

Southern Allegheny Cluster

Mud Run Mountain
Oliver Mountain
Jerrys Run
Slaty Mountain

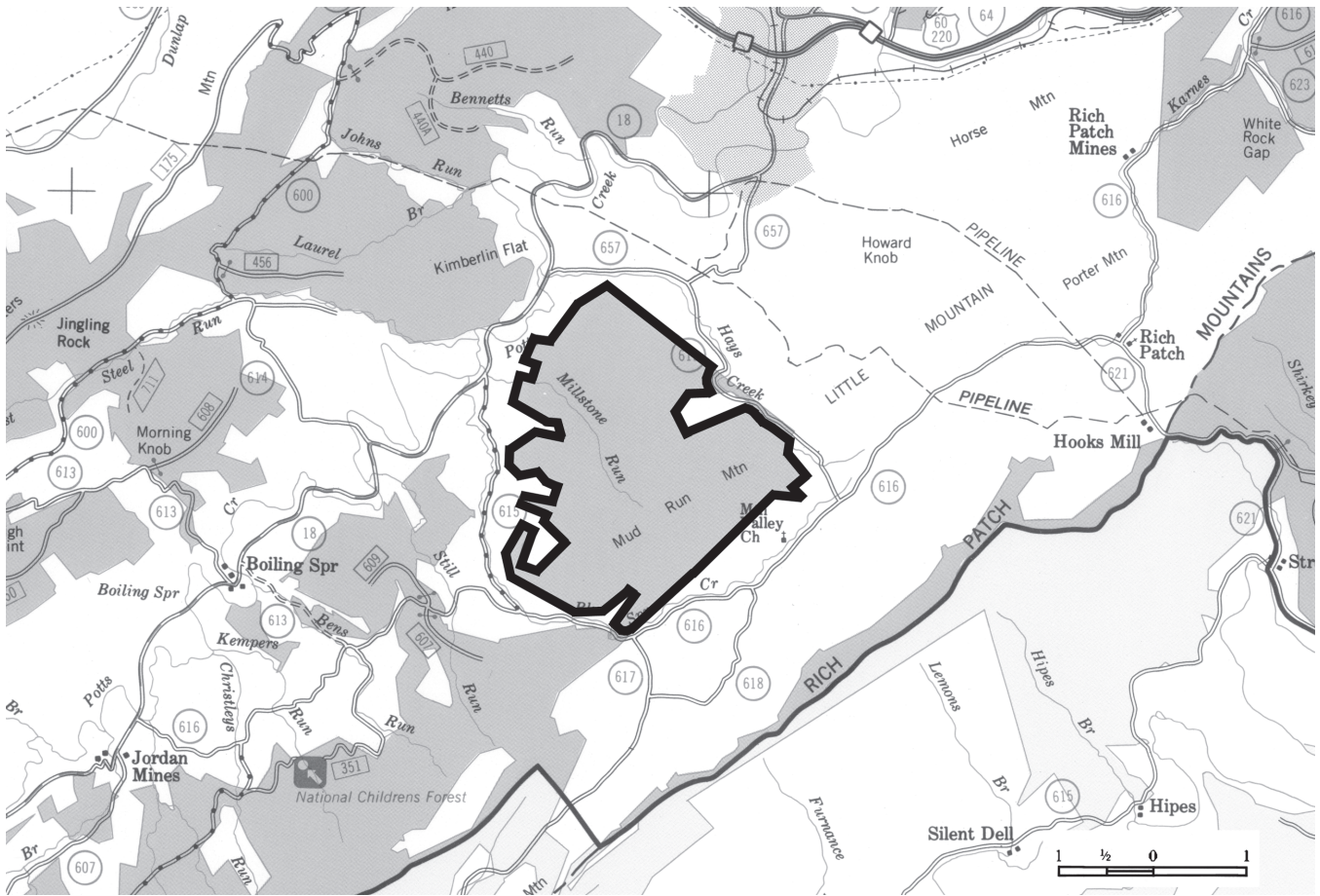
The Southern Allegheny Cluster is located in southwestern Allegheny County in the Warm Springs Ranger District. The seven areas that make up this cluster comprise a total of 46,480 acres, of which only Oliver Mountain with just over 13,000 acres has been designated as roadless by the Forest Service.

This cluster has significant biodiversity due in part to its geographic features. Karst topography and shale barrens are two such features. In addition, the area has striking differences in elevation from 4000 feet near Toms Knob to just over 1000 feet near the Jackson and James Rivers.

