



ALDER RUN BOG




DID YOU KNOW?

- The area now known as Dolly Sods was once a tall red spruce-eastern hemlock forest with natural openings where wetlands kept the ground too wet for tree growth, such as Alder Run Bog.
- During World War II, the U.S. Army used this area as a practice artillery and mortar range.
- Alder Run Bog is a mosaic of acidic bog, fens, beaver ponds, alder swamp, and red spruce swamp.



Alder Run Bog has largely recovered from the historic logging, burning to encourage blueberry growth, and grazing disturbances that impacted Dolly Sods. In 1970, the U.S. Forest Service designated the 10,200-acre expanse the Dolly Sods Scenic Area, in which Alder Run Bog resides. Its habitats are stressed by atmospheric deposition of sulphuric and nitric acid from burning of fossil fuels.

Alder Run Bog is a unique ecosystem because:




it houses at least 18 rare species, including butterflies, dragonflies, and plants.



organic-rich soils and dense vegetation capture pollutants, helping to purify the water.



in this environment, the landscape looks almost exactly as it did thousands of years ago.



it is a high-elevation headwater peatland, locally known as a bog.



Public use of the area includes hiking, photography, birding, and nature studies. A boardwalk and the Northern Loop trail is maintained by the USFS.

BIRDS YOU MAY SEE:
 American woodcock
 Bald eagle
 Black-throated blue warbler
 Canada warbler
 Common yellowthroat
 Northern harrier
 Red-winged blackbird



The wetland is located in Tucker County, WV on Forest Road 75 (Dolly Sods Road).
 39.0263, -79.31649