

## God’s Country Shared Use Trail

The God’s Country Shared Use Trail is a system of interconnected woodland trails, forestry roads, pipelines and former logging roads that provide over 80 miles of trail for equestrians, mountain bikers and hikers to explore. Horseback riding is the primary use. The trail is generally rated as Easy to Moderate but there are some steep slopes (marked on the map) that are challenging. The trails are marked with red 2 x 6 rectangles. The trail is open year-round, however, some of the shared use trails allow snowmobile use in the winter and forest roads may be unplowed or icy from snowmobile use.

The shared use trail intersects with hiking only trails, which are marked with orange or yellow 2 x 6 rectangles. The trail colors on the map correspond with the color of the trail markings on the ground.

This trail system was developed to provide hikers, equestrian users, and mountain bikers better access to this spectacular landscape without the risks associated with bushwacking or attempting to navigate unmarked trails that wind over the densely wooded hollows and ridges of the area.

Located in Southern Potter County, the God’s Country Shared Use Trail traverses the Allegheny Plateau in the Susquehannock State Forest. This area is known as the “Big Woods of Pennsylvania” and offers visitors exceptional scenery and a remote experience.

### Trailheads and Camping

The Rauch Road Gas Well and Twelve Mile Trailheads provide parking for cars, trucks and vehicles towing trailers. You are also welcome to park where the trail crosses on open road as long as there is space for you to safely park off the road surface.

Several camping areas and trailheads adjacent to the trail can accommodate horse trailers. A free camping permit is required and can be obtained by contacting the Forest District Office at 814-274-3600 or emailing [fd15@pa.gov](mailto:fd15@pa.gov).

You are required to use highlines and hitching posts where they are provided. Where they are not provided, string a highline to secure your horses. Portable corrals and tying horses directly to trees is not permitted.

All horse manure must be removed from the camping area and disposed of off state forest land.

**Dyer CCC Camping Area:** 8 numbered sites with site #5 accommodating two trailers. Each site has a 15 x 65 foot gravel pad to park your trailer and truck on, picnic table, fire ring, lantern post, and places to tie your horses.

**Twelve Mile Camping Area:** 4 numbered sites. Each site has a 15 x 65 foot gravel pad to park your trailer and truck on, picnic table, fire ring, lantern post, and places to tie your horses.

**Rauch Road Gas Well Trailhead:** less developed than the Dyer CCC and Twelve Mile Camping Areas. There is one picnic table and a 5 trailer limit at this location.

**Twelve Mile Trailhead:** less developed than the Dyer CCC and Twelve Mile Camping Areas. There is one picnic table and a 10 trailer limit at this location.

### For your Safety and Enjoyment

This Big Woods region has all the hazards associated with wilderness areas including timber rattlesnakes, black bears, poisonous plants, insects, sudden weather changes, and unexpected high water events. Please travel prepared!

- Cell service is not available along the trail or at the trailheads.
- All trash and refuse must be carried out.
- Store rations and trash securely to protect wildlife and your food.
- Wear fluorescent orange during hunting seasons.
- Check yourself thoroughly for ticks at the end of the day.
- Leave your itinerary with a friend or the state forest office.

#### Equestrians...

- Protect our trees by tying your horse to a highline or hitching post.
- Please do not camp in areas normally used by backpackers.

#### Mountain Bikers...

- Many of the woods trails are single track so you should always anticipate a horse or hiker around a blind curve and slow down. Prevent an unexpected encounter with a friendly greeting to alert others of your presence.
- Yield to hikers and equestrians.
- Get off the trail on the downhill side. Horses will tend to bolt uphill when spooked.
- Quietly greet the rider and ask if you are ok where you are.

### Camping

**Motorized Camping** is camping in or near a vehicle where the vehicle continues to be used for storage or transportation. A free permit is required.

**Non-Motorized Camping** is overnight camping along a trail, stream or in the forest away from your car or truck. If you are staying only one night at a site no permit is required. If you are staying more than one night at a site a free permit is required. Camping is permitted along the ATV trail.

- Camping permits can be acquired by contacting the Forest District Office at 814-274-3600 or emailing [fd15@pa.gov](mailto:fd15@pa.gov).
- All motorized camping must be within 300 feet of a road open to public travel, or a trail designated for motorized use. Vehicles may not be driven more than 50 feet from the road surface.
- All motorized camping must be more than 300 feet from any building or a state forest leased campsite except with the lessee’s permission.
- All motorized camping must be more than a road mile from any commercial or state park campground.
- All camping must be 100 feet from any stream or open water source unless approved by the District Forester.
- Deposit human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, campsite, or trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Make sure your campfire is cold before you leave.
- Do not burn glass, plastic or metal in your campfire.
- All stone fire rings should be dismantled when done except at permanent campsites.
- Target shooting is not permitted unless authorized in writing by the District Forester.

### Lodging

Make a weekend of it. Information on local lodging and inns may be obtained from the Potter County Visitors Association: 888-POTTER-2 or [www.visitpottercounty.com](http://www.visitpottercounty.com)

### The Pennsylvania Wilds

Susquehannock State Forest lies within the Pennsylvania Wilds, a two-million-acre region in north-central Pennsylvania, comprising 1.5 million acres of state forest and game lands, 29 state parks, and the 500,000-acre Allegheny National Forest. The Susquehannock State Forest encompasses about 265,000 acres located primarily in Potter County.

### The Working Forest

The Susquehannock State Forest is a “Working Forest”. Working forests provide us many environmental, social, and economic benefits. In every direction, you can see the benefits of the working forest. Forests build soil, filter groundwater, keep streams healthy, create oxygen, and provide shelter and food for plants and animals. They yield important resources we use every day, like lumber, firewood, and natural gas. They offer beauty, solitude, and the opportunity to recreate. When we manage forests carefully, they stay healthy and productive.

### 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.

### Certified “Well Managed”

Pennsylvania state forests are certified to FSC® standards. The Forest Stewardship Council® is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

### iConservePA

To learn more about the state’s natural resources and what you can do to help protect and enjoy them, log onto [iConservePA.org](http://iConservePA.org).

### For more information

**Susquehannock State Forest**  
**3150 East Second Street**  
**Coudersport, PA 16915**

**(814) 274-3600 x101**  
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
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