

November 23, 2009

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection  
Attn: Tier 3 List,  
601 57<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Charleston, WV 25311-2126

WVDEP,

The intent of this letter is to nominate Watkins Run and both forks of the Fill Hollow Creek to be listed as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) or Tier 3 waters. Watkins Run and Fill Hollow Creek are tributaries of the Cheat River and are located in southern Preston County near the northern terminus of the Laurel Mountain Ridge (Figure 1). The streams can be accessed from the Fill Hollow Road, intersecting Route 50 on Laurel Mountain and Route 72 in Rowlesburg, and the Sanders Hill Road.

In 2003, The Friends of Laurel Mountain (FLM) nominated both forks of the Fill Hollow Creek and Watkins Run to be Tier 2.5 waters. Watkins Run was passed in the legislature and was the state's **only tier 2.5 waterway** until recent legislative changes. In March of 2007, and with Watkins as a Tier 2.5 stream, FLM submitted to re-nominate both forks of Fill Hollow Creek as Tier 2.5 (which did not pass in the legislature).

Private Landowners adjacent to the waterways are proactive in the campaign to list Watkins Run and both forks of the Fill Hollow Creek. What are the benefits? Clean water, aesthetics, quality of life, etc. In 1995, Laurel Aggregates, Inc., proposed a limestone quarry on this section of Laurel Mountain. This spawned the formation of the Friends of Laurel Mountain (FLM) and after a two-year battle, the FLM celebrated a victory over Laurel Aggregates. FLM supports the tier 3 water nominations as a measure to prevent further conflict between Laurel Mountain residents and the extractive industry. Local landowners understand that this proposal would not impact their non-point source activities (such as timbering, agricultural, oil and gas). With excellent water quality, it is obvious landowners are cognizant of the impacts to these pristine streams. However, point source pollution, which is focused on more commercial activities, such as quarrying, mining and/or commercial/residential development would require more regulation (i.e. NPDES).

Since the 1995 incident, the Friends of Laurel Mountain have been collecting water quality data on Watkins Run through the WV Save Our Streams Program. The survey results over the past 7 years can be accessed through the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's (WVDEP) Office of Water and Waste Management. A brief review of the survey indicates Watkins Run and the Fill Hollow Creek are abundant with aquatic insects and native brook trout. So many of our streams in this region are biologically dead due to acid mine drainage (AMD), and with an eye to the future, it seems prudent to protect our existing high quality, native trout streams. Economically, the tourism industry is continually growing in West Virginia, and clean water is an integral part of the total Appalachian Highlands landscape.

The plant community along both drainages is characteristic of cove hardwood forest or mixed mesophytic forests. Co-dominant species include tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), yellow buckeye (*Aeculus flava*), and red oak (*Quercus rubra*). The forest is relatively mature and well developed. The herbaceous layer is lush and diverse. This riparian forest along Watkins Run and Fill Hollow Creek is an important element of the “viewshed” and important for stabilizing the erodible slopes.

In conclusion, residents of Laurel Mountain look forward to protecting the outstanding water quality of Watkins Run and both forks of the Fill Hollow Creek and the long-term ecological integrity of the Cheat River Drainage. Further Correspondence regarding this nomination can be addressed to the following address.

Ladd Williams, Private Citizen  
On behalf of The Friends of Laurel Mountain  
3751 Fill Hollow Road  
Tunnelton, WV 26444  
304-568-2051  
[LaddWilliams@citynet.net](mailto:LaddWilliams@citynet.net)

