WEST VIRGINIA

FISHING GUIDE



WVDNR

FISHING Boating and Water Safety

Boating Education Requirement

Anyone born after December 31, 1986, must successfully complete an approved boating education course before operating a motorboat. The course is available on the DNR website. Click on boating under the Law Enforcement heading.

Wear Your Life Jacket

Personal flotation devices are not just for wearing in boats and not just for those who can't swim. Make sure the PFD is in good condition and fits properly. Youth under 12 years old must wear a PFD if they are on deck while a motorboat is moving.

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)



Person in Water

Reach-Throw-Row-Go is a method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in water.

If the person is close to you, **REACH** out with a long object such as an oar or tree limb to pull the person into shore or the boat.

If you can't reach the person, then **THROW** them a life-saving device. If possible, it should be tied to the end of a line so you can pull the person to you. An inflatable ball or foam cooler can be used if the proper device is not available.

If there is nothing to throw, **ROW** a boat to the person in trouble. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or back, of the boat if possible to prevent the boat from tipping over. If the boat has a motor, it must be shut off before you get to the person in the water.

GO (swim) to the person only as a last resort and only if you have had life-saving training. People who are drowning often panic and injure or drown someone trying to rescue them.

Fishing in Cold Weather

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. A common misconception is that the air or water temperature must be below freezing before you can become hypothermic. Any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. In the case of an emergency, get the victim out of the cold, give them warm drinks, keep them awake, remove all wet clothing and get them into dry clothes.

To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. Air trapped between the layers serves as insulation. A wool hat prevents heat loss from your head. Fishing is difficult with most gloves, but lightweight rubber gloves, gloves without fingertips and gloves that have a flap to expose your fingers allow greater manual dexterity.

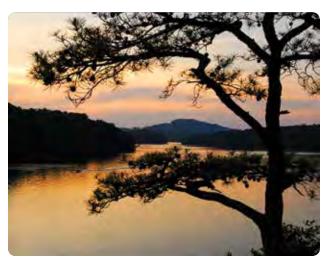
FISHING Float Trips

Buckhannon River

From	То	Miles
North Buckhannon		
Riverfront Park	River Road	3.5
River Road	Hall Roads	3.5

Elk River

From	То	Miles
Frametown	Duck	9
Duck	Mary Chilton Park	16
King Shoals	Queen Shoals	3.5



Summersville Lake

Special Regulation Areas

District 3 has numerous special regulation areas for trout, bass and musky. These include catch-and-release, fly fishing only and Class Q waters. These areas are designated on the map, but please check the annual West Virginia Fishing Regulations booklet for current regulations, as these may change from year to year. The regulations booklet also provides a description of the area's location and access to the area.

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

Fishing and Boating Access Sites

Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used solely for the purpose of launching and retrieving watercraft or fishing from the shore. No other use of the access sites is allowed.

After launching, vehicles shall be parked in available parking spaces.

Any law enforcement officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access site.

The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:

- consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages
- swimming or bathing
- camping
- open fires
- trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided
- discharge of firearms, fireworks or explosives
- leaving unattended watercraft
- commercial use except as authorized by the director
- parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress, except for the purpose of launching

TROUT STOCKING Lakes and Ponds

Code	No. Stockings Period	Code	No. Stockings Period	Code	No. StockingsPeriod
Q	One1st week of March		One every two weeksFebApril	CR	Varies Varies
	OneJanuary	BW BA	OneMay	М	One each month February-May
W	TwoFebruary		-	MJ	One each month January-April
	One each weekMarch-May		OneJanuary	Υ	OneApril
Х	After April 1 or area is open to public		OneMarch	F	OneEach of the two weeks following the week of Columbus Day

I.D.	Lake or Pond: County Acres		P	Trout Stocking		
1.0.	Lake of Police. County	Acies			Code: Area	
L2	Buffalo Fork: Pocahontas	22	Walkway	Lot	BW-F: 5.5 miles east of Bartow on U.S. Forestry Service road 54 off state Route 28	
L8	French Creek: Upshur	2		Pull Off	BW: at WV State Wildlife Center, 12 miles south of Buckhannon on state Route 20	
L9	Handley: Pocahontas	5	Platform/ Trail	Lot	Q: Handley WMA off U.S. Route 219 at Edray via county Route 17 and county Route 17-1	
L12	Seneca: Pocahontas	3	Pier	Lot	BW-F: 4 miles south of Dunmore on state Route 28	
L13	Spruce Knob: Randolph	23	Pier	Lot	W-F: 22 miles south of Harman off U. S. Route 33 via county Route 29 and U.S. Forestry Service road 1	
L31	Wallback: Clay, Roane	15	Trail	Lot	M: 1 mile off Wallback exit of I-79 via state Route 36, county Route 34 and access road	
L32	Watoga: Pocahontas	11	Pier	Lot	W-F: Watoga State Park	

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. Do not leave fishing line, bait containers or other trash.

