

Hillsgrove Ranger Station

Welcome to the Hillsgrove Ranger Station of the Loyalsock State Forest. This 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 black cherry, white ash, tulip-poplar and hemlock associated with birch, beech and maple, fill the forest. The beauty of these hardwoods, combined with the spectacular topography provides for a diversity of forest based recreational opportunities. The area surrounding the Ranger Station is quite beautiful and abounds with natural features such as numerous waterfalls and scenic vistas.

A Look into the Past

CCC Camp 96

Following the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt proposed government programs to get people back to work. The Civilian Conservation Corps began in 1933 with an act of Congress and employed young men to do conservation work including fighting fires and planting trees as well as building campgrounds, parks, roads, trails, and swimming areas.

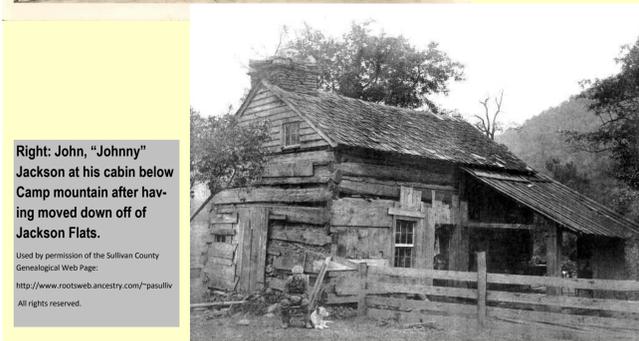
Pennsylvania had the second highest number of CCC camps in the nation with a total of 113, one of which was located right here. The 317th Company was located here at S-96-PA and consisted of 195 men from Philadelphia. The camp existed from 1933 through 1936 and completed many important projects, the highlight of which being the road to the High Knob Overlook. This project alone took 6,723 man days of work! In addition to this camp there were five others located in what is now the Loyalsock State Forest. The CCC's were responsible for much of the infrastructure you will enjoy on your visit.

Jackson Flats

John Jackson and his family came from England in the mid-1800s and homesteaded briefly on the flats just below High Knob. The family went without a door to their cabin their first winter and had to drag a log behind their wagon while descending the mountain to keep it from overtaking the horses. Eventually the Jacksons relocated to a cabin near the mouth of Huckle Run at the base of Camp Mountain. One can only imagine the difficulty of surviving on a remote mountain after having come from a city in England.



Left: CCC Camp 96. The CCC was responsible for much of the infrastructure you will enjoy on your visit, including Dry Run Picnic Area and the road to High Knob Overlook.



Right: John, "Johnny" Jackson at his cabin below Camp Mountain after having moved down off of Jackson Flats.

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Hillsgrove

Hillsgrove was named for John Hill, an early settler of the area who also built and operated a sawmill in 1789. As with most villages, the area grew with the lumbering industry. Pines were the first to be cut out of the area, followed by hemlocks, which were sought for their bark to be used for tanning. The tanning industry prospered in Hillsgrove from the late 1870s to the early 1900s. Finally the hardwoods were cut out adding nearly two decades to the life of the industry in the area.

Charles Sones played a pivotal role in the history of the area. He was awarded the contract to cut the timberland of the Union Tanning Company, and operated a sawmill on Kettle Creek from 1902 to 1908. The Susquehanna and Eagles Mere Railroad ran past this sawmill village of Soneville and connected Eagles Mere to Hillsgrove. Sones eventually moved his operations to Masten and completed his contract in 1917. The Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company then purchased his interests and continued working in the area until 1930.

Loyalsock State Forest

Joseph Rothrock became the first Commissioner of Forestry in 1895. The then State Department of Forestry had 110,000 acres by 1900. These lands propagated forests and protected watersheds. The State Forest system continued to grow in the 1920s under Governor Gifford Pinchot, prior chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

Much of Loyalsock State Forest was purchased from the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company in the early 1930s following the great lumbering era. Through the efforts of the CCCs and early Forestry workers such as Frances McCarty, for whom McCarty Road is named, the State Forest has developed into an exceptional public resource.

Recreation

High Knob Overlook

Visitors come to High Knob in June to view the laurel in bloom and in early October to appreciate the vibrant fall colors. This inspiring overlook offers a view of nearly 25 miles extending over seven counties.

