Rough Hill Trail

This footpath begins at the Sandy Bottom Stream Access along Loyalsock Creek. The trailhead and parking area is conveniently located just off State Highway 87 between Barbour and Hillsgrove about 17 miles north of the Montoursville/87 exit of I-180.

This trail is 1.9 miles round trip and is marked with yellow rectangular blazes. It initially follows Sandy Bottom Road along the scenic stream bottom amongst towering trees before turning right and crossing 87. Please use caution crossing the road.

Hikers will then begin the ascent of Rough Hill. Although this is a relatively short hike, there is 580 feet of elevation gain and some rocky and rough sections. Upon reaching the first bench on the mountain there will be a side trail leading to the lower vista. Showcasing the grandeur of the mountains, it offers an excellent view of the creek and across to Camp Mountain and Scaite Knob. Be careful at the vistas during wet or icy conditions. After enjoying the view return to the main path and continue to a split in the trail where a short loop trail is found. Follow it in either direction and it will eventually return you to this point.

Upon reaching the top of the mountain you will be rewarded with the upper vista. This magnificent view looks down the Loyalsock Valley with the distinctive Smith Knob drawing your attention. State Game Lands 134 on Cove and Camp Mountains are also visible. The remainder of the loop will bring hikers past cliffs, boulders, and rock slopes. After returning to the split in the trail follow the path back down to the parking area. Be careful and enjoy your hike!

Loyalsock State Forest

The Loyalsock State Forest, located in Sullivan, Lycoming and Bradford Counties is a valuable part of Pennsylvania’s 2.2 million acre State Forest system. It receives its name from the Loyalsock Creek, which winds for over 60 miles through the forest district.

The Loyalsock State Forest contains about 115,000 acres, characterized by high plateaus and ridges cut with numerous deep stream valleys. Northern hardwood tree species, such as birch, beech and maple associated with black cherry, white ash, tulip-poplar and hemlock, fill the forest. The beauty of these hardwoods, combined with the spectacular topography provides for a diversity of forest based recreational opportunities. Under the provisions of the forest’s Resource Plan, forest managers integrate this recreational potential with the increasing demand for sustained yields of high quality water, beneficial wildlife habitat, and valuable wood products. These requirements, not only depend heavily on scientific expertise, but demand the full cooperation of all forest users.

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.

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.

iConservePA

To learn more about the state’s natural resources and what you can do to help protect and enjoy them, log onto iConservePA.org.

For more information

Loyalsock State Forest Resource Management Center Forest District #20
6735 Route 220
Dushore, PA 18614
(570) 946-4049

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 Bradford, Lycoming and Sullivan counties.