Online

For more detailed information on individual access sites, go online to **www.mapwv.gov/huntfish/**.

Stream Litter Law

It is illegal to throw litter, a fish or animal carcass, or other unsightly matter into a water body or on land within 100 yards of water, or in a location where high water would wash the matter into a water body.

For more information

See the West Virginia Fishing Regulations booklet for:

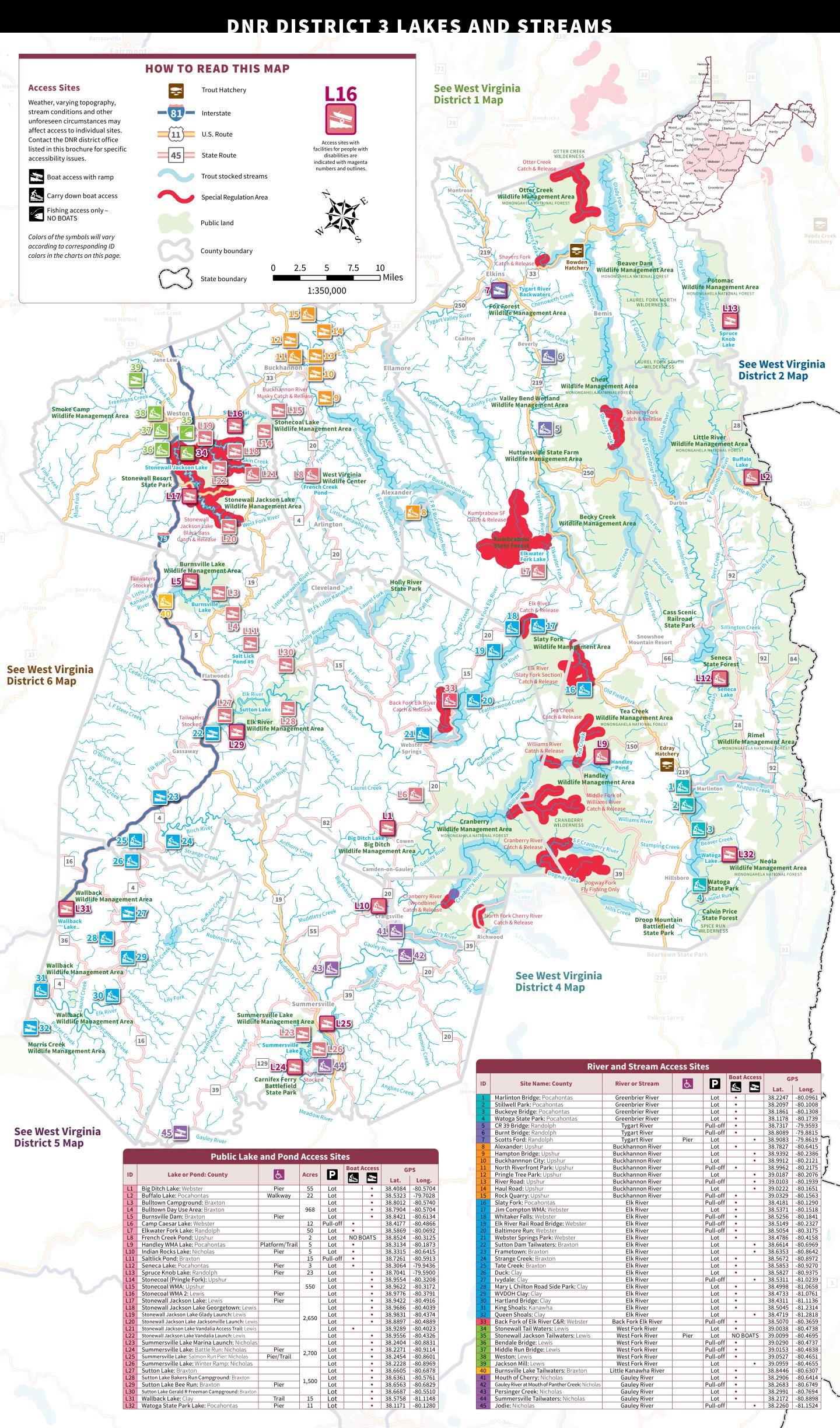
- Reciprocal fishing agreement on Ohio River
- Fish consumption advisories
- Sport fish identification

