

Roaring Run Natural Area

Located on the west slope of Laurel Ridge in Westmoreland County, the 3,593 acre Roaring Run Natural Area features a complete mountain stream protected within its watershed. Most of the area is wooded, with second and third growth forests. There are a few recently abandoned fields, and some old fields which have completely reverted to forest.

Roaring Run is formed by numerous springs near the summit of Laurel Ridge. The stream drops 1,220' in elevation, over a length of 5 miles, before ending at its confluence with Indian Creek in the village of Champion. Roaring Run is designated as a Wilderness Trout Stream (PFBC) and Exceptional Value Stream (DEP).

A history of repeated logging has caused the forest here to be quite varied in age and composition. Northern hardwoods can be found on northern exposures, valley bottoms, and in protected coves. On southern exposures and broad western faces of the ridge, a mixture of oak species occurs. Narrow bands of old-growth chestnut oak occur along rock breaks, left by loggers because of their poor quality and the difficult location.

Roaring Run was first completely logged in the early 1900's when a railroad was built along Indian Creek, to the town of Jones Mills by the Indian Creek Valley Railroad. This line was then extended to Kregar by the Blair Brothers Railroad Company. A tram road was built along Roaring Run by the Blair Lumber Company. There is no record of additional logging operations until the mid-1960's when a large area was clear-cut on Painter Rock Hill. After logging, the land was sold to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, then to the Commonwealth. Natural succession in this area will be allowed to occur, and the area will be maintained in a relatively undisturbed state.

Trail information

This area contains many miles of maintained trails designed for hiking and cross-country skiing. Combinations of these trails provide different loops to the user.

- **North Loop**—This 4.55 mile trail is located on the remains of old logging railroad grades and old skid trails.
- **Painter Rock Trail**—Points of interest along this 1.8 mile trail include abandoned fields reverting to forest, and a prominent rock break offering numerous vistas of the Roaring Run Valley.
- **Roaring Run Trail**—Located in the heart of the Natural Area, this 3.3 mile trail follows Roaring Run for most of its length. The main portion of the trail is located on an old logging railroad grade.
- **South Loop**—Most of this 1.9 mile trail is located on old logging roads and skid trails.
- **Birch Rock Trail**—This is a short trail of 0.7 miles, providing access to Birch Rocks Overlook. During the fall and winter months, the ski slopes at Seven Springs Resort are visible from the overlook.
- **McKenna Trail**—This 2.8 mile trail connects the parking lot at Route 31 to the heart of the Natural Area.

The trails are currently marked with blue and yellow blazes. Blue denotes trails maintained for cross-country skiing, while yellow denotes trails maintained for foot traffic only.

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

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

Blue/Yellow—those shown as blue/yellow on map are open to foot traffic only but maintained with a wider corridor and flatter tread for cross-country skiing,

Forbes State Forest

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.

Some additional information for the Roaring Run Natural Area:

- **Camping is prohibited.**
- **Access is limited to foot travel only. Mechanized, motorized, and other forms of travel are prohibited.**
- **Fuel wood cutting is prohibited.**
- **This area is a designated reptile and amphibian protection area.**

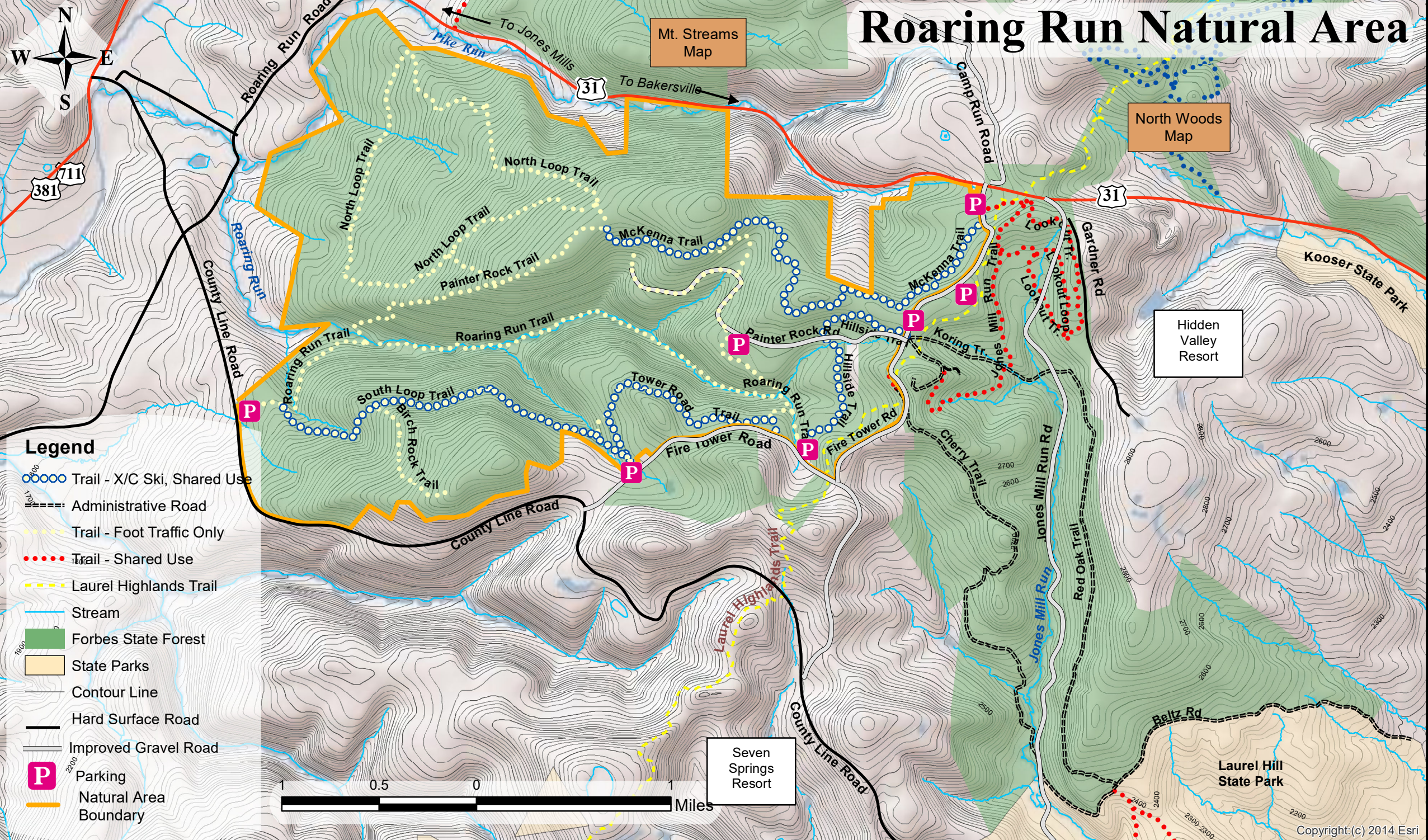
For More Information

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.



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- Legend**
- Trail - X/C Ski, Shared Use
 - Administrative Road
 - Trail - Foot Traffic Only
 - Trail - Shared Use
 - Laurel Highlands Trail
 - Stream
 - Forbes State Forest
 - State Parks
 - Contour Line
 - Hard Surface Road
 - Improved Gravel Road
 - Parking
 - Natural Area Boundary