Toms Knob
Panther Knob
Snake Run Ridge

Snake Run Ridge protects a large stand of old growth, and just to the south of Slaty Run are the Nature Conservancy Shale Barrens. These barrens offer habitat to several threatened and endangered species.

The Southern Allegheny cluster also provides significant recreation opportunities. Jerrys Run has an extensive trail system and provides the backdrop for the Allegheny Trail. Conversely Mud Run Mountain provides a wonderful primitive recreational opportunity.



Mud Run Mountain

Mud Run Mountain is unique in that, unlike so many ridges in Virginia, it stands off by itself. It is separated from Potts Mountain to the south and from other ridges to the north by narrow water gaps.

The lowest point is near the Pond Lick Branch reservoir with an elevation of just under 1500 feet. The summit of Mud Run Mountain is a knob, at 3514 feet, that drops off rapidly to the east.

There are several small streams flowing off the

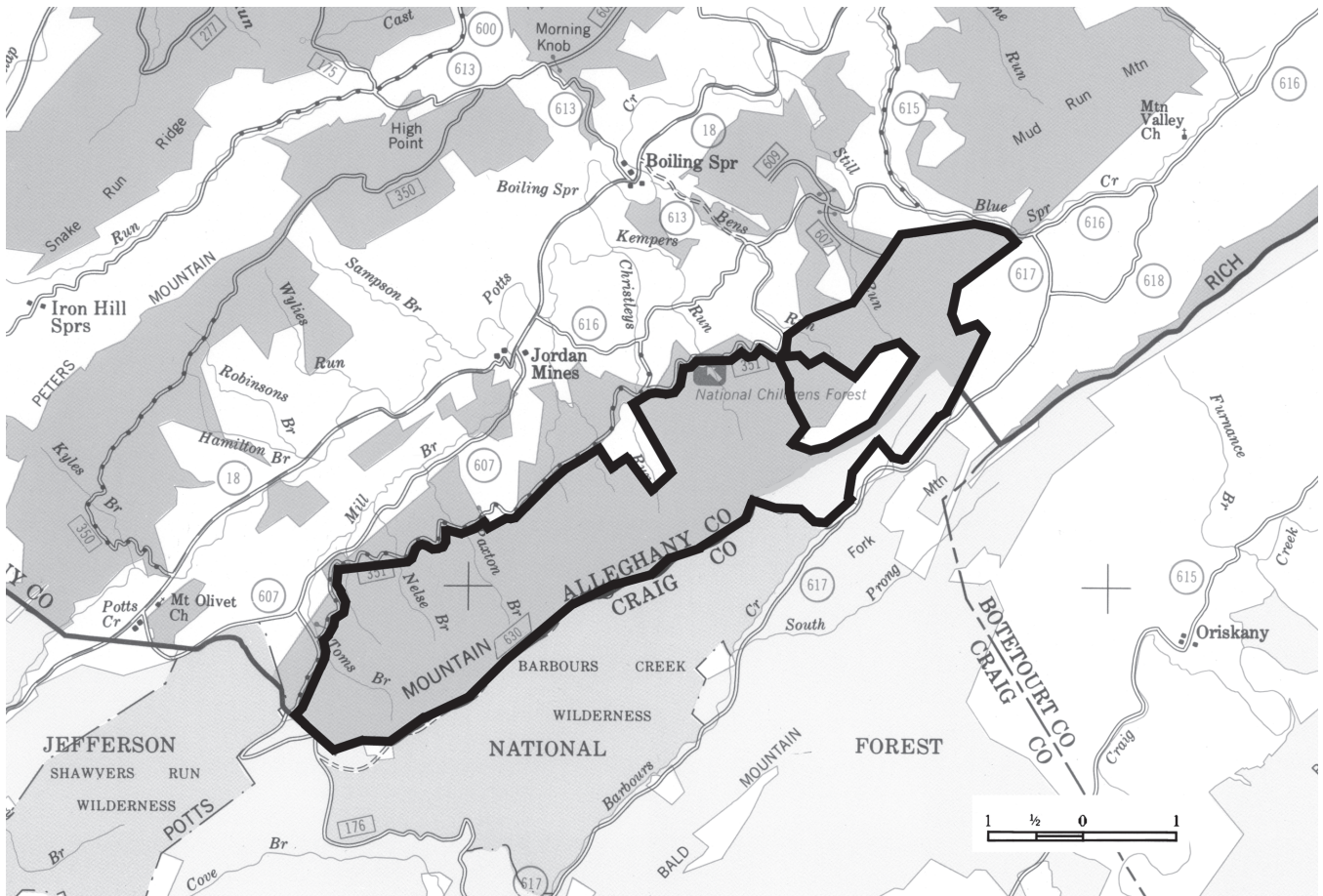
mountain. These include Pond Lick Branch, Millstone Run, and Mud Run. This area protects the upper drainages. All three streams flow into Potts Creek, a tributary of the Jackson River. The area is very remote, and there are no trails of any sort within its boundaries.

