

# Wilderness.net's Brush Mountain Wilderness Fact Sheet

## Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Brush Mountain Wilderness in 2009 and it now has a total of 4,795 acres. All of the wilderness is in Virginia and is managed by the Forest Service.

## Description

Brush Mountain Wilderness lies north of and in close proximity to Blacksburg, Virginia. It extends for about 8 miles along the northwest slope of Brush Mountain, bounded to the east by a power line, to the northwest by Craig Creek and private property, and to the southeast by Forest road 188.1 along the crest of the mountain. Brush Mountain displays the typical characteristics of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. It is capped by a resistant layer of Devonian sandstone, with the underlying shales giving rise to a series of steep ridges and deep coves along the northern slope. The lower slopes are well forested with a great variety of species: tulip tree, sugar maple, northern red oak, white oak, basswood, red maple, cucumber tree, white ash, and white pine. On the higher parallel ridge slopes, Virginia pine and Table Mountain pine predominate on the southwestern sides, while chestnut oak and scarlet oak are found on the northeastern sides. The area was largely cut over about 100 years ago, but the forest is rapidly maturing. Despite its location adjacent to the suburbs of Blacksburg, Brush Mountain is surprisingly remote. The area looks out across Craig Creek to the slopes of Sinking Creek Mountain, offering hunter and hiker a feeling of true wilderness solitude.

There are no trails in this wilderness.

Brush Mountain Wilderness is located in Montgomery County in southwest Virginia. It is managed by the U.S. Forest Service as part of the Eastern Divide Ranger District of the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests.

## 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 Brush Mountain 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 Brush Mountain Wilderness is part of the 111 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 Brush Mountain 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

- Group size is limited to no more than 10 people per party.
- Pack out all debris, garbage, or other waste.
- As with all designated Wilderness areas, mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts,

bicycles, and other vehicles) is prohibited.

## OVERNIGHT VISITORS

--Maximum length of stay is 21 days within any 31-day period.

## Contacts

### Eastern Divide Ranger District

110 SOUTHPARK DRIVE

BLACKSBURG, VA 24060

Remarks: Office Hours: M-F 8:00-4:30

Phone: 540-552-4641

## Links to Other Websites

[George Washington & Jefferson National Forests Wilderness](#)

## 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)
<b>Public Law 111-11</b>	<b>March 30, 2009</b>	<b>4,794</b>

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): 12.