

## Bureau of Forestry–Conserving Penn’s Woods



The state forest system is a “working forest.” Bureau of Forestry staff carefully manages the forest for a variety of uses and values, all while ensuring its sustainability.

### Ecosystem Management

The bureau has adopted “ecosystem management” as its principal strategy for managing state forests. This approach seeks to conserve the natural patterns and processes while advancing long-term sustainability. Ecosystem management promotes the conservation of plant and animal communities and the landscapes and habitats that support them. It also accounts for needs and values of people and communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Forestry is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the commonwealth’s forests and to conserve native wild plants.

### State Forest Management

The bureau manages state forests to provide a whole suite of uses and values, all while maintaining its wild character. State forests are managed for pure water, recreation, scenic beauty, plant and animal habitat, sustainable timber and mineral resources. State forest management is guided by the State Forest Resource Management Plan.

Mountain Laurel, Pennsylvania’s State Flower.

### A Working Forest

As you travel throughout the state forest, you’ll see examples of our forests “at work.” Some of these management practices are more noticeable than others, such as active timber harvests, deer enclosure fences, prescribed fires and gypsy moth spraying. Others are more subtle, such as the protection of a vernal pool, the buffering of a stream from timber harvesting, or the setting aside of a special area to conserve its wild character or protect a rare plant community. Each of these management practices and activities plays a vital role in the management and conservation of our state forest system.



The mark of responsible forestry

### Forest Conservation

The bureau’s role in forest conservation extends beyond state-owned lands. The agency is charged with protecting all of Pennsylvania’s forests from wildfire and damaging insects and diseases, and conserving and managing the state’s native, wild plant communities. The bureau, as the state’s lead forest conservation agency, promotes the knowledge of forestry and forest stewardship to other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industry and the general public.

### Help Conserve our Forests

As citizens, our actions help determine the future of our forests. To learn more about how you can help conserve Penn’s Woods, visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry).



## State Parks and Recreation Areas

### Greenwood Furnace State Park

Greenwood Furnace offers a full range of recreational activities around a 6-acre lake with a 300-foot sand beach. Interpretive programming at the park is centered on the former iron works community, which operated from 1834 to 1904.

### Penn Roosevelt State Park

Penn Roosevelt is an isolated area of Centre County known locally as the Stone Creek Kettle, and contains a small lake. Recreational opportunities include picnicking, fishing, hiking and tent camping on 18 rustic sites.



One of many vistas from the Mid State Trail.

### Trough Creek State Park

In 1936, this 541-acre park was carved from the former Paradise Iron Furnace Company tract of Rothrock State Forest by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Attractions include a large balanced rock, an ice mine and remnants of the Paradise Iron Furnace.

### Whipple Dam State Park

Whipple Dam is in the northeastern corner of Huntingdon County, 12 miles south of State College. Recreational opportunities include boating on 22-acre Whipple Lake, fishing, swimming, picnicking, cross-country skiing and hiking.

### Raystown Lake

Raystown is a 30-mile long, 8,300-acre reservoir operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir provides flood control, fisheries enhancement, water quality, and many diverse recreational opportunities. It is adjacent to the southern portion of Rothrock State Forest.

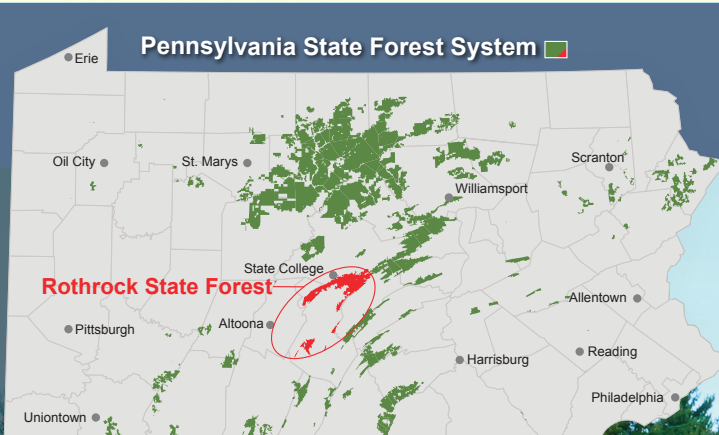
## History

Rothrock State Forest is named for Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock, a native of Mifflin County, who is recognized as the Father of Forestry in Pennsylvania. In 1895, Dr. Rothrock was appointed the first forestry commissioner to lead the newly-formed Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture. That agency evolved into the Bureau of Forestry within the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

By 1903, the forested area now known as Rothrock State Forest had been virtually stripped bare of trees to provide wood to make charcoal for locally operated Greenwood, Monroe and Pennsylvania furnaces. These furnaces were used to smelt iron—a major industry in the 1800s. When two of the Greenwood Furnace hearths closed in 1903, Dr. Rothrock was instrumental in helping the commonwealth purchase approximately 35,000 acres in Huntingdon County from the iron company. Other purchases followed until most of the Seven Mountains forest area became state land.

