Roaring Creek Tract

The Weiser State Forest, Roaring Creek tract is located north of the borough of Mount Carmel bounded on either side by parallel mountain ridges. Big Mountain forms the southern boundary and Little Mountain the northern boundary. Through this valley flows the water of the South Branch of Roaring Creek. The headwater of the South Branch Roaring Creek begins near the eastern boundary and flows westward about 10 miles before it breaks through Little Mountain at a point known as Bear Gap.

Roaring Creek Water Company was founded in 1884. Curtis Q. (CQ) McWilliams was one of the incorporators of the Roaring Creek Water Company. Descendants of CQ gradually acquired ownership and continued a family tradition on supplying high quality water for over 100 years. In 1985, Roaring Creek Water Company was purchased by Consumers Water Company of Portland, Maine. In 1995, the name was changed to Consumers Pennsylvania Water Company, Roaring Creek Division. In 1999, Consumers Water Company merged with Philadelphia Suburban Corporation, and in January 2004 the water company name was changed to Aqua Pennsylvania, an Aqua America Company.

In October 2003, through a partnership involving The Conservation Fund, the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources, the property was acquired and designated as State Forest Land. Water dams and facilities were retained by the water company and deed restrictions and covenants on the land will insure a management partnership between the water company and DCNR's Bureau of Forestry. The South Branch of Roaring Creek will continue to be managed as a high-quality water supply.

This tract was historically managed for a variety of game species including the white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse. Weiser State Forest has continued efforts to provide habitat for the declining grouse population as well as maintain a sustainable deer population.

More recently, efforts have been made to create beneficial pollinator and song bird habitat through the implementation of herbaceous openings. Large openings in the forest are planted with native perennial flowers and legumes to provide a year-round food source for desired species.

Recreation

Outdoor Recreation uses compatible with water resource management will be permitted on the Roaring Creek Tract. Recreation uses include hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, electric powered boating, wildlife watching, nature study and cross-country skiing. Swimming, wading, horses, off-road vehicles and snowmobiles are not permitted.

The following is a list of unique features.

Recreational Access Areas – At PA Routes 42 and 54 are trailheads leading to Roaring Creek Trail. Other smaller accesses scattered along these routes are also available to access numerous other trails.

C.Q. McWilliams Picnic Area – Located midway between the two parking areas.

Reservoirs – Three reservoirs can be used for fishing, ice-fishing, waterfowl hunting and wildlife observation.

Roaring Creek Trail – This 8-mile hardened trail is popular for hiking, walking, jogging and biking.

Miner's Paths – About 6 miles of marked trails on pathways used by miners in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Miner's traveled daily from their homes near Bear Gap to Natalie to work in coal mines.

Shared-Use Trails – There are approximately 40 miles of marked shared-use trials that are popular for hiking, back-packing, cross-country skiing and mountain biking

Boating – Valid mooring permits, launch permits, or PA Fish and Boat Commission registrations are required. Boating is prohibited on Bear Gap Reservoir. Four portage boat launches are available at the Klines and McWilliams Reservoirs. A limited number of mooring permits are available for seasonal storage of boats.

Special Regulations – The following rules apply in addition to the posted State Forest Rules and Regulations:

- No camping within 300 feet of reservoirs, South Branch Roaring Creek or Roaring Creek Trail.
- No open fires within 300 feet of reservoirs, South Branch Roaring Creek or Roaring Creek Trail.
- No swimming in the reservoirs and streams.
- No wading in the reservoirs
- No boating on Bear Gap Reservoir.
- No liquid fuel motors on reservoirs (e.g., ice augers, chain-saws)
- No liquid fuel motors attached to any boat
- No horseback riding
- Unauthorized persons are prohibited in restricted areas
- No fishing in restricted areas.
- No ice fishing beyond the buoys or within 75 feet of

