



## News Release

# Monongahela National Forest

For Immediate Release  
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### **Some Roads in Monongahela National Forest to Open for Early Bear Season**

(Elkins, WV) Gates on selected roads in the Monongahela National Forest will be opened early this year to accommodate hunters during the early bear season set by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Some roads will be opened about a week earlier than usual and remain open throughout the rest of the year while others will open only for the limited bear hunt and then close again until deer gun season when they would normally be opened. Opening Forest roads specifically for the early bear hunt will allow for a better distribution of hunters.

Roads to be opened early in the northern portion of the Forest include four on the Cheat side of the Cheat-Potomac Ranger District, three on the Potomac side of the District, and one road on the Greenbrier District. The Cheat roads are FR 927 Dry Run, FR 935 Mill Run, FR 992 Panther Run, and FR 767 Jonathan Run, which will all open on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Potomac roads are FR 978 Annie Self, FR 70 Flatrock Plains, and FR 776 High Ridge, all of which will also open September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Cheat-Potomac roads will all close for the season on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 except Flatrock Plains which will close on December 31, 2008.

On the Greenbrier Ranger District, FR 427 Little Beech Mountain, will be opened for the early bear hunt between September 19 and September 28. It will re-open on November 24 for deer gun season.

A number of roads will be opened early in the southern portion of the Forest to accommodate the early bear season. White Sulphur area roads to be opened on September 19<sup>th</sup> and which will then remain open until December 31<sup>st</sup> are FR 89 Knife Hollow, FR 293 Meadow Creek Mountain, FR 888 Dilley Run and the un-numbered Buskirk/Sulphur Lick Road. Marlinton area roads to be opened September 19<sup>th</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup> are FR 1002 Monday Lick, and FR 343/947 Beaverlick South/Brushy Mountain.

Three roads on the southern portion of the Forest will be opened for the early bear hunt between September 19<sup>th</sup> and September 28, when they will be closed again until their normal opening for deer gun season in late November. These roads are FR 311 Drywell and FR 728 Two Mile Run/Sam May in the White Sulphur area and FR 1002B Monday Lick/Messer Cemetery in the Marlinton area.

MORE

Some Roads on Monongahela National forest to Open Early for Bear Season (continued)

Hunters are encouraged to utilize these roads during the early bear season. Any questions about a specific road should be directed to the appropriate Ranger District office. These early road openings are a change to the Monongahela National Forest Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) which is posted on the Forest web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf). The MVUM is annually updated in the spring and any changes which occur to the posted map in between updates are publicized both by press releases and on the web site itself. All Forest visitors are encouraged to check the web site before planning on driving Forest roads, as the web site will list the most up to date information.

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