

## 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. A natural area is an area of unique scenic, historic, geologic, or ecological value that will be maintained in a natural condition by allowing physical and biological processes to operate, usually without direct human intervention. They are set aside to provide locations for scientific observation of natural systems, to protect examples of typical and unique plant and animal communities, and to protect outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty.

The Pine Ridge Natural Area is a 583 acre tract located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Chaneyville, Bedford County. This area originally consisted of several farms with cultivated fields, pastures, and woodlots. It is part of a larger area called the “Land Use” or “Resettlement Lands”. The federal Resettlement Agency purchased marginally productive small farms during the 1930’s depression to encourage the families to “resettle” on more productive farmland. The federal government partnered with the state to be the care takers of these lands. During this partnership many of the abandoned pastures and fields were planted with pine seedlings. In 1955, these lands were deeded to the Commonwealth and became part of Buchanan State Forest.

In 1970, a 583 acre area of these Land Use lands was designated as the Pine Ridge Natural Area. This area was picked to demonstrate successional changes following the cessation of cultivation and pasturing. Remains of the farm settlement can be seen throughout the tract including the

foundations of a barn and other out buildings, an improved spring, fence remnants, and a partially intact old granary. The poor shale soils and rolling slopes reveal why these farms were abandoned with minor incentive. The pine plantings and areas of natural Virginia pine regeneration are intermixed with the original oak-hickory forest type creating a unique landscape.

Along the northern boundary lies the old Howsare Cemetery which is the final resting place of Asa and Catherine Howsare along with some of their children and possibly others.



## Recreational Opportunities

Approximately 5 miles of hiking trails cross the area allowing visitors to examine this unique landscape, cemetery and the farm remnants. Pine Ridge Natural Area is also a wonderful location for sportsmen wishing to harvest 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 Pine Ridge NA

Pine Ridge Natural Area is located on Abey Road 1.3 miles south of the Ragged Mountain intersection, which is located 1.5 miles southeast of the Chaneyville Road intersection (0.2 miles east of PA Route 326).

GPS Coordinates:  
39° 47’ 47.2” N, 78° 28’ 33.1” W

Additional parking is available about 1 mile south at the Jasper Trail parking lot.

## 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

25185 Great Cove Road  
McConnellsburg, PA 17233  
(717) 485-3148  
FD02@pa.gov  
[www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov)



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## Pine Ridge Natural 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 Pine Ridge Natural Area is a 583 acre special use area in Buchanan State Forest that is located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of Chaneyville in Southern Bedford County.