Loyalsock Trail

Having crossed Kettle Creek at mile twenty-five, the Loyalsock Trail passes Dutter's Run and Mary's View before arriving at Dry Run Road three miles above here. Continuing on it wraps around the base of High Knob passing the center point of the 59 mile trail. It then switchbacks to High Knob Road. The LT crosses Cape Run and passes through Split Rock before descending to the Ketchum Run Gorge where two waterfalls are located. It passes Lower and Upper Alpine Views as it climbs to Coal Mine Road.

District Hiking Trails

The Dutters, Jackson, High Knob, High Landing, Holtzauer, Jackson, Ketchum Run, Old Bark, Old House, and Stony Run Trails allow for an additional fourteen miles of hiking opportunities. From the interesting rock outcroppings of the Holtzauer Trail to the small pond on Jackson Flats these scenic trails offer an array of potential day hikes.

Recreational Trailhead

Located at the intersections of High Knob, Shanerburg, and World End Roads Roads (SR 3009), a recreational trailhead provides access to the Bridle Trail, Double Run Ski Trail, and The Fern Rock Nature Trail. The trailhead contains parking areas, latrines, and shelters. There is also a camping area for horseback riders with horses and trailers. In addition to providing access to the ski trail in the winter months, the area is also utilized by snowmobilers. The year-round use of this area means everyone must exercise good judgment, common courtesy and concern for the trail's environment.

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 Worlds End Road. 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 Bridle Trail follows the Old House Trail down to the Ranger Station and passes right here following High Knob Trail to the northeast.

Right: Alpine View. This spot on the LT looks up the Loyalsock Valley.



Left: Rode's Falls. Ketchum Run is designated as an exceptional value stream. This gorge is particularly stunning in the spring.

Double Run Ski Trail

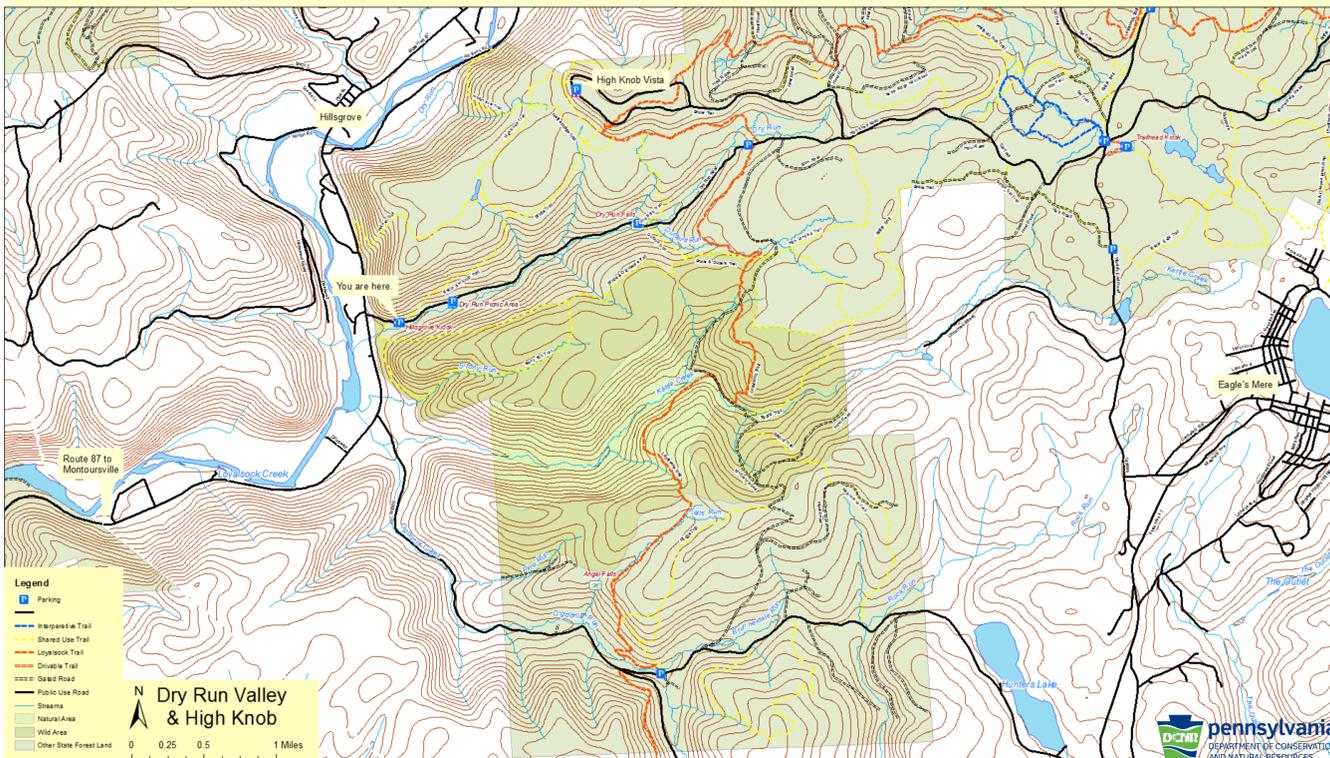
Approximately 14 miles of inter-connecting trails on the west side of Worlds End Road are situated in the "Coal Mine Area". For skier safety, Coal Mine Road is closed to vehicular traffic for most of the skiing season. East of the road, approximately 7 miles of trail located in the "Forest Inn Tract" are accessed from the back end of the snowmobile parking loop.