In 1933, newly-elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a work program for able-bodied and unemployed males. Approximately 93 resident work camps, each consisting of 175 to 200 young men, were built in Pennsylvania’s state forests. Six of these camps were located in present-day Rothrock State Forest. State forestry personnel planned and supervised work projects for the CCC, which included construction of roads, fire trails, workshops, park and picnic areas and tree planting and fire suppression. All CCC camps in the Rothrock State Forest closed by 1942.

Greenwood Furnace State Park is the site of a 19th century iron-making community.



### Forest District Headquarters

Rothrock Forest District  
181 Rothrock Lane  
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(814) 643-2340  
[FD05@pa.gov](mailto:FD05@pa.gov)

### Central Office

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Bureau of Forestry  
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Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552  
(717) 787-2703  
[PAForester@pa.gov](mailto:PAForester@pa.gov)

### Website

Visit [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry) for more information.

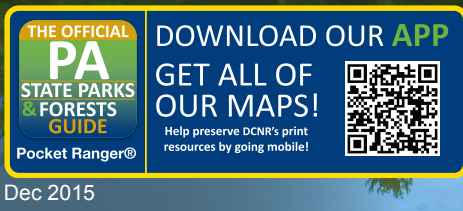
Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/PAForests](https://www.facebook.com/PAForests)

### For Your Safety

State forests belong to the people of Pennsylvania. Enjoy them, but take time to know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. To get a copy of State Forest Rules and Regulations, contact the district office or visit our website.

### In Case of Emergency

Call 911 for police, fire, ambulance and search and rescue.



## Welcome to Rothrock State Forest Map and Recreation Guide



## Recreation

### Hiking

Rothrock State Forest contains hundreds of miles of hiking and shared-use trails—112 miles are designated for “foot traffic” only, marked by either yellow or orange blazes—180 miles of shared use trails open for hiking, biking and horseback riding are marked with red blazes. Not all shared-use trails are equally accommodating for equestrian use.

### Mid State Trail

The Mid State Trail, stretches 326 cross-county miles from Green Ridge State Forest in Maryland to a spur of the Finger Lakes Trail in New York. About 56 miles of this trail cross Rothrock. The mountain- Standing Stone Trail. It connects the Tuscarora Trail at Cowans Gap State Park with the Mid State Trail at Greenwood Furnace State Park. The trail follows scenic ridgelines in Huntingdon, Mifflin

### Standing Stone Trail

Rothrock State Forest includes roughly 17 miles of the 72-mile-long Standing Stone Trail. It connects the Tuscarora Trail at Cowans Gap State Park with the Mid State Trail at Greenwood Furnace State Park. The trail follows scenic ridgelines in Huntingdon, Mifflin



The coldwater trout streams of Rothrock State Forest draw fishermen from across the nation.

### Horseback Riding

Horses may be ridden on all state forest roads and on shared-use trails. Equestrian activities are not permitted on hiking-only trails, on the Mid State, Standing Stone Trail or in Natural Areas. Some trails are not suitable for riding due to limited clearance and steep or rocky terrain. belong to the citizens of Pennsylvania, and are there for you to use, enjoy and explore.

Rothrock State Forest is part of Pennsylvania’s extensive 2.2 million-acre state forest system, managed by DCONR’s Bureau of Forestry. Twenty state forests are located in 50 of the commonwealth’s 67 counties and comprise 13 percent of Pennsylvania’s total forest land. State forests are vast and remote, representing one of the unparalleled scenic beauty and boundless recreational opportunities. They offer views, unusual geologic formations and glimpses into the history of Pennsylvania’s colliery, lumbering and brick-making industries. Maps and trail guides are available online from the Standing Stone Trail Club, Inc., at [www.standingstonetrail.org](http://www.standingstonetrail.org).

awe-inspiring vistas, extensive network of hiking trails and intriguing centuries-old hemlocks and rhododendron. Rothrock is known for its Chestnut oaks and mountain laurel grow on many of these ridges. In the bottom lands, can be found cool, clean streams shaded by

typify the Ridge and Valley region of the Appalachian Mountains. Rothrock’s acres lay across the rugged, rock-strewn ridges that Centre and Mifflin counties.

commemoration. He is recognized as the “Father of Forestry” in Pennsylvania. Rothrock comprises 96,250 acres in Huntingdon, a native of Mifflin County and the Commonwealth’s first forestry

Rothrock State Forest is named for Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock,

Mountain, Standing Stone Trail, on Stone and Jacks mountains, also offers several great views.

### Mountain Biking



Rothrock has become one of the premier mountain biking areas in the country. Trail riding ranges in difficulty from easy to extreme, from gently sloping roads and logging roads to rocky ridge-top trails and steep side-hill climbs. A number of organized rides are held each year in the forest.

