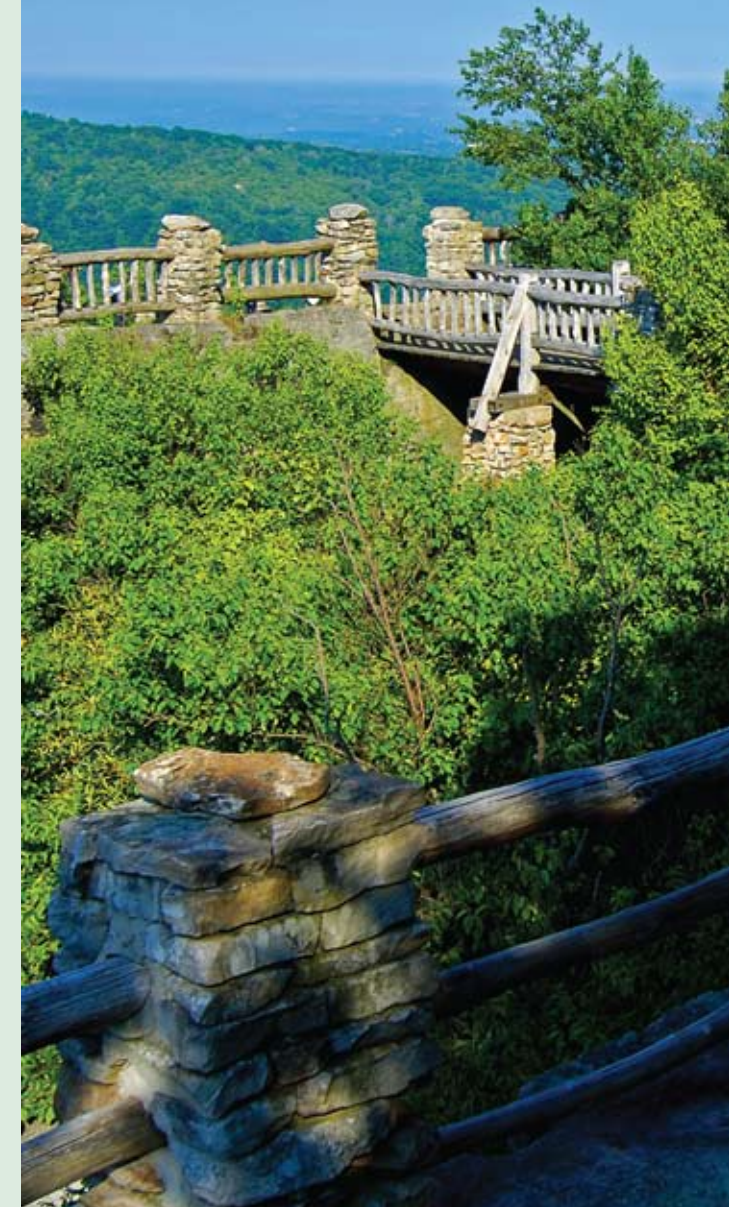


# Coopers Rock State Forest



**COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST** gets its name from a legend about a fugitive who hid from the law near what is now the overlook. A cooper by trade, he resumed making barrels at his new mountain hideout, selling them to people in nearby communities. He lived and worked in the forest for many years.

The forest is 13 miles east of Morgantown and eight miles west of Bruceton Mills. Its 12,713 acres are bisected by Interstate 68. Although the forest, like West Virginia's state parks, serves as a recreation and historic preservation area, it has a wider range of uses. West Virginia's state forests serve as areas of publicly owned land for forestry research, timber management, and watershed and wildlife protection.

The side north of the Interstate, known as the West Virginia University Forest, makes up the forest management area leased by the West Virginia University Division of Forestry and Natural Resources for forestry research, teaching and demonstration. To the south of Interstate 68 is the main recreation area.

Bands of cliffs line the Cheat River gorge and provide numerous lookouts. The centerpiece among these is the Main Overlook, which furnishes a panorama of the gorge and distant horizons. A maze of enormous boulders and cliffs fascinate hikers, and the trails are especially lovely in June when the rhododendron and mountain laurel are in bloom. Several trails wind through forest valleys and over ridges, and a number of creeks beckon the explorer. Glade Run is dammed to form a six-acre pond that is regularly stocked with trout. The observant hiker can hear and sometimes see squirrels, chipmunks, hawks, owls, turkeys, turkey vultures, songbirds, fox and deer throughout the forest.



## HISTORY OF THE FOREST

**DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION**, between 1936 and 1942, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built numerous structures in the forest, often using durable American chestnut wood from trees that succumbed to a blight that nearly wiped out the species. Eleven of these structures, including the rustic picnic shelters near the overlook, have been placed in the National Register of Historic Places.



## GROUPS

Motorcoach, tour groups and educational field trips welcome!

Group/Tour information is posted online. Contact the forest business office by phone or e-mail well in advance when planning visits of large groups.

