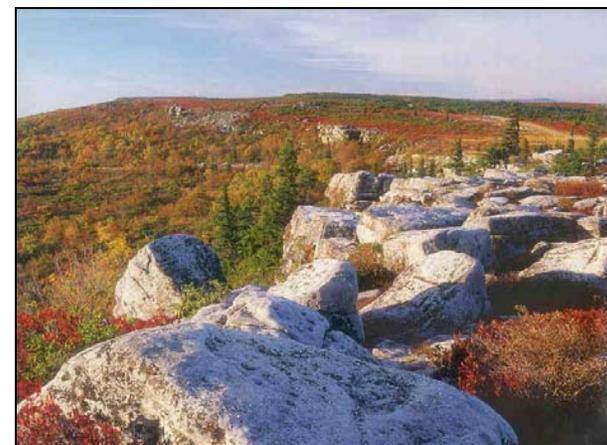
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**LARGE PRINT
AVAILABLE UPON
REQUEST**



Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
(304) 636-1800 Telephone/TTY

Dolly Sods Wilderness



Description: Dolly Sods Wilderness occupies the lower half of the drainage of the north fork of Red Creek. Red Creek begins on the high plateau of Allegheny Mountain, a flat, poorly drained area. As the stream crosses into what is now wilderness, it begins to cut down through the plateau, creating a steep-sided canyon. As it leaves the wilderness, it joins with the south fork of Red Creek and continues on to the Dry Fork River. The northern section of the wilderness is high-elevation plateau, wind-swept and boggy.

Patches of native red spruce, alder, maple, and mountain ash mingle with plantations of pine, upland heath, and sphagnum bogs. The area is generally open, with wide-spreading vistas. Huckleberries and cranberries are common in the heath and bog areas.

As Red Creek and its tributaries, Big Stonecoal and Little Stonecoal Runs, leave the plateau; they become more forested, with a number of hardwood trees including maple, birch, and black cherry. Hemlock is a common conifer along the drains as well. Underneath the trees are thickets of rhododendron and mountain laurel. Red Creek itself changes from a pleasant meandering stream to a dynamic, tumbling watercourse, with several small waterfalls and swirling pothole areas. Red Creek is prone to flash flood.

Location

From Petersburg follow WV 28/55 south to Jordan Run Road. Turn right and go 1 mile to Forest Road 19. Turn left and follow FR 19 six miles to the Dolly Sods Scenic Area. The wilderness is directly ahead of you at the intersection with FR 75. Turn right for Wildlife and Fisher Spring trailheads; turn left for Rohrbaugh and Red Creek trailheads.

From Canaan Valley: follow WV 32 south to the Laneville Road (WV 45). Turn left and go approximately 6 miles to the Red Creek Bridge, where the road changes from pavement to gravel and is now Forest Road 19. Red Creek trailhead is on the left behind the Laneville wildlife management cabin. Continue on FR 19 to get to Rohrbaugh trailhead and FR 75.

Weather Considerations:

The Dolly Sods area ranges from 2500 to 4700 feet above sea level. Freezing temperatures can occur anytime of the year. Snow can be expected anytime from October through April. Forest Roads are not maintained during the winter.

Area Rules:

- Groups over 10 persons are prohibited in the Wilderness.
- Camping and open campfires are prohibited within 300 feet of Forest Road 19 and Forest Road 75 except at Red Creek Campground.

- Pets must be under your control at all times.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to roads and parking areas.
- Mountain bikes and mechanical devices such as carts are not allowed on Wilderness trails.
- Stock is not permitted in the Red Creek campground.

Trail System:

Dolly Sods Wilderness has 25 miles of trails, many of which follow old railroad grades and logging roads. Listed below are several possible loop hikes. Fords indicate streams that may be a problem to cross during high water events. There may be additional small stream crossings. Level of difficulty is based on people in average condition.

- Practice Leave No Trace outdoor ethics: do not build a camp within 200 feet of roads and streams.
- Trails can be muddy and wet so be prepared to get your feet wet.
- Dress for the weather. Be prepared for sudden changes.
- Wear proper footwear.
- Bring drinking water; otherwise, treat water from streams and springs before drinking to kill harmful pathogens.
- During hunting seasons, hikers are encouraged to wear high visibility clothing.

Fisher Spring – Rohrbaugh – Wildlife – FR 75

Trails: 510 – 508 – 560 – 75
Starts at: Fisher Spring trailhead
Length of loop: 5.6 miles
Fords: 0
Difficulty: Moderate.

Rohrbaugh – Wildlife – FR 75 – FR19

Trails: 508 – 560 – 75 – 19
Starts at: Rohrbaugh trailhead
Length of loop: 7.7 miles
Fords: 0
Difficulty: Moderate.

Red Creek – Little Stonecoal – Dunkenbarger – Big Stonecoal – Red Creek

Trails: 514 – 552 – 558 – 513 – 514
Starts at: Laneville Cabin
Length of loop: 7.5 miles
Fords: 4
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous.

Red Creek – Rocky Point – Big Stonecoal– Red Creek

Trails: 514 – 554 – 513 – 514
Starts at: Laneville Cabin
Length of loop: 8.5 miles
Fords: 4
Difficulty: Strenuous.

Fisher Spring – Red Creek – Big Stonecoal – Rocky Point – Red Creek – Fisher Spring

Trails: 510 – 514 – 513 – 554 – 514 - 510
Starts at: Fisher Spring trailhead
Length of loop: 10 miles
Fords: 2
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous.

Red Creek – Breathed Mountain – Big Stonecoal – Red Creek

Trails: 514 – 553 – 513 – 514
Starts at: Laneville Cabin
Length of loop: 13.5 miles
Fords: 4
Difficulty: Moderate.

Red Creek – Little Stonecoal – Dunkenbarger – Big Stonecoal – Breathed Mountain – Red Creek

Trails: 514 – 552 – 558 – 513 – 553 – 514
Starts at: Laneville Cabin
Length of loop: 15 miles
Fords: 4
Difficulty: Moderately strenuous.