

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Kelly Watkinson
Director of Headwaters Conservation
(540) 667-3606
watkinson@potomac.org

19 West Cork Street Suite 201
Winchester, VA 22601
www.potomac.org

Potomac Conservancy Accepts 50th Conservation Property Donation *134 Acres in Cacapon River Watershed Protected by the Conservancy and the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust*

Winchester, VA. – Potomac Conservancy has reached a milestone in its mission to protect the health beauty and enjoyment of the Potomac River and its tributaries after its 50th easement was donated August 31, 2007. The 134-acre easement, which is held jointly by Potomac Conservancy and the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust (the “Trust”), was donated by Mr. Robert Poole whose property is near Largent, in Morgan County, W.V.

Potomac Conservancy and the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust envision this property—located less than half a mile from the western edge of Cacapon State Park—to be a keystone for future conservation in the area. Kelly Watkinson, Director of Headwaters Conservation for Potomac Conservancy, states, “Bob Poole decided that the highest and best use of his land was to keep it forested, in turn protecting important wildlife habitat. We applaud him for making such a strong statement by entering into this agreement with us.”

Mr. Poole requested that the conservation agreement permanently protect the forest, wildlife, and water resources on the property. Conserving the forest is particularly important because of the presence of sensitive karst topography on the property. Ground water systems of karst regions are extremely vulnerable to contamination. The wooded property includes a large spring and close to a mile of frontage on two small streams. No subdivisions will be allowed on the property, which contains one existing cabin.

According to Nancy Ailes, Director of the Trust, “Mr. Poole has set the stage for protecting additional land in an area he loves, Conners Hollow. Because of his strong feelings for land conservation and his good communication skills, neighboring landowners have stepped forward to protect their land as well. Protecting adjacent parcels creates better habitat for game and non-game species and gets us one step closer in protecting watershed ecological function.”

Potomac Conservancy and Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust are longstanding partners in West Virginia conservation efforts. According to Hedrick Belin, President of the Conservancy, “Our partnership with the Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust is one that is based on a shared vision for protecting this unique part of West Virginia.”

Landowners who are interested in donating a conservation easement in the Cacapon and Lost Rivers watershed can contact Nancy Ailes at 304 856-1010. For conservation inquiries in other parts of West Virginia or the Shenandoah Valley, contact Kelly Watkinson at 540 667-3606.