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 Loyalsock State Forest comprises 115,000 acres in Sullivan, Lycoming and Bradford counties.

The Bridle Trail

The bridle trail consists of two 25-mile loops, referred to as the East Loop and the West Loop, each beginning and ending at the trailhead along World’s End Road (SR 3009). Horseback riders will find that both of the 25-mile loops offer many hours of excellent riding through a wide variety of landscapes and forest types and conditions. The trailhead contains a small shelter, parking areas and poles for your horses to lie down under. During the winter months, the trailhead is utilized by both snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. The year-round use of this area means everyone must exercise good judgment, common courtesy and concern for the trail’s environment.

The East Loop

The East Loop uses a mixture of logging roads and State Forest Roads. For the most part, it follows a gently rolling route until it enters the Shanerburg Run valley at the far eastern end of the loop. The stream is a native wild trout stream and is recognized as an “Exceptional Value Waterway”. The stream and its surrounding forestland provide one of the most scenic areas along the trail and deserve special care and consideration. In its upper reaches, Shanerburg Run meanders through a number of grassy meadows. Horses can easily damage the stream banks in this section and should never be ridden or lead to the stream to drink. Camping with horses is not permitted here. The trail goes in and out of the Shanerburg Valley twice within a few miles, changing elevation about 700 feet. The Loyalsock Canyon Vista, along the Cold Run Road, offers an excellent view of the Loyalsock Valley and the “S” shaped curve that marks the location of Worlds End State Park.

Exercise caution where the trail follows State Forest Roads. Ride in single file on the edge of the road, with traffic, and always be aware of approaching motor vehicles, especially on “blind curves”.

Horses are not permitted on the Loyalsock Trail, except where designated. The trail is shown on map for your convenience. The LT is marked with:

- or -
- and -
- or -
- and -

Be cautious of other users, such as mountain bikes or cross country skiers. Be courteous at all times.

Camping Guidelines

While camping with horses you must take extra caution not to damage the environment. Motorized camping with horses is limited to the Bridle Trailhead. Primitive camping with horses along the trail is discouraged.

Do not tie horses directly to trees. Chewing or rubbing bark can injure or kill trees. Utilize the high lead poles at the campground or stake your horses so that they cannot reach the trees.

Rules of the Trail

Ride only on the designated horse trail. The standard trail marker is the international horse-back trail symbol, a brown triangle with the white picture of a horse and rider. These markers are supplemented with 2 x 4 inch rectangular red blazes. You will also see a combination of red and blue blazes where the horse trail shares its use with the cross country ski trail.

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