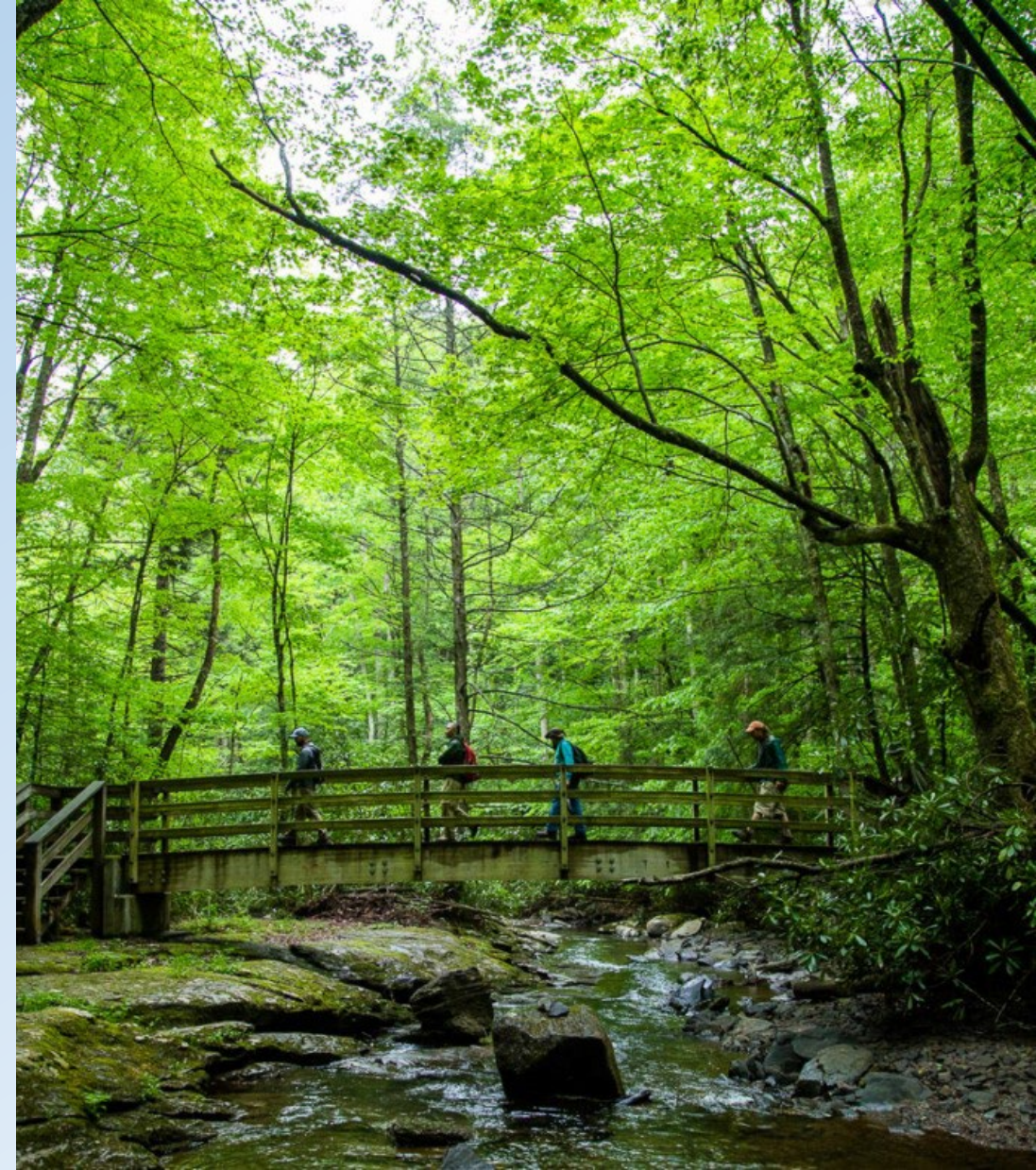


Conversation on Headwaters

March 23, 2023

We invite you to share your name, where you are from, and what 'headwaters' means to you in the chat ...



