The proposed monument designation would preserve up to 75,000 acres of additional national forest land while increasing tourism, protecting the environment, and creating millions of dollars in local income and economic output.
TOURISM DOLLARS support county libraries, hospitals, local parks, arts, and emergency services.

For example, $75,000 went to Pocahontas Memorial Hospital in 2012.

Visitor spending
Total estimated spending from visitors within 50 miles of the proposed Birthplace of Rivers area.

Visitors
Estimated overnight and day-use visitors to the Birthplace of Rivers area.

Jobs
Full time direct, indirect, and induced jobs. Total employment impact is likely higher assuming that many of the jobs may be part-time or seasonal jobs.

Economic output
Local goods and services provided and/or sold by businesses to customers anywhere.

WHAT IS A NATIONAL MONUMENT?
National monument designation is a special status bestowed upon federal lands possessing unique natural, cultural, or historic features, established either by an act of Congress or by presidential proclamation.

PROPOSED BIRTHPLACE OF RIVERS NATIONAL MONUMENT
The Birthplace of Rivers would be the only national monument in West Virginia and the only large-scale monument in the East. There are over 100 national monuments across the United States, and the designation could ensure protection of this special area while highlighting the landscape’s uniqueness on a national level.

The proposed Birthplace of Rivers National Monument includes ecologically unique features and contains some of the most visited recreational destinations in West Virginia. The area considered for national monument status includes the Cranberry Wilderness, Falls of Hills Creek, Highland Scenic Highway, and the headwaters of six rivers. This monument would preserve up to 75,000 acres of additional national forest land and could total approximately 123,000 acres.