Forbes State Forest at a Glance

District Office



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District Facts

- Named for General John Forbes, British commander
- Comprised of over 60,000 acres
- Found in Fayette, Westmoreland, and Somerset counties
- Includes Mt. Davis, PA's highest point at 3,213 feet

Hiking



- There are over 360 miles of shared-use trails and forest roads.
- Contains over 11 miles of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail.
- Popular hiking destinations include Laurel Mountain, Roaring Run Natural Area, and the Quebec Run Wild Area.

Maps available online or at the district office.

Camping



- Primitive camping is permitted throughout the state forest, except in posted areas.
- A permit is required for primitive camping if staying on a site for more than one night.
- Six motorized sites are available within the district. (by permit only)

Camping permits are available online or at the district office.

Sightseeing

- The Mt. Davis observation tower offers spectacular, panoramic views.
- Cole Run Falls, a 20-foot waterfall, can be found within the Blue Hole Division.
- The Braddock Division is home to the historic Wharton Furnace.
- Laurel Mountain's unique natural features include a bog, and scenic overlooks at Beam Rocks and Wolf Rocks.



Colorful fall foliage at Wolf Rocks.

Hunting

- Big game opportunities include deer, bear, turkey.
- Small game opportunities include grouse, squirrels, rabbits.
- Hunting is permitted throughout forest.
- Obey all hunting regulations, avoid hunting in marked safety zones.



Fishing

- Excellent cold-water fishing opportunities exist on Blue Hole Creek, Jones Mill Run, Mill Run, Quebec Run, Linn Run, Roaring Run, Camp Run, Laurel Hill Creek, and Indian Creek.
- A 1.6-mile delayed harvest area can be found on Indian Creek near Jones Mills.
- Pa. Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.



Wild and Natural Areas

- Quebec Run Wild Area consists of 7,441 acres of explorable wilderness.
- The 3,593-acre Roaring Run Natural Area contains Roaring Run Trail, featuring 29 stream crossings.
- Spanning 581 acres, Mt. Davis Natural Area features massive boulders and High Point Overlook.

Winter Activities

- Blue-blazed trails are maintained for cross-country skiing and some of these trails are groomed by volunteers.
- Snowshoeing is permitted on most trails, however it's important to stay out of groomed tracks and keep to the side of the trail.
- The district maintains 115 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.



Other Recreation

- Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted on most forest roads and trails.
- Picnic areas within the state forest include Mt. Davis and Lick Hollow.
- Recreational programming is available from mid-February through October; for more information, check out the DCNR calendar of events.



Cole Run Falls is located within the Blue Hole Division









More Information

Contact: Forbes State Forest District Office

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