## Pinchot State Forest at a Glance

### District Office

**Address:**
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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.

### 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.

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.

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.

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.

For more information on Pinchot State Forest, please contact:

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