



# Warm Springs Mountain Cluster

## Warm Springs Mountain Beards Mountain Dolly Ann

The Warm Springs Mountain Cluster is located in Alleghany and Bath Counties, on Warm Springs Mountain and other ridges in these two counties. These areas are within the Warm Springs and James River Districts.

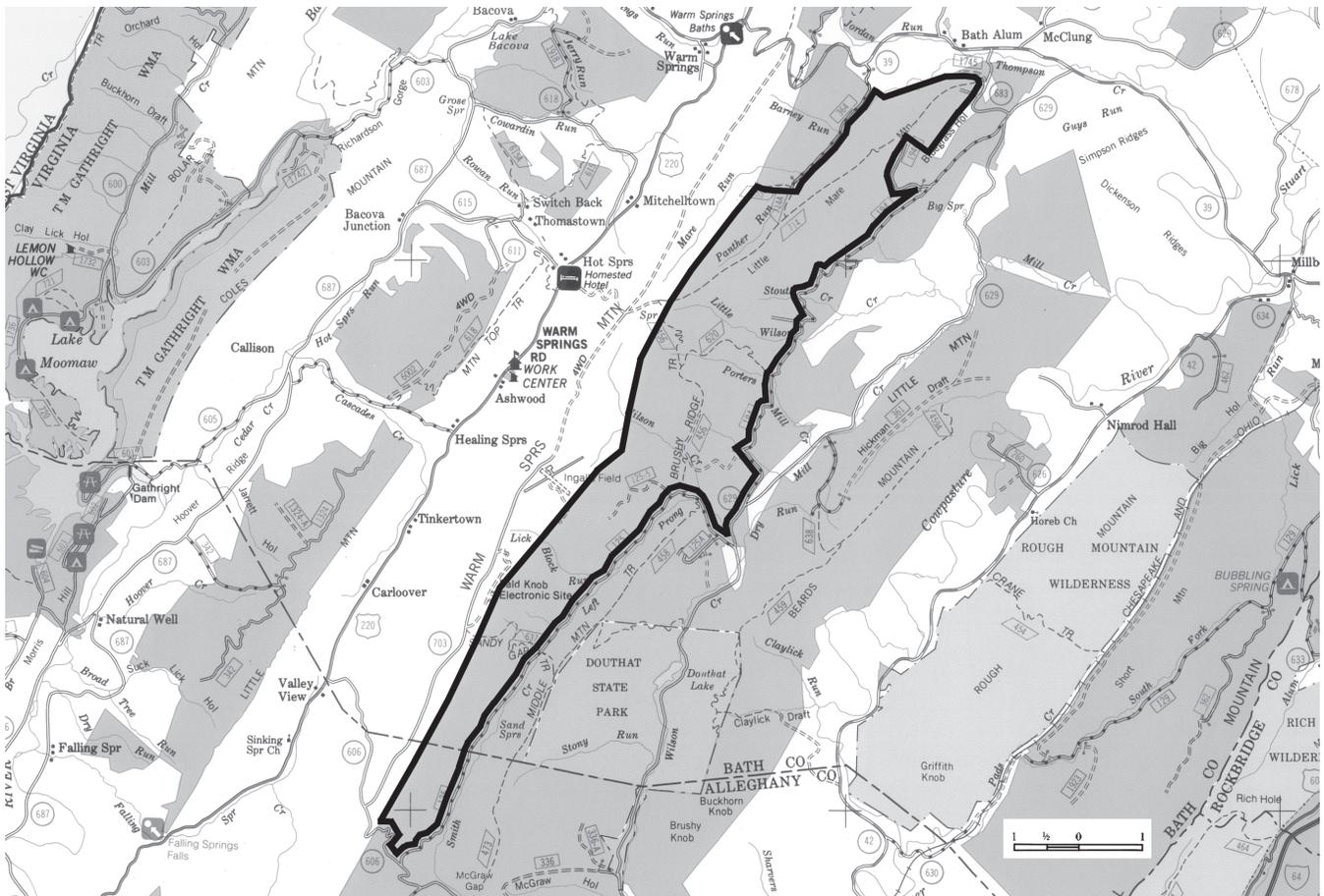
The many small streams that descend from these ridges flow into the Jackson and Cowpasture Rivers. These two merge to form the James River. The James is one of the principal rivers flowing into Chesapeake Bay and provides drinking water for many localities in Virginia.

