

Welcome to  
Rothrock State Forest

## Rothrock State Forest Map and Recreation Guide



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Find us on Facebook at  
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State forests belong to the people of  
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## Recreation

### Hiking

Rothrock State Forest contains hundreds of miles of hiking and shared-use trails—112 miles are designated for “foot traffic” only, marked by either yellow or orange blazes—180 miles of shared use trails open for hiking, biking and horseback riding are marked with red blazes. Not all shared-use trails are equally accommodating for equestrian use.

### Mid State Trail

The Mid State Trail, stretches 326 cross-county miles from Green Ridge State Forest in Maryland to a spur of the Finger Lakes Trail in New York. About 56 miles of this trail cross Rothrock. The mountain-top trail is rugged and demanding; hikers must carefully assess their ability to cope with the difficulties and possible dangers involved. A detailed trail guide, including maps, is available for a small fee from the Mid State Trail Association through their website at [www.hike-nst.org](http://www.hike-nst.org).

### Standing Stone Trail

Rothrock State Forest includes roughly 17 miles of the 72-mile-long Standing Stone Trail. It connects the Tuscarora Trail at Cowans Gap State Park with the Mid State Trail at Greenwood Furnace State Park. The trail follows scenic ridgelines in Huntingdon, Mifflin



The coldwater trout streams of Rothrock State Forest draw fishermen from across the nation.

Rothrock’s acres lay across the rugged, rock-strewn ridges that typify the Ridge and Valley region of the Appalachian Mountains. Chestnut oaks and mountain laurel grow on many of these ridges. In the bottom lands, and rhododendron, Rothrock is known for its awe-inspiring vistas, extensive network of hiking trails and intriguing natural areas.

Rothrock State Forest is named for Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock, a native of Mifflin County and the Commonwealth’s first forestry commissioner. He is recognized as the “Father of Forestry” in Centre and Mifflin counties.



### Horseback Riding

Horses may be ridden on all state forest roads and on shared-use trails. Equestrian activities are not permitted on hiking-only trails, on the Mid State, Standing Stone trail or in Natural Areas. Some trails are not suitable for riding due to limited clearance and steep or rocky terrain.

### Sightseeing

Vistas or scenic overlooks are a major attraction for many forest visitors. The best known and most easily accessible in Rothrock is to Hayes

Motorized campsite No. 8, in the Trough Creek area, is best suited for horse camping and has a series of trails leading from the site.

### Picnicking

Rothrock State Forest has two state forest picnic areas. The Pine Hill picnic area is along Diamond Valley Road, northwest of Petersburg. Visitors will find two picnic pavilions, picnic tables, grills and toilet facilities. The Alan Seeger picnic area is at the site of CCC Camp No. 59, northeast of McAlvays Fort. The chimneys in the picnic pavilions are the last remaining remnants of the camp. This picnic area has pavilions, picnic tables, grills, toilet facilities, proximity to hiking trails and fishing in Standing Stone Creek.

### Camping

Motorized camping is permitted at eight designated locations. These sites provide off-road parking, a campfire and a picnic table. Camping permits, required for these sites, are available from the district office. Backpackers may camp overnight anywhere except in designated Natural Areas, within 200 feet of a forest road, within 25 feet of a trail, or within 100 feet of a stream or any open water. Permits are required if camping hiking areas in the county. Trail brochures available at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx).

### Hunting

Hunting for deer, turkey, grouse, squirrels, rabbits and black bears is a popular use of the forest during designated seasons. Other than a few rocky ridge-top trails and logging roads to gently sloping forest to extreme, from difficult to easy riding ranges in the county. Trail brochures available at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx).

### Fishing and Boating

The area in and around Rothrock provides many fishing opportunities. Various coldwater trout streams, notably the Little Juniata River, Spruce Creek and Standing Stone Creek, flow through the forest. Special fishing regulations may apply. Check current Fish and Boat Commission regulations.

### Sightseeing

Vistas or scenic overlooks are a major attraction for many forest visitors. The best known and most easily accessible in Rothrock is to Hayes

Other significant vistas are along the Mid State Trail on Tassey

Mountain, Standing Stone Trail, on Stone and Jacks mountains, also offers several great views.

### Mountain Biking

Rothrock has become one of the premier mountain biking areas in the county. Trail brochures available at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx).



### Motorized Trails

No trails are open to all-terrain vehicles within Rothrock State Forest. Visit our website for more information on riding opportunities elsewhere within the state forest system.

### Winter Activities

**Snowmobiling** Rothrock offers about 200 miles of roads and trails for snowmobiling. Some trails are better suited for these activities than others. The Colerain, Stone Creek, Alan Seeger, Pine Hill, Galbraith Gap and Kepler Road trailheads are plowed for winter access. Visit our website for more information on riding opportunities within the state forest system.

**Cross-Country Skiing** All of Rothrock’s trails are open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, but many are not suited to these uses due to steep terrain. Contact the district office for trail conditions and suitability.

