

West Virginians for Public Lands Legislative Priorities

West Virginians have long enjoyed nature-based, non-motorized recreation compatible with the conservation of our state public lands, now and for future generations. We like it that way! We support the following commonsense policies for public lands and private land conservation:

- **Preserve nature-based, non-motorized recreation** compatible with conservation of our State Parks, Forests, Wildlife Management Areas (WMA), and other public lands.
- Increase **public river access** from bridges. Revise Rails to Trails laws to increase funding.
- **Protect private property rights** to conserve and profit from family farm and forest lands.
- **Secure robust funding** for WVDNR to support staff and maintenance, Adopt-a-stream and -trail programs.
- Permanently fund the **WV Flood Resiliency Trust Fund**.
- **Promote accessible public lands for all** while conserving our state public lands.
- **Ensure public participation** for new proposed development in our state lands.
- **Secure permanent safeguards for our scenic**, wild and wonderful rivers and streams.

What West Virginians think

West Virginians overwhelmingly believe that it is possible to protect land and water quality in West Virginia while maintaining a strong economy

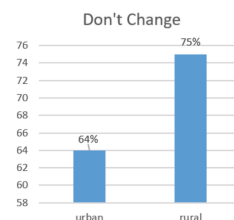
Environmental and Economic Priorities

● We can protect land and water quality in West Virginia, and have a strong economy with good jobs at the same time, without having to choose one over the other. ● Sometimes protections for land and water quality in West Virginia and having a strong economy conflict, and we need to choose one over the other. ● Not sure

West Virginians 83 8 9

Q. Which of the following statements best describes your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

West Virginians like their public lands the way they are!



Are there any other activities that you would like to see be made available?
Urban and Rural respondents say NO!

Reported in West Virginia 2021 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan at: <https://wvcad.org/assets/files/resources/Land%20and%20Water%20Conservation%20Fund/2025-WVSCORP-1.pdf>

West Virginians for Public Lands (WVPL) is an alliance of organizations, businesses, and individuals advocating to protect and enhance West Virginia public lands for all!

WVPL believes that West Virginia's public lands, waters, and the wildlife that inhabit them are intrinsically valuable, and these special areas should be preserved, and where needed, restored.



SCAN for
More Information about WVPL

Public Lands Provide Community Benefits



A hiker at Lindy Point watches the sunset over Blackwater Canyon.
Photo by Kent Mason

WV Public Lands provide

- **Supports the Recreation Economy:**
 - State Parks earned more than \$38 million in revenue (2023)
 - 75 million people visited WV national, state, and local public lands (2023) - over 7 million in state parks alone!
 - Public lands have a \$9 billion economic impact; supports 60,000 jobs; and the tourism industry pays \$1 billion in tax revenue (2023)
 - Day visitors spend \$67/day; overnight visitors spend \$145/day (2003)
- **Nature-based, non-motorized recreation** Lower construction and maintenance costs; less damage to trails
- **Conservation for unique and irreplaceable lands** that honor the history and people of West Virginia

<https://wvtourism.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2023-Statewide-Economic-Impact-of-Tourism-in-WV.pdf>



West Virginians
for Public Lands



Friends of the Cheat



WEST VIRGINIA
LAND TRUST



WEST VIRGINIA
SCENIC TRAILS ASSOCIATION



Eight Rivers Council
For Clean Water... Forever



CHRISTIANS FOR THE MOUNTAINS
"The Earth is the Lord's...and All that is Upon It" (Ps. 24:1)

The purposes of the Section of Parks and Recreation shall be to promote conservation by preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic, scientific, cultural, archaeological, or historic significance, and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the citizens of this state and its visitors