



Monongahela National Forest

News Release

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AmeriCorps Team assists the Monongahela National Forest

The USDA Forest Service recently hosted a team of AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) volunteers. The NCCC was sponsored by the Monongahela National Forest, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, the WV Trails Coalition, and the WV Highlands Conservancy to make the three-weeklong trail maintenance possible. The AmeriCorps team installed a viewing platform on the Northland Loop Interpretative Trail in the Dolly Sods Scenic Area, rebuilt the Condon Run bridge just outside of the Otter Creek Wilderness, and cleared vegetation and blown down logs on numerous trails in Dolly Sods Wilderness, Otter Creek Wilderness, and the Seneca Creek Backcountry.

Before working with the Monongahela National Forest, the team worked for Blackwater Falls State Park and various other projects in the eastern United States. The team members come from all over the United States and are based out of the AmeriCorps NCCC Capital Region in Washington, DC. Team members include: Pam Broughton, Cincinnati, OH, Eric Campbell of Fairbault, Maine, Shay DiCocco of Boston, MA, Joslin Fritz of Boston, MA, Waylon Fuller of Mason City, IO, Sonya Green from Calamus, IO, Mark Lindquist of Ortonville, Maine, Sam Nesbitt from Mountain Home, Indiana, Jenn Niemi of Hartsville, SC and Jamie Wilson of Oerland, PA.

More

This is the second summer the Forest Service has hosted the AmeriCorps team. “We look forward to working with another group of AmeriCorps volunteers next summer,” said Carol Whetsell of the Monongahela National Forest. “These young adults are a great asset to our trail system.”

The Forest Service recently hosted a weeklong volunteer vacation project with the American Hiking Society. “It is partnerships like these that allow the Monongahela National Forest to keep our trails open to the public. We need more groups like these,” Whetsell stated.

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Additional information is available from the Cheat Ranger District, PO Box 368, Parsons WV 26287, (304)478-2000.