Fern Rock Nature Trail

The ferns and rocks of the area lend their name to this path. Located at the intersection of High Knob and Worlds End Roads this two-mile loop trail traverses flat but rugged terrain. Narrative guides are available that allow visitors to learn about forest ecosystems at the 31 stations along the trail.

Hunting

Hunting for deer, turkey, grouse, squirrels, and black bear is a popular use of the forest during designated seasons. The Hillsgrove Ranger Station also serves annually as a bear check station and is surrounded by excellent black bear habitat.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

HILLSGROVE RANGER STATION.....	570-924-3501
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTER.....	570-946-4049
PA STATE POLICE (NON-EMERGENCY)	
LAPORTE BARRACKS.....	570-946-4610
MONTROSVILLE BARRACKS.....	570-368-5700
FIRE.....	911
AMBULANCE.....	911
SULLIVAN COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER.....	570-946-5101
217 King Street, Laporte, PA	
MUNCY VALLEY HOSPITAL.....	570-546-8282
Rt 405, Muncy, PA	
MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.....	570-265-2191
91 Hospital Drive, Towanda, PA	
WILLIAMSPORT HOSPITAL.....	570-321-1000
700 High Street, Williamsport, PA	
POISON CONTROL CENTER.....	1-800-222-1222

STATE FOREST OFFICES:

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTER:

TER: Turn right on Dry Run Road and follow to Route 87. Turn right on Route 87. Go 9 miles then turn right on Route 154 in Forksville. Follow 154 9 miles to a "T" Turn right on Route 220 and go 1.5 miles. The RMC will be on your left. Open Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm. Phone: 570-946-4049

HILLSGROVE RANGER STATION:

You are here. Open Monday through Friday, 7am to 5pm, depending on location of field staff. Seasonal weekend hours from mid-April through November, generally 10am to 6pm. Phone 570-924-3501

Wear Orange for Your Safety

During Hunting Seasons

DCNR recommends wearing some bright clothing preferably orange for the months of October thru January and the month of May for your safety.

General hunting seasons are listed below. For specific dates contact PA Game Commission or go to www.pgc.state.pa.us

Deer:	Archery: 1st Sat in Oct thru 2nd Sat in Nov Muzzleloader: 3rd Sat thru 4th Sat of Oct Firearms (Senior & Youth): 4th Thurs thru 4th Sat in Nov Regular Firearms: 1st Mon after Thanksgiving for 2 wks, ending Sat evening Flintlock: Dec 26th thru 2nd Sat of Jan
Bear:	Archery: 3rd week of Nov (Mon-Sat) Firearms: Sat thru Wed before Thanksgiving Firearms (Special): same as 1st week of Reg Firearms For Deer season
Turkey:	Spring: month of May Fall: 1st Sat thru 3rd Sat of Nov and for 3 days beginning on Thanksgiving
Small Game (in general):	3rd Sat of Oct thru Sat after Thanksgiving and Monday after Reg Firearms Deer season thru 3rd weekend in Feb

RULES AND REGULATIONS

8130-FM-FR0092 1/09 TITLE 17. PENNSYLVANIA CODE, PART I. DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES Subpart C. STATE FORESTS

CHAPTER 21. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The provisions of this Chapter 21 issued under Section 313 of the Conservation and Natural Resources Act (71 P.S. § 1340.313); and the Crimes Code, 18 Pa.C.S. §§ 7505 and 7506, unless otherwise noted.

