



RECREATIONAL INTRINSIC QUALITIES

"Recreational Quality involves outdoor recreational activities directly association with and dependent upon the natural and cultural elements of the corridor's landscape. The recreational activities provide opportunities for active and passive recreational experiences. They include, but are not limited to, downhill skiing, rafting, boating, fishing, and hiking. Driving the road itself may qualify as a pleasurable recreational experience. The recreational activities may be seasonal, but the quality and importance of the recreational activities as seasonal operations must be well recognized."

- America's National Scenic Byway

There are numerous recreational offerings along the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail.

RIVERS & LAKES

"*Riding the rapids*" down the Russell Fork River has international appeal for whitewater enthusiasts. It was designated a Scenic River during the 40th Anniversary Year for the Virginia Scenic River Program. Other designated Virginia Scenic Rivers which run along or close by the byway include 5.8 miles along the Big Cedar Creek and 29.2 miles of the Clinch River. There are also canoeing and kayaking opportunities on the Clinch and Holstein Rivers and a number of noted trout fishing opportunities on both the Clinch and the Powell Rivers.

Two stocked "pay lakes" are also located along the Byway. One is the Vann's Farm on the St. Paul Loop and the other is the catfish pond on the Norton Loop. Southwest Virginia participates in a marketing initiative underway called "Fish Virginia First" developed to promote and positively impact the premier fishing destinations and localities, a few of which are located along or in close proximity to the byway.

TRAILS

In 2008, the Virginia General Assembly create the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority (SRRA)* is developing and marketing a system of trails throughout a seven county area in the counties of Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Tazewell, Wise and the City of Norton in Southwest Virginia.

The Spearhead Trails initiative is a system of managed sustainable trails being developed for all types of users including but not limited to hikers, bikers, canoeists, equestrians, all terrain vehicles & off and on highway motorcycle riders.

Within the seven county area in which the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail travels, there are:

- Over 100 miles of canoeing & kayaking opportunities
- 253 miles of dedicated hiking trails
- 63 miles of hiking & biking trails
- 80 miles of horse trails
- 7 miles of Rails to Trails.





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Recreation

There are also 100 miles of privately operated ATV trails in Dickenson County. Lee County also offers ATV trails, some of which interconnect with trails into Kentucky, with additional trails in the Pennington Gap area. And both the Town of Pocahontas and Town of Appalachia have recently voted themselves ATV-Friendly communities for both golf carts and all-terrain vehicles as part of the Spearhead Trails initiative.



For more on the Spearhead Trails and a list of existing and proposed trails within the counties in which the VA Coal Heritage Trail travels, visit the website spearheadtrails.com.

THEMED DRIVING TOURS

The Virginia Coal Heritage Trail is also overlapped with a number of themed driving tours such as the Daniel Boone Heritage Trail and the Crooked Road Music Trail.



Daniel Boone Heritage Trail



Wilderness Trail



The Crooked Road Music Trail

Other driving tours through Southwest Virginia include:

- Heartwood: Southwest Virginia's Artisans Gateway
- 'Round the Mountain' Artisans Network and Community Trails
- Return to Roots Initiative
- Wilderness Trail
- Beaches to Bluegrass Trail

BIKE & MOTORCYCLE ROUTES



A portion of the TransAmerica Bike Route runs along the byway from Breaks Interstate Park down to Haysi. This section of the byway is also very popular with motorcyclists who enjoy the curvy mountain roads. It is recommended that the Norton Loop and portions of the St. Paul Loop are also promoted as excellent routes for motorcycles.

Along the byway, Scott County has developed a wonderful horse park which is the site of many horse shows and equestrian events throughout the year. They are also building a horse camp and RV park and connecting trails into Jefferson National Forest.



And as visitors travel the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail to the top of a mountain on Hwy 628 through Buchanan County, they will pass by Mountain Top Golf Course, a 9-hole public golf course nearly 20 years ago on a reclaimed coal site.

For a list of recreation & tourism offerings within the seven counties in which the byway travels, visit the website <http://www.trailsrus.com/swvirginia/tour-offer.html>. This website can also be accessed by going to spearheadtrails.com and clicking on "Tourism Offerings".