

# Bear Valley Campsites

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 is 72,282 acres in Bedford, Fulton, and Franklin counties. The Bear Valley Division has 17,298 acres in Franklin and Fulton counties.



October 2022

## Bear Valley Insights

Bear Valley Division hosts 16 miles of public roads, 83 miles of multi-use trails, 28 miles of hiking only trails including parts of the Tuscarora Trail and the Standing Stone Trail, 19 miles of snowmobile trail, and 17 camp sites.

Most of the forest was cut in the late 1800 to early 1900’s for charcoal to fuel the nearby iron furnaces. The forest remnants were then harvested for lumber and the land was then sold to the commonwealth. The infrastructure in this area, including most of the roads, bridges, and trails as well as Bear Valley Picnic Area and Cowans Gap State Park were due to the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). This division hosted two CCC Camps: S-109 Company 1325 and S-54 Company 305. This division is critical to several drinking water supplies and contains a complex of vernal pools that provide critical habitat for a variety of amphibious species.

## 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 or other plants.

## Leave No Trace

Buchanan State Forest is managed on a leave no trace philosophy. Anything you carry in to use while camping and recreating must be carried back out with you. Depositing any refuse on state forest lands is prohibited.

All field privies (individual use or slit trench latrines) must be at least 200 feet from a lake, stream, spring, or other open water source. Self-contained portable toilets are encouraged and may be required to be used at some designated dispersed campsites.

Wash yourself, your dishes, and your clothes using a container. Washing in a spring, lake or waterway is prohibited.

When camping with horses, refrain from tying horses directly to trees. All horse manure must be removed from the campsite.

Remember its Carry in – Carry Out

## Campfire Policy & Safety

Campfires are permitted inside a non-combustible fire ring less than two feet round, and in fire rings or fireplaces provided by the Department EXCEPT when the fire danger is high, very high or extreme, and from March 1 through May 25.

Fires must always be attended. A small breeze can spread fire quickly, so there should be at least one set of eyes monitoring the fire at all times.

Put your fire OUT COLD. If it is too hot to touch, then it is too hot to leave. You assume the liability for damages, extinction costs, fines, and can face criminal charges if you cause a wildfire.

Only downed and dead wood within the immediate campsite may be gathered for firewood. Collect only the amount needed for your stay. Power saws are not permitted without a Fuelwood Permit.

Only use firewood that you gather or purchase locally. Do not take firewood with you. Help save our forests from devastating insects.

## Help Conserve Our Forests

Our actions as citizens help determine the future of our forests. To learn more about how you can help conserve Penn’s Woods, visit [www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation)

## For more information

**Buchanan State Forest  
Forest District #2**  
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McConnellsburg, PA 17233  
(717) 485-3148  
FD02@pa.gov  
[www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov)

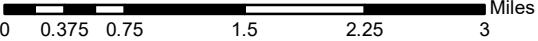


## Camping in the Buchanan State Forest - Bear Valley Designated Campsites

Buchanan State Forest offers free primitive backpack camping for thru hikers and prepaid reservations for dispersed roadside and roadside hike in camp sites. Camping permits have a \$6.50 transaction fee plus \$15/night, or \$10/night for Pennsylvania residents. **There are no modern facilities, water, dump stations or utility hook-ups on state forest lands** but these sites offer the opportunity to experience unique ecosystems, wild landscapes, plus the peace and beauty of nature. Dispersed sites are designated by numbered posts scattered through the three maintenance divisions/loops: Bear Valley, Sideling Hill, and Chaneysville. Sites can be reserved by anyone 18+ for up to 7 days. Reservations can be made 11 months in advance to 12 noon on day of arrival. Groups over 10 must obtain a letter of authorization. Check-in and Check-out time is 3:00 pm. **Obtain your permit Monday-Saturday 7:00 am-5:00 pm eastern time by calling 1-888-727-2757 or online anytime at Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests Reservations System webpage: <https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/welcome.do>**