Care for the Land

State forests belongs 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

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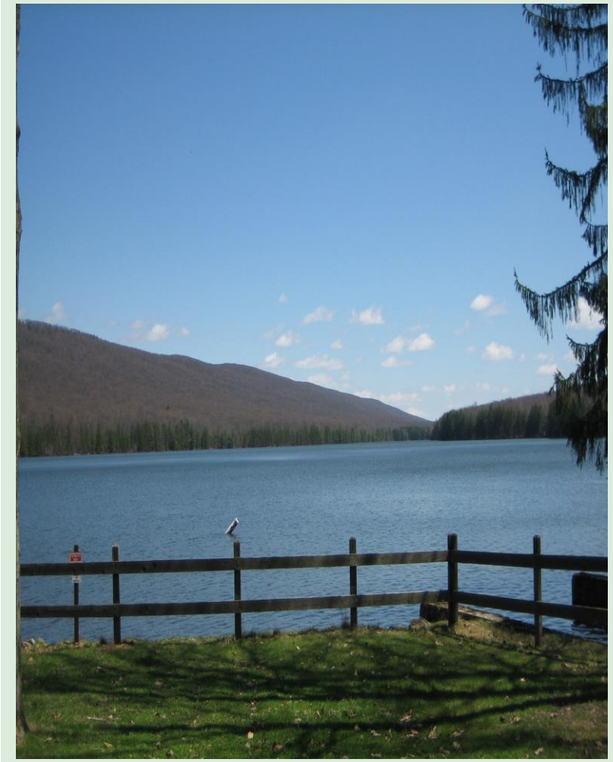
pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Roaring Creek Tract

