

North Fork Talking Points to incorporate into your letter to your representatives:

- Local and national mountain bike organizations (West Virginia Mountain Bike Association and International Mountain Bike Association) oppose the current wilderness proposal.

- The trail is recognized as an International Mountain Bike Association Epic Trail, one of only 50 areas in the country that have been singled out for their exceptional mountain biking opportunities and beauty.

- Mountain bikers have been using the entire ridge trail for two decades. Currently, the most popular area for mountain biking is the Northern end from Redman Run North (the same area as the proposed wilderness)

- Mountain biking is a low impact form of human-powered recreation and is compatible with the current “wild” character of this shared use trail.

- In October, two IMBA awareness rides alone saw some 400 people traveling to the area to ride. Losing such an iconic riding experience would surely impact local businesses dependant on mountain bikers traveling to the region.

- The area already falls within the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Congressional legislated National Recreation Area. Mountain bikers want to see the language of the National Recreation Area strengthened to preserve the land for future generations.

- Point your representatives to the IMBA Public Lands Initiative site for the North Fork Mountain: <http://www.imba.com/pli/north-fork-vw> and the North Fork blog: <http://savenorthfork.blogspot.com/>