TROUT STOCKING Rivers and Streams

Code	No. Stockings Period	Code	No. Stockings Period	Code	No. Stockings Period
Q	One1st week of March	BW -	One every two weeksFebApril	CR	Varies Varies
	OneJanuary		OneMay	М	One each month February-May
W	TwoFebruary		OneJanuary	MJ	One each month January-April
	One each weekMarch-May			Υ	OneApril
Х	After April 1 or area is open to public		One March	F	OneEach of the two weeks following the week of Columbus Day

River or Stream: County	Trout Stocking				
River of Stream. County	Code: Area				
Back Fork of Elk River: Webster	M: from Webster Springs upstream one mile to lower boundary of catch-and-release area; from mouth of Sugar Creek, downstream one mile				
Back Fork of Elk River: Webster (Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: begin two miles upstream from Webster Springs, continue four miles upstream				
Buckhannon River: Upshur	BW-F: from Alton upstream 3 miles to Alexander; by railroad twice a year from Sago to Alexander				
Buffalo Creek: Clay	M: From just below junction of county Route 15 and county Route 15-2 upstream 2.2 miles to railroad bridge				
Burnsville Lake (Tailwaters) Little Kanawha River: Braxton	BW: in-stream impoundments downstream of dam				
Cherry River: Nicholas	BW: from Fenwick downstream 5 miles to mouth				
Cranberry River: Nicholas, Pocahontas, and Webster	W-F: 16.5-mile section from Woodbine Recreation Area upstream to mouth of Dogway Fork				
Cranberry River: Nicholas and Pocahontas (Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: from mouth of Dogway Fork upstream 4.3 miles to confluence of North and South forks				
Cranberry River Woodbine: Nicholas (Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: 1.2-mile section from the Woodbine Recreation Area downstream to Camp Splinter (Jakeman Run)				
Deer Creek: Pocahontas	M: from the state Route 7 bridge downstream 1.5 miles to Bar Ford				
Desert Fork: Webster	M: from 0.5 miles above mouth upstream 2.5 miles to near Carlo Run				
Dry Fork: Randolph	BW: from Old Mill below Harman downstream to mouth of Red Creek. From county Route 45 bridge at Jenningston downstream to Galdwin. From along county Routes 26 and 43/12 to the mouth of Red Run.				
East Fork of the Greenbrier River: Pocahontas	W: from county Route 28/19 bridge 1.5 miles below mouth of Little River (beside WVDOH shed) upstream to Island Campground				
Elk River: Randolph and Webster	W-F: from Rose Run downstream 18 miles to Webster Springs				
Elk River: Randolph (Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: from Rose Run bridge upstream 2 miles to Elk Springs Hatchery				
Gandy Creek: Randolph	W: from Lower Two Springs upstream 9 miles to near Grants Branch at old CCC camp				
Glady Fork: Randolph	W: from U.S. Route 33 east of Alpena downstream 11 miles to a locked Forest Service gate				
Greenbrier River (Cass): Pocahontas	M: 4.25 mile sections from Cass Scenic railroad downstream to the Sitlington Bridge				
Greenbrier River (Marlinton Section): Pocahontas	MJ: Minnehaha Springs downstream 8 miles to Marlinton along state Route 39				
Greenbrier River: Pocahontas	BW: from one mile below Durbin along county Route 250-2, downstream 2.5 miles to end of road				
Hills Creek: Pocahontas	M: from first bridge at Lobelia, upstream 3 miles along county Route 29-3				

