Harrison Lookout, in Leonard Harrison State Park, provides a
spectacular view of Pine Creek Gorge—otherwise known as the
“Pennsylvania Grand Canyon.” The gorge is in the Deep
Valleys section of the Appalachian Plateaus physiographic
province, and from the overlook, one can see the section’s
characteristic very high relief and deep angular valleys. A
similar view can be seen from Colton Point, a mile to the
northwest on the opposite side of the canyon.

It is about 800 feet from Harrison Lookout to the valley floor,
and the distance to the opposite ridge is approximately 4,700
feet. Sandstones and shales of the Catskill Formation dominate
the slopes; the Lock Haven Formation occurs at the bottom of
the gorge.

Pine Creek originally took a northeasterly drainage course. As
ice moved into the area, glacial lakes developed from the
blocked stream flow. This allowed water to erode through what
used to be a watershed divide and change the flow direction of
the stream.

Recommended Reading

Colton Point State Park web page of DCNR.
Leonard Harrison State Park web page of DCNR.

Published by the Pennsylvania Geological Survey.