

# Tiadaghton State Forest in a Day

## *Conserving Penn's Woods*

### Tiadaghton District Office



Located just north of Waterville, PA along State Route 44 in the historic Pine Creek Valley, the Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center has several interpretive displays to educate the public about Pennsylvania's native flora and fauna and the history of forest management from the 1800s through the current century. Many of the displays are interactive and provide learning opportunities for people of all ages.

The building is the headquarters of the Tiadaghton Forest District where all district foresters, rangers, technicians, and other staff are based.

### Interpretive Displays

The Tiadaghton District Office has an Interpretive Center with several displays depicting aspects of the local forest environment, the Bureau of Forestry's ecosystem management approach to sustainable forestry, and the logging history of the Pine Creek Valley.



### Pine Creek Rail Trail



The Pine Creek Rail Trail covers 62.6-miles in north-central Pennsylvania running from Jersey Shore to Wellsboro. Along the route, the trail passes through the heart of the Pine Creek Valley and the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania" through forests, rich farmland and historical villages.

### Hiking the Forest



The Tiadaghton Forest boasts many beautiful scenic hiking trails. Many pass vistas that allow grand views of the Pine Creek Valley. Two of the most popular trails are the Golden Eagle and the Black Forest. The Golden Eagle Trail is a nine mile loop with several vistas including the breathe-taking view from the Raven's Horn. The rugged Black Forest Trail is a 42 mile loop popular with backpack campers.

### Primitive Camping



There are lots of opportunities for primitive camping in the Tiadaghton Forest. Black Walnut Bottom, just south of Slate Run and Bonnell Flats, just south of Ramsey, have fire rings, picnic tables and restrooms. There are several other camp sites with limited amenities. Many roads in the Forest are open for motorized camping, but there are no electric, water, or sewage hook-up sites. Backpack camping is allowed on several trails including the challenging and beautiful Black Forest Trail and the Mid-State Trail as it winds through the Tiadaghton.

### Cross Country Skiing



The Pine Creek Rail Trail is open for cross country skiing when the snow cooperates. There are several popular ski trails along State Rt. 44 above Haneyville: the Pitch Pine Loop, George and Ruth Will trails, and the Sentiero DiShay & Pine Bog Loops. Maps are available at the Tiadaghton Center.

## Fishing Pine Creek



The Pine Creek is one of the premier cold water fisheries in the PA Wilds. The PA Fish and Boat Commission stocks brown and rainbow trout for the spring season each year. Two feeder streams, Slate Run and Cedar Run are designated as special regulation delayed harvest streams. Both runs boast plenty of mature native brook trout. The lower stretches of Pine Creek are excellent smallmouth bass waters. Whether bank fishing, wading, or fishing from kayaks or canoes, the Pine Creek offers beautiful mountain views and an excellent fishing experience.

## Hunting in the State Forest



Pennsylvania's 2.2 million-acre state forest system is open to public hunting. Hunters can find everything from small game hunting to true backcountry wilderness experiences on state forest lands. The Tiadaghton has many roads open for hunting access and there are three Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) areas. Management acreages that have been fenced to exclude deer are also open to hunters. Gates are placed in all deer exclosures and hunters are encouraged to enter these areas to harvest those deer that are expert fence climbers. And don't neglect the turkeys. The Tiadaghton is a haven for these wily game birds.

## Canoeing and Kayaking



Canoeing Pine Creek has a long history dating back to the Native Americans. European settlers used the stream for transportation and most of our first towns started on the banks. Today Pine Creek is a favorite destination for kayak and canoe adventures, particularly in the spring when the water is high from snow melt and spring rains. The summer months see lots of tubers floating down the creek on hot, sultry days.

## Pine Creek Logging History



The Tiadaghton Forest has many remnants of the logging era. Many hiking trails follow historical log slides cut into the mountains with pick and shovel. The logs were dragged down the slides by horses to temporary splash dams on the small creeks feeding Pine Creek. In the spring of year the dams would be opened or 'splashed' and the logs floated down Pine Creek to the Susquehanna River and on to the lumber mills of Williamsport. The log slide era lasted from the early 1800's until the invention of the Shay locomotive in 1880. The Shay locomotive engine opened vast areas of the forest to logging during the turn of the century.

## Resource Management



The overarching goal of state forest management is to manage the state forests sustainably under sound ecosystem management, to retain their wild character and maintain biological diversity while providing pure water, emphasizing opportunities for dispersed recreation, habitats for plants and animals, sustained yields of quality timber, and environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources. Management of state forests is guided by Penn's Woods, the Bureau's strategic plan and the State Forest Resource Management Plan. Timber harvesting in the Tiadaghton forest, as well as all other forest districts, operates sustainably in accordance with the guidelines set by the Forest Stewardship Council.



### More Information

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