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## CHAPTER 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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This section provides an overview of the culture in the region and examines the historical and current activities that define the rural character of the region. Included in this section is a summary of recreational opportunities available, environmental education efforts, and a historical overview.

### Recreation

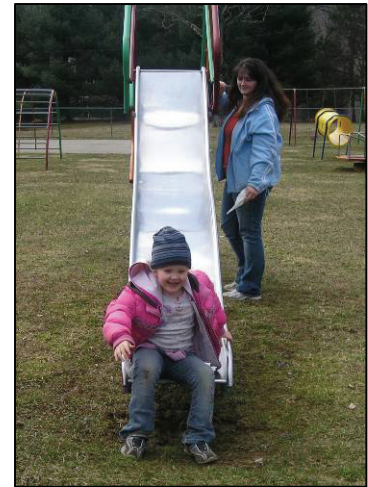
Anything that anyone does for amusement in his or her leisure time is recreation. In Pennsylvania, recreation is big business, ranked as the second-leading industry, and for some areas, the only industry. It brings in revenue from tourists who seek food, accommodations, and mementos of their visit. Recreation is not only beneficial to the local economy, it is a healthy endeavor. Based on findings from Panorama Recreation (2004) the benefits of recreational opportunities are:

- Active lifestyle essential to personal health
- Key to balanced human development
- Essential to a quality of life
- Reduces self-destructive and anti-social behavior
- Builds strong families and healthy communities
- Reduces health care, social services, police, and justice costs
- Significant economic generators
- Essential to ecological survival

As a part of the Pennsylvania Wilds region, this watershed is an asset, with a diversity of recreational opportunities that appeal to a wide range of potential visitors, as well as local citizens who reside in the region. A well-managed and balanced tourism industry is essential to protect the character of the region. Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team compiled a “design guide” to guide planning and development within the communities to incorporate and maintain the rural nature of the region. Copies of the guide are available through the Lumber Heritage Region.

Part of a well-managed and balanced tourism industry is to enhance a visitor’s experience without changing the local character of the region. Individual destination sites may attract visitors, but without infrastructure to support it, visitors may shorten trips, be unlikely to return, or not recommend the area to others. Restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and public restrooms accessibility and availability enhance visitors’ experiences.

To maintain a balanced tourism industry the local character of the region needs to be protected. Improved tourism infrastructure should enhance the visitor’s experience without altering the reason people are inclined to visit the Pennsylvania Wilds region in the first place—the “wild” natural resources. A balanced tourism industry supplies just the right amount of infrastructure to cover the demand without its character being modified. Area residents prefer the establishment of small locally-owned businesses, as opposed to chain franchises.



*Mother and daughter at Sterling Run playground*

## **Recreational Opportunities**

### **Parks**

Parks can be classified into five categories based upon size, service population, and intended use. Fifteen park sites have been identified and classified into these categories. Figure 5-1 displays park locations, while Appendix K highlights attributes of each facility.

State parks vary in size and amenities and often attract visitors from beyond the region and state. The purpose of state parks is to provide easily accessible outdoor recreational opportunities. Six state parks are available in the area for residents and visitors. They range in size from five-acre passive parks to 1,910-acre parks with campgrounds, swimming areas, and environmental education centers.



***Observation dome at Cherry Springs State Park that is available for rental***

***Cherry Springs State Park*** is a 48-acre park named for the large stands of black cherry trees. It is the only dark skies park—a place where artificial light is managed to preserve the night sky for astronomers—east of the Mississippi River. Recreational activities at the site include picnic area, campgrounds, mountain bike trails, and star gaze field. Four observation domes are available for rental at the park. For more information about observation dome rentals and star gazing rules please visit [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/cherrysprings/cherrysprings\\_darkskies.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/cherrysprings/cherrysprings_darkskies.aspx).

***Parker Dam State Park*** is a 968-acre wooded park with picturesque forest, swamp, and meadowlands. Recreation activities available include campground, beach area, trails, backpacking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, and snowmobiling, wildlife observation, lake for boating and fishing, and picnic areas. The park also features an environmental education center.

***Patterson State Park*** is a 10-acre park and trailhead for the Susquehannock Trail. It has two rustic picnic pavilions and primitive campground.

***Prouty Place State Park*** is a five-acre passive park that provides access for hunter, anglers, and hikers. There are no facilities at the park.

***Sinnemahoning State Park*** is a 1,910-acre park along First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek. It contains the 142-acre Stevenson Dam, and is home to a pair of nesting bald eagles. Recreational activities available include areas to camp, boat, fish, hunt, hike, ice fish, picnic, snowmobile, and observe wildlife.

***Sizerville State Park*** is a 386-acre park located along the border of Cameron and Potter counties. It is named for a historic logging boomtown and the earliest settlers in the region, the Sizer family. Recreational opportunities available include areas to camp, picnic, swim, fish, hike, hunt, trap, observe wildlife, cross-country ski, and snowmobile. An environmental educational center is located at the park near the office and pool.



***First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek from the bald eagle viewing area at Sinnemahoning State Park***

Larger parks are considered regional parks. These parks are located within 30 to 60 minutes from the population they serve. Cameron County Fairgrounds and Austin Dam Memorial Park are regional parks in the Sinnemahoning region.

***Austin Dam Memorial Park*** is a 76-acre memorial to the victims of the 1911 breach of the Bayless Dam, also referred to as Austin Dam. Remnants of Austin Dam, picnic areas, trails, and primitive campsites are available at the site.

Community parks are those within one to