

Bear Meadows Natural Area

Area Facts



- Area is 896 acres.
- Located south of Boalsburg on Thickhead Mountain.
- Area is a designated National Natural Landmark.
- Protects an entire high-mountain fen wetland, a unique, rare ecosystem in Pennsylvania.
- Offers maintained trails for viewing wildlife.

Rothrock State Forest

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Ecosystem/Terrain

- Fen wetland community includes black spruce, red spruce, and highbush blueberry.
- Terrain reaches up to 2250' elevation.
- Forest surrounding the wetland consists of northern hardwoods and mixed oak species.
- Evergreen associates include rhododendron and Eastern hemlock.



The wetland environment is an acidic bog rich in sphagnum moss.

Wildlife

- The natural area is a Reptile and Amphibian Special Protection Area.



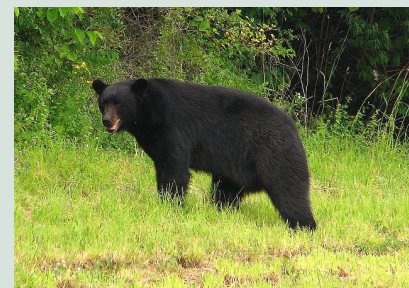
Salamanders (and their eggs), other amphibians, and reptiles are completely protected in the natural area.

- The mixed-deciduous forest provides habitat for diverse songbird populations.



Blackburnian warblers can be seen in the natural area, especially in spring.

- Apex predators such as black bears, coyotes, and bobcats can be found in the natural area.



Black bears feed on abundant berries found throughout the natural area.

Access

- Major routes nearby include US 322, Route 45, and Route 26.
- The natural area is easily accessed from the northeast via Bear Meadows and Treaster Valley roads.
- Parking is accessible at the National Natural Landmark monument on Bear Meadows Road.