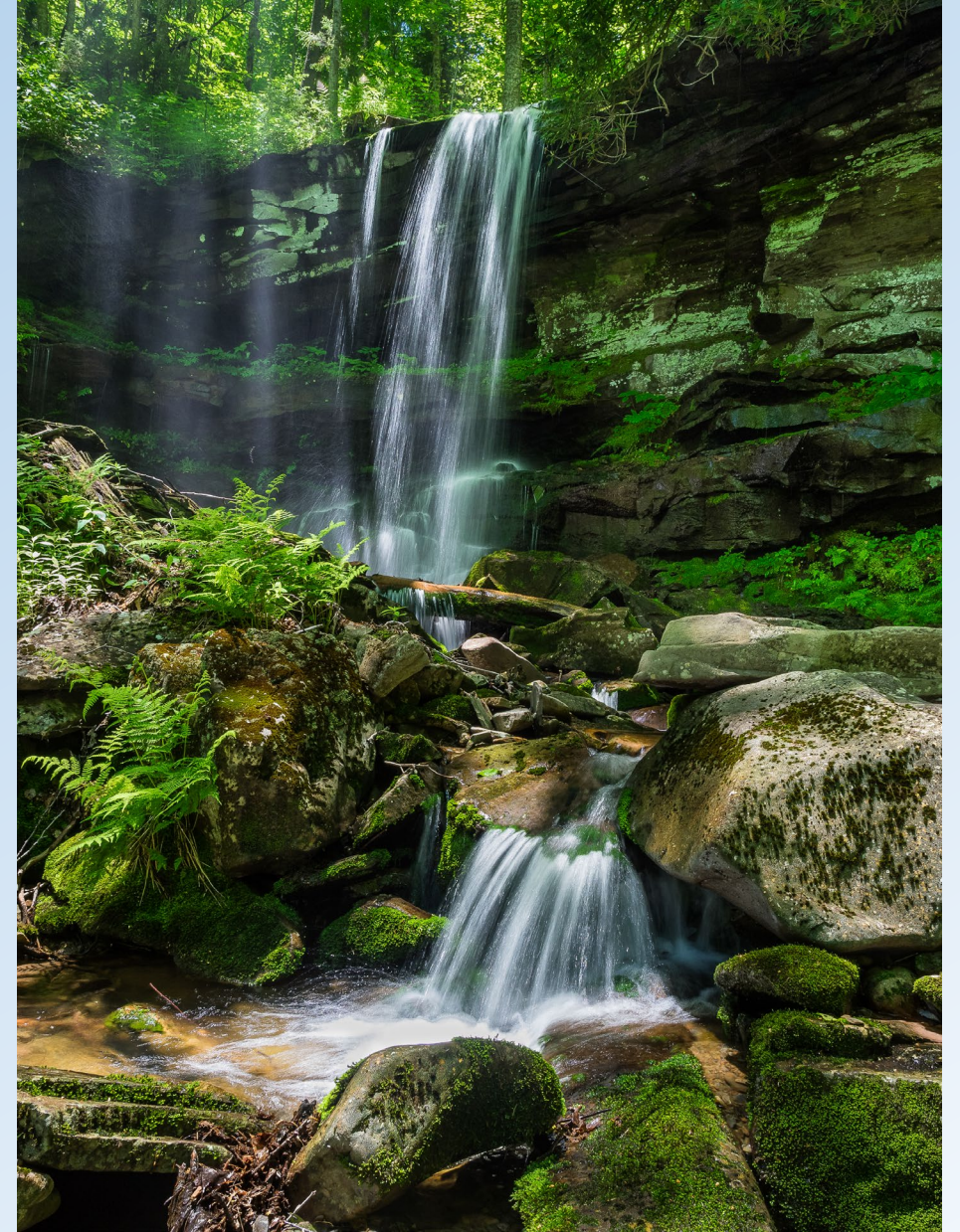
A Conversation on Headwaters



What are “Headwaters”?

