OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA
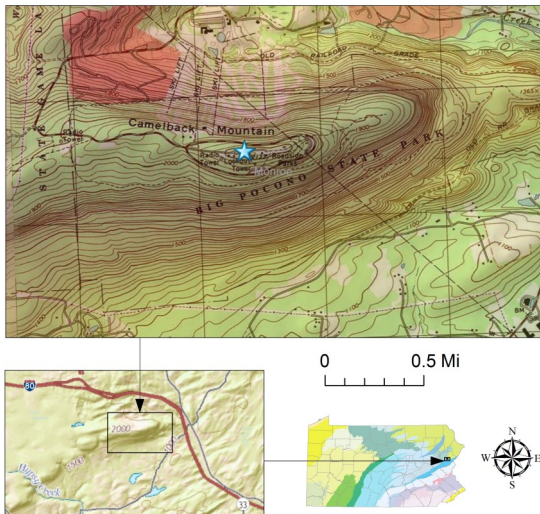# BIG POCONO OVERLOOK, MONROE COUNTY

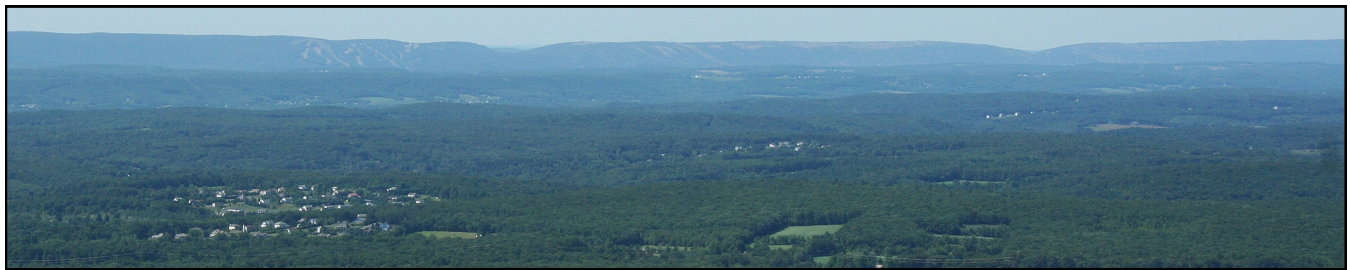Stuart O. Reese, 2016

Location

Big Pocono State Park, Monroe Co., Jackson Twp., lat: 41.0424, lon: -75.3520; Mount Pocono 7.5-minute quadrangle

Geology

Big Pocono Overlook, also known as Pocono Knob, is situated on the east-west ridgeline of Camelback Mountain (2,133-foot maximum elevation). It is the highest location in the area and is located on the edge of the Glaciated Pocono Plateau. The Delaware Water Gap through Kittatinny Mountain is easily seen to the east, along with more of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province. On a clear day, the Catskill Mountains of New York can be seen.

The overlook is just within the mapped boundary of the Wisconsinan glaciation, which peaked in northeastern Pennsylvania about 20,000 years ago. Bedrock at the top of the mountain consists of the Catskill Formation, Poplar Gap Member, which is a coarse-grained rock—typically gray sandstone with some conglomerate. The rocks are Late Devonian in age (over 360 million years old) and are nearly flat lying. They are part of the Appalachian Plateaus province. Their highly resistant nature accounts for the topographic "camelback" look.

View of the Blue Mountain physiographic section to the south. Photograph by Bill Kochanov, Pennsylvania Geological Survey.

View to the west of the Pocono Plateau escarpment. Photograph by Bill Kochanov.

View of the Delaware Water Gap in Kittatinny Mountain, about 13 miles to the southeast. Photograph courtesy of Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks.

Recommended Reading

Epstein, J. B., 2010, Teachers guide to geologic trails in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Pennsylvania–New Jersey, *in* Fleeger, G. M., and Whitmeyer, S. J., eds., The Mid-Atlantic Shore to the Appalachian Highlands—Field Trip Guidebook for the 2010 Joint Meeting of the Northeastern and Southeastern GSA Sections: Geological Society of America Field Guide 16, p. 127–147.

Big Pocono State Park web page of DCNR.

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