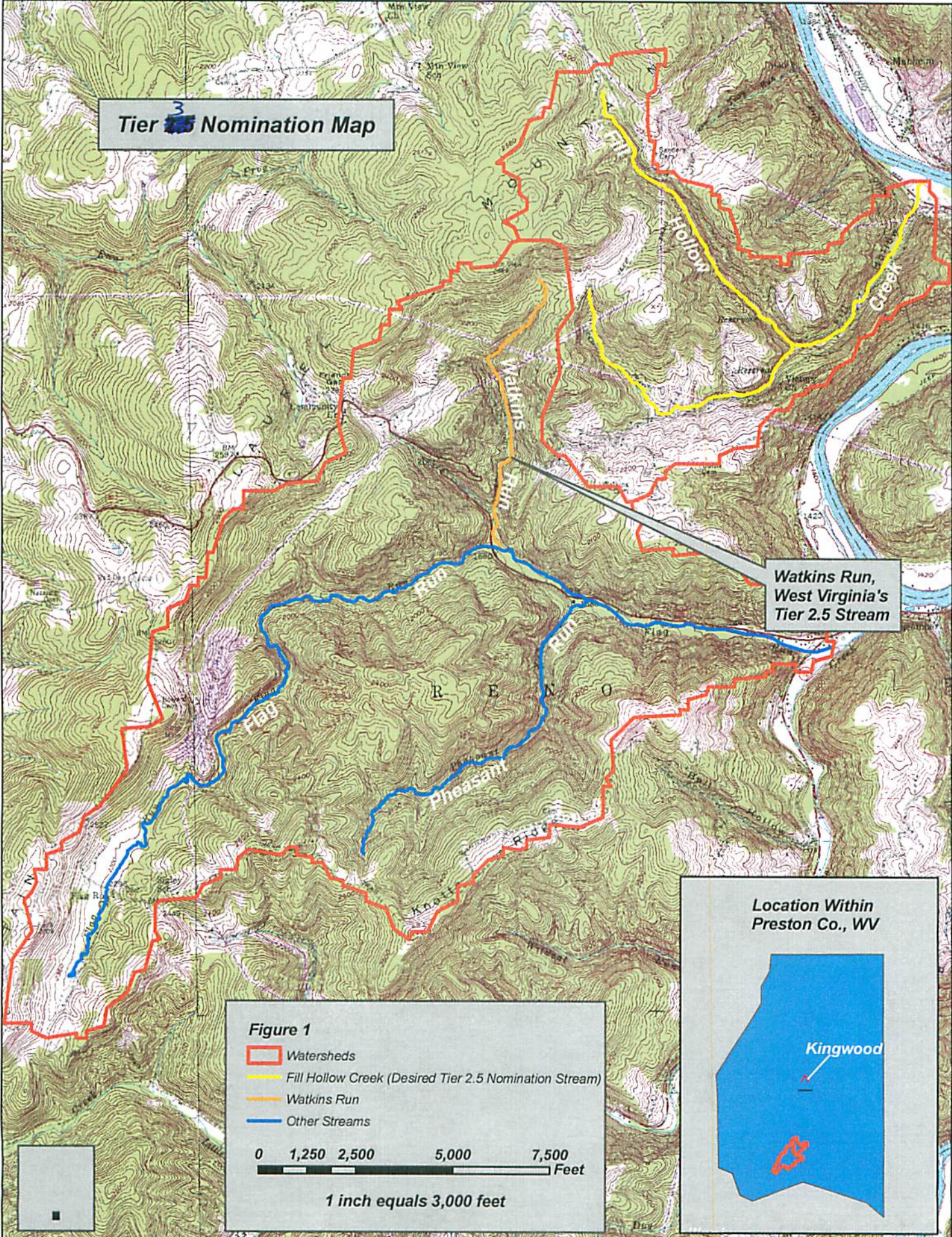
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ladd Williams", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

The Friends of Laurel Mountain



**Tier 3 Nominations Map**



**Location Within  
Preston Co., WV**









NAME

ADDRESS

1. James W. Hill, Rt. 2 Box 9, Tunnelton WV 26444
2. Goss Family, Rt. 2 Box 216 Tunnelton WV. 26444
3. Franklin P. ... Rt. 2 Box 217 Tunnelton WV 26444
4. Gary J. Henline, Rt. 2 Box 201 Rowlesburg WV 26425
5. Spruce B. Hatterman, P.O. Box 261 Rowlesburg, WV 26425
6. James K. Hatterman, P.O. Box 261 Rowlesburg, WV 26425
7. Margaret Schell, Rt. 2 Box 458 Rowlesburg WV 26425
8. Julius Henman, Rt. 2 Box 224 Tunnelton WV 26444
9. Mildred Dean, Rt. 1 Box 450 Rowlesburg WV 26425
10. John Dean, Rt. 1 Box 444 Rowlesburg WV 26425
11. Elmer Lipman, Box 13 Rowlesburg WV 26425
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Land owners  
 along  
 Streams  
 WATKINS  
 &  
 Fill Hollow

