

Buckhorn Recreation Area

Delaware State Forest



Pennsylvania's vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry manages these forests to ensure their long-term health and to conserve native wild plants.

Delaware State Forest comprises 84,224 acres in Pike and Monroe counties.



Buckhorn Recreation Area

The Buckhorn Recreation Area is comprised of the Stairway Wild Area, the Buckhorn Natural Area, and Lily Pond. This area features over 17 miles of hiking trails and was once home to the bluestone quarrying industry of the 19th century. At the height of the industry, thousands of men were working on the side hill above the river. The bluestone was hauled off the mountain by horse and wagons and was shipped to cities such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Scranton. The stone traveled by railroad, floated downriver on rafts, and in boats on the Delaware-Hudson Canal. You can still find stone foundations and old bridge remnants of this industry. The large piles of waste rock sit idle but are an interesting peek into the region's bluestone industry history.

Stairway Wild Area

At just under 3,000 acres, the Stairway Wild Area is bordered by the Delaware River to the north and the Buckhorn Natural Area and Game Lands 209 to the west. Bushkill Creek originates from the Bushkill Swamp and is the main watershed within the wild area. A 13-acre lake and beautiful vista looking over the Delaware River are the highlights of the area. This area has become very popular with river users for primitive camping along the Delaware River.

Buckhorn Natural Area

A high mountain swamp surrounded by mixed oak is located within the 536-acre Buckhorn Natural Area, where reptiles and amphibians are also protected by special regulations.

Lily Pond

Lily Pond is a 24-acre lake open to boating and year-round fishing. The lake is stocked with trout, bass, and pan fish. The picnic area features a pavilion and bathroom facilities along with several charcoal grills. No camping is permitted in this area.



Motorized Camping

There are 10 motorized camping spots located along Fire Tower Road. These sites are primitive in nature and feature a metal fire ring and picnic table. Campers wishing to stay at a motorized camping spot are required to have a camping permit that can be obtained from the District Office. Camping is not permitted within the Buckhorn Natural Area or the Lily Pond Picnic area.

Delaware River Camping

The Delaware Forest District has one established primitive camping area along the Upper Delaware River. Access to this parcel is only by boat. The site is pack it in, pack it out. Permits can be obtained by contacting the National Park Service, Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River at 570-685-4871.



Care for the Land

State forests belong to all Pennsylvanians. Take time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free, and don't damage trees and other plants.

Dual Certified Forest

Pennsylvania's 2.2-million-acre state forest system is one of the largest dual certified forests in North America. The forest is certified under Forest Stewardship Council™ and Sustainable Forestry Initiative® standards. The FSC® is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. SFI® certification focuses on protection of water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and forests with exceptional conservation value. Dual certification ensures that Pennsylvania's state forests are managed to the highest third-party standards.



The mark of responsible forestry



For more information

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

www.dcnr.pa.gov

Legend

- Delaware State Forest
- State Gameland
- Buckhorn Natural Area
- Stairway Wild Area
- Parking
- Motorized Camping
- River Campsite
- Hiking Only Trail
- Shared Use Trail

Roads

- Public Use Road
- Administrative Road
- Pipeline

