Pennsylvania's vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provides opportunities and training for economically disadvantaged young adults.

The Michaux State Forest is pleased to provide this four mile cross-country ski trail for public recreational use. This trail was designed and laid out by Gary “Smoke” Zimmerman. He was employed on the Michaux State Forest from 1970 to 2009, serving for 39 years and retiring as Assistant District Forester.

“Smoke” Zimmerman, who passed away in May 2011, was a life-long woodsman with a passion for experiencing the opportunities to be found in the forest. He understood that developed facilities were necessary to encourage the public to discover the wonders of the Michaux State Forest and he dedicated his career to providing recreational opportunities for a variety of activities. This cross-country ski trail is an example of his efforts.

Zimmerman supervised the PA Conservation Corps (PCC) as they constructed this trail system in 1985. Along with the bulldozer operator from the Bureau of Forestry, the PCC provided manpower and materials for the construction of the trails.

PCC, a state funded program administered at that time by the Department of Environmental Resources, provided job opportunities and training for economically disadvantaged young adults.

The wide trail is composed of interconnecting loops in both cleared and forested settings. There are level sections and some moderate grades. Motorized vehicles are prohibited on the Zimmerman Cross-Country Ski Trail.

In addition to this trail, skiers are welcome to use the hundreds of miles of roads and woods trails interlacing the Michaux State Forest when snowfall is suitable. Caution is emphasized as a skier may encounter motorized vehicles such as SUVs, logging trucks and snowmobiles on these other roads and trails.

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 and don’t damage trees and other plants.

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 resources and what you can do to help protect and enjoy them, log onto iConservePA.org.

Pennsylvania’s vast state forest system comprises 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.

Michaux State Forest comprises 85,000+ acres in Adams, Franklin and Cumberland counties.

For more information
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Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources