Buchanan State Forest at a Glance

District Office

Address:
25185 Great Cove Rd.
McConnelsburg, PA
17233-8204

Phone: (717) 485-3148

FAX: (717) 485-9283

Email: FD02@pa.gov

District Facts

- Named for 15th U.S.
  President James
  Buchanan
- Comprised of 71,638
  acres
- Found in Franklin,
  Fulton, and Bedford
  counties
- Part of Ridge and Valley
  Region of Pa
- Predominantly mixed-
  oak forest type

Hiking

- Over 206 miles of trails within
  forest district
- Mid-State and Tuscarora trails
  are designated hiking trails.
- Standing Stone Trail connects
  Mid-State and Tuscarora trails.
- Much of the trail network
  traverses picturesque Tuscarora
  and Tussey mountains.

Maps are available at district office.

Sightseeing

- Scenic vistas can be found on
  Blankley, Martin Hill, Bark,
  Tower, and Fisher Roads; and
  along Route 915.
- Historical features like CCC
  camps, a saltpeter mine, and
  pre-Civil war era cemeteries
  are found in the district.
- Touring the district forest to
  observe brilliant fall foliage is
  annually popular.

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).
- Motorized camping is available
  at nearby Cowans Gap and
  Shawnee state parks.

Hunting

- Game opportunities include
  deer, bear, turkey, squirrels,
  rabbits, and grouse
- Hunting is permitted
  throughout state forest; please
  obey all regulations.
- 1,357 acres on Sideling Hill
  are designated for disabled
  hunter access.
### Fishing

- Excellent cold-water fishing opportunities can be found on Big Cove, Oregon, Little Aughwick, and Town creek.
- A delayed harvest area is designated on Big Cove Creek.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.

### Winter Activities

- 12 miles of trails are maintained for cross-country skiing.
- The district maintains 93 miles of snowmobile trails (for map, contact district office or download from web).

### Wild and Natural Areas

- Martin Hill Wild Area consists of 11,676 acres of explorable wilderness and features two natural ponds.
- Sweet Root Natural Area is 1,526 acres and features remnants of old-growth hemlock as well as second-growth oak.
- Pine Ridge Natural Area is a depression-era resettlement land featuring natural regeneration of Virginia pine and oak-hickory forest.

### Other Recreation

- Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted on most forest roads and trails.
- Picnic facilities are offered at Bear Valley, Sideling Hill, Sweet Root, and Blankley picnic areas.
- Cowans Gap and Shawnee state parks offer boating, swimming, and fishing.

---

**For more information on Buchanan State Forest contact:**

James S. Smith  
(717) 485-3148  
FD02@pa.gov

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)