"Headwater streams are the smallest parts of river and stream networks, but make up the majority of river miles in the United States. They are the part of rivers furthest from the river's endpoint or confluence with another stream."

EPA Headwaters Streams Studies



Mon Forest “Headwaters”?

Rivers like the Potomac, Greenbrier, Elk, Tygart, Cheat, and Gauley all have their origins in the Mon Forest. These rivers combine with others to flow into the Chesapeake and Ohio Watersheds – 9% of people in the US can trace the source of their drinking water to the Mon Forest Headwaters.



Pocahontas County alone is the source for **eight** rivers: Cherry, Cranberry, Elk, Gauley, Greenbrier, Tygart, Williams, and Shavers Fork of the Cheat River.

What recreation users said

Concerns include promoting non-motorized recreation, trails, unique spots, funding, invasive species, access and mapping, river gauges, and a Bridge bill



A Conversation on Headwaters





WEST VIRGINIA
RIVERS

OUR WILD AND WONDERFUL MO

What recreation users said about Headwaters



“Virtually all participants were concerned about the future of Mon Forest waterways. Anglers, kayakers, and backpackers alike all recognized the waters of the Mon as the cleanest in the state, thanks to the efforts of the US Forest Service. However, they expressed concern that this care is limited to the prescriptions provided in the [forest] management plan, which can be changed”

A Conversation on Headwaters



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We asked the Mon Forest Town communities

Support for trails and
the health of our
unique places

*Overwhelming “votes” for
safeguards for headwaters*



A Conversation on Headwaters



We have heard: Safeguard our Headwaters

Now we asking:
What does this mean?

*What policy will best assure the continued
ecosystem health and multi-faceted
recreational use of the
Mon Forest Headwaters?*

A Conversation on Headwaters



What are some of the questions we are asking?

How do we assure that any policy is permanent?

How do we assure that all non-motorized recreation continue and are controlled locally?

How do we assure that management and fishery restoration continue under local control?

How do we assure that private property rights and uses continue?

