



Ranger District

Monongahela National Forest

200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, West Virginia 26241
(304) 636-1800 Telephone/TTY

Cheat Ranger Station



INFORMATION SHEET MONONGAHELA NATIONAL FOREST CHEAT-POTOMAC RANGER DISTRICT

USDA Forest Service
Cheat-Potomac Ranger District
PO Box 368
Parsons WV 26287-0368
Phone/TTY: (304)478-2000
Fax: (304)478-8692
Internet: www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 PM except Federal holidays.

Location: Located just north of Parsons, West Virginia, on U. S. Route 219.

Directions: From Parsons take U.S. Route 219 north. Travel over the Black Fork River Bridge and take the next right immediately past the bridge.

Maps: The maps listed below may be purchased from the district by sending the required payment plus any handling and shipping fees to the above address. A check or money order made payable to "USDA - Forest Service" is the only acceptable form of payment. Please do not send cash. Be sure to provide the name of the map(s) requested, and allow approximately two weeks for mailing.

Forest Visitor Map: \$6.00 - No handling or shipping fee.

7.5 Minute Series Topographic Maps:
\$6.00 + \$3.50 handling fee/order.

- Aurora
- Blackwater Falls
- Bowden (*)
- Colebank
- Davis
- Elkins
- Harman (*)
- Leadmine
- Montrose
- Mozark Mountain(*)
- Parsons (*)
- Rowlesburg
- St. George

Note: Maps annotated (*) cover Otter Creek Wilderness.

HIKING: The Cheat Ranger District manages 160.8 miles of trail; 36.8 miles in Otter Creek, and 124 miles of non-wilderness trails. Otter Creek Wilderness party size is limited to 10

people, and mechanized equipment and vehicles are prohibited. Many trails outside the designated wilderness area are suited for hiking, mountain biking, skiing, and horseback riding. Local weather information can be obtained from a National Weather Service recorded message in Elkins, WV at (304) 636-5000.

Several handouts for circuit hikes are available at no charge from the district office. They are: Canaan Mountain Backcountry, Horseshoe Run Area, Otter Creek Wilderness, and Pheasant Mountain.

More detailed hiking information can be found in the [Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide](#), by Allen de Hart and Bruce Sunquist. The Visitor's Center in Elkins, and several retail outlets in the Elkins and Davis areas, sell the hiking guide.



CAMPING: Three developed campgrounds are located on the district. Camping reservations may be made for Horseshoe and

Stuart Recreation Areas up to four days in advance. Call the USFS Reservation Center at (877)444-6777 or TTY/TDD (877)833-6777 for reservation information. Information is also available on the Internet at www.ReserveUSA.com.

Bear Heaven Recreation Area: Located approximately 14 miles NE of Elkins, WV, on Stuart Memorial Drive (Forest Road 91). High elevation, open year round, and situated in a dense oak stand. Found on USGS Quad - Bowden.

- Fee: \$5.00/night with 8 person/site maximum and 14-day stay limit.
- Unit: Parking, table, fire ring, tent pad, and lantern holder.
- Facilities: Vault toilets (not accessible) and hand water pump. A day use area with accessible vault toilets nearby. Hiking.

Horseshoe Recreation Area: Located approximately 7 miles NE of St. George, WV, along the river bottom of Horseshoe Run on WV Route 7. Open mid-May to early December. Found on USGS Quad - Leadmine.

- Fee: \$10.00/night with 8 person/site and 14 day stay limit.
- Unit: Parking, table, fire ring, tent pad, and lantern holder. Two sites are fully accessible.
- Facilities: Accessible vault toilets, non-accessible flush toilets, and hand water pumps. Day use picnic area with a large and small pavilion.
- The large and the small pavilion may be reserved. Play field, river access, horseshoe pits, fishing, and hiking.

Stuart Recreation Area: Located approximately 6 miles NE of Elkins, WV, on the Shavers Fork River at the junction of WV Route 6 and Stuart Memorial Drive (Forest Road 91). Open mid-May to early October. Found on USGS Quad - Elkins.

- Fees: \$19.00/night, except one double site is \$33.00/night, with 8-person/site maximum and 14-day stay limit.
- Unit: Parking, table, fire ring, tent pad, lantern holder, and electric hook-up. Five sites are fully accessible.
- Facilities: Fully accessible shower building with flush toilets. Combination of accessible and non-accessible vault toilets. Six water faucets dispersed throughout campground. Large day use area with three pavilions. All of the pavilions may be reserved. Play fields, volleyball area, horseshoe pits, river access, swimming beach, fishing, and hiking.

PAVILION RESERVATIONS: Pavilions at Horseshoe and Stuart Recreation Area may be reserved according to the fee schedule listed below. Reservations may be made up to 4 days in advance by calling (877)444-6777. Please indicate that you are calling for a site in the state of West Virginia on the Monongahela National Forest.

Stuart Electric:	\$100.00
Stuart Non-Electric	\$ 60.00
Alpena Shelter:	\$ 40.00
Horseshoe Electric:	\$ 70.00
Horseshoe Non-Electric:	\$ 15.00

FERNOW EXPERIMENTAL FOREST

In 1934 a portion of forest, which would eventually become the Monongahela National Forest, was recognized as representative of

much of the timberland in West Virginia and adjacent states in topography, history of cuttings, climate, and variety of species. It was set aside for research use and designated the Fernow Experimental Forest in memory of Bernhard E. Fernow, a pioneer in American forestry research. The experimental forest, with recent land acquisitions from the Monongahela National Forest, now totals approximately 4,700 acres.

This project of the USDA Forest Service is headquartered at the Timber and Watershed Laboratory, which is collocated with the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District, in Parsons, WV.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS:

Tucker County

Emergency Center	911
WV State Police	478-3101
Tucker Med Center	478-2511

Randolph County

Emergency Center	911
Ambulance/Rescue	636-1211
WV State Police	637-0200
Davis Memorial Hosp.	636-3300

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The policy of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, or disability, familial status, or political affiliation. Persons believing they have been discriminated against in any Forest Service related activity should write to: Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090 or call 800-245-6340 (voice) or 202-720-1127 (TTY).

LARGE PRINT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.