Weiser State Forest

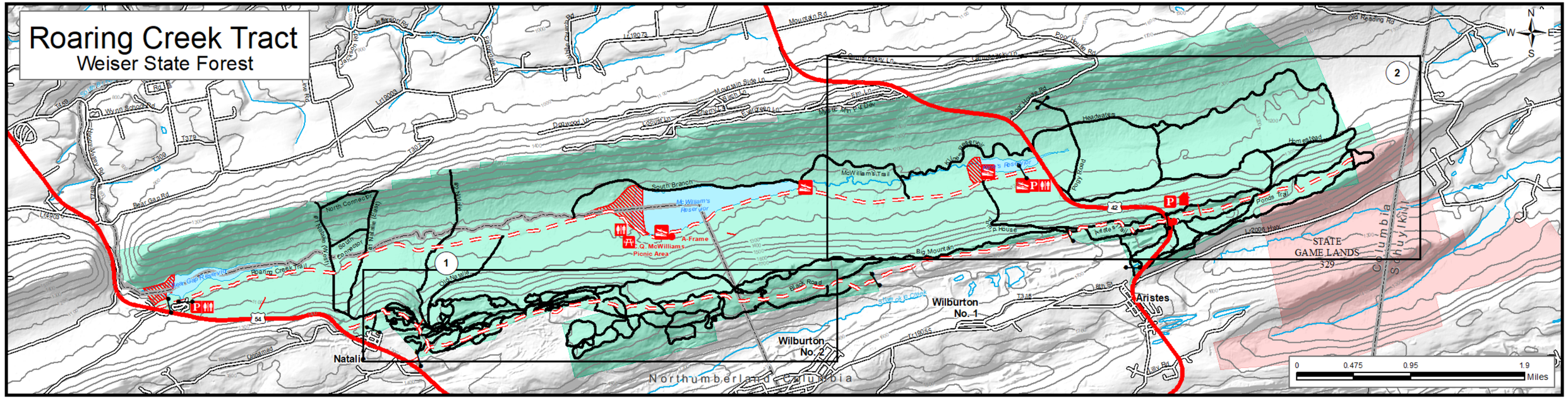


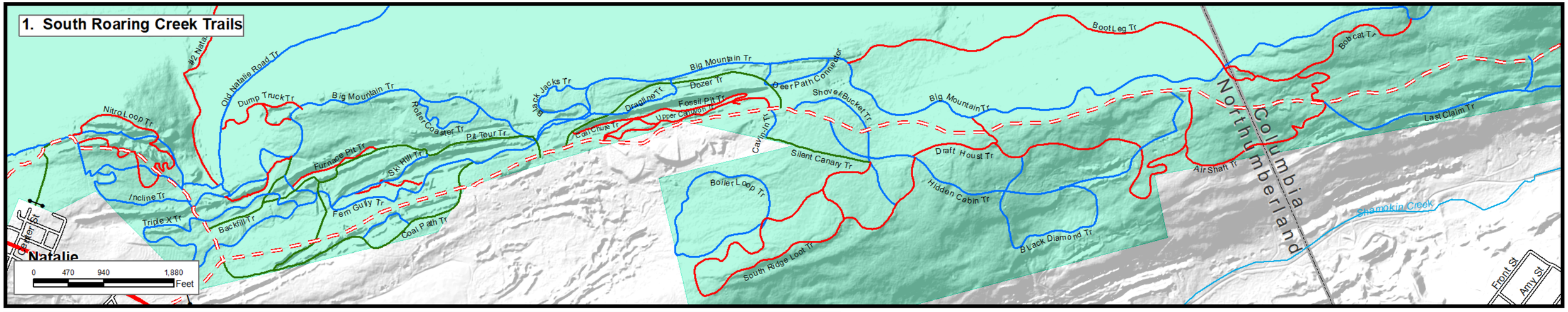
Pennsylvania's vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry manages these forests to ensure their long-term health and to conserve native wild plants.

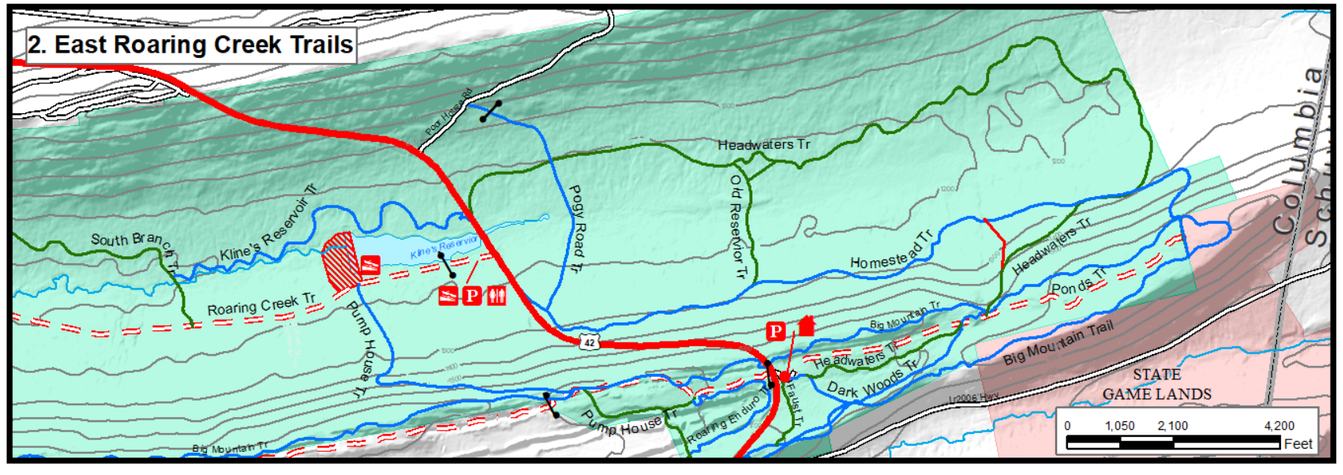
Weiser State Forest comprises 30,000 acres in Carbon, Columbia, Dauphin, Lebanon, Montour, Northumberland and Schuylkill counties.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Roaring Creek Tract
Weiser State Forest







Mountain Bike Trail Difficulty

- Easy
- Moderate
- Difficult

Difficulty of Trails Not Shown

Natalie (West)	Moderate
North Connector	Moderate
Big Mountain Connector	Difficult
Klines's Reservoir	Moderate
Last Claim Connector	Moderate
South Branch	Easy
South Connector	Moderate

LEGEND

- Weiser State Forest
- Game Lands
- County Line
- State or Federal Highway
- Hard Surface Road
- Administrative Road
- Trail
- Restricted Area
- Picnic Area
- Restroom
- Boat Access
- Parking
- District Office
- Gate