

The Bucktail Path

The Bucktail Path Trail is 34 miles long and blazed in orange. It is a hiking only trail. It begins near Sizerville State Park and ends in the village of Sinnemahoning. This is not a loop trail. The trail passes scenic overlooks, fire towers, timbering, streams, wildlife, natural and wild areas:

Johnson Run Natural Area 216 acres of old growth hemlock-hardwoods.

Square Timber Wild Area 8461 acres of roadless, deep narrow valleys and steep ridges.

Bucktail Natural Area 75-mile scenic drive along Route 120 from Emporium to Lock Haven.

Sizerville Park to Crooked Run Road 3 miles and an elevation change of 700 feet. The northern end of the trail begins just east of the park on Cowley Run Road. You will be hiking up Buffalo Switch Hollow and pass a state forest leased camp site.

Crooked Run Road to Steammill Road 5.4 miles and an elevation change of 780 feet. The trail follows Crooked Run Road east for .75 miles where it joins an old railroad tram road. The tram road switches back and forth up the mountain, across a logging road and into the head of Salt Run. This is the source of Emporium’s water. You now join another logging road which leads you to Steammill Road.

Steammill Road to Hunts Run Road 5.4 miles and an elevation change of 800 feet. The trail crosses Steammill Road and heads down the west side of McNuff Run. Along the stream you will pass several beaver dams. Beavers prefer the aspen trees that are along the stream. Further down the stream you will notice the western slopes are bare of trees except for scattered spruce trees. These areas were badly burned after the early logging days. The spruce trees were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). When you reach Hunts Run, you will notice a large concrete pad. This was the site of a picnic shelter constructed by the CCC. Continuing downstream you will cross Hunts Run Road.

Hunts Run Road to Whitehead Road 4.9 miles and an elevation change of 760 feet. The trail starts at Moore Draft, 4.75 miles from Route 120 on Hunts Run Road. The trail climbs steeply up Moore Draft, cuts across a flat and drops slowly down Rock Run. You will pass some small waterfalls in Rock Run as you descend. You will cross Whitehead Road.



Whitehead to Stillhouse Road 3.6 miles and an elevation change of 1200 feet. This section of the trail starts near the intersection of Hunts Run Road and Whitehead Road. You will again pass a camp lease. You will notice the mountain laurel getting denser. If you hike the trail in mid-June, the laurel will be in bloom. You will intersect with Stillhouse Road and Ridge Road.

Stillhouse to Brooks Run Road at Ridge Road 2.9 miles with an elevation change of 240 feet. Along this section of trail, you will pass the Brooks Run Fire Tower and cabin. The tower is gated for safety.

Brooks Run to Pepper Hill Trail 2.3 miles with an elevation change of 290 feet. Approximately halfway along this section you will go through an area that was clear-cut in 1970. Most of the trees in this area were killed by the oak leaf roller. This area is now covered with mountain laurel, blueberries, and ferns.

Pepper Hill Trail to Sinnemahoning 6.6 miles with an elevation change of 1200 feet. This section of the trail will take you along a high ridgetop where you can see miles, both up and down the Driftwood Branch of the Sinnemahoning Creek. You will gradually come down the mountain into the village of Sinnemahoning, which is the southern end of the Bucktail Path.

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.



For more information

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Bucktail Path

Elk 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.

Elk State Forest comprises 217,000 acres in Cameron, Elk, Potter, McKean, Clinton, and Clearfield counties.



Bucktail Path Trail

Elk State Forest

Potter and Cameron Counties



Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry

2020

LEGEND

- Elk State Forest
- Wild Area
- State Park Lands
- County Line
- Pipeline R/W
- Powerline R/W
- Parking
- Vista
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- State Park Office
- Firetower
- Gate

CONTOURS ARE ON
250 FT. INTERVALS

Trail Information

- State Or Federal Highway
- Hard Surface Road
- Improved Dirt Road
- Administrative Road
- Hiking Only Trail
- Bucktail Path State Forest Designated Trail
- Shared-use Trail (Hike, Bike)
- Cross-country Ski Trail
- Snowmobile Trail