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

§ 21.1. Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

Camping—Overnight lodging using standard camping equipment.

Commercial activity—An activity in which a person, organization or association directly or indirectly accepts consideration of value as compensation for the provision of goods or services, including transportation.

District Forester—The Department's Bureau of Forestry employe so designated.

Group activity—An organized activity occurring as a scheduled event and requiring a large land area or unique land formation and which may conflict with normal or traditional uses or pose a potential environmental problem.

State Forest land—Land which is owned or leased by the Commonwealth and which is administered by the Bureau of Forestry.

§ 21.2. Scope. This chapter applies to State Forest land.

§ 21.3. Violations.

(a) A person is guilty of a summary offense under 18 Pa.C.S. § 7505 (relating to violation of governmental rules regarding traffic) if that person commits an act which is prohibited by § 21.21 (relating to motor vehicles).

(b) A person is guilty of a summary offense under 18 Pa.C.S. § 7506 (relating to violation of rules regarding conduct on Commonwealth property) if that person commits an act which is prohibited by this chapter other than those in subsection (a).

§ 21.4. Closure.

(a) Areas or portions of a State Forest or State Forest facilities may be closed or restricted to certain uses by the District Forester or a designee.

(b) The public will be informed of the closed or restricted areas or facilities by any form of communication, which may include posted signs, or by fencing or other enclosure manifestly designed to exclude intruders.

(c) Violation of the closure or restriction notices under subsection (b) is prohibited.

BOATING

§ 21.11. Use. All waters on State Forest land are open for the operation of watercraft unless posted as closed.

§ 21.12. Mooring and launching.

(a) Overnight mooring or storage of watercraft from November 15 through March 31 is prohibited except on lands leased from the Commonwealth. This prohibition does not apply to canoes, kayaks, rafts and other paddle-powered small boats stored overnight at the operator's campsite.

(b) The launching or mooring of watercraft on waters in State Forests requires the appropriate valid State Recreation Area Watercraft Permit issued at or amidst the appropriate right-of-way.

(c) A current Fish and Boat Commission number and certificate of watercraft registration permits daily launching only.

(d) The Department will establish a schedule of fees for mooring and launching permits. This schedule and any subsequent revisions will be effective upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

(e) Small, hand-carried boats, rafts and canoes may be launched from any point on the shoreline. Boats on trailers may be launched only at designated launch areas.

(f) Boat mooring is restricted to designated mooring areas.

§ 21.13. Motorized boats. Only electric motors may be used for propulsion of motorized watercraft.

MOTORIZED VEHICLES

§ 21.21. Motor vehicles.

(a) This section pertains to motor vehicles other than those addressed in §§ 21.22, 21.23 and 21.23a (relating to snowmobiles; trail bikes and other motorized off-road vehicles; and all-terrain vehicles).

(b) Operation of motor vehicles on State Forest land in the following manners is prohibited:

- (1) Operation of a motor vehicle in careless disregard for the safety of persons or property, or in excess of posted speed limits or, where no speed limit is posted, in excess of 25 miles per hour.
- (2) Driving on roads, trails or other areas not specifically designated and posted for motor vehicle traffic unless authorized in writing by the District Forester or a designee.
- (3) The use of State Forest roads for commercial purposes without a road use agreement from the Department. An individual or corporation whose property adjoins State Forest land is not required to obtain a road use agreement to use State Forest roads for incidental commercial purposes to make deliveries to the property.
- (4) Operating unlicensed, unregistered or uninspected motor vehicles on State Forest land.

§ 21.22. Snowmobiles.

(a) Snowmobiling is permitted in accordance with 75 Pa.C.S. Chapter 77 (relating to snowmobiles) and this section.

