

Trails to the Haystack Rapids

There are several routes to travel to get to the final destination of the awesome Haystack Rapids:

1. The Haystacks Trail is blazed in yellow rectangles and leaves the western edge of the parking lot. It is the most gentle trail, however, there are still some relatively steep portions. When the trail intersects the RR grade, turn left and follow the grade to the emergency access road. At the bottom of the access road, at the stream's edge, follow the LT blazes to the rapids.
2. The Loyalsock Trail leaves the northern edge of the lot and descends down a steep and rocky slope. Following the blazed LT will take you away from the RR grade and along the scenic Loyalsock Creek.
3. An old unmarked road leaves the southeastern edge of the parking lot. It is steep, but relatively wide. In a short distance, it will link to the RR grade, where you will turn left then follow directions from (1) above.
4. Elderly hikers can be dropped off at the RR grade along Rt 220, but parking there is limited to persons with handicap placarded vehicles.

Regardless of which route you take, the last 500 feet is very rugged. Hikers need to take extreme caution due to slippery and rocky trail surface.

Please note that camping at the Haystacks is permitted, however, you must get a camping permit prior to your stay. Due to the fragile nature of the area, campfires are not allowed. Permits are issued free of charge at the Resource Management Center near Laporte (weekday hours 8:00am to 4:00pm), or by telephone. Please allow several days when permits are mailed.

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.



While visiting the area, please respect nature as well as the other visitors. Take only pictures and leave only footprints so that others may enjoy this work of nature as much as you have.

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

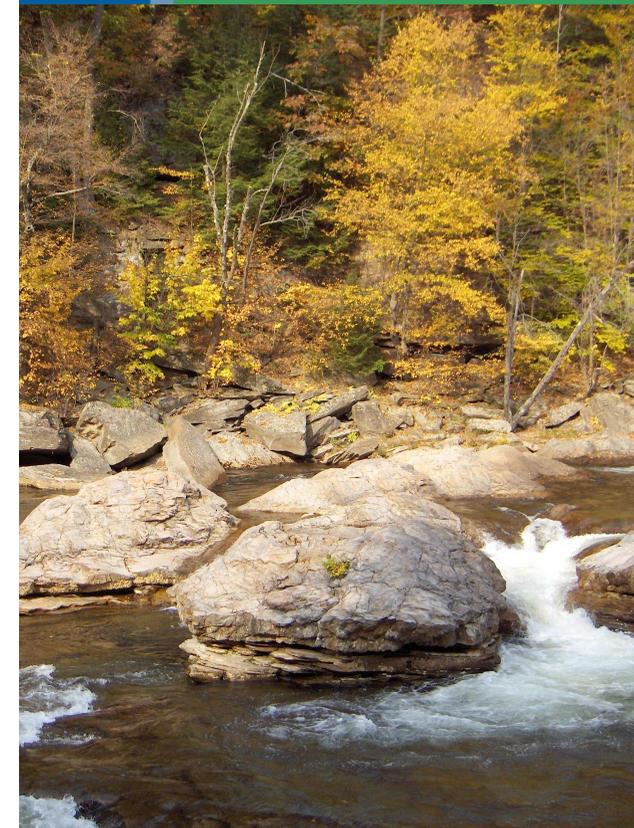
Loyalsock State Forest
Resource Management Center
Forest District #20

6735 Route 220
Dushore, PA 18614
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The Haystack Rapids

Loyalsock State Forest



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.