## Little Mare Mountain Fore Mountain

These areas provide many recreational opportunities. Douthat State Park is nestled between Beards Mountain and Little Mare Mountain. The park serves as the starting point for many recreational trails located throughout this cluster of roadless areas.

The Dolly Ann Roadless Area has a forest plan-designated Special Biological Area. The steep ridges provide shelter to many small stands of old growth. However, only Dolly Ann and a portion of Beards Mountain are inventoried roadless areas.





## Little Mare Mountain

Little Mare Mountain encompasses the eastern flank of Warm Springs Mountain, Brushy Ridge, and Little Mare Mountain. Near the summit of Bald Knob on Warm Springs Mountain the elevation reaches almost 4000 feet. Moving toward the north-east, the elevation gradually declines, with Brushy Mountain near 3850 feet and Little Mare Mountain exceeding 3500 feet.

The ridge is deeply incised by numerous small streams. The streams in the southwestern portion of this area feed into Smith Creek, a part of the drainage system for the Clifton Forge Reservoir and the Jackson river. The northeastern section includes the upper

drainage of Wilson Creek, a tributary of the Cowpasture River.

There are many trails along Little Mare Mountain, including the Little Mare Mountain Trail and the Brushy Ridge Trail. In all there are over seventeen miles of trails. Some of these tie into the trail system that has been established at Douthat State Park

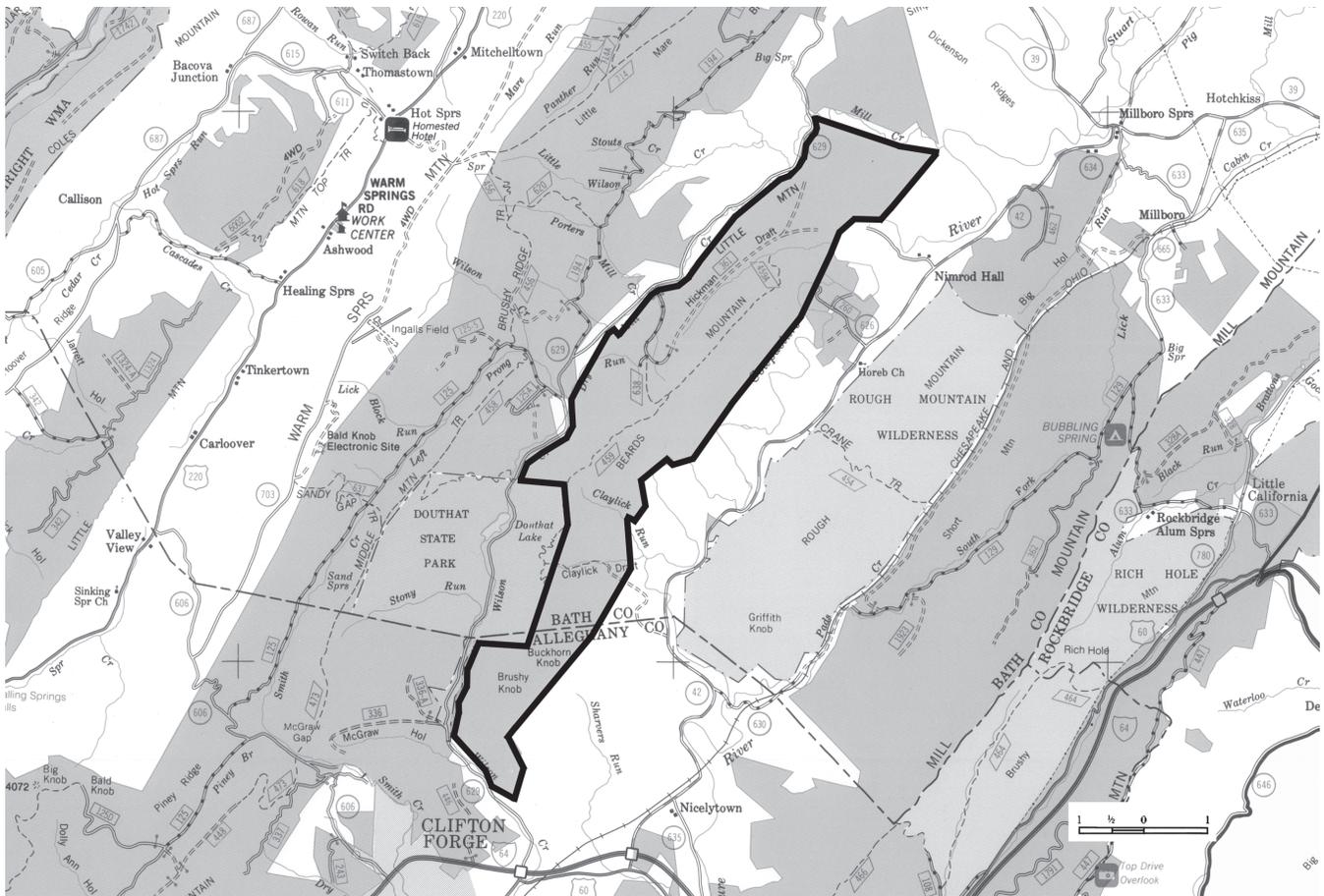
In addition, Little Mare Mountain provides the scenic backdrop for visitors to Hot Springs as well as motorists on US 39. The western edge of the ridge borders a very large Nature Conservancy reserve.