(b) Snowmobiles may be operated only on designated snowmobile roads, designated trails and designated and posted areas on State Forest land.

(c) Snowmobiles may be operated on State Forest land from the day following the last day of regular or extended antlerless deer season as established by the Game Commission through the following April 1, or earlier, as determined by the District Forester.

(d) Operation of snowmobiles on a road, trail or area not specifically designated and posted for snowmobile use or at any time of year other than that in subsection (c) is prohibited.

§ 21.23. Trail bikes and other motorized off-road vehicles. This section pertains to motorized off-road vehicles other than those addressed in §§ 21.22 and 21.23a (relating to snowmobiles; and all-terrain vehicles).

- (1) Trail bikes and other motorized off-road vehicles may be operated only on roads, trails or other areas that have been specifically designated and posted for their use.
- (2) Trail bikes and other motorized off-road vehicles may be operated only during the times of year authorized by the Department's Bureau of Forestry by posted signs.

§ 21.23a. All-terrain vehicles.

(a) The operation of all-terrain vehicles is permitted in accordance with 75 Pa.C.S. Chapter 77 (relating to all-terrain vehicles) and this section.

(b) All-terrain vehicles may be operated only on designated and posted roads, trails and other areas.

(c) All-terrain vehicles may be operated on State Forest land from the Friday before Memorial Day through the last full weekend in September, and from the day following the last day of the regular or extended antlerless deer season as established by the Game Commission through the following April 1.

§ 21.24. Spark arrestors. Operation of any motorized vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, trail bike or other motorized off-road vehicle in, on or through State Forest land without a fully functional spark arrestor is prohibited.

§ 21.25. Parking.

(a) Parking a motor vehicle, all-terrain vehicle, snowmobile, trail bike, other motorized off-road vehicle, boat trailer, camp trailer or other equipment which obstructs a gate, road, trail, footpath, bicycle path, access way, drinking fountain, entrance, exit or road turnaround on State Forest land is prohibited.

(b) A person may not park a vehicle in a parking area on State Forest land designated for handicapped persons, unless the vehicle bears a handicapped or severely disabled veteran registration plate or displays a handicapped or severely disabled veteran parking placard, in accordance with 75 Pa.C.S. § 13338 (relating to handicapped plate and placard), and the vehicle is operated by or for the transportation of a handicapped person or a severely disabled veteran.

(c) Violations of this section will be handled as follows:

- (1) Prior to the filing of a citation charging a summary offense under this section, the Department may issue a parking ticket, which will be handed to the violator or placed on the windshield of the violator's vehicle. The violator may avoid criminal proceedings by paying a fine to the Department, equivalent to the maximum fine as provided in 18 Pa.C.S. § 7505 (relating to violation of governmental rules regarding traffic), within 5 days of the violation in the manner specified on the ticket.
- (2) When a parking ticket has been issued, the Department may institute criminal proceedings only upon failure of the violator to pay the fine in accordance with the time limit specified in paragraph (1) and in the manner specified on the ticket.
- (3) When a parking ticket has not been issued, the Department may institute criminal proceedings by issuing a citation.

FOREST PRODUCTS

§ 21.31. Prohibitions. The following activities are prohibited:

- (1) Cutting, picking, digging, damaging or removing, in whole or in part, a living or dead plant, vine, shrub, tree or flower on State Forest land without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee, except that edible wild plants or plant parts may be gathered without authorization if they are gathered for one's own personal or family consumption. Dead and down wood for small campfires may be gathered without prior authorization.
- (2) Removing rocks, shale, sand, clay, soil or other mineral products from State Forest land without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee.
- (3) Removing peat, sawdust, bark, mulch or other products from State Forest land without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee.
- (4) Removing or disturbing historical or archeological resources from State Forest land without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee.
- (5) Planting a tree, shrub or plant of any kind without the written authorization of the District Forester or a designee.

§ 21.32. Designated trees. Only designated trees may be cut or removed.

§ 21.33. Cutting practices.

- (a) The stump heights of cut trees may not exceed the diameter of the stump or 12 inches whichever is smaller.
- (b) All tops and slash shall be removed 25 feet from streams, roads, trails and State Forest boundaries.
- (c) The blocking of drainage ditches, pipes and other structures with tops and slash is prohibited.

