Elk State Forest at a Glance

District Office

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District Facts

➢ Named for vast numbers of elk that formerly inhabited the area
➢ Wild, reintroduced elk are thriving and can be viewed throughout the district, particularly near Benezette.
➢ Elk State Forest consists of over 217,000 acres of mixed oak and northern hardwood forest.
➢ Features the Elk Country Visitor Center and Elk Scenic Drive
➢ Elk State Forest is part of the Pennsylvania Wilds, a nearly two million-acre wilderness spread over 13 Pa. counties.

Hiking

➢ 17 notable trails featuring the 34-mile Bucktail Path connecting Sizerville and Sinnemahoning
➢ 17 miles of the Quehanna Trail traverse Quehanna Wild Area.
➢ The 4.6-mile Fred Woods Trail features boulders and scenic vistas.
➢ Pine Tree Trail is a 1.75-mile, self-guided interpretive trail.

*S* trial maps available at district office

Camping

➢ Backpack/primitive camping is permitted throughout the state forest.
➢ Equestrian camping area is offered near the 53-mile Thunder Mountain Equestrian Trail
➢ Please follow Bureau of Forestry guidelines for all types of camping.

Sightseeing

➢ View wild elk at Hicks Run Wildlife Viewing Area and Elk County Visitor Center.
➢ 5 scenic vistas are found within miles of Square Timber Wild Area.
➢ View fall foliage of mixed oak and northern hardwoods on hundreds of miles of improved dirt roads and drivable trails.

A bull elk bugling

Hunting

➢ Big game opportunities include elk, deer, bear, and turkey.
➢ Small game opportunities include grouse, squirrels, rabbits.
➢ Hunting is permitted throughout district forest.
➢ Please obey all hunting regulations, avoid hunting in marked safety zones.

Equestrian camping site, north of Benezette
**Winter Activities**

- 23 miles of dedicated cross-country ski trails are offered.
- Ice-fishing and ice-skating opportunities can be found on East Branch Clarion River Lake and George B. Stevenson Reservoir (conditions permitting).
- 100 miles of snowmobile trails are offered (contact forest district for trail information).

**Other Recreation**

- Mountain biking is permitted on most roads and trails except designated natural areas and hiking trails.
- Wayside Memorial Picnic Area can be found just off State Route 120.
- Whitehead Pavilion off Ridge Road in eastern Cameron County offers picnic tables with a scenic vista nearby.

**Wild and Natural Areas**

- The 50,000-acre Quehanna Wild Area is a vast wilderness of mixed oak and northern hardwoods.
- The 8,461-acre Square Timber Wild Area features deep valleys and steep ridges.
- Johnson Run, Lower Jerry Run, and Pine Tree Natural Areas are noted for their old-growth hemlock forests.

**Fishing**

- Excellent trout-fishing opportunities are found throughout the district.
- Popular streams are Sinnemahoning Creek, Hicks Run, Hunts Run, Brooks Run, and Cowley Run.
- East Branch Clarion River Lake holds walleye, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, brook, lake, rainbow, and brown trout.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.

**More Information**

For more information, contact:

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