

Pinchot State Forest at a Glance

District Office



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District Facts

- Named for Gifford Pinchot, revered Pennsylvania forester and conservation hero.
- Covers 48,504 acres.
- Found mostly in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties
- Part of Pocono Plateau
- Oak, hickory, beech, and cherry are common species.

Hiking



Pinchot Trail

- The 26-mile, easy to moderate difficulty Pinchot Trail winds through the Thornhurst Tract.
- The 8-mile Mocanaqua Loop Trail passes scenic vistas and interesting mining relics.
- The Black Diamond Trailhead gives access to the D&L Trail, which is suitable for leisurely walks and bike rides.
- Moon Lake Recreation Area offers easy hikes for viewing abundant wildlife.

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.
- Primitive camping on several islands is offered on the North Branch Water Trail on the Susquehanna River.
- Motorized camping is available at 18 designated sites.



Sightseeing

- An observation deck at Pine Hill provides a panoramic view of the Pocono plateau.
- The Seven Tubs Recreation Area features unique waterfalls.
- Touring the district forest's 16+ miles of gravel roads to observe brilliant fall foliage and wildlife is very popular.



Pine Hill vista

Hunting

- Game opportunities include deer, bear, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, and grouse.
- Hunting is permitted throughout state forest; please obey all regulations.
- DMAP permits are periodically available in certain areas of the forest district.



Fishing

- The Lehigh River is renowned for trophy trout fishing.
- Harvey's Creek is a popular stocked stream.
- Wild, native brook trout are abundant in Choke, Painter, Panther, and Sand Spring creeks, as well as Butler Run, Spring Run, and Laurel Run.
- PA Fish and Boat Commission regulations apply.



Native brook trout

Winter Recreation

- A 28-mile snowmobile/cross country ski trail opens after deer season concludes.
- Snowmobile loading areas can be found at the Manny Gordon Recreation Area and the intersection of Pittston and Bear Lake roads.
- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are permitted on state forest roads.



Riders enjoying snowmobile trail



Wild and Natural Areas

- Wild and natural areas are set aside specifically to protect unique natural and historical features in Pennsylvania's state forests.
- The 87-acre Spruce Swamp Natural Area features native evergreens like spruce, balsam fir, and tamarack.
- It also features rare plants like Labrador tea and bog rosemary.



One of many waterfalls in Pinchot district

Other Recreation

- Mountain biking and horseback riding are permitted on most forest roads and trails. The Moon Lake Recreation Area has 18 miles of designated mountain biking trails.
- Kayaking and canoeing access is available off River Road and both north and south of where Bear Lake and River roads intersect.
- Picnic facilities are found at the Pinchot Trail trailhead and at Manny Gordon, Moon Lake, and Seven Tubs Recreation Areas.



More Information

For more information on Pinchot State Forest, please contact:

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