There is a small stand of old growth located on the crest of Mud Run Mountain and in the drainages to the west.

Approximate Size: 4303 acres

Location: Alleghany County, Virginia in the James River District

Topos: Jordan Mines



Toms Knob

Toms Knob gets its name from a series of rock outcrops on the crest of Potts Mountain. They provide beautiful views of the Potts Creek Valley and Peters Mountain to the west. This area is located almost entirely on the western flank of Potts Mountain. It is separated from the Barbour's Creek Wilderness by the Potts Mountain Jeep Road that runs along the crest of the mountain. A small portion of Toms Knob lies in the Jefferson National Forest.

The elevation ranges from about 3800 feet on the crest of Potts Mountain to 1750 feet in Shanty Hollow. Nichols Knob in the extreme northern part of

the area is clearly visible from the surrounding countryside.

The steep, rugged eastern flank of the ridge forms the headwaters for Barbour's Creek. Many small streams both perennial and intermittent cascade down the western side of the mountain and are tributaries of Potts Creek.

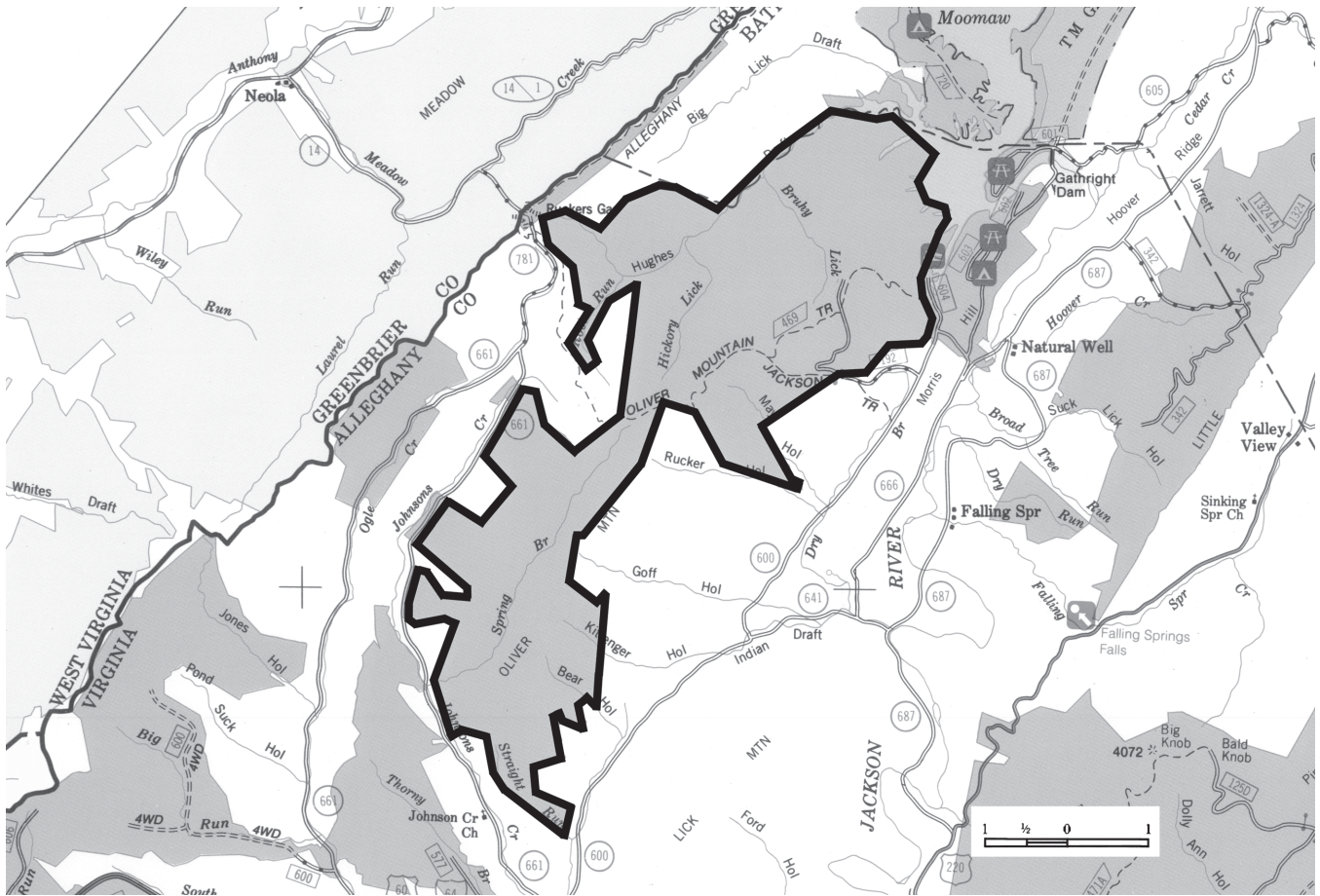
There are several short trails in the Shanty Hollow area. These are the only ones in the entire area.

