

Tuscarora State Forest at a Glance

District Office



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District Facts

- Named for Iroquois tribe that once inhabited region
- Comprised of 95,780 acres
- Found in Cumberland, Franklin, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, and Perry counties
- Part of Ridge and Valley Region of Pa
- Predominantly mixed-oak forest type

Hiking



Hikers enjoying the Tuscarora Trail

- Roughly 23 miles of the Tuscarora Trail pass through the forest district.
- The one-mile Tunnel Trail traverses the ruins of two historic narrow-gauge railways.
- The Iron Horse Trail is a ten-mile loop beginning at Big Spring Picnic Area.
- An additional 167 miles of local trails are found throughout the district forest.

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).
- Camping at developed sites is available at Colonel Denning, Little Buffalo, And Fowlers Hollow state parks.



Sightseeing

- Three scenic vistas can be found on Bowers Mountain Road south of Blain, and two on Blue Mountain northeast of Shirleysburg.
- Historical features like CCC camps, defunct mines, and log-boom era railways are scattered throughout the district.
- Touring the district forest on its 157 miles of roads is a popular way to observe abundant wildlife and brilliant fall foliage.



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.
- 6,000 acres at Amberson Ridge Limited Access Buck Hunting Area are available for a more remote hunting experience.



Fishing

- Excellent cold-water fishing opportunities can be found on Fowler Hollow Run, Sherman's Creek, East Branch Licking Creek, and Blacklog Creek.
- A delayed harvest area is designated on East Branch Licking Creek.
- The Juniata River is a renowned smallmouth bass fishery.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.

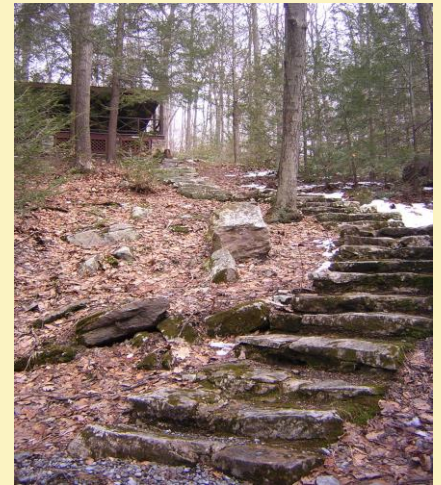


Winter Activities

- The district maintains 100 miles of snowmobile trails (for map, contact district office or download from web).
- Most trails/roads are open to cross-country skiing, although skiing is not advised on snowmobile trails for safety.
- 11 miles of trails are maintained for cross-country skiing in Fowler Hollow.



Riders enjoying snowmobile trail



Wild and Natural Areas

- James C. Nelson Wild Area consists of 5,345 acres of second-growth wilderness and features remnants of quarrying and railroad enterprises.
- Hemlocks Natural Area is a 120-acre stand of old-growth hemlock, unfortunately threatened by the invasive wooly adelgid.
- Frank E. Masland Jr. Natural Area is a 1,270-acre mature, second-growth forest.
- Hoverter and Sholl Box Huckleberry Natural Area is a 10-acre tract with a rare colony of box huckleberry, estimated to be 1,300 years old.



Mountain laurel, the Pa. state flower

Other Recreation

- Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted on most forest roads and trails.
- Picnic facilities are offered at Big Spring and Karl B. Guss State Forest picnic areas in Juniata County.
- Colonel Denning and Little Buffalo state parks offer swimming and boating.
- Bird-watching from vistas is especially popular during spring and fall migrations.



More Information

For more information on Tuscarora State Forest contact:

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