

OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

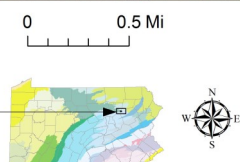
GRAND VIEW, LUZERNE COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



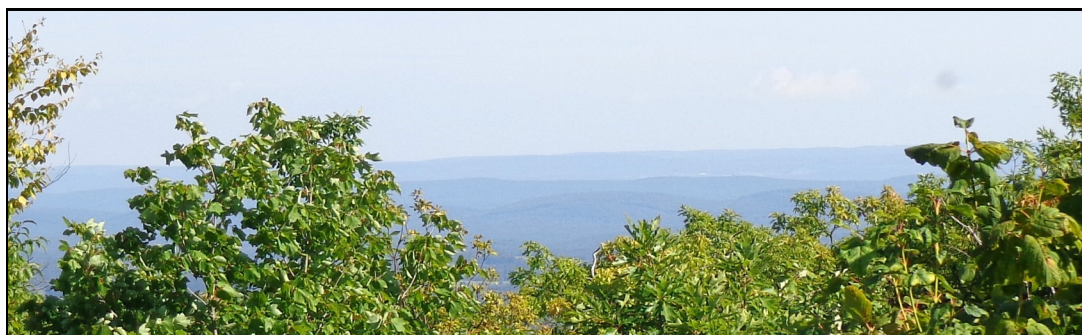
Location

Ricketts Glen State Park, Luzerne Co., Fairmont Twp.,
lat: 41.3085, lon: -76.3089 (parking); lat: 41.30843,
lon: -76.30905; Red Rock 7.5-minute quadrangle

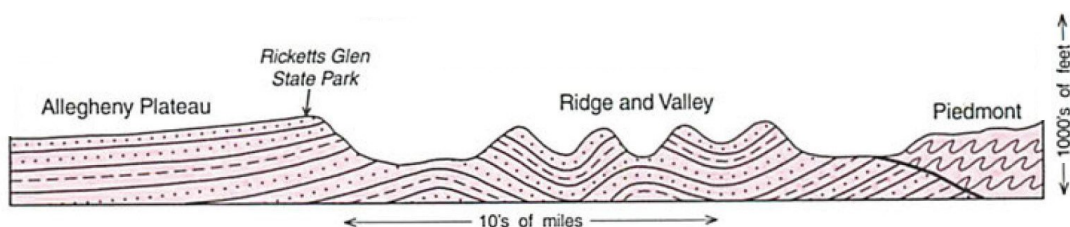


Geology

Grand View, located in Ricketts Glen State Park, has an elevation of 2,449 feet. It is the highest point on Red Rock Mountain and provides for glimpses of a spectacular scenic overlook. (Tree growth has obscured much of the view, and better views are possible when leaves are off the trees.) The imposing wall of the Allegheny Front stretches from east to west, rising as much as 1,200 feet above the rolling hills below. The rim of the Allegheny Front is capped by a thick sequence of sandstone layers in the Huntley Mountain Formation. The hills in the foreground are underlain by less resistant interbedded shales, siltstones, and sandstones of the Catskill Formation. To the southeast in the distance appear the narrow, even-crested ridges of the Ridge and Valley. At peak glaciation about 20,000 years ago, glaciers extended from Canada to Pennsylvania and covered the entire area. However, Red Rock Mountain was high enough so it remained above the ice.



Glimpse through the trees of a “Grand View” from the Allegheny Front at Red Rock Mountain in Ricketts Glen State Park. View is to the southeast over the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. The overlook is about 0.8 mile from the parking area.



Generalized geologic structure of the region (from Braun and Inners, 1998, p. 5).

Recommended Reading

Inners, J. D., and Fleege, G. M., eds., 2006, The Haystacks, “Ricketts Folly,” and the end of the world—geology of the Glaciated Allegheny High Plateau, Sullivan, Luzerne, and Columbia Counties, Pennsylvania: Annual Field Conference of Pennsylvania Geologists, 71st, Red Rock, Pa., [Guidebook](#), 129 p.

Braun, D. D., and Inners, J. D., 1998, Ricketts Glen State Park, Luzerne, Sullivan, and Columbia Counties—The rocks, the Glens, and the falls (2nd ed.): Pennsylvania Geological Survey, 4th ser., [Trail of Geology 16-013.0](#), 10 p.

[Ricketts Glen State Park](#) web page of DCNR.