

North Woods Trail System

Pennsylvania contains about 17 million acres of forestland. Of this total, over two million acres are in the state forest system, which is publicly owned and managed by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry. The Forbes State Forest comprises about 60,000 acres located in Westmoreland, Somerset and Fayette Counties.

State Forests provide clean water, recreation, habitat for plants and animals, places to enjoy the tranquility of nature, and produce some of the most valuable hardwood timber in the world.

TRAIL INFORMATION

This area contains many miles of maintained trails designed for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, and equestrian use. Hiking trails are marked with blue rectangles, except the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail which is marked in yellow. Ski trails are marked with red rectangles, and snowmobile trails are marked with orange diamonds. The Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail is restricted to foot traffic only.

Because of the size of our land base, the Forbes State Forest provides a unique opportunity for dispersed low-density recreation that cannot be obtained from small forests or private ownership. Increasing recreational use is having a greater impact on our resources. It is the goal of the Bureau of Forestry to minimize conflicts among State Forest users, and to ensure that natural resources will be managed in an environmentally sound manner – now and in the future.

SUMMER RECREATION

The most common recreational use of this area spring through fall is for hiking, mountain biking, hunting, exploration, and some equestrian use. Please note that tether lines must be used when horses are kept on site, and they may not be tied directly to trees or shrubs. Manure must be removed from all parking areas, and all designated motorized sites.



WINTER RECREATION

Winter enthusiasts come to the North Woods area to hike, cross-country ski, snowmobile, and snow shoe.

A warming hut is located along the Shafer Run access road, which contains a wood stove and picnic tables so you may dry out, warm up, eat lunch, or take a break. Overnight use of the warming hut is prohibited.

WINTER TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Do not walk on ski trails or permit pets to walk on trails.
- Do not ski on snowmobile trails, for the safety of both users.
- Be tolerant and respectful of other winter recreationists.
- Yield to faster skiers and snow-grooming equipment.

CAUTION

TUNNEL ROAD IS OPEN FOR USE BY MOTOR VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES. USE CAUTION WHEN USING THIS ROAD.

PARKING/REST ROOMS

Please see the map for the location of parking areas. Rest room facilities can be found at the warming hut, and at the Rt. 31 parking lot during the winter months. You must pack in potable water.

CAMPING INFORMATION

Camping in the Forbes State Forest is restricted to backpack-type camping, except for several designated motorized sites. Camping out of vehicles or campers is not permitted. Permits for camping are required only if campers stay more than one night at any campsite. All campers are encouraged to obtain a permit in case you are overdue or if someone needs to reach you. Campers must:

- ◆ Camp at least 100 feet from any stream or open water source;
- ◆ Camp at least 200 feet from and out of sight of roads and parking areas;
- ◆ Camp at least 25 feet from and out of sight of any trails;
- ◆ Keep field privies at least 200 feet from any water source;
- ◆ Pack out all trash;
- ◆ Not have campfires when wildfire danger is high.

FOREST DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

Bureau of Forestry
Forbes Forest District 4
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Pennsylvania
Bureau of Forestry

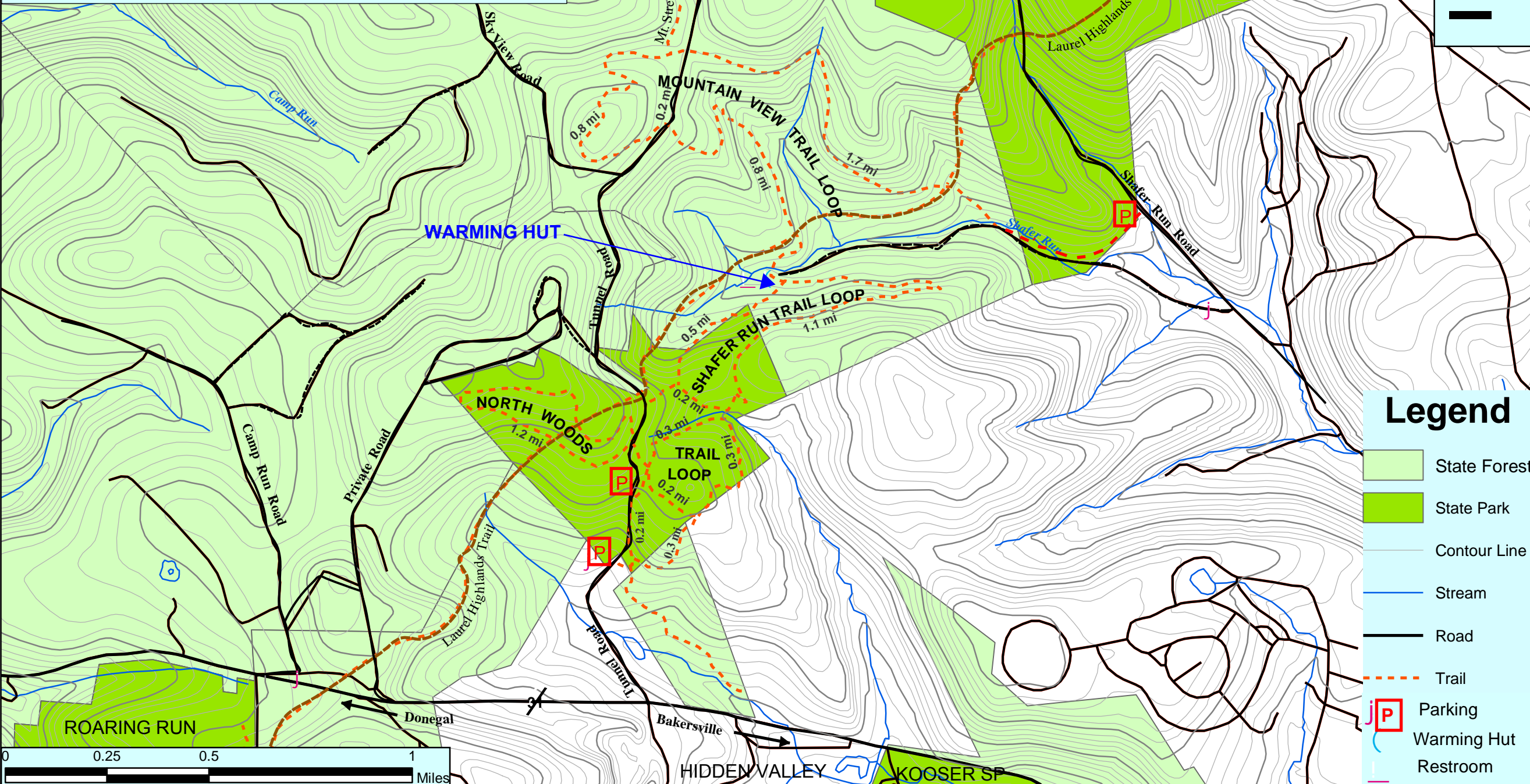
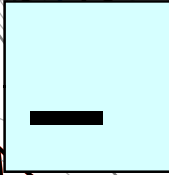
Forbes State Forest

NORTH WOODS
TRAIL SYSTEM



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Edward G. Rendell, *Governor*
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Michael DiBerardinis, *Secretary*
Visit us @ www.dcnr.state.pa.us
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North Woods Ski Touring Area



Legend

- State Forest
- State Park
- Contour Line
- Stream
- Road
- Trail
- Parking
- Warming Hut
- Restroom