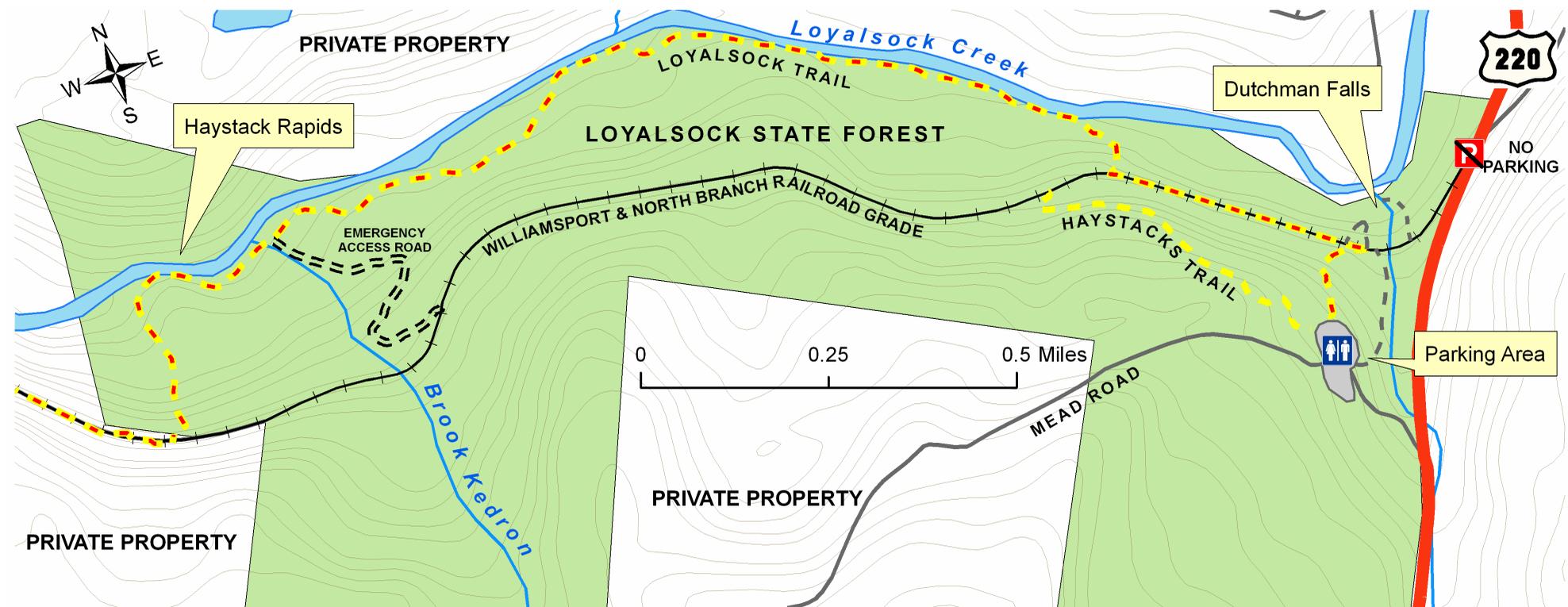
A Geologic Oddity

The Haystack Mounds and Haystack Associated Rocks continue to puzzle geologists. While most prominent at the Haystack Rapids, the associated rock formation can be found in Sullivan, Lycoming and Wyoming counties. This formation has not been located in any other part of the Appalachians, in fact, no similar formations have been found in the entire country.

Basically, this strata is located smack in the middle of the Huntley Mountain Formation (HMF). The HMF is a consistent sandstone found throughout the region. The sandstone was formed by the deposition of finely grained materials from ancient seas over a very long period of time. The HMF formation can be found underneath the Haystack formation and over top of it as well (except where the upper layers have been eroded away to expose the Haystack formation, such as in the Loyalsock Creek.)

Further analysis of the Haystack formation has led scientists to believe that the material that makes up the rock was deposited in a very abrupt manner, unlike the HMF formation which was formed very slowly. The grains which make up the rock are randomly oriented and are not bound together by clays, much unlike the HMF sandstone which have grains aligned with one another and are bound by fine clays. Also, the Haystack formation is not “blended in” to the HMF. It is distinctly separate. Studies have revealed that the Haystacks are made of a quartzitic sandstone with larger quartz and chert pebbles located throughout. The composition is very much different than the sandstones found in the HMF. This indicates that the material forming the Haystacks came from different source. There is no indication whatsoever that this rock formation was formed by volcanic activity, it is purely sedimentary.

What this all means is that it is most likely when the geologic process was forming what is now the subsurface of Pennsylvania, some large catastrophic event occurred that deposited this material here and nowhere else. Geologists can



only guess at what it might have been. A large tsumani in the ancient seas to the north? A huge meteor striking southern Canada and throwing debris to Pennsylvania? We will never really know, but it certainly makes us ponder on the great forces of nature that shaped our world!

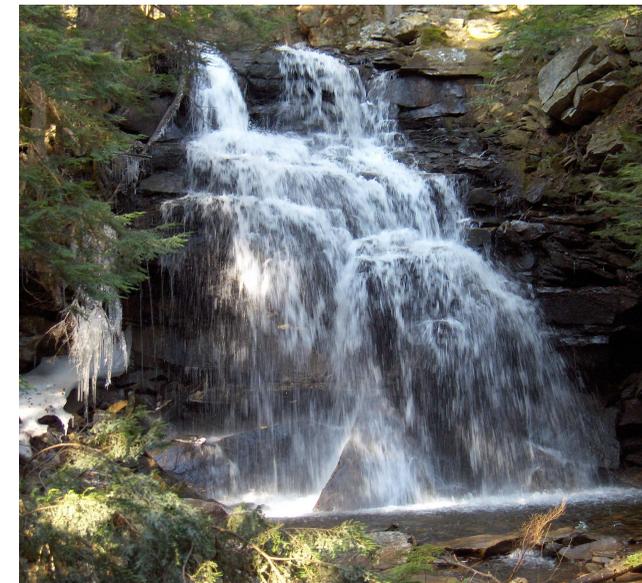
The Rapids and More!

The large Haystack boulders in the creek are much harder than the surrounding rock. Overtime, the stream has eroded away the sandstone, but the mighty Haystacks have remained as an obstacle to the waters of the creek. The moving water picks up velocity as it is squeezed through the narrow spaces between the boulders. The resulting rapids are a breathtaking display, especially in the springtime and after a period of heavy rain. Even during low flows, the shimmering boulders and crystal clear water are a site to behold.

During your visit, please be sure to stop by Dutchman Falls. This small stream drops suddenly over the bedrock to form one of the best waterfalls in the county. Just upstream from the falls where the stream passes under the railroad grade, be sure to check out the intricate work performed by the railroad workers. The bridge, constructed with hand cut and hand lain stone is truly a marvel. There are also several smaller hand-laid stone culverts along the railroad grade.

The Haystack boulders were a major obstacle to loggers at the turn of the century. Log jams as high as 3 stories were reported. The lumbermen attempted to blast the boulders to allow logs to move freely but the mighty Haystacks prevailed!

CAUTION must be taken at all times. The water is extremely swift and dangerous. Please keep young children away from stream's edge.



Dutchman Falls, second tier