There is a small Special Biological Area located on the crest of the ridge, and small pockets of potential old growth.

Approximate Size: 7879 acres

Location: Allegheny and Craig Counties, Virginia in the James River and Eastern Divide Districts

Topos: Allegheny, New Castle, Jordan Mines, Potts Creek



Oliver Mountain

This wild and remote area is located in the north-west portion of Allegheny County. Oliver Mountain is the dominant feature of this roadless area. Several small creeks drain the mountain. Spring Branch drains the southern end, while Hickory Lick and Brushy Lick flow into Lake Moomaw which forms the northern boundary.

The area is predominantly composed of eastern uplands hardwoods, with Pitch Pine, Table Mountain Pine, and Virginia Pine located in drier regions. Elevations range from 1430 feet to 3565 feet along the crest of Oliver Mountain. The terrain is steep and rugged.

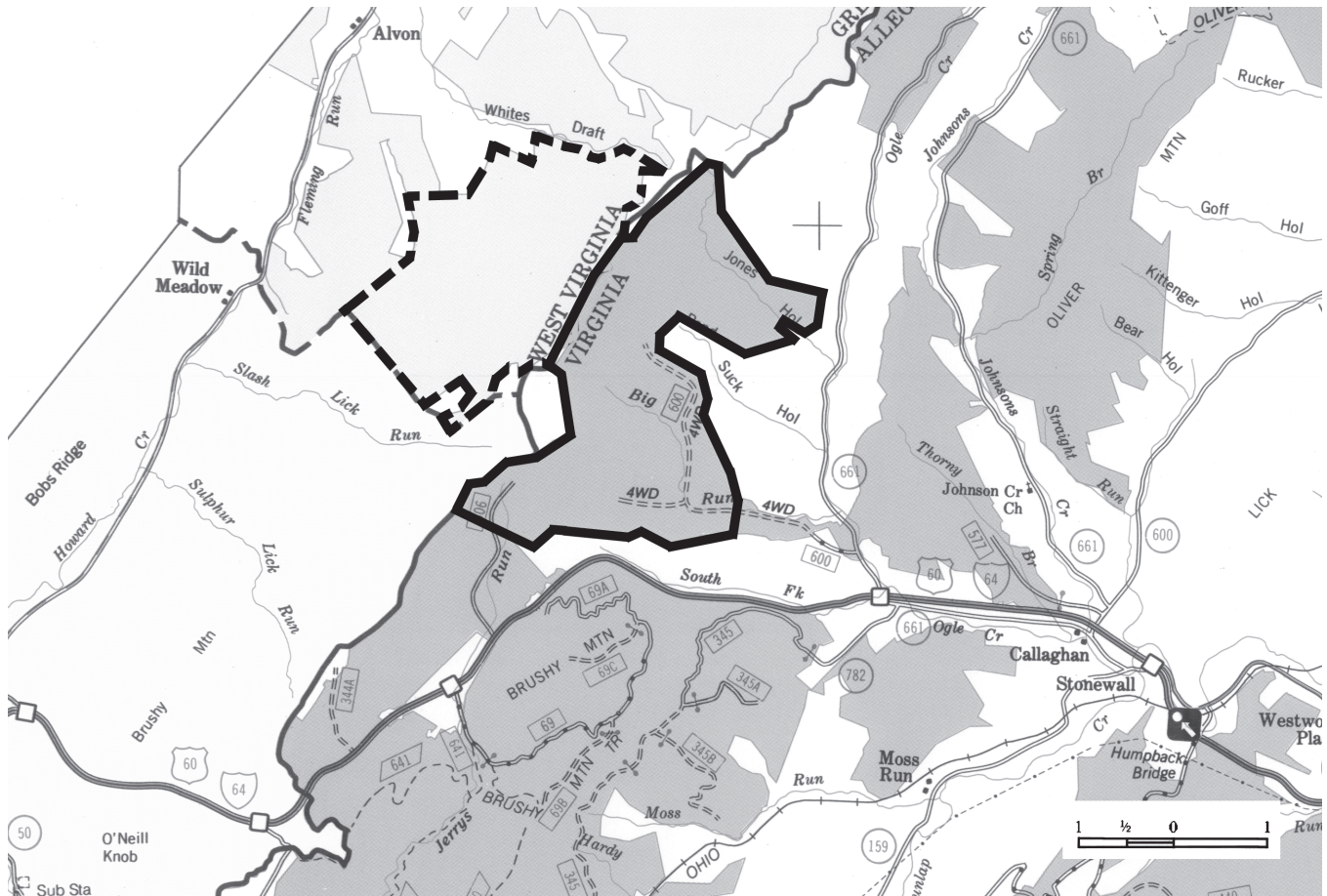
Much of the roadless area is regaining its natural untrammeled appearance. Hunting, hiking, and backpacking are the primary recreational activities. The Oliver Mountain Trail passes through the roadless area and its beautiful stands of old growth forest. There are several miles of trail located near Lake Moomaw. These trails are open to mountain biking and equestrian use.