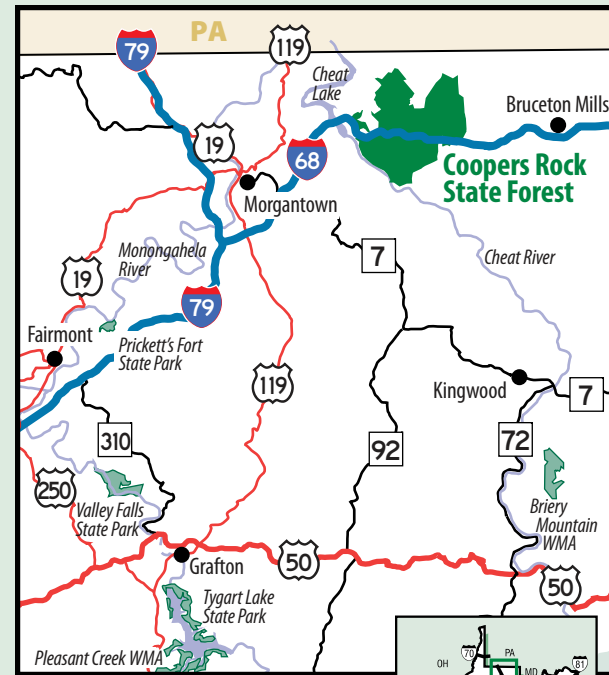
## CLIMBERS

Climbers must register at park business office or the concession stand/trading post prior to activity.



## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Cheat Lake (boating and swimming)
- Chestnut Ridge
- Forks of Cheat Winery
- Lakeview Golf Resort and Conference Center
- Mon River Rail Trail System
- West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV
- Whitewater Rafting (Cheat River)



## LOCATION

Take Exit 15 off Interstate 68, turn south and follow signs. The park is 13 miles east of Morgantown and eight miles west of Bruceton Mills.

# COOPERS ROCK

## State Forest

Route 1, Box 270  
Bruceton Mills, West Virginia 26525  
304-594-1561  
[www.coopersrockstateforest.com](http://www.coopersrockstateforest.com)

A multiple-use facility managed by the Parks and Recreation and the Wildlife Resources sections of the Division of Natural Resources, and the Division of Forestry.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, 324 4th Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303

### STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO USE FACILITIES AND PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS

Visitors are responsible for observing park rules and regulations.

"It is the policy of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons without regard to gender, race, color, age, religion, national origin or disability. Proper licenses, registration and compliance with official rules and regulations are the only sources of restrictions for facility use or program participation."

"The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer."  
Information provided in this brochure is current as of design date, but subject to change thereafter.



## THINGS TO DO

### Picnic

- Three reservable shelters
- Numerous sites
- Table with nearby grills
- Drinking water
- Restroom facilities
- Playground area



### Hunting/Fishing

- Six-acre lake
- State license required
- Designated area for hunting
- No hunting within 500 feet of recreational facilities

### Overlook Area

- Scenic overlook
- Concession stand and gift shop
- Open May through October
- Climbers sign in here

### Trails

- More than 50 miles of scenic trails
- Vary in length
- Map and trail guides available at park business office or the concession stand/trading post



## ACCOMMODATIONS

### Campground

- 25 sites
- Electric hookups
- Bathhouse with hot showers
- Playgrounds
- Picnic tables and cooking grills
- Firewood available for a nominal fee
- Open May through deer hunting season



## CAMPING INFORMATION

Up to 50 percent of the campsites at Coopers Rock State Forest are designated and available for reservations, while the remainder sites are rented on a first-come, first-served basis. Campsite reservations are taken in advance for designated sites from the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day. Outside the reservable dates, all sites become first-come, first-served basis.

Only mail-in reservations will be accepted from February 15 through March 14. Site reservation application forms for the current year are available online to download. Mail-in reservations must be postmarked on or after February 15, or they will be returned. The site application form is available online or by mail and has additional details. Beginning March 15,

phone reservations will be accepted during office hours. Mail-in, call-in and walk-in reservations will be accepted from April 1 through Labor Day Weekend.

Reservations may be made at least two days in advance and held by a deposit of the entire camping fee plus a \$5 handling fee. Reservations may be made by calling Coopers Rock directly or by dialing 1-800-CALL WVA and asking for Coopers Rock State Forest. This toll-free line may be used anywhere in the continental United States or any Canadian province in the Eastern time zone. A minimum stay of two nights, up to a maximum of 14, is required. Campsite numbers will not be guaranteed; however, every effort will be made to assign the reservable campsite requested. Payment may be made by check or money order. Major credit cards (VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and Diners Club) also are accepted for all reservations.

The campground is generally open mid-April through mid-December (weather permitting). Only one tent or trailer is allowed per site. Pets (dogs and cats) are permitted. Leash guidelines must be observed. Check-in time is 1 p.m. and check-out is at noon.

**NOTE:** Policies, rates and fees are subject to change.