Thunder Mountain Equestrian Trail (TMET)

Equestrian riders can access the 53-mile TMET from the Gas Well Camping Area or Dark Hollow Camping Area on Belle Draft Road, or the day use trailhead on East Hicks Road. The day use area lies approximately 3.75 miles from route 555. The trail consists of various loops, and has red 2” X 6” rectangular blaze and numbered intersections to guide users. Watch for hikers, mountain bikers, and other equestrian riders on the trail.

Trail and Camping Information (State Forest)

- All riders must remain on the marked trail system. TMET trail markings consist of red 2” X 6” rectangular blazes with occasional bike, bike, horse symbols and numbered intersections.
- Group rides or commercial activities on state forest lands require agreements. Contact the District Office for more information.
- Campsites may be available on state forest lands. Contact the District Office for more information.
- Campers must be self-contained and on pad sites.
- Carry-in, Carry-out all trash, including fire ring trash.
- At state forest camping sites all horse waste, including manure, must be taken with you.
- Horses must remain on designated pads while camping. Hitching rails are provided to tie your horse.

General Information for both agencies

- Please stay on the trails or designated routes, open riding is not permitted.
- No Facilities for Horses at Elk Country Visitor Center.
- Trailhead parking lots are for day use only.
- Potable water is not available.
- Approach wildlife cautiously, never get too close, keep your distance.
- Injuring, destroying or causing damage to property, real, personal or mixed is prohibited.
- Please cross-tie your horses to prevent damage to trees.
- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- Riding a non-motorized, conveyance or animal on trails open to foot traffic only is prohibited.
- Removing or attempting to remove any man-made or natural object is prohibited, except wildlife and fish lawfully taken. Objects that may not be removed include animals, rocks, minerals, sand and historical or archaeological items.
- Selling, distributing, delivering, guiding or renting any equipment, material or commodity; or otherwise transacting or engaging in any commercial activity is prohibited. Such activity is when a person directly or indirectly accepts consideration of value as compensation for the provision of goods or services, including transportation.
- Small open fires for cooking or warming are permitted except when the Fire Index Rating used by the Bureau of Forestry, DCNR, is high, very or extreme. Fires must be contained and tended at all times.

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.

The Elk State Forest comprises 217,000 acres in Cameron, Elk, Potter, McKean, Clinton, and Clearfield Counties.

Care for the Land

State forests belong to all Pennsylvanians. Take time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to conserve the forests. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free and don't damage trees or 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.

State Forest Lands

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