River or Stream: County	Trout Stocking					
	Code: Area					
Knapps Creek: Pocahontas	W-F: from Minnehaha Springs downstream 8 miles to Marlinton					
Laurel Creek: Nicholas	M: from Jettsville upstream 1.5 miles to ford					
Laurel Fork: Randolph	W: at the U.S. Route 33 bridge and at Laurel Fork campground					
Laurel Fork: Webster	BW: in Holly River State Park, from above the cabins downstream 4 miles through the park to near the mouth					
Left Fork of Buckhannon River: Upshur	M: from mouth, near Alexander, upstream 7 miles to Star Bridge. Stocked twice yearly by railroad.					
Left Fork of Holly River: Webster	BW: from state Route 20 bridge at Hacker Valley downstream 4 miles					
Left Fork of Right Fork Buckhannon: Randolph and Upshur	BW: from Helvetia downsteam 6.5 miles to mouth of Newlonton					
Little Kanawha River (Headwaters): Upshur	M: from Wilsontown to Arlington and downstream to Fiddlers Mill. A 1.2-mile section below Wildcat to the mouth of the Right Fork.					
Little River (East Fork): Pocahontas	W: from mouth upstream 4 miles to Old House Run Recreation Area					
Little River (West Fork): Pocahontas	W: from mouth upstream 6 miles along U.S. Forest Service Road 17 (off U.S. Forest Service Road 44) to Middle Mountain Road					
Middle Fork: Randolph and Upshur	M: Upper – Adolph downstream 6 miles to Cassity. Middle – Ellamore downstream 3 miles to Boy Scout Camp. Lower – A one-mile section in Audra State Park					
North Fork of Cherry River: Nicholas	BW: from 0.25 miles above catch-and-release area upstream 9.25 miles along state Route 39 to bridge near Carpenter Run					
Right Fork of Buckhannon River: Upshur	M: from Alexander upstream 3 miles to Newlonton					
Right Fork of Little Kanawha River: Upshur and Webster	M: from one mile above Cleveland downstream 2 miles					
Right Fork of Middle Fork: Upshur	M: from Kedron upstream 8.5 miles to state Route 30 bridge upstream, 1.5 miles south of Queens					
Shavers Fork: Randolph (Lower Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: 0.9-mile section within Stuart Recreation Area					
Shavers Fork: Randolph (Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: from Whitmeadow Run downstream 5.5 miles to McGee Run. Stocked twice yearly by railroad.					
Shavers Fork (Lower Section): Randolph	W-F: from Bemis downstream 20 miles to Stuart Park. Twice yearly by railroad from Bemis to Bowden.					
Shavers Fork (Upper Section): Pocahontas and Randolph	W-F: from Cheat Bridge downstream to end of U.S. Forest Road 46. Twice yearly by railroad from Beaver Creek, downstream 34 miles near Bemis.					
South Fork of Cherry River: Nicholas	BW: from one mile above Richwood upstream 9 miles to Cold Knob Fork					
South Fork of Cranberry River: Pocahontas	BW: from mouth upstream 2.8 miles to U.S. Forest Road 102 bridge at South Fork Shelter					
Stonewall Jackson Lake (Tailwaters) West Fork River: Lewis	BW: from dam downstream 1.5 miles to near WV Division of Highways garage					
Sugar Creek: Webster	M: from mouth upstream 1.5 miles					
Summersville Lake (Tailwaters) Gauley River: Nicholas	BW-F: from dam 2 miles downstream					
Sutton Lake (Tailwaters) Elk River: Braxton	BW-F: from dam downstream 2 miles					
Tygart Valley River (Headwaters): Randolph	BW-F: from Valley Head downstream 11 miles to Becky's Creek					
West Fork of Greenbrier River: Pocahontas	W-F: from Durbin upstream 14 miles to Widell. From Durbin to the mouth of Little River will be stocked monthly as weather permits.					
Williams River: Pocahontas and Webster	W-F: from site of old Coal Tipple below Laurel Run upstream 22 miles to low-water bridge above Day Run Campground					
Williams River: Pocahontas (Catch-and-Release Only Section)	CR: from 2 miles below Tea Creek downstream 2 miles					



Buying a License

Call (304) 558-2758, visit a local agent or go online at wyfish.com.

Useful Phone Numbers

Report stream pollution or fish kills(800) 642-3074Trout stocking hotline(304) 558-3399Report eagle and osprey active nests(304) 637-0245

Reporting Boating, Fishing and Hunting Violations

In progress – dial 911

Not in progress – call DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours.

- 1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
- 2. Don't confront violator.
- Contact a local DNR Natural Resources Police Officer or report the violation online as soon as possible at wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm.

Become involved in protecting your sport; be willing to testify in court.



Wildlife Resources Section - District 3

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources 163 Wildlife Road • French Creek, WV 26218

(304) 924-6211 • wvdnr.gov









Money used to buy and develop stream and lake access sites comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, including the conservation stamp. Federal funds used for these projects come from taxes paid by anglers when they buy fishing equipment or gasoline for their boats in compliance with the Sport Fish Restoration Act.

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