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ADDRESS

1. Brown H Shaffer Jr. 6 Anderson Rd. Wash. Pa.
2. Brown Shaffer 660 TEWMUEB WASH PA
3. Loy Bryan Shaffer Box 355 Rowlesburg, W V
4. Rainie The Bull 219 Joe Ann Grayton <sup>Box 425</sup> W V 26354
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. 1 & 2 = LANDOWNERS ALONG FILL HOLLOW CREEK
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NAMEADDRESS

1. Mr & Mrs LAURENCE Williams Rt. 2 Box 214C, TUNNELTON, WV 26444
2. Mr & Mrs. Johnson Edmunda Rt. 2 Box 214, Tunnelton, WV 26444
3. Mrs Mrs Joyce S Bulford Rt. 2 Box 215A Tunnelton, WV 26444
4. Mrs M. B. Harold R. D. Rt. 1, Box 3 Tunnelton, WV 26444
5. Mr & Mrs Robert A Casteel Rt. 1 Box 366 Tunnelton WV
6. Mr & Mrs Robert L Casteel Rt. 1 Box 36 Tunnelton, WV
7. Mr & Mrs Dellest C. Bell Rt. 1 Box 36 Tunnelton WV 26444
8. Anna M. Henleni P.O. Box 304 Rowlesburg, W.Va. 26425
9. Elaine Burns Rt. 1 Box 364 Rowlesburg W.Va 26425
10. Lucille Lee Kyle Rt. 1 Box 114-A Tunnelton WV 26444
11. Adrian E Wolfe Rt. 1 Box 108 Tunnelton 26444
12. Kristi Walls 202 Crane Rd Albright 26579
13. Marshall O Walls 202 Crane Rd Albright 26579
14. Katherina Wolfe Rt. 1 Tunnelton WV 26444
15. Jackson R. Wolfe Rt. 1 Box 4 Tunnelton WV 26444
16. KISA M CASTEEL Rt 2 Box 1296 Tunnelton WV 26444
17. Donald L CASTEEL Rt 2 Box 1296 Tunnelton WV 26444
18. David M. Hight Rt 2 Box 1786 Tunnelton WV 26444
19. Craig Y Clarkson Rt. 1 Box 154 Thornton WV 26440
20. Diane Hamiften Rt. 2 Tunnelton WV 26444

ivandowners!

NAME

ADDRESS

1. Richard Eugene Lugader Rt 2 Tunnelton WV 26444
2. Bob Miles Rt 2 Tunnelton WV 26444
3. DAVID R. SANDERS Rt 2 Box 235 Tunnelton WV 26444
4. Brandon Seifert R.R. 2 Box 226 Tunnelton WV 26444
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## NAME

## ADDRESS

1. William Thome RT 1 Box 264 B REEDSVILLE WV
2. DAVID THORNE Rt. 1 Box 264-B REEDSVILLE WV 26547
3. Juan Nichols 330 Dream Catcher, Morgantown WV 26508
4. K. A. G. A. J. P. RT 2 Box 218 TUNNELTON WV 26444
5. Sara Wilts PO Box 184 Bruceon Mills, WV 26525
6. Joan Litzen Rt. 2 Box 18 Tunnelton, WV 26444
7. Jeff Simcoe 256 Melornick Hollow rd Morgantown, WV 26508
8. Sara Pelt Po box 474 Routesburg, WV 26425
9. Rick CRANEY RR#1 BOX 165 TERRA ALPA, WV 26764
10. Mike Plunk 444 Western Ave Morgantown, WV 26505
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