Name	Description
BV001 - Bums Inn	Located on Bums Inn Road, 0.15 miles from Broad Mountain Road, Upper Strasburg. Gravel parking lot that can hold 2 camper trailers or 3 vehicles with tents. Access road is rough but flat. Somewhat secluded.
BV002 - Two Mile	Located on Bear Valley Road, Upper Strasburg, near Two Mile Trail intersection. Gravel parking lot that can hold 1 camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded. Located 300 feet from a stream.
BV003 - Letterkenny	Located on Letterkenny Tract Access Road, 0.40 miles from Mountain Road, Fort McCord. Gravel parking lot that can hold 2 camper trailers or 3 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded. Located 100 feet from stream.
BV004 - Pipeline East	Located on Broad Mountain Road and pipeline, Upper Strasburg, 0.17 miles from Smith Trail. Grass pipeline that can hold 2 camper trailers or 3 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded.
BV005 - Pipeline West	Located on Broad Mountain Road and pipeline, Upper Strasburg, 0.23 miles from Smith Trail. Grass pipeline that can hold 2 camper trailers or 3 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded.
BV007 - Broad Mountain West	Located on Broad Mountain Road, Upper Strasburg, 0.16 miles from Lehman Trail. Grass parking lot that can hold 1 camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded.
BV008 - Clarks Knob	Located on Broad Mountain Road at Clarks Knob Road intersection, Upper Strasburg. Grass parking lot that can hold 1 camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded.
BV009 - Tower	Located on Tower Road, McConnellsburg, 1.74 miles from Aughwick Road. Gravel and grass parking lot that can hold 1 camper trailer or 3 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded.
BV012 - Broad Mountain Landing 1	Located on Broad Mountain Road, 0.25 miles north from 1 Mile Trail. Grass parking area that can hold 1 small camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Easy access that is somewhat secluded.
BV013 - Lincoln Trail - HIKE-IN ONLY	Located 0.20-mile hike from the parking area at the intersection of Aughwick Road and Tower Road, McConnellsburg, access is road walking, partial uphill hike out, log landing.
BV014 - Route 75	Located on Route 75, Fort Loudon, 2.43 miles from Route 30. Gravel and grass parking lot that can hold 1 camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Access is steep and a little rough and site is slightly uneven. It is somewhat secluded from road view but could be noisy.
BV015 - Bear Valley - HIKE-IN ONLY	Located 0.08-mile hike from Bear Valley Road, access is small unnamed trail and easy to miss but it is close to road. Small area, not a log landing and not mowed. Located 500 feet from a stream.
BV016 - Ski Tral - HIKE-IN ONLY	Located 0.35-mile hike from Keefer Road, access is uphill but is road walking, log landing.
BV017 - Fry Trail - HIKE-IN ONLY	Located 0.15-mile hike from Broad Mountain Road, access is road walking and uphill hike out.
BV018 - Cabin Trail - HIKE-IN ONLY	Located 0.06-mile hike from the road at 1st parking lot near Letterkenny. Access hike is road walking uphill to a log landing. Located 275 feet from a stream.
BV019 - Broad Mountain Landing 2	Located on Broad Mountain Road, 0.1 miles north of Lookout Trail or 0.8 miles south of the pipeline. Grass parking lot that can hold 1 camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Easy access that is somewhat secluded.
BV020 - Tower CCO	Located on Tower Road, McConnellsburg, 0.65 miles from Aughwick Road. Gravel and grass parking lot that can hold 1 small camper trailer or 2 vehicles with tents. Easy access but not secluded.





Legend

Buchanan Camping

- Roadside
- Roadside, Hike in only
- Primitive (Trail Shelter)
- Buchanan RMC and HQ's
- PicnicArea
- Parking
- Gates
- Kiosk
- TrailBridge
- Trailhead
- Vista
- <all other values>
- Forest Road
- Highway or road ramp
- Interstate
- Trails
- State Highway
- Town or city road
- Township Road
- US Highway
- Streams
- Islands
- Rivers
- Other State Forest Land
- State Game Lands
- State Parks

