

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, manages nearly two million acres of publicly owned State Forest Lands. The Tiadaghton State Forest comprises about 214,000 acres located in Lycoming, Tioga, Potter and Union Counties.

The Tiadaghton State Forest has great opportunities for cross-country skiing. Over forty miles of trails are available, not including the forty-plus miles of the Pine Creek Rail Trail, which is also open to skiers.

The Tiadaghton State Forest's cross-country ski trails were the first to be built anywhere on State Forest Land in Pennsylvania, and were largely the efforts of past DCNR employees Bob Webber and John Eastlake, who can also be credited with laying out the scenic Black Forest Trail. According to local cross-country ski enthusiasts, Webber and Eastlake were "way ahead of their time" in regards to their promoting cross-country skiing in the Commonwealth.

The first trail was built in the early 70's, and was named the George B. Will Ski Trail in honor of one of our early forest rangers. George was skiing in the Black Forest as early as 1914, and his wife Ruth "manned" the area's fire tower for over 30 years. She has a trail named in her honor as well.

The Ruth Will trail is a relatively easy 2.96 mile trail. It will take you along one of the districts deer enclosure fences, then along the ridge line looking into the Baldwin branch, the trail then descends down to the Baldwin branch and passes a stone building which once housed large pumps used to cool the nearby 19th century tidewater pipeline, before ascending back up to route 44 and past the fire tower Ruth Will once "manned".

The George Will trail is a slightly longer 5.6 mile trail however it is relatively flat making it an easy ski. The trail goes through a mixed hardwood forest, has one scenic vista and also goes through the center of a deer enclosure.

Ski trails are marked with blue paint.

The Parking areas, shown on the map, is plowed and maintained for winter enthusiasts.

Ski conditions are available online or by calling the district office.

Use Proper Trail Etiquette

- Stay on marked trails. Ski trails are marked with blue paint.
- Never ski alone. If you do, be sure to let someone know where you are going and the time you expect to return.
- Know your ability and endurance, and ski accordingly.
- Yield to faster skiers and snow-grooming equipment.
- Descending skiers have the right-of-way.
- Do not walk on ski trails. Do not permit your dog to walk on ski trails.
- Do not litter. If you pack it in, please pack it out.
- Do not ski on snowmobile trails. Snowmobile trails are marked with orange diamonds.
- Be tolerant and respectful of other winter forest visitors.
- Do not damage or deface any sign or structure.
- Small fires for cooking or warming purposes are permitted only at places where adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire into the forest.

Have fun -ski safely



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George & Ruth Will Ski Trails



Tiadaghton State Forest

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