The Virginia Division of Natural Heritage has identified two Special Biological Areas with populations of rare plants. There is a 225 acre forest plan-designated Special Biological Area and 1562 acres of possible old growth.

Approximate Size: 13,081 acres

Location: Allegheny County, Virginia in the James River District

Topos: Callaghan, Rucker Gap



Panther Knob

Panther Knob is located in both the George Washington National Forest and the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. The area encompasses the eastern and western slopes of Allegheny Mountain. The entire Treasure is 8063 acres.

Panther Ridge is a long outlier on the eastern slope of the mountain. Elevations range from 1600 feet on Big Run to over 3200 feet on the crest of Allegheny Mountain.

Big Run and Jones Hollow are the major creeks

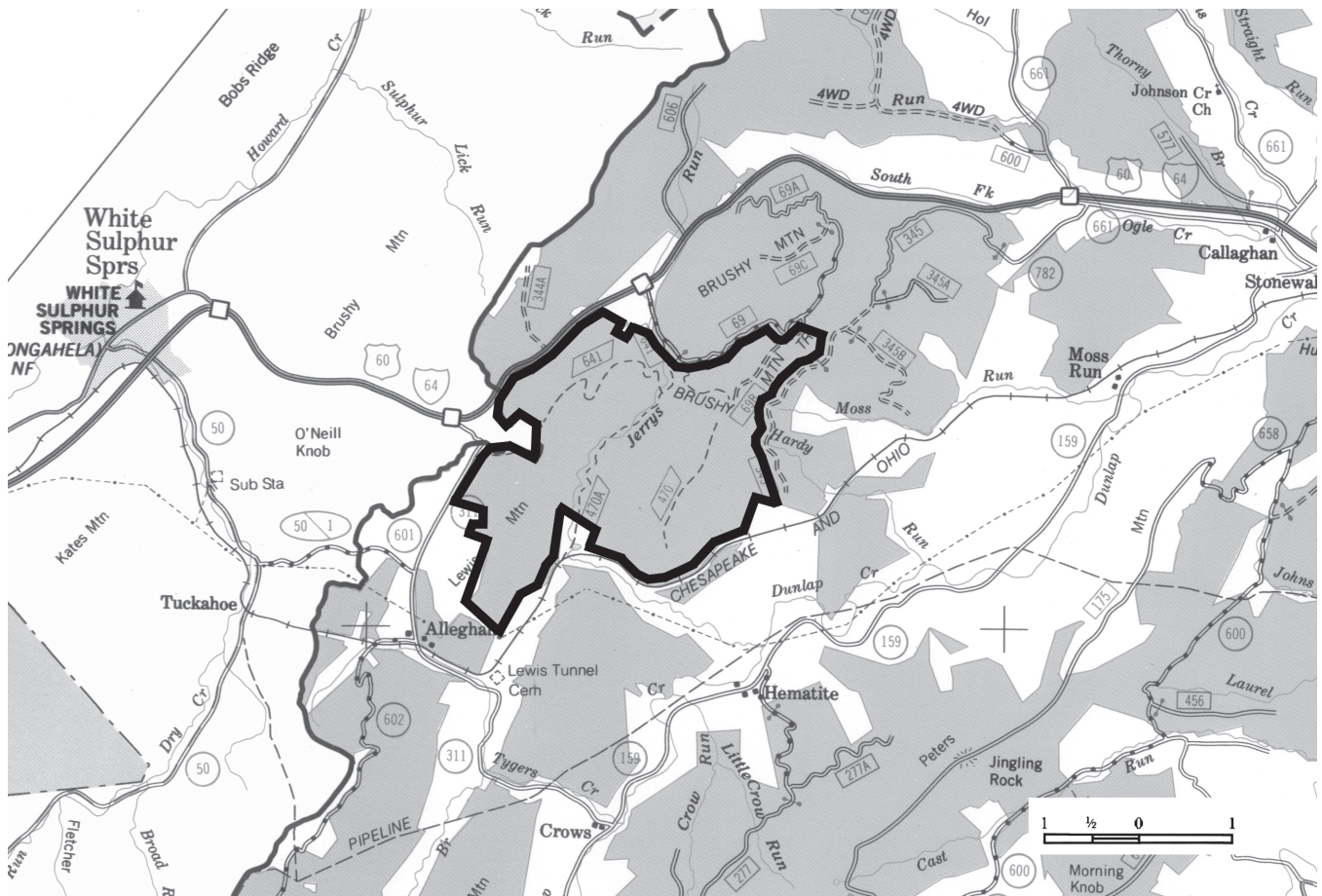
on the eastern flank of the mountain. These streams lie in the James River watershed. Big Run creates a massive hollow in the flank of the mountain. Whitmans Draft and Whites Draft are the dominant streams on the western flank of Panther Knob. These are part of the Greenbrier River system.

Eastern upland hardwoods dominate much of the area while cove hardwoods such as Tulip Poplar and White Oak thrive in the sheltered coves. In Big Run Hollow some of these trees are very large.

Approximate Size: 4231 acres

Location: Allegheny County, Virginia in the James River District

Topos: Alvon, Callaghan, Jerrys Run, Rucker Gap



Jerrys Run

Jerrys run is located near the Virginia-West Virginia line in a remote section of Allegheny County. The region includes both the east and west slopes of Brushy Mountain, Lewis Mountain, and Batlick Mountain.

The elevation ranges from about 2000 feet at Hardy Run to 3050 feet on the crest of Batlick Mountain. Both Batlick Mountain and Brushy Mountain form the scenic backdrop for Jerrys Run, a high-elevation stocked trout stream. Cannonball Hollow which separates Batlick from Lewis Mountain is a

feeder stream of Jerrys Run.