Little Mare Mountain may contain 2784 acres of possible old growth.

**Approximate Size:** 12,587 acres

**Location:** Bath and Alleghany Counties, Virginia in the Warm Springs and James River Districts

**Topos:** Healing Springs, Clifton Forge, Warm Springs, Bath Alum



## Beards Mountain

Beards Mountain provides a scenic backdrop for the eastern portion of Douthat State Park. Many of the peaks along the boundary exceed 2600 feet. The eastern portion lies in the Cowpasture River Valley, and on the west the area is bounded by Mill Creek.

The Beards Mountain Roadless Area climbs in elevation from north to south from approximately 1200 feet near the Cowpasture River to almost 2850 feet on Gilliam Knob.

Both the eastern and western flanks of the ridge are dissected by many small streams. These include Gilliam Run, Dry Lick Hollow, and Polecat Hollow. These small feeder streams flow to either the Jackson River or the Cowpasture River. On the east flank

Claylick Draft, Claylick Run, and Salt Hollow are tributaries of the Cowpasture River. This is one of the few roadless areas on the Forest that can be directly accessed by canoeists.

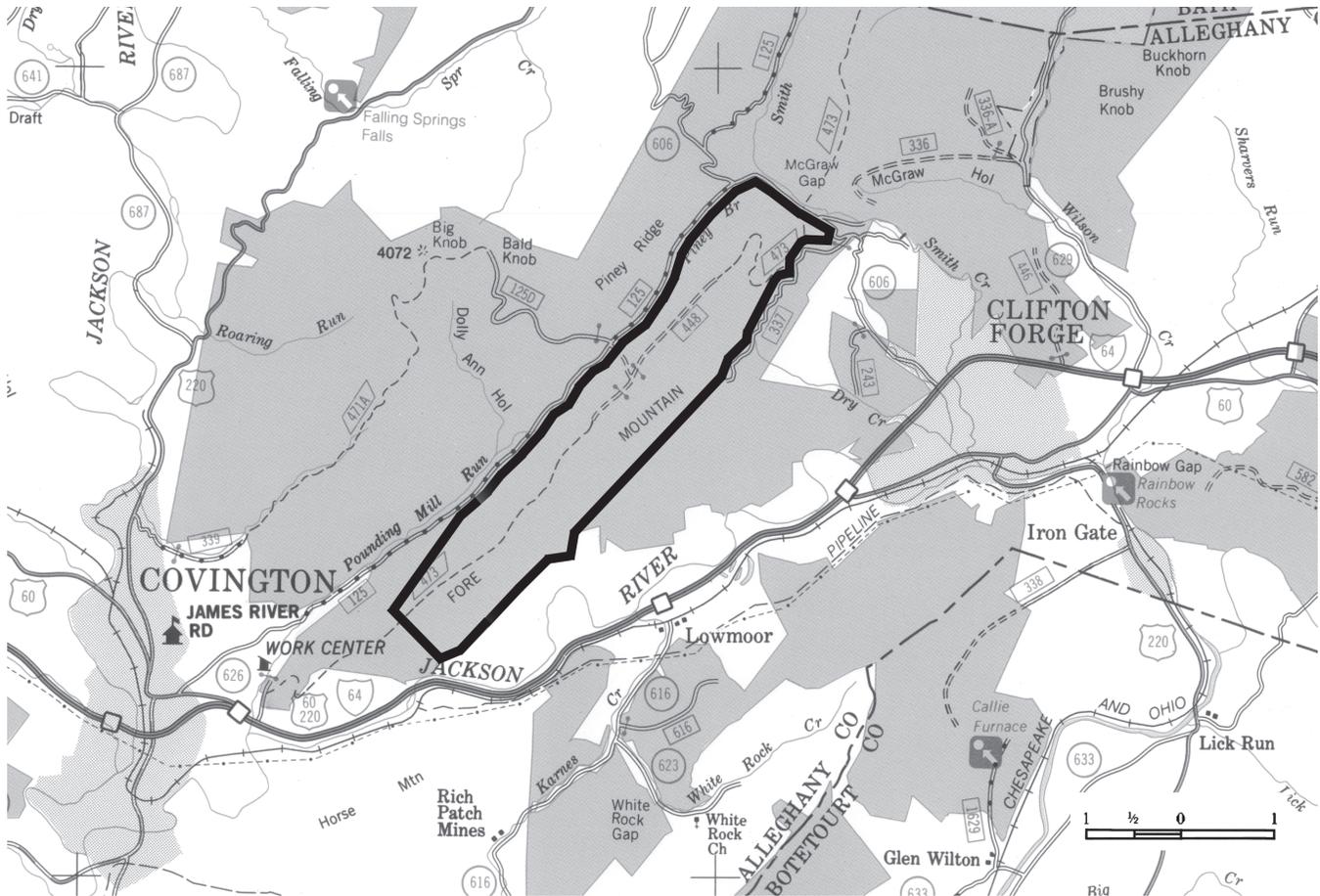
Hiking and mountain biking are the primary recreational activities of Beards Mountain. The Beards Mountain Trail climbs from the Cowpasture River to the crest of Beards Mountain and travels south to Douthat State Park. In addition, several short side trails lead down to Wilson Creek.

Beards Mountain may contain 2921 acres of possible old growth and there is a 743 acre Special Biological Area.

**Approximate Size:** 11,721 acres

**Location:** Allegheny and Bath Counties in the James River and Warm Spring Districts

**Topos:** Clifton Forge, Healing Springs, Nimrod Hall



## Fore Mountain

Fore Mountain is a long ridge extending from Covington, Virginia almost to Douthat State Park. This area contains both the eastern and western flanks of the mountain. It is a low lying ridge with a summit elevation of just under 3000 feet.

Both the eastern and western slopes are highly dissected by many intermittent streams. The north-western portion of Fore Mountain drains into Piney Branch which is a part of the water supply for the Clifton Forge Reservoir.

The Fore Mountain Trail is the only trail through the area. It extends from Covington to County Road 606. It is utilized primarily by equestrians.