### Motorized Trails

No trails are open to all-terrain vehicles within Rothrock State Forest. Visit our website for more information on riding opportunities elsewhere within the state forest system.

### Snowmobiling

Rothrock offers about 200 miles of roads and trails for snowmobiling. Some trails are better suited for these activities than others. The Coleman, Stone Creek, Alan Seeger, Pine Hill, Galbraith Gap and Kepler Road trailheads are plowed for winter access. Visit our website for more information on riding opportunities within the state forest system.

### Cross-Country Skiing

All of Rothrock’s trails are open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, but many are not suited to these uses due to steep terrain. Contact the district office for trail conditions and suitability.

Other significant vistas are along the Mid State Trail on Tussey

County line. The view overlooks the State College area.

Vista atop Tussey Mountain along Route 26 at the Centre/Huntingdon County line. The view overlooks the State College area.

### Sightseeing

Vistas or scenic overlooks are a major attraction for many forest visitors. The best known and most easily accessible in Rothrock is Jo Hayes Lake and motor-boating on the expansive Raystown Lake.

Boating opportunities abound in the area, from canoeing or kayaking the population of large striped bass.

The Juniata River and its branches provide outstanding warm water fishing, particularly for smallmouth bass. Raystown Lake is noted for its regulations.

### Fishing and Boating

The area in and around Rothrock provides many fishing opportunities. Various coldwater trout streams, notably the Little Juniata River, Spruce Creek and Standing Stone Creek, flow through the forest. Special

permitted throughout the forest.

Hunting for deer, turkey, grouse, squirrels, rabbits and black bears is a popular use of the forest during designated seasons. Other than a few safety zones around buildings and picnic areas, hunting and trapping are

brochures available at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/camping/index.aspx) district office. Further guidelines and ethics can be found in our camping

### Picnicking

Rothrock State Forest has two state forest picnic areas. The Pine Hill picnic area is along Diamond Valley Road, northwest of Petersburg.

are the last remaining remnants of the camp. This picnic area has four pavilions, picnic tables, grills, toilet facilities, proximity to hiking trails and fishing in Standing Stone Creek.

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horse camping and has a series of trails leading from the site.

Motorized campsite No. 8, in the Trough Creek area, is best suited for

observing wildlife. Located on the slopes of Terrace Mountain above Raystown Lake, these 1,744 acres protect the aesthetics of this popular recreational area while providing additional opportunities for hiking and

### Trough Creek Wild Area

Natural areas.

Mountain surrounds the Detweiler Run and Bear Meadows extensive, undeveloped area of mixed-oak forest. Thickhead

### Thickhead Mountain Wild Area

A short drive from State College, these 4,138 acres provide an excellent view of the mountain landscape. Thickhead Mountain surrounds the Detweiler Run and Bear Meadows extensive, undeveloped area of mixed-oak forest. Thickhead

### Rocky Ridge Natural Area

Rocky Ridge is in Huntingdon County, south of Martin Gap. Its 114 acres of rich, mixed-oak woodland support numerous native wildflowers among exposures of Onkany sandstone and limestone.

### Detweiler Run Natural Area

Detweiler Run is in Huntingdon County, south of Martin Gap. Its 114 acres of rich, mixed-oak woodland support numerous native wildflowers among exposures of Onkany sandstone and limestone.

### Little Juniata Natural Area

Located at a water gap in Tussey Mountain, this 682-acre Natural Area is of specific geologic interest for its talus slope of hard, white, Tuscarora sandstone and a horizontal thrust fault.

### Bear Meadows Natural Area

Bear Meadows is in Centre County, 4 miles south of Boalsburg. This Natural Area contains 896 acres surrounding a fern wetland. Black spruce, red spruce

### Alan Seeger Natural Area

Alan Seeger includes 371 acres north of Greenwood Furnace State Park. A loop trail winds along Standing Stone Creek, through rhododendron patches and under stands of towering eastern hemlock, white pine and yellow birch.

generally extensive tracts managed to protect the forest’s wild character and provide backcountry recreational opportunities.

A trip to the Trough Creek area can also be rewarding to the scenic vista and scenic observation, protect special plant and animal communities and conserve outstanding examples of natural beauty. Wild areas are

Natural areas set aside to protect unique or unusual biologic, geologic, scenic and historical features or to showcase outstanding examples of the state’s major forest communities. Natural areas are “managed” by for scenic observation, protect special plant and animal communities and provide backcountry recreational opportunities.

## Wild and Natural Areas

Bear Meadows is recognized as a National Natural Landmark. Viewing of wildlife and songbirds while minimizing impact on the habitat and balsam fir border large areas of highbush blueberry. Good trails allow

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Visitors may encounter active timber harvests on state forest land. Harvesting trees provides sustainable wood products for society while enhancing habitat and overall forest health.



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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