

**ACTION ALERT \*\*\* ACTION ALERT \*\*\* ACTION ALERT**

**HELP PROTECT RECREATION LAND IN THE JEFFERSON NF!**

**This year, the U.S. Forest Service has an opportunity to acquire 1,477 acres of land in the Jefferson National Forest. In order to purchase this property, an appropriation of \$1.3 million is needed through the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill.**

***YOUR MESSAGE IS KEY TO SECURING CRITICAL FUNDING IN FY 2007!***

The Jefferson NF boasts tumbling waterfalls, rare wildflowers, and Virginia's highest peak, Mount Rogers, along with 11 wilderness areas and 400 miles of trails within its boundaries. In FY 2007, there is an opportunity to acquire the 1,477-acre Black Lick property for inclusion into the Jefferson NF. As an inholding within the Jefferson, the property is strategically located near many public access points, including the Dark Horse Hallow Picnic Area and the Big Bend Picnic Area. Acquisition would provide additional public access to the Stony Fork Nature Trail and its campsites and trails along Little Walker Mountain. Along the Stony Fork Nature Trail, hikers can enjoy dramatic views of the 3,782-foot Griffith Knob with the upper Stony Fork Valley below, as well as the inside of the Big Bend of Walker Mountain. Furthermore, the headwaters of Hutson Branch and a fork of Grippy Branch, both perennial streams, are located on the tract. These streams flow into Reed Creek, which borders the town of Wytheville. Acquisition of this large tract is a priority for the Jefferson NF since it will help consolidate ownership within the forest and thereby provide better recreational opportunities and watershed protection.

**PLEASE ACT NOW!**

**The House of Representatives did not include funding for this project in its version of the appropriations bill, and the Senate is now considering its priorities for the Land and Water Conservation Fund for FY 2007. Please contact your senators and encourage them to support \$1.3 million for the Jefferson NF through the Land and Water Conservation Fund in the FY 2007 Interior Appropriations bill.**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

*(NOTE: There is a significant delay in the delivery of letters to Members of Congress due to security concerns. Instead, we strongly encourage you to fax, call, or electronically contact your Member of Congress in order to ensure prompt receipt. For online contact, please go to the congressional websites listed below and follow instructions for constituent contact.)*

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