

Buchanan State Forest at a Glance

District Office



Address:
25185 Great Cove Rd.
McConnellsburg, PA
17233-8204

Phone: (717) 485-3148

FAX: (717) 485-9283

Email: FD02@pa.gov

District Facts

- Named for 15th U.S. President James Buchanan
- Comprised of 71,638 acres
- Found in Franklin, Fulton, and Bedford counties
- Part of Ridge and Valley Region of Pa
- Predominantly mixed-oak forest type

Hiking



A hiker enjoying the Mid State Trail

- Over 206 miles of trails within forest district
- Mid-State and Tuscarora trails are designated hiking trails.
- Standing Stone Trail connects Mid-State and Tuscarora trails.
- Much of the trail network traverses picturesque Tuscarora and Tussey mountains.

Maps are available at district office.

Camping

- Primitive backpack camping (at undeveloped sites) is permitted throughout the state forest; a permit is required to camp for more than one night at one location (please follow Bureau of Forestry guidelines).
- Motorized camping is available at nearby Cowans Gap and Shawnee state parks.



Sightseeing

- Scenic vistas can be found on Blankley, Martin Hill, Bark, Tower, and Fisher roads; and along Route 915.
- Historical features like CCC camps, a saltpeter mine, and pre-Civil war era cemeteries are found in the district.
- Touring the district forest to observe brilliant fall foliage is annually popular.



Colorful fall foliage peaks in October.

Hunting

- Game opportunities include deer, bear, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, and grouse
- Hunting is permitted throughout state forest; please obey all regulations.
- 1,357 acres on Sideling Hill are designated for disabled hunter access.



Fishing

- Excellent cold-water fishing opportunities can be found on Big Cove, Oregon, Little Aughwick, and Town creeks.
- A delayed harvest area is designated on Big Cove Creek.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.



Winter Activities

- 12 miles of trails are maintained for cross-country skiing.
- The district maintains 93 miles of snowmobile trails (for map, contact district office or download from web).

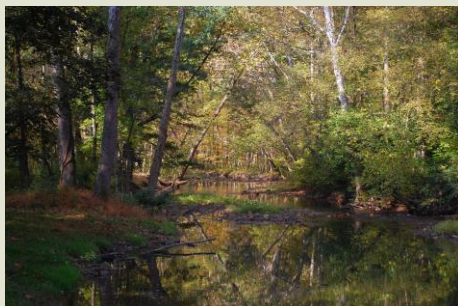


Riders enjoying snowmobile trail



Wild and Natural Areas

- Martin Hill Wild Area consists of 11,676 acres of explorable wilderness and features two natural ponds.
- Sweet Root Natural Area is 1,526 acres and features remnants of old-growth hemlock as well as second-growth oak.
- Pine Ridge Natural Area is a depression-era resettlement land featuring natural regeneration of Virginia pine and oak-hickory forest.



Big Cove Creek in Fulton County

Other Recreation

- Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted on most forest roads and trails.
- Picnic facilities are offered at Bear Valley, Sideling Hill, Sweet Root, and Blankley picnic areas.
- Cowans Gap and Shawnee state parks offer boating, swimming, and fishing.



More Information

For more information on Buchanan State Forest contact:

Jason Hall
(717) 485-3148
FD02@pa.gov