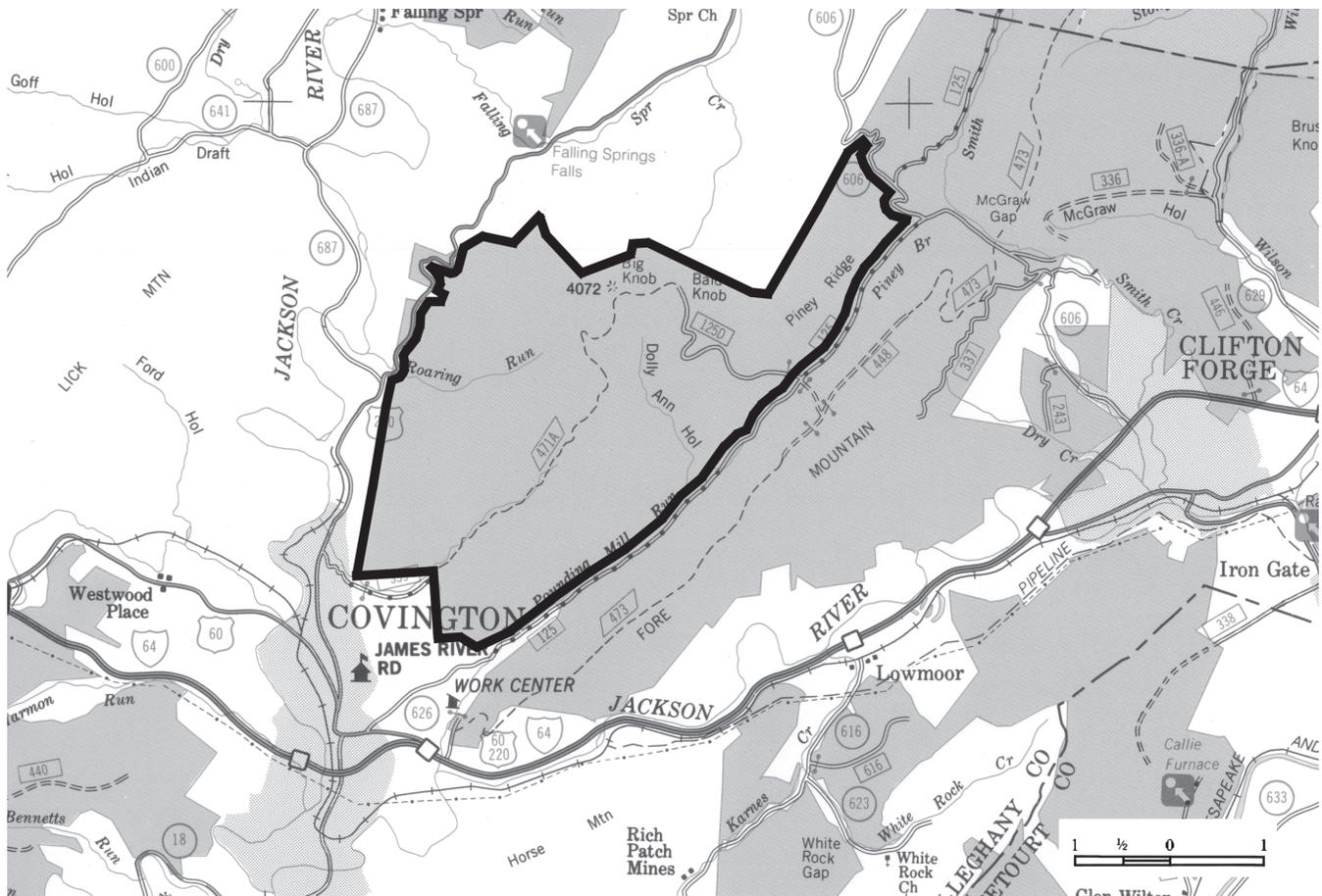
Fore Mountain provides spectacular scenery for motorists on I-64. Much of the area is currently open to logging and roadbuilding

This area may contain 1795 acres of possible old growth.

**Approximate Size:** 4590 acres

**Location:** Alleghany County, Virginia in the James River District

**Topos:** Covington, Clifton Forge



## Dolly Ann

Dolly Ann contains the highest point in Alleghany County. Elevations range from approximately 1480 feet near Covington to 4072 feet at Big Knob. There is a cliff near the top of the mountain on the west side that provides a wonderful view of Warm Springs Mountain and Falling Springs Valley.

On the summit of Big Knob there is a flat that presents an open, park-like atmosphere with herbaceous ground vegetation. It also contains large old White Oaks and a plant species that is considered globally rare.

Dolly Ann Hollow was managed as a primitive area prior to 1986. This rugged area is characterized by large boulders, rock ledges, and several small waterfalls. In Dolly Ann Hollow the stream contains native Brook Trout. The area around Dry Run is a 2075 acre forest plan-designated Special Biological Area.

There is one trail through Dolly Ann. The Dry Run Trail climbs to the summit of Warm Springs Mountain.

This area may contain 2735 acres of possible old growth.

**Approximate Size:** 9613 acres

**Location:** Alleghany County, Virginia in the James River District

**Topos:** Covington