

Gallitzin State Forest at a Glance

District Office



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District Facts

- Named for “Prince-Priest of the Alleghenies”, Dimetrius Augustine Gallitzin
- Comprised of 24,183 acres of mixed hardwoods
- Found in Somerset, Bedford, Cambria, and Indiana counties
- Part of Laurel Highlands and Allegheny Mountains

Hiking



- The John P. Saylor Trail is an 18-mile double loop trail, southern loop traverses the Clear Shade Natural Area.
- The 26-mile Lost Turkey Trail begins at Babcock Picnic Area in Somerset County.
- The Bog and Boulder Trail spans an upland bog and designated Wild Plant Sanctuary.
- The County Line Trail is a 10-mile shared-use trail east of Ogletown.
- The Clark Run Trail tours the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area.

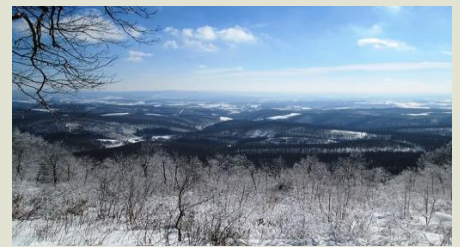
Camping

- Primitive backpack camping (at undeveloped sites) is permitted throughout the state forest; a permit is required to camp for more than one night at one location (please follow Bureau of Forestry guidelines).
- There are no developed or motorized campsites within the district forest.
- A special permit is needed for parties of more than ten.



Sightseeing

- A scenic vista can be found on Rager Mountain overlooking Indiana County.
- Two overlooks near County Line Trail offer views of Blue Knob and Bedford County.
- A vista off Clark Run Trail reveals the beautiful Conemaugh River Gap.
- An interesting geological feature called Wolf Rocks can be observed while hiking the John P. Saylor Trail.



The view from a County Line Trail vista

Hunting

- Big game opportunities include deer, bear, and turkeys.
- Small game opportunities include squirrels, rabbits, and occasionally, grouse.
- Hunting is permitted throughout state forest; please obey all regulations.



Turkey hunting success

Fishing

- Excellent cold-water fishing opportunities can be found on Clear Shade Creek near Ogetown and on Laurel Run north of Johnstown.
- The Conemaugh River south of the Charles F. Lewis Natural Area offers good bass and panfish fishing.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.



Rainbow trout

Wild and Natural Areas

- Wild and Natural Areas are designated to protect areas of high biologic, scenic, cultural, and historical value.
- The 384-acre Charles F. Lewis Natural Area features the scenic Clark Run Gorge, boasting small waterfalls and unique geology.
- The Clear Shade Wild Area, south of route 56, is a 2,791-acre wilderness dominated by cherry, maple, and beech trees.



John P. Saylor Trail

Winter Activities

- The district maintains 18 miles of snowmobile trails in the Babcock forest area and nine miles on the Rager forest area. Contact the district office for maps.
- Most trails/roads are open to cross-country skiing, although skiing is not advised on snowmobile trails for safety.
- 7 miles of trails are maintained for cross-country skiing in the Babcock forest area, offering three classes of difficulty.



Snowmobile trail grooming machine

Other Recreation

- Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted on most forest roads and trails.
- Picnic facilities are offered at Babcock State Forest Picnic Area, east of Windber.
- Blue Knob, Canoe Creek, Laurel Ridge, Prince Gallitzin, and Yellow Creek state parks offer camping, boating, and swimming opportunities.

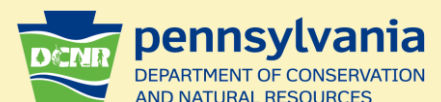


More Information

For more information on Gallitzin State Forest contact:

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www.dcnr.state.pa.us