

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 Forest Road 19 six miles until it intersects with Forest Road 75. At the intersection, turn left and continue on Forest Road 19. Forest Road 70 (access to Roaring Plains Trail) will be on the left, about 1 mile after the junction with Forest Road 75. To access Flatrock Run Trail, continue on Forest Road 19. Cross Red Creek Bridge, travel approximately ½ mile to the parking that is located on your right just before bridge over Flatrock Run.

From Canaan Valley follow WV 32 south to Laneville Road (WV 45) and turn left. To access Flatrock Run Trail, travel approximately 5 ½ miles on WV 45. Turn right on the Dryfork Road (WV 54/1) and travel approximately ½ mile to the parking that is located on your right just before bridge over Flatrock Run.

History:

The Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (96 Stat. 111-11) was signed by President Obama March 30, 2009. This Public Law included the Wild Monongahela Act which designated the Roaring Plains West Wilderness.

Wildlife:

The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Species within the area include whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, cottontail rabbit, wild turkey, and a variety of birds and reptiles.

Area Rules:

- Groups over 10 persons are prohibited in Wilderness.
- Mountain bikes and mechanical devices such as carts are not allowed on Wilderness trails.
- Removal of plants, stone or moss is prohibited.
- Pets must be under your control at all times.
- Motor vehicles are restricted to roads and parking areas.
- Camp at least 200 feet from all roads, streams and trails.
- Follow Leave No Trace ethics. More information can be found at www.lnt.org.

What is Wilderness?

The National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) was created in 1964 with the passage of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act was passed to preserve natural conditions and provide opportunities for solitude. The Forest manages wilderness to offer visitors challenge, discovery, and self-reliance. We believe that these are the key to the "wilderness experience." We therefore, manage these areas for the protection of the resource, not for visitor comfort or convenience. This enables you to meet nature on its terms, not modify it to suit your own. If you choose to enter one of our Wilderness areas, here are some things to keep in mind:

- Motorized and mechanical equipment, including but not limited to chainsaws, mountain bikes and deer carts are not permitted within the Wilderness.
- Horses and other stock are permitted, except on the Blue Bend Trail. However, many of our Wilderness trails are steep, rocky, and/or boggy and are not conducive to stock use. In some places, they are narrow footpaths, especially in areas that have rerouted around obstacles. In these conditions, heavy stock animals create a lot of damage to soft soils or can harm themselves on the rocks. They are difficult to maneuver in narrow places when meeting other visitors. There are also very few places that provide sufficient forage for stock. We suggest hiking in the Wilderness areas and riding in other places on the Forest.



For additional information, contact:

Cheat-Potomac Ranger District
HC 59 Box 240
Petersburg, WV 26847
(304) 257-4488, Ext 0

<http://fs.usda.gov/mnf>

Nondiscrimination Statement

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- Trails are not marked or blazed. Small rock cairns may mark areas where the trail is difficult to follow, but since some hikers put up or knock down cairns for their own reasons, these are not always reliable. The trails don't always stay in their traditional locations or where the maps indicate. In order to enhance wilderness, any obstacle that can be stepped over, ducked under, or walked around without unacceptable damage to the environment or reasonable risk to safety is left in place. This allows the natural process of the Wilderness to continue with little impairment and creates a wilder, more natural appearance. Plan ahead. Have a map before you come; they are not stocked at trailheads. Topographic maps are more useful than simple line-drawn maps. A compass should be considered a necessity. Bridges at stream crossings are rare, existing only where they protect the stream bank from heavy use. Most of the time, you will have to ford the streams.
- Search and rescue is not initiated unless threat to life exists. In most cases, you will have to get yourself out of whatever predicament you get yourself into. Remember to plan your trip and make decisions during the trip that will make search and rescue unnecessary. Be smart; these areas seem small, but you can be injured or killed if you make poor decisions.

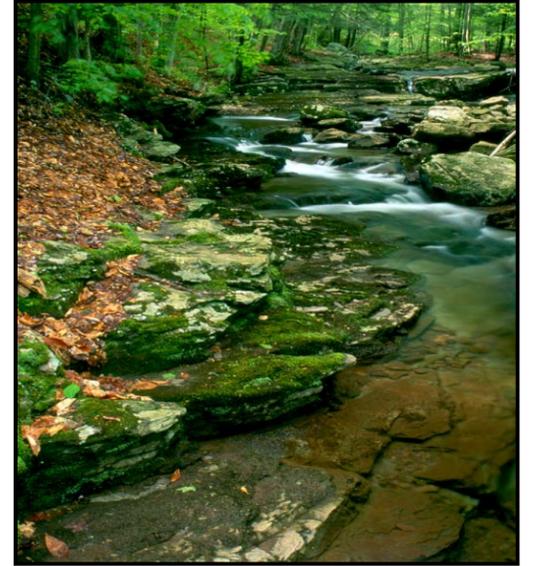
Weather Considerations

Freezing temperatures can occur anytime of the year. Snow can be expected from October through April. Forest Roads (like FR 19) are not maintained or snowplowed during the winter.



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

Roaring Plains West



Description: The 6,792 acre Roaring Plains West Wilderness area is located approximately 3 miles southwest of the Dolly Sods Wilderness. Canaan Valley State Park is about 5 miles north of the area. Primary access is from the Flatrock Run Trail and Forest Road 70 (gated, but open during autumn hunting season). The vegetation is diverse and consists of mixed hardwoods, red spruce and brush, with an under-story of bogs, grasses and rhododendron. The elevations range from 3,000 along the southern perimeter of the area to over 4,700 feet at the top of Mt. Porte Crayon.

Trail System:

The 4-mile trail system is open to hikers and equestrians and provides numerous scenic views.

Flatrock Run Trail (TR 519)

Starts at: Flatrock Run bridge on the Dryfork Road (WV 45/1). Hike the road west about 300 feet to the trailhead which is located on private property. The Forest Service has a right-of-way for foot-traffic only on the first mile of this trail. Please respect private property and stay within the right-of-way.

Length: 5 miles

The Flatrock Run Trail climbs steeply to Flatrock Plains. Both the Left Fork and Right Fork of Flatrock Run offer cascading water. The upper end of the Flatrock Run Trail connects with Roaring Plain Trail (TR 548).

Roaring Plains Trail (TR 548)

Starts at: Forest Road 70

Length: 3.3 miles

If the gate to Forest Road 70 is closed, you must hike Forest Road 70 for 3.4 miles before you access Roaring Plains Trail. Please do not park in front of a closed gate. The trail ascends through the woods to Roaring Plains. Much of the trail utilizes an obscure railroad. The end of the trail connects with Flatrock Run Trail (TR 518).

