



# Monongahela National Forest

## News Release

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### Buffalo Lake Fishing Derby a Success!



The Buffalo Lake Fishing Derby went off without a hitch on Saturday, May 17. A total of 119 kids ranging from 18 months to 13 years in age participated in the derby, which was a 60% increase over last year's turnout. The children were divided into 3 groups depending upon age, each group fishing for one hour. Approximately 240 parents and spectators were on hand to help the children fish and to cheer them on.

The weather was much more cooperative this year than it was last year. Luckily we had no snow, freezing rain, or high winds like we had last year, just overcast skies and occasional drizzle. The children were more prepared for foul weather this year, with many of them wearing raingear and warm clothes.

As usual, the WVDNR stocked hundreds of pounds of trout at Buffalo Lake into a cove that had been netted off at its mouth to provide a high concentration of fish to increase the kids' chance of catching "the big one". And big ones there were. Along with the other fish, the DNR provided seven large brood trout ranging in size from approximately 4-5 pounds, which made the event all the more

exciting. Rainbow, brown, and golden trout were stocked into the enclosure. The "Trout Magnet guys" from Leland Lures were on hand to help the kids with their fishing technique. Each participant received a bag of goodies when they signed up containing lures, hooks, leaders, other tackle, stickers and temporary tattoos, coloring pages, Smokey Bear paraphernalia, and snacks. Free posters and Kool-Aid were available to all of the kids.

All of the children had a great time fishing, each hoping to hook one of the huge brooders. A total of 38 prizes were given out at the derby: 12 for the largest fish (4 in each age group), three for the first fish caught in each age group, two for the brood trout that were caught, and 21 as random prizes. The success rate of the participants was excellent this year, with most children reaching their two fish limit. The rate of participants catching at least one fish was 74% overall, with the success rate varying slightly by age group: ages up to 6 years, 56% success; ages 7-10 years, 85% success; ages 11-13, 81% success. The kids were so excited when they brought their fish up to the scales to be weighed! However, the parents, grandparents, and derby helpers were probably even more excited than the kids! The talk of the derby were the 23 inch, 4 lb. 15 oz. fish caught by Natasha Binengar, age 8, and the 22¼ inch, 4 lb. 14 oz. fish caught by Jason Mallow, age 11.

Most of the prizes and derby materials were donated to the derby by generous citizens and companies, for which we are most grateful. Donors to this year's derby included the late Ves Polen, Bobby and Tammie Summers, Gale Booth, George Atik, Leland Lures, Walmart, and Nabisco. The annual event was sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, WVDNR, and the Pocahontas County Parks & Recreation Department.

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Additional information is available from the Greenbrier Ranger District, PO Box 67, Bartow WV 24920 (304) 456-3335.