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Birthplace of Rivers National Monument (BRNM):

***Contact your Senators and Congressmen to OPPOSE BRNM**

***Contact your Local County Commissioners to OPPOSE BRNM**

Proposed Area Description

- The proposed 75,000 acres are currently under the management of the USFS and assistance from the WV DNR
- The majority of the proposed area is designated as 4.1 management prescription (spruce and spruce-hardwood restoration)
- There are nearly 70 miles of impaired streams within the proposed area
- Approximately 80% of proposed area consists of privately owned mineral rights
- Highest value timber within the Monongahela NF in the area of the Marlinton and Gauley Ranger Districts.

How It Happens...

- National Monuments can be created through Presidential Proclamations or by normal Congressional legislative processes.
 - Once declared THEN the management plan is written.
- This process does not include stakeholder groups as the in forest planning which considers all forest users.

- Considered as a backdoor to wilderness creation with lack of collaboration

Why Oppose the BRNM?

- Current Forest Plan process provides equal opportunity for all forest users to be involved in providing comments on proposed management activities within this area.
 - BRNM process does NOT
- Area currently is managed based on science, and considers wildlife, forest health and overall landscape ecology issues using professionals from the USFS and WV DNR to ensure the integrity of the area for all forest users and the local economy.
 - BRNM designation would limit the flexibility of the management of these resources.
 - How? The plan is not written until AFTER the area is proclaimed a National Monument!
- Changing the area to a National Monument limits the management

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National Headquarters

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activities which will maintain the very characteristics this proclamation is meant to 'protect'.

- Historically National Monuments become part of the National Park Service over time.
- Without the ability to actively manage this area many of the 'special' characteristics will be lost.
- Currently a wide variety of activities and multiple forest users enjoy this area throughout the year.
 - BRNM management plan could limit certain forest activities including restoration, stream management, mountain biking, hunting, digging ramps, picking berries, plantings, or limited hours of usage!
 - We do not know the exact impacts because the management plan does not become final until AFTER the area becomes a National Monument!
- The proposed area is largely privately owned mineral rights.
 - Changing designations to BRNM does not prevent exploration or extraction of a resource.

What can you Do?

- Support management of this area under the current 4.1 prescription as directed in the current Forest Service Management Plan by writing your elected officials.
 - All management activities are open to the public for equal comment and the USFS manages based on best available science.
 - Consider the economics and value of timber harvesting in the creation of quality wildlife habitat for the pursuit of game and the enjoyment of wildlife viewing in the proposed area.
- Attend any public meetings regarding the BRNM and speak out regarding your concerns of limiting the activities you enjoy now and the future of those activities.
- Feel free to contact me regarding any information in this document.

Thank you

Linda D. Ordway

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