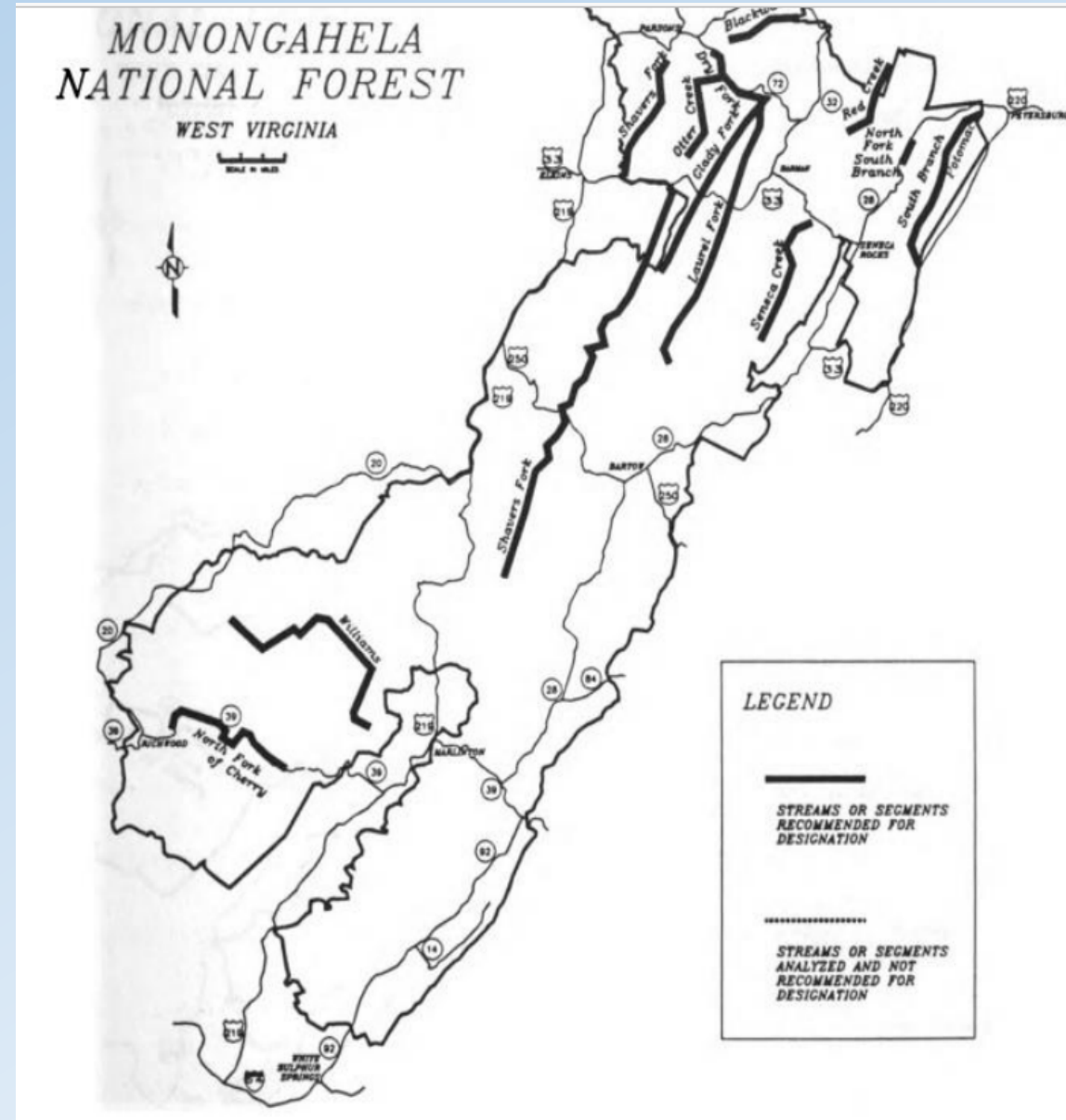


What is being done now?

The US Forest service has designated 12 Mon Forest waterway segments as being free-flowing, having a outstanding remarkable value, and eligible for designation as a Wild & Scenic River:

- Shavers Fork**
- Dry Fork**
- Glady Fork**
- Laurel Fork**
- Blackwater**
- Otter Creek**
- Red Creek**
- North Fork of the Cherry**
- Seneca Creek**
- Williams**
- South Branch of the Potomac**
- North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac**

There are 44 additional WV Water Segments on the “Nationwide Rivers Inventory”



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What are some
policy options?

What are some concerns
about these ideas?

Here are some ideas we've heard ...

A Conversation on Headwaters



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Continue the status quo (Forest Service management)

As the recreation users stated, can be changed in future Forest Plans

Forest Service at any time can declare the waterway “unsuitable” and release it from care