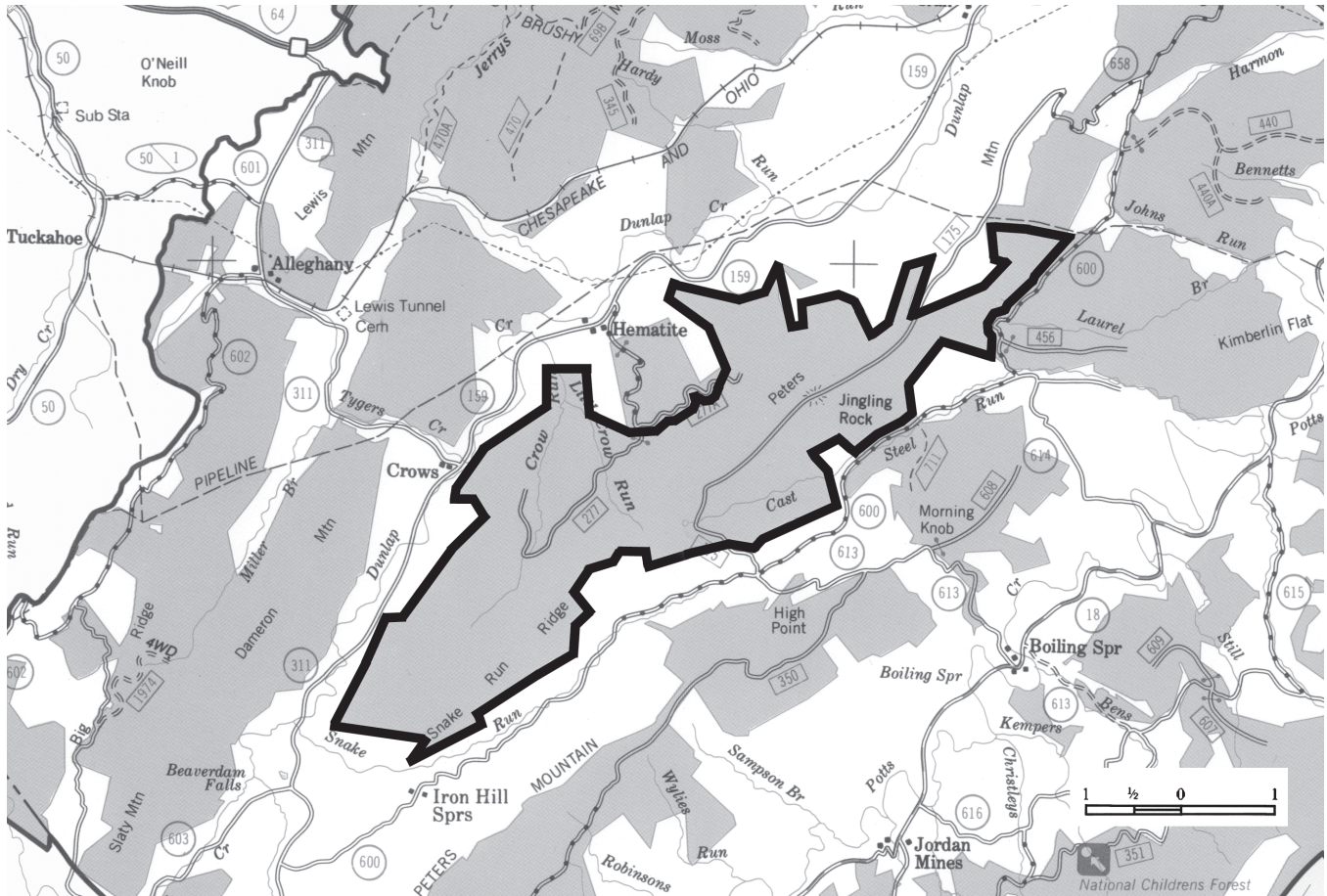
There are several shared use trails open to hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking in Jerrys Run. The most notable is the Allegheny Trail. This trail is planned to run almost 300 miles along the Virginia-West Virginia border. Approximately five miles of this trail pass through the area. In addition to the Allegheny Trail, there are seven miles of additional trail including the Bat Lick Trail and Jerrys Run Trail.

Jerrys Run may contain 1754 acres of possible old growth.

Approximate Size: 4777 acres

Location: Allegheny County, Virginia in the James River District

Topos: Jerrys Run



Snake Run Ridge

Snake Run Ridge is a prominent feature of Peters Mountain. This area includes the western flank of Peters Mountain and an outlying ridge that creates the watersheds of Little Crow Run and the upper portion of Crow Run. Slopes are steep and rocky and rich stands of mixed mesophytic forest and Hemlock can be found in the deeply incised coves.

To the northeast, Peters Mountain reaches an elevation of just over 3500 feet. Near the summit there are old overgrown meadows. Thomas Spring bubbles out of the ground and forms the

headwaters for Cast Steel Run, a tributary of Potts Creek and the Jackson River.

