

History and Land Use

Pennsylvania’s state forest system includes dozens of special wild and natural areas set aside to protect unique or unusual biologic, geologic, scenic and historical features or to showcase outstanding examples of the state’s major forest communities. Wild areas are generally extensive tracts managed to protect the forest’s wild character and provide backcountry recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, and the pursuit of peace and solitude. Martin Hill Wild Area includes all 11,676 acres of State Forest land south of Martin Hill in southern Bedford County.

The Martin Hill Wild Area was designated in 1970. This area connects Tussey Mountain with Evitts Mountain and is decidedly wild and rugged. The area is comprised of typical oak hickory forest types for south central Pennsylvania in the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province. The area also includes a few small conifer stands. Many factors have influenced the habitat that we see in this area today with the most influential being timber harvesting, fire, and gypsy moth.

The forests regenerated after harvesting in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Some of the areas have been timbered more than once. Fire has burned in all but a few of the wet areas in the Wild Area. A large patch of scrub oak between Pigeon Roost and Bear Gap Runs were established as the result of fire. The entire Wild Area has experienced several severe infestations of gypsy moth caterpillars starting in the 1980’s that caused significant oak mortality.

None of these influences have had overly detrimental influences on the ability of this area to provide excellent habitat for many species of wildlife and plants including some species of special concern such as the wild



bleeding heart, and the Allegheny woodrat. Two small natural ponds and several spring seeps make attractive watering areas for wildlife. Several small “caves” exist in the rock outcroppings that local history describes as being used in the past by Native Americans. These areas could provide suitable denning habitat for black bear. Bobcats are also often heard but rarely sighted in the habitat provided by the wild area.

Recreational Opportunities

No motorized traffic is permitted within the boundaries of the wild area but numerous trails provide access to the interior. Almost 28 miles of trails are open for hiking, biking, horseback riding, hunting, and other recreational pursuits. The Mid State Trail, part of the Great Eastern Trail Network and known as the “Wildest Trail in Pennsylvania,” enters southern Pennsylvania into the Wild Area and traverses 8 miles. Martin Hill Wild Area is also a wonderful location for sportsmen wishing to harvest bear, deer, turkey and even small game.

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.

Directions to Martin Hill Wild Area

The centrally located Beans Cove Parking Area can be accessed from Beans Cove Road 1.5 miles west of the Black Valley Road intersection and 2.7 miles east of Flintstone Creek Road.

GPS Coordinates:

39° 48’ 42.5” N, 78° 32’ 15.6” W

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.



For more information

**Buchanan State Forest
Forest District #2**
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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Martin Hill Wild Area

Buchanan 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.

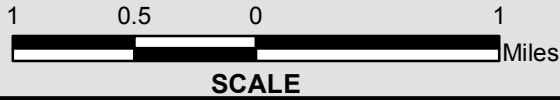
Buchanan State Forest comprises 71,638 acres in Bedford, Fulton and Franklin counties. The Martin Hill Wild Area is an 11,676 acre special use area in Buchanan State Forest that is located approximately two miles west of Chaneyville in Southern Bedford County.



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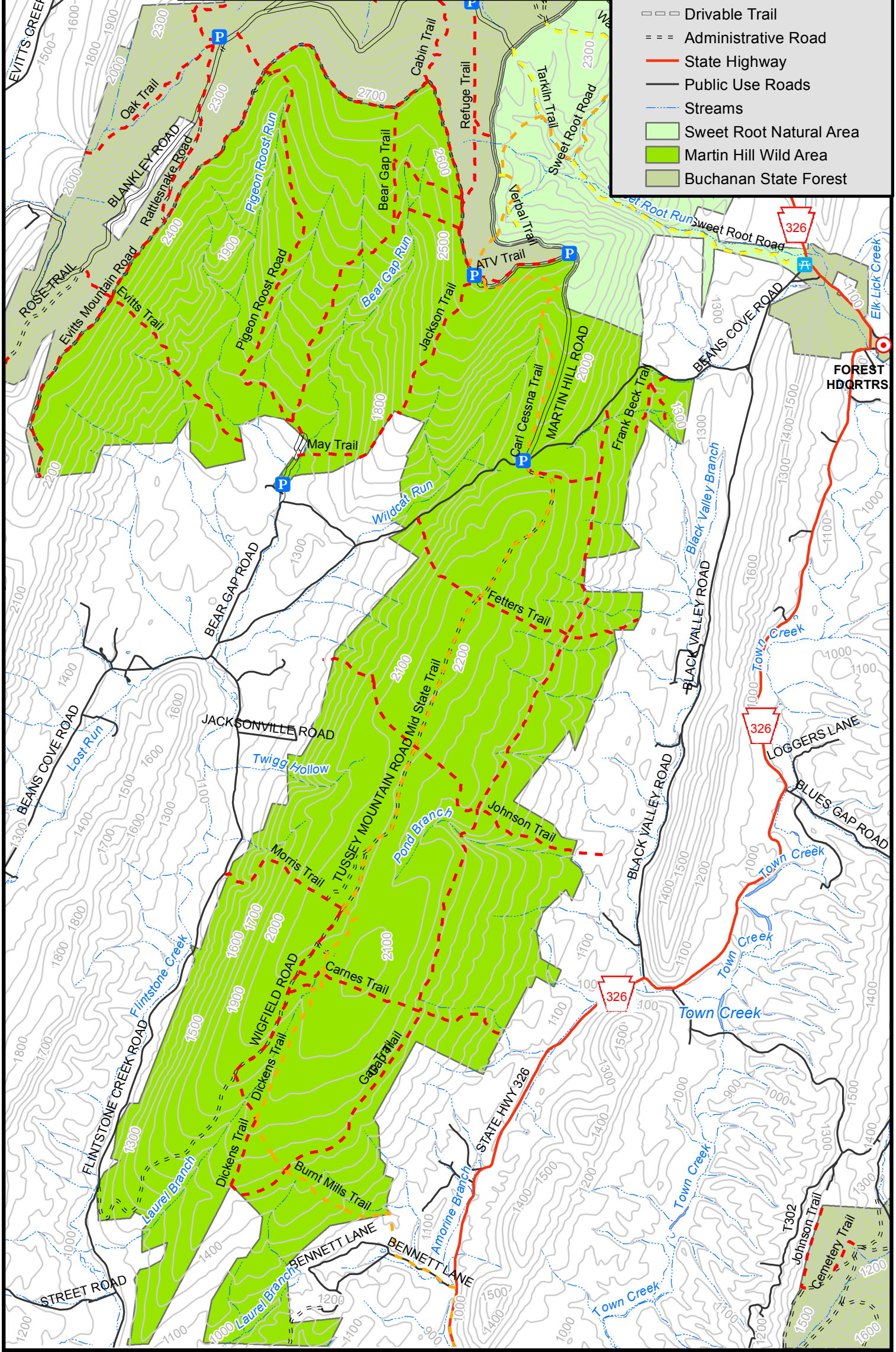
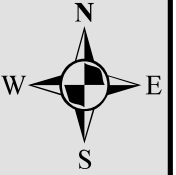
MARTIN HILL WILD AREA BUCHANAN STATE FOREST

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF FORESTRY



LEGEND

- Picnic Area
- Parking
- Mid State Trail
- Hiking Trails
- Shared Use Trail
- Improved Dirt Road
- Drivable Trail
- Administrative Road
- State Highway
- Public Use Roads
- Streams
- Sweet Root Natural Area
- Martin Hill Wild Area
- Buchanan State Forest



CHANEYSVILLE

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