

Wilderness.net's Spice Run Wilderness Fact Sheet

Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Spice Run Wilderness in 2009 and it now has a total of 6,037 acres. All of the wilderness is in West Virginia and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

The 6,030 acre Spice Run Wilderness is located south of Calvin Price State Forest. The area is about 2 miles in length and 3.5 miles wide and is found within portions of the Alvon, Anthony, Denmar, and Droop USGS quadrangle maps. There are no system trails within Spice Run Wilderness. Vegetation consists of oak, hickory, maple and some pockets of hemlock with an understory of rhododendron, mixed shrubs, grasses and ferns. The elevations range from 2,000 feet along the Greenbrier River to over 2,800 feet throughout interior portions of the area. The Spice Run Wilderness does not have any marked, constructed or maintained trails. Visitors are welcome, but will be dependent on their own skills to find their way around. According to the Wilderness Act of 1964, "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Managing the Spice Run Wilderness as a trail-less area provides greater opportunities for self-reliance and perpetuating the intent behind the Wilderness Act.

Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Spice Run Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

Area Management

The Spice Run Wilderness is part of the 109 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Spice Run Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

General Wilderness Prohibitions

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed below for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

Wilderness-Specific Regulations

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed on the 'Links' tab for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

No permits or fees are required to enter or camp within the Spice Run Wilderness.

Group size is limited to ten (10) users in any group/party at the same time within all designated wilderness areas on the Monongahela National Forest.

Mountain bikes and mechanized devices such as carts are not allowed within the wilderness.

Follow Leave No Trace ethics and camp at least 200 feet from streams and trails.

Horses and other stock are permitted, however, due to the nature of the area, many of the trails are steep and rocky and not conducive to stock use.

No camping at trailheads.

OVERNIGHT VISITORS

A food storage order is in effect to reduce human and black bear encounters. The following activities are prohibited.

1. Possessing, storing, or leaving any food, refuse, lawfully taken fish, wildlife and/or parts thereof, camping equipment used for transporting and/or preparing food, i.e. coolers, cook stoves, pots and/or pans or cooking utensils or bear attractant unless it is:

a. Properly stored in a bear resistant container;

b. Suspended at least 10 feet clear of the ground at all points, suspended at least four feet horizontally from the supporting tree or pole; and suspended at least four feet from any other tree or pole adjacent to the supporting tree or pole adjacent to the supporting tree or pole;

c. Stored in a closed, motor vehicle with a solid top; or

d. Being eaten, being prepared for eating or being transported.

2. Discarding or abandoning any food, refuse, or bear attractant unless it is:

a. Disposed in a trash receptacle which has been provided by the Forest Service for that purpose.

3. Burning or burying any food, refuse, or bear attractant.

Contacts

White Sulphur Ranger District

410 E MAIN STREET

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WV 24986

Remarks: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 4:30

Phone: 304-536-2144

Phone: 304-636-1800

Monongahela National Forest

200 SYCAMORE STREET

ELKINS, WV 26241

Remarks: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

Links to Other Websites

[Spice Run Wilderness Web Site](#)

Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
Public Law 111-11	March 30, 2009	6,030
Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 - Public law 111-11 (3/30/2009) An act to designate certain land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.		

— [download 111-11](#) - Relevant legislation found on page(s): 10.