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National Park and Preserve Proposed in West Virginia

Posted: Dec 08, 2011 5:04 PM EST

Updated: Dec 08, 2011 5:13 PM EST

By Jeff Schrock, Randolph, Tucker and Upshur County Reporter - [email](#)

TUCKER COUNTY - A reconnaissance study has started for a proposed national park and preserve in West Virginia. Advocates with friends of Blackwater Canyon said it would be a big economic boost to the state.

"National Parks are famous for bringing visitors from all around the world to their site," said executive director of Friends of Black water Judy Rodd. "Having the name National Park on your property it puts in you in the spotlight."

The proposed name, High Allegheny National Park would encompass eight counties, and it would be established by transferring portions of the Monongahela National Forest to the National Park Service. Popular attractions such as Blackwater Falls, Canaan Valley and Seneca Rocks could be recognized on a national and global scale.

"It could be the showpiece in the national park system," Rodd said. "Bring more people that would then shop at the little shops, would cause beds and breakfasts to succeed, the small businesses would thrive."

Rodd said Hunting and Fishing would still be allowed in the proposed park and preserve, that wouldn't change. Rodd noted the proposed High Allegheny National Park would provide a rich and coordinated tapestry of the outdoor experience.

"You get preservation, You get to have an agency that cherishes our unique biology and scenic views, and history and you get to make money too," Rodd said.

Congress would have to approve the creation of the park and preserve.

