Pennsylvania’s vast state forest system comprises 2.2 million acres for you to use, enjoy and explore. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Bureau of Forestry manages these forests to ensure their long-term health and to conserve native wild plants.

The Pinchot State Forest comprises 50,000 acres and serves Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wyoming, and Wayne Counties.

For more information

Pinchot State Forest
Resource Management Center
Forest District #11
1841 Abington Road
North Abington Twp., PA 18414
(570) 945-7133
FD11@PA.gov

Certified “Well Managed”

Pennsylvania state forests are certified to FSC® standards. The Forest Stewardship Council® is an independent organization supporting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world’s forests.

Care for the Land

State forests belong to all Pennsylvanians. Take time to enjoy them, but know the rules and regulations designed to protect the forests and you. Please be careful with fire, keep our forests litter free and don’t damage trees and other plants.

Leave No Trace

By taking the time to practice responsible outdoor ethics we can ensure that our state forests remain premier destinations for generations to come.

Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a great way to enjoy the beauty of the Pinchot State Forest. The variety of trails and terrain offers challenges for all skill levels.

DO’S AND DON’T’S OF TRAIL RIDING

DO...

• Know your route and bring a map
• Tell someone where you’re riding
• Avoid riding alone
• Know your physical limits
• Stay on established trails

DON’T...

• Build jumps, ramps, or other obstacles
• Build new trails
• Use trails when conditions aren’t favorable including springtime thaw or wet weather

Moon Lake Recreation Area

This roughly 700-acre gem is located in Plymouth Township, Luzerne County. Its peaceful and tranquil setting draws many visitors. Popular recreational activities include mountain biking, camping, fishing, picnicking, and bird watching. The diverse forest and field habitats are both scenic and boast an array of plant and animal life.

Camping

There are 12 rustic campsites in the Moon Lake Recreation Area. A permit is required and is free of charge. For more information on camping contact the Resource Management Center.

Fishing and Boating

Fishing and ice fishing are popular on Moon Lake, which is stocked annually with trout. Boating is allowed but gas-powered motors are prohibited. All PA Fish & Boat Commission regulations apply.

Pinchot State Forest

The Pinchot State Forest is named in honor of former PA Governor and state forester Gifford Pinchot. Pinchot was a visionary of forest management whose considerable influence on President Theodore Roosevelt helped spark a national awareness of responsible forestry practices and conservation. The district’s approximately 50,000 acres blanket many of the mountains near the confluence of the Susquehanna and Lackawanna Rivers. Pinchot State Forest land is distributed over several unattached tracts including Thornhurst, Harvey’s Creek, Crystal Lake, Mocanaqua, Seven Tubs, Deep Hollow, Montage, Elmhurst, and Moosic Mountain.

State Forest Recreation Area Rules

• Camping is prohibited, except in designated campsites with a valid camping permit.
• Construction of new trails, without the authorization of the District Forester is prohibited.
• Visitors shall park only in designated parking areas.
• The use of chainsaws is prohibited.
• Fires are limited to the metal fire rings located at the campsites and pavilions.
• Removal or destruction of tables, fireplaces or any other Commonwealth property is prohibited.
• The discharge of firearms, fireworks, and explosives is prohibited.
• Hunting within Camping and Recreation Areas is prohibited.