

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** National Forests and Grasslands provide Americans with 193 million spectacular acres of wildlands; and
- Whereas,** there are more than 9,000 miles of scenic byways to drive, almost 150,000 miles of trails to hike, more than 4,400 miles of wild and scenic rivers to float, at least 5,100 campgrounds in which to pitch out tents, and 328 natural pools to swim in; and
- Whereas,** the lands are managed by the USDA Forest Service, National Forests and Grasslands host more than 170 million visits each year; and
- Whereas,** Visitor spending pumps \$13.5 billion into our economy annually, sustaining nearly 223,000 jobs in gateway communities; and
- Whereas,** these lands are the foundation of America's outdoor recreation heritage and sustain our way of life; and
- Whereas,** the National Forests provide water to millions of Americans in thousands of communities, clean our air, store carbon, and provide timber, minerals, oil and gas and other resources for industry and communities; and
- Whereas,** This year's theme, Forest Mode, encourages us to think about how we make the shift between the hustle and bustle of our daily lives to being present in the moment; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia includes two national forests where you can enjoy the outdoors—the Monongahela National Forest and the combined George Washington and Jefferson National Forests; and
- Whereas,** the Monongahela National Forest has 10 wildlife management areas within its boundaries, including Beaver Dam, Blackwater, Cheat, Cranberry, Little River, Neola, Otter Creek, Potomac, Rimel and Tea Creek; and
- Whereas,** George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are located in the rolling Appalachian Mountains of eastern West Virginia and western Virginia. It includes Cove Creek, Shenandoah, Potts Creek and Wardensville wildlife management areas where you can hunt, fish and enjoy nature; and
- Whereas,** Wildlife management areas within the national forests are operated under a cooperative agreement between the US Forest Service and the Division of Natural Resources.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **July 10-16, 2023** as:

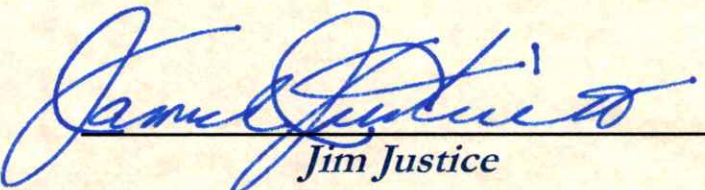
National Forest Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twelfth day of July, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixty-First year of the State.




Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:


Mac Warner
Secretary of State