

North Woods Trail System

Pennsylvania contains about 17 million acres of forestland. Of this total, over two million acres are in the state forest system, which is publicly owned and managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. The Forbes State Forest comprises about 60,000 acres located in Westmoreland, Somerset, and Fayette Counties.

State Forests provide clean water, recreation, habitat for plants and animals, places to enjoy the tranquility of nature, and produce some of the most valuable timber in the world.

Trail information

Blue—shared-use trails that are maintained with a wider corridor and flatter tread for cross-country skiing. Open to non-motorized use.

Red—shared-use trails, usually with a narrower corridor and rockier tread. Open to non-motorized.

Yellow—trails open to **foot traffic ONLY** such as hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

This area contains many miles of maintained trails designed for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and equestrian use. Hiking trails are marked with red rectangles, except the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail which is marked in yellow. Ski trails are marked with blue rectangles, and snowmobile trails are marked with orange diamonds. The Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail is restricted to foot traffic only.

Because of the size of our land base, the Forbes State Forest provides a unique opportunity for dispersed low-density recreation that cannot be obtained from small forests or private ownership. Increasing recreational use is having a greater impact on our resources. It is the goal of the Bureau of Forestry to minimize conflicts among State Forest users, and to ensure that natural resources will be managed in an environmentally sound manner—now and in the future.

Summer Recreation

The most common recreational use of this area spring through fall is for hiking, mountain biking, hunting, exploration, and some equestrian use. Please note that tether lines must be used when horses are kept on site, and they may not be tied directly to trees or shrubs. Manure must be removed from all parking areas, and all designated motorized sites.

Winter Recreation

Winter enthusiasts come to the North Woods area to hike, cross-country ski, snowmobile, and snow shoe.

A warming hut is located along the Shafer Run access road, which contains a wood stove and picnic tables so you may dry out, warm up, eat lunch, or take a break. Overnight use of the warming hut is prohibited.

WINTER TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Do not walk on ski trails or permit pets to walk on trails.
- Do not ski on snowmobile trails, for the safety of both users.
- Be tolerant and respectful of other winter recreationists.
- Yield to faster skiers and snow-grooming equipment.

CAUTION
TUNNEL ROAD IS OPEN FOR USE BY MOTOR VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES. EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN USING THIS ROAD.

Locations & Addresses

- Shafer Run Warming Hut
1279 Shaffer Run Rd. Somerset, PA 15501
- Laurel Mountain Warming Hut
1120 Laurel Summit Road, Boswell, PA 15531

Camping Information

- Camping in the Forbes State Forest is restricted to backpack-type camping, except for a few designated motorized sites.
- Camping out of vehicles or campers is not permitted. Permits for camping are required only if campers stay more than one night at any campsite, or camp in a motorized site. All campers are encouraged to obtain a permit in case you are overdue or someone needs to reach you.
- Camp at least 100 feet from any stream or open water source;
- Camp at least 200 feet from and out of sight of roads and parking areas;
- Camp at least 25 feet from and out of sight of any trails;
- Keep field privies at least 200 feet from any water source;
- Pack out all trash;
- Gain permission for campfires from District Forester from March 1 thru May 25 and October 1 thru December 1.

Area closed to camping in the Laurel Mountain Division: The area east of Laurel Summit Road, and north of Weaver Road.

For More Information

Bureau of Forestry
Forbes Forest District 4
1291 Route 30, P.O. Box 519
Laughlintown, PA 15655-0519
Tele: (724) 238-1200 • Email: FD04@pa.gov
Website: <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov>

In the event of an emergency, contact a state forest employee or dial 911.
If you become lost: stop, stay calm, stay put, & dial 911.
The further you walk the longer it will take to find you.



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Revised August 2020

Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry

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North Woods Trail System

Legend

- Trail_Shared_Use
- Trail_Shared_Use_X_C_Ski
- Laurel Highlands Trail
- Contour Line
- Streams
- Forbes State Forest
-  Latrine
-  Parking
- State Highway
- Improved Gravel Road
- Administrative Road

Mtn. Streams Map