§ 21.34. Removal. The removal of fuel wood and other forest products from the forest by the use of tractors, skidders or any method other than hand carrying is prohibited without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

§ 21.61. Camping permit. Camping without a current camping permit issued by the District Forester or a designee is prohibited. Primitive backpack campers not using developed facilities do not need a permit if they stay no more than 1 night at any campsite.

§ 21.62. Open fires.

(a) Subject to the prohibition in subsection (b), small campfires are permitted only where adequate precautions are taken to prevent the spread of fire into the forest. All other fires are prohibited. Campfires shall be attended at all times.

(b) Open fires are prohibited when the forest-fire danger is determined by the District Forester to be High, Very High or Extreme and from March 1 through May 25 and from October 1 through December 1 without authorization from the District Forester or a designee. This prohibition does not apply to small self-contained camp stoves when used in a safe manner.

(c) A person causing a wildfire, in addition to possible criminal penalty, is liable for all damages, costs of extinction and fines.

§ 21.63. Hunting and trapping. Hunting and trapping on State Forest land are permitted in accordance with 34 Pa. C.S. (relating to Game and Wildlife Code) and rules and regulations, unless otherwise posted.

§ 21.64. Fishing. Fishing in waters on State Forest land is permitted in accordance with 30 Pa. C.S. (relating to Fish and Boat Code) and rules and regulations, unless otherwise posted.

§ 21.65. Target shooting. Target shooting with firearms, bows and arrows or devices capable of launching projectiles and causing injury to persons or property is prohibited except where authorized by the District Forester or a designee.

§ 21.66. Destruction of property. Damaging, defacing or removing any sign, structure, equipment or other material is prohibited.

§ 21.67. Posting and soliciting. Posting of signs or soliciting without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee is prohibited.

§ 21.68. Littering and disposal. Littering or disposal of garbage, paper, household refuse, waste or other material of any kind is prohibited.

§ 21.70a. Snow plowing. The plowing or removal of snow from State Forest land without authorization of the District Forester or a designee is prohibited.

§ 21.72. Closure because of fire danger.

- (a) If the forest-fire danger rating is Very High or Extreme, all or portions of the State Forest may be closed to certain specified uses.
- (b) Violation of a closure notice under subsection (a) is prohibited.

§ 21.73. Pets. Pets are permitted on State Forest land if they are kept under control and attended at all times.

§ 21.74. Disorderly conduct. The following are prohibited:

- (1) Fighting or other behavior that is threatening, violent or tumultuous.
- (2) The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age.
- (3) Creating an unreasonable noise that may disturb other visitors to State Forest land.

§ 21.75. Sanitation.

(a) Washing in water outlets, springs, lakes or waterways is prohibited.

(b) Discharging of trailer, camper or motor home sewage, sink water or bath water on or into ground or surface waters is prohibited.

§ 21.76. Feeding of wildlife.

(a) Feeding of wildlife, except for elevated songbird feeders of less than one-half bushel capacity, is prohibited on State Forest land from 30 days prior to the beginning of spring gobbler season through the end of flintlock muzzleloader deer season.

(b) Placing of wildlife feeders of more than one-half bushel combined capacity on State Forest land without the authorization of the District Forester or a designee, is prohibited.

§ 21.77. Commercial activity. Selling, distributing, delivering, servicing, guiding or renting any equipment, material or commodity or otherwise engaging in commercial activity on State Forest land without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee is prohibited.

§ 21.78. Group activities. Group activities are prohibited without written authorization of the District Forester or a designee.

§ 21.79. Structures. Building or erecting a structure or memorial, or engaging in construction or excavation activity, without written authorization of the Department is prohibited.

§ 21.80. Trespass.

(a) A person who violates this chapter or disregards instructions or warnings given by a State Forest officer or interferes with a State Forest officer in the performance of the duties of the officer may be ordered to leave State Forest land.

(b) A person who refuses to leave State Forest land, after receiving an order to leave from a State Forest officer, commits an act of criminal trespass under 18 Pa.C.S. § 3503(b) (relating to criminal trespass).