

Mountain State Fishing

Just a few of the experiences that await anglers in the Mountain State.

“Daddy, I caught one! I caught one!” shouted the little girl as she furiously reeled in the stubborn fish hooked on the end of her line. She proudly held up the wriggling sunfish for everyone at the small lake to admire.



The silence of the morning was suddenly broken when a fisherman set the hook, and a large fish surfaced near a submerged log. After a battle of several minutes, the fisherman eased the fish alongside the boat and carefully released the musky to challenge another angler on another day.

It was early evening and the fisherman made one last cast in the long pool of the cold mountain stream. The fly settled onto the water and quickly disappeared as the brook trout rose and darted upstream.



Wildlife Resources Offices

District 1

Barbour, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ohio, Preston, Taylor, Tucker, and Wetzel counties

Farmington WV

(304) 825-6787

District 2

Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton counties

Romney, WV

(304) 822-3551

District 3

Braxton, Clay, Lewis, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Upshur, and Webster counties

WV State Wildlife Center

(304) 924-6211

District 4

Fayette, Greenbrier, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, and Wyoming counties

Beckley, WV

(304) 256-6947

District 5

Boone, Cabell, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne counties

McClintic WMA

(304) 675-0871

District 6

Calhoun, Doddridge, Gilmer, Jackson, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Tyler, Wirt, and Wood counties

Parkersburg, WV

(304) 420-4550

Elkins Operations Center

(304) 637-0245



1-800-CALL WVA
www.wvdnr.gov



Premier Fishing Destinations



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.

Musky

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.

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

For more information on fishing these waters and others, please visit www.wvdnr.gov and check the state fishing regulations.



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 WMA - 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

Pipestem Resort State Park - largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, trout

Seneca State Forest - smallmouth bass, trout

Stonewall Jackson Lake Resort State Park/WMA - largemouth bass, channel catfish, musky, crappie, tailwater trout

Tygart Lake State Park/WMA - 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.