Pennsylvania’s vast state forest system holds 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Bureau of Forestry manages these forests to ensure their long-term health and to conserve native wild plants. Rothrock State Forest comprises 96,956 acres in Huntingdon, Centre and Mifflin counties.

The Rothrock State Forest is named for Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock, a native of Mifflin County and the Commonwealth’s first forestry commissioner. He is remembered as the “Father of Forestry” in Pennsylvania.

Rothrock’s acres lay across the rugged, rock-strewn ridges that typify the Ridge-and-Valley Region of the Appalachian Mountains. Chestnut oak and a mix of pine, maple, and birch with, what can be dense, patches of mountain laurel grow on many of these ridges. In the bottom-lands, you’ll find cool, clean streams shaded by centuries-old hemlocks and rhododendron. Rothrock is known for its awe-inspiring vistas, extensive network of trails and intriguing natural areas.

The Rothrock State Forest comprises 96,956 acres in Huntingdon, Centre and Mifflin counties.

The recreational trail system around the Galbraith Gap, Shingletown Gap, and Tussey Mountain areas of the Rothrock State Forest are very diverse and serve as a recreational “hotspot” due to its proximity to State College and easy access. You can be hiking or biking on several trails within minutes of entering the state forest.

The trail system in this area is very unique in that you can hike/bike almost an endless number of trail loops ranging from less than one mile to 40 plus miles. Many of the trails lead across rugged mountain ridges that offer great views while others stay in the bottomlands and meander along stream corridors. Trail hiking and biking range in difficulty from easy to extreme and can challenge even the most seasoned trail users.

Several trails pass through the Wild and Natural Areas of the state forest which provide an opportunity to explore unique ecosystems and habitats such as the bog located within the Bear Meadows Natural Area.

The trails in this region, and many other regions, of our state forest are very well maintained by local volunteers and recreation groups. Without the hard work of our enthusiastic and devoted volunteers, the trails would not be in the excellent condition they are in today. Please be sure to respect the trails and do your part to ensure their future use. Remember, these trails belong to everyone.

The trail system surrounding Galbraith Gap, Shingletown Gap, and Tussey Mountain Areas

Trail System Surrounding Galbraith Gap, Shingletown Gap, and Tussey Mountain Areas

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Trail Blazers

A blaze is a marking, usually painted, to reassure the trail user that they are indeed following a trail and not a skid road or deer trail.

Blaze markings direct travel by their marking arrangement (see blaze example below). Blaze colors will vary for different trail uses and what type of activity is permitted on the trail.

Yellow = Indicates a hiking trail (foot only)
Red = Indicates a shared-use trail
Orange = Indicates a state forest hiking trail (foot only)

Continued Straight

Right Turn

Left Turn

Caution

End of Trail

Remember

Only use trails that permit your recreational use.

Care for the Land

State forests belong to all Pennsylvanians. Take time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free, do not damage trees and other plants, and observe but do not disturb wildlife.

For more information

Rothrock State Forest
Forest District #5
181 Rothrock Lane
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643-2340
FD05@pa.gov
www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Certified “Well Managed”

Pennsylvania state forests are certified to FSC® standards. The Forest Stewardship Council® is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world’s forests.

iConservePA

To learn more about the state’s natural resource: and what you can do to help protect and enjoy it, log onto iConservePA.org.

Volunteering

To become a Conservation Volunteer and help maintain trails on the Rothrock State Forest, sign up today at www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us and complete an online application.