A Presidential designation

Monument or similar designation

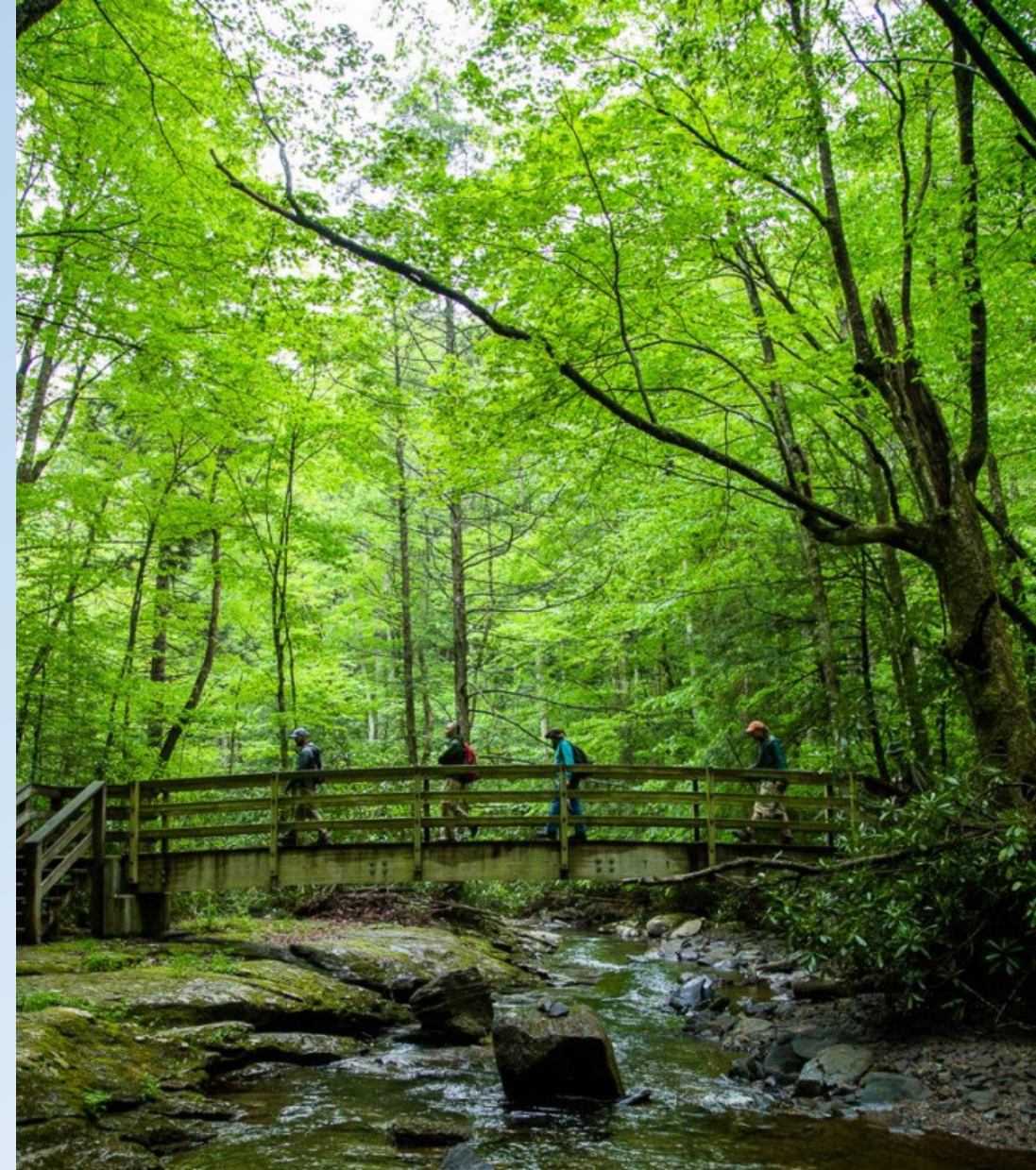
May change recreation uses and local control

A Congressional designation

Long process, concerns about local control

Bluestone – Wild and Scenic River

WVU The Bridge Initiative *Headwaters Legacy Act*



A Conversation: Your Turn!

What are your ideas?

What concerns do you have when considering policy for Mon Forest Headwaters?

Are there other questions we should be asking?



Chat box, raise your hand, fill out our form

A Conversation on Headwaters



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This is an
on-going
dialogue!

Learn More



[Nationwide Rivers Inventory](#)

[Google: Nationwide Rivers Inventory}

[Forest Service Report](#) – Mon Forest 12 Waterways

“[Our Mon Forest](#)” report

[WV Rivers Summary](http://www.wvrivers.org/ourmonforest) [www.wvrivers.org/ourmonforest]

“[The Waters of West Virginia](#)” WVU Bridge Initiative for Science & Technology Policy [*Headwaters Legacy Act recommendation on pages 8 & 60*]

Sign up for our PL News [Public Lands News Signup](#)

Reach out any time:

Mike Jones: 304-408-3588 or mjones@wvrivers.org

A Conversation on Headwaters



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