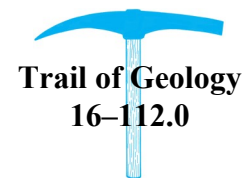


OUTSTANDING GEOLOGIC FEATURE OF PENNSYLVANIA

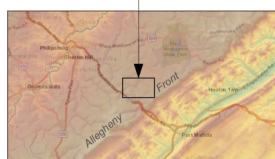
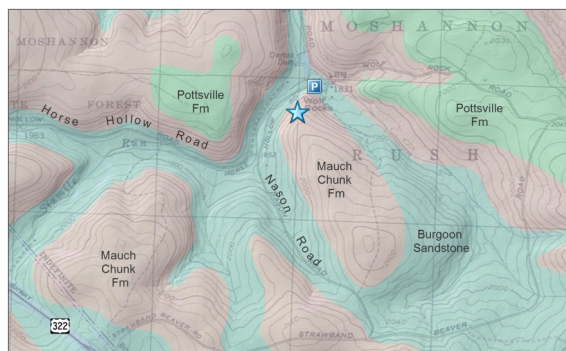
WOLF ROCKS, CENTRE COUNTY

Stuart O. Reese, 2016



Location

Moshannon State Forest, Wolf Rocks, Centre Co., Rush Twp.,
lat: 40.85957, lon: -78.11573 (parking); lat: 40.85863,
lon: -78.11767; Port Matilda 7.5-minute quadrangle



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Geology

Wolf Rocks is a picturesque outcrop of thinly layered, olive-colored calcareous sandstone. The rocks are Mississippian in age, about 340 million years old. The calcareous portion is known as the Loyalhanna Member (or Formation), which is thought to have been deposited in a shallow marine environment. Here it is mapped as part of the Mauch Chunk Formation. Other features at the outcrop, such as pits, small holes, and rounded edges, are evidence for long-ago dissolution of the rock by groundwater. Rock layers are commonly furrowed on the surface, showing more recent, preferential erosion of layers that have more calcium carbonate and less silica sand. Separate ledges of rock are divided by very widely spaced vertical joints. The site is located in the Allegheny Front section of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic province and situated on the nearly 42-mile-long Allegheny Front Trail. The Mauch Chunk Formation typically crops out in rugged mountainous areas.



Above: Surface weathering of thinly bedded layers of calcareous sandstone (fizzes in hydrochloric acid). Upper right: Dissolution of the rock formed a small tunnel (immediately right of rock hammer). Lower right: Allegheny Front Trail along the rock ledges at Wolf Rocks.

Recommended Reading

[Moshannon State Forest](#) web page of DCNR.

Published by the [Pennsylvania Geological Survey](#).



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