

West Virginia Waters of Special Concern

West Virginia Waters of Special Concern is defined as waters within the State of West Virginia containing unique or exceptional aesthetic, ecological or recreational value and have been designated by Federal and/or State legislation for protection. West Virginia Waters of Special Concern include those waters protected under the Natural Stream Preservation Act and those waters designated as Critical Resource Waters. Any work affecting these streams requires pre-construction notification to the National Park Service and/or the Forest Service and US Army Corps of Engineers (CWA). In addition to the waters listed below, WV Waters of Special Concern include all designated rivers under the "Wild and Scenic Rivers Act".

The following rivers possess the **Critical Resource Waters** (WVCRW) designation in West Virginia:

All trout streams are designated as "Waters of Special Concern" in the following counties: Barbour, Fayette, Grant, Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hardy, Mercer, Mineral, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Raleigh, Randolph, Summers, Tucker, Upshur and Webster.
Waters in state and national parks and forests including streams and bodies of water within the Spruce Knob, Seneca Rocks and Gauley River National Recreation Areas.
The New River is designated as a National River (National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 as amended).
Bluestone River from the upstream boundary of Pipestem State Park to Bluestone Reservoir
Meadow River from near the US19 bridge to its junction with the Gauley River
Rivers within the Monongahela National Forest designated as National Wild and Scenic Study Rivers
All streams and tributaries as contained within the boundaries of designated National Wilderness Areas or the headwaters of such rivers and their tributaries; Cranberry River - Nicholas, Webster & Pocahontas Co., Red Creek - Tucker Co., Laurel Fork and Otter Creek - Randolph & Tucker Co.

In accordance with the "**WV Natural Stream Preservation Act (WVNSPA)**", the following streams or rivers are protected from activities that would impound, divert or flood the following bodies of water:

Greenbrier River from its confluence with Knapps Creek to its confluence with the New River
Anthony's Creek from its headwaters to the confluence with the Greenbrier River
Cranberry River from its headwaters to its confluence with the Gauley River
Birch River from Cora Brown Bridge in Nicholas County to its confluence with the Elk River
New River from its confluence with Greenbrier to the confluence with the Gauley River

The lead Federal agency must consult with the agency responsible for management of the waterbody to determine if the action or activity requires a permit. The NRCS State Biologist or state level NEPA coordinator must initiate consultation with the National Park Service and/or the U.S. Forest Service. The consultation is to determine if the activity requires a permit and if the activity is compatible with the river plan. Further assistance is dependent upon concurrence with the management agency.