

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fishing is an important outdoor recreation activity for West Virginians. From watching a dry fly drift in one of our mountain streams to waiting for a bobber to disappear beneath the surface of a farm pond, we like to fish.

Apparently, so do quite a few other Americans. According to the Outdoor Foundation, fishing is the most popular outdoor activity in the country by participation rate, with 17 percent of Americans ages six and older fishing in 2009. That's 48 million people who fished and participated in what the Outdoor Foundation calls a "gateway activity." That is, fishing is a key to getting people participating in a variety of outdoor experiences. Nearly 50 percent of Americans ages six and older participated in outdoor activities in 2009. The good news is that represents a slight increase from 2008.

The other good news is that the most important factor in getting people to participate in outdoor recreation is the influence of family and friends. In addition, that is why we encourage parents and adult family members to take a kid fishing and that is why West Virginia celebrates National Fishing and Boating Week with Free Fishing Days in June so we can enjoy a day on the water with family and friends who may have never fished before or need to be reacquainted with fishing. Have a great fishing year and remember to take someone fishing in 2012!



Frank Jezioro, Director, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources



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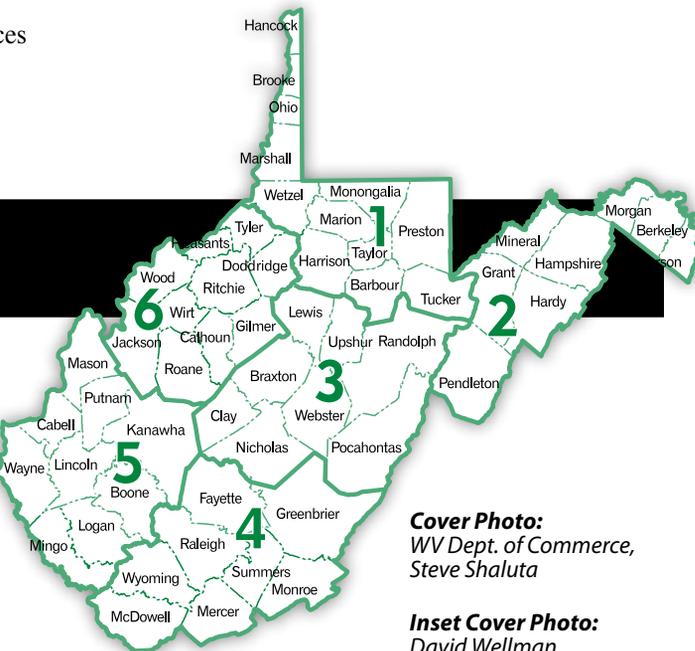
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