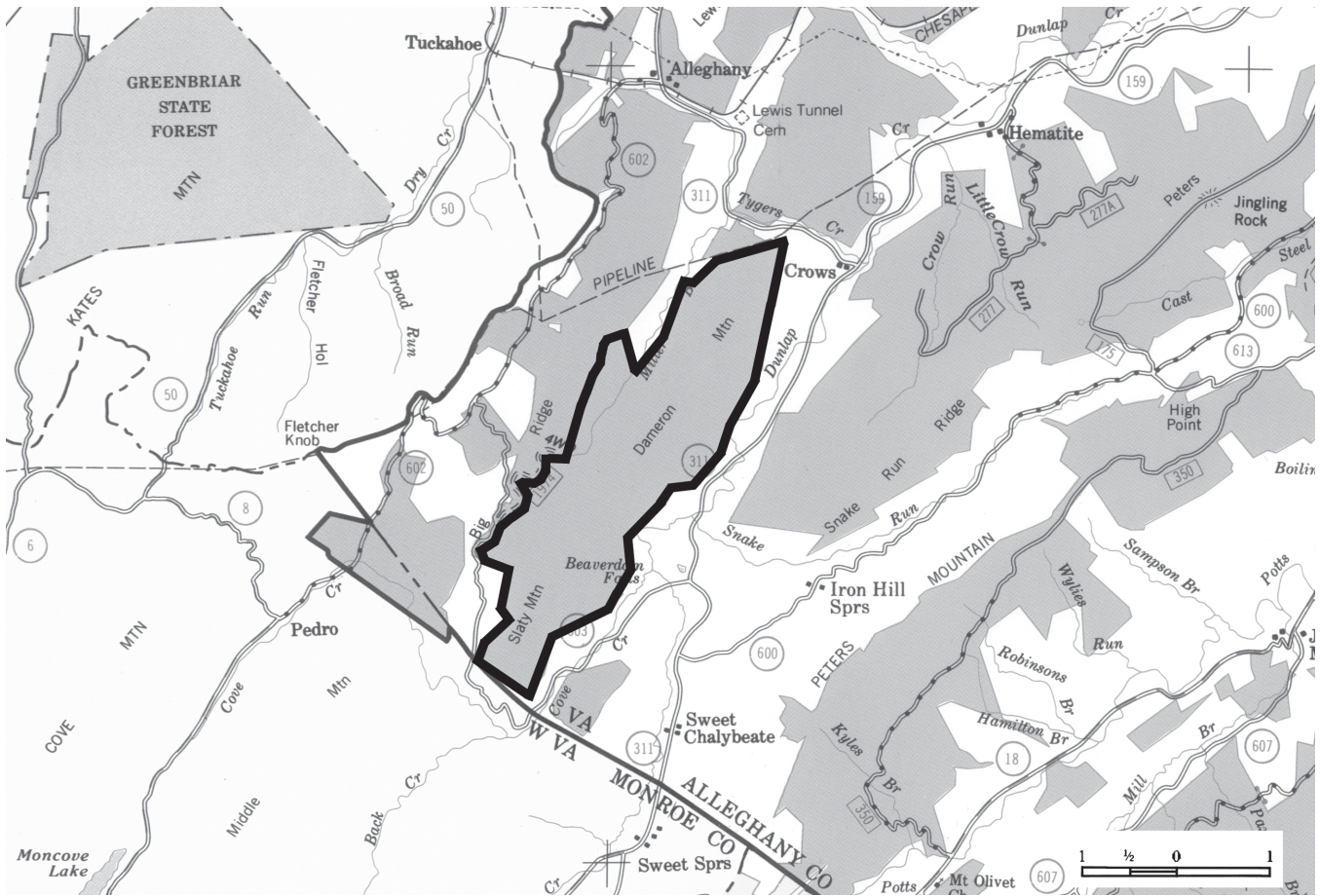
Both Crow Run and Little Crow Run are wild trout streams. Species sensitive to human disturbance such as Black Bears and Timber Rattlers find refuge in this wild area.

This area includes tracts of old growth that the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage identifies as perhaps the most extensive in Central Appalachians. Snake Run Ridge may contain 3600 acres of possible old growth.

Approximate Size: 8166 acres

Location: Allegheny County, Virginia in the James River District

Topos: Allegheny



Slaty Mountain

This area includes both Slaty Mountain and Dameron Mountain. These two mountains are separated by Falls Hollow. Both Slaty Mountain and Dameron Mountain climb to elevations just under 3000 feet.

The area protects the upper drainages of both Miller Branch and Falls Hollow. Miller Branch drains the western slope of Dameron Mountain and is a tributary of Dunlap Creek and the Jackson River.

Falls Hollow cuts a 600 foot canyon between Dameron Mountain and Slaty Mountain. The hollow is appropriately named as Beaverdam Falls tumbles

through the canyon.

In addition, due to the protective nature of the canyon and the steep walled terrain, the area has been left undisturbed. The Forest Service has identified several old growth stands in Falls Hollow and other areas of Slaty Mountain.

The area just south of this roadless area was recently donated to The Nature Conservancy to protect the shale barrens of the steep southern slope of Slaty Mountain.

Slaty Mountain may contain 896 acres of possible old growth.

Approximate Size: 4043 acres

Location: Alleghany County, Virginia in the James River District

Topos: Alleghany, Glace