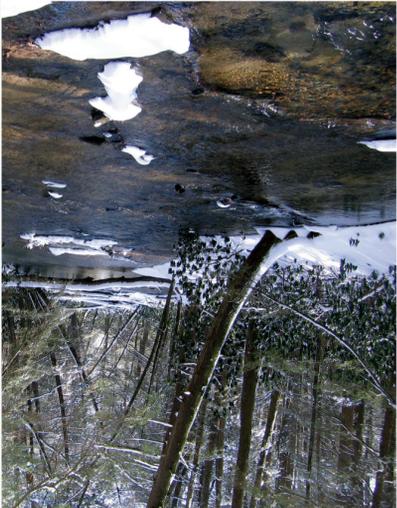
## Wild and Natural Areas

### Alain Seeger Natural Area

Alan Seeger includes 371 acres north of Greenwood Furnace State Park. A loop trail winds along Standing Stone Creek, through rhododendron patches and under stands of towering eastern hemlock, white pine and yellow birch.

### Bear Meadows Natural Area

Bear Meadows is in Centre County, 4 miles south of Boalsburg. This Natural Area contains 896 acres surrounding a fern wetland. Black spruce, red spruce



Standing Stone Creek braids its way through the hemlocks of Alan Seeger Natural Area.

observing wildlife.

### Trough Creek Wild Area

Located on the slopes of Terrace Mountain above Kaystown Lake, these 1,744 acres protect the aesthetics of this popular recreational area while providing additional opportunities for hiking and

### Thickhead Mountain Wild Area

A short drive from State College, these 4,138 acres provide an extensive, undeveloped area of mixed-oak forest. Thickhead

### Rocky Ridge Natural Area

Rocky Ridge is in Huntingdon County, south of Martin Gap. Its 114 acres of rich, mixed-oak woodland support numerous native wildflowers among exposures of Onkany sandstone and limestone.

### Little Juniata Natural Area

west of Barre, Huntingdon County, this 682-acre Natural Area is of specific geologic interest for its talus slope of hard, white, limestone and a horizontal thrust fault.



Awesome fall foliage provides scenic wonder along Laurel Run Road and 180 miles of forest roads across the district.

### Detweiler Run Natural Area

Detweiler Run is in Huntingdon County, southeast of Boalsburg. This 466-acre portion of Boalsburg supports old growth white pine and eastern hemlock with a dense rhododendron understory.

### Big Flat Laurel Natural Area

Big Flat Laurel is in Huntingdon and Centre counties, 4 miles south of Boalsburg. Adjacent to Bear Meadows, these 184 acres include large stands of mountain laurel, Pennsylvania’s state flower.

## Bureau of Forestry—Conserving Penn’s Woods



The mission of the Bureau of Forestry is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the commonwealth’s forests and to conserve native wild plants.

### State Forest Management

The bureau manages state forests to provide a whole suite of uses and values, all while maintaining its wild character. State forests are managed for pure water, recreation, scenic beauty, plant and animal habitat, sustainable timber and mineral resources. State forest management is guided by the State Forest Resource Management Plan.

The state forest system is a “working forest.” Bureau of Forestry staff carefully manages the forest for a variety of uses and values, all while ensuring its sustainability.

### Ecosystem Management

The bureau has adopted “ecosystem management” as its principal strategy for managing state forests. This approach seeks to conserve the natural patterns and processes while advancing long-term sustainability. Ecosystem management promotes the conservation of plant and animal communities and the landscapes and habitats that support them. It also accounts for needs and values of people and communities.



Visitors may encounter active timber harvests on state forest land. Harvesting trees provides sustainable wood products for society while enhancing habitat and overall forest health.

Mountain Laurel, Pennsylvania’s State Flower.



### A Working Forest

As you travel throughout the state forest, you’ll see examples of our forests “at work.” Some of these management practices are more noticeable than others, such as active timber harvests, deer enclosure fences, prescribed fires and gypsy moth spraying. Others are more subtle, such as the protection of a vernal pool, the buffering of a stream from timber harvesting, or the setting aside of a special area to conserve its wild character or protect a rare plant community. Each of these management practices and activities plays a vital role in the management and conservation of our state forest system.



The mark of responsible forestry

### Forest Conservation

The bureau’s role in forest conservation extends beyond state-owned lands. The agency is charged with protecting all of Pennsylvania’s forests from wildfire and damaging insects and diseases, and conserving and managing the state’s native, wild plant communities. The bureau, as the state’s lead forest conservation agency, promotes the knowledge of forestry and forest stewardship to other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industry and the general public.

### Help Conserve our Forests

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

## State Parks and Recreation Areas

### Greenwood Furnace State Park

Greenwood Furnace offers a full range of recreational activities around a 6-acre lake with a 300-foot sand beach. Interpretive programming at the park is centered on the former iron works community, which operated from 1834 to 1904.

### Penn Roosevelt State Park

Penn Roosevelt is an isolated area of Centre County known locally as the Stone Creek Kettle, and contains a small lake. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, fishing, hiking and tent camping on 18 rustic sites.



One of many vistas from the Mid State Trail.

### Trough Creek State Park

In 1936, this 541-acre park was carved from the former Paradise Iron Furnace Company tract of Rothrock State Forest by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Attractions include a large balanced rock, an ice mine and remnants of the Paradise Iron Furnace.

### Whipple Dam State Park

Whipple Dam is in the northeastern corner of Huntingdon County, 12 miles south of State College. Recreational opportunities include boating on 22-acre Whipple Lake, fishing, swimming, picnicking, cross-country skiing and hiking.

### Raystown Lake

Raystown is a 30-mile long, 8,300-acre reservoir operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir provides flood control, fisheries enhancement, water quality, and many diverse recreational opportunities. It is adjacent to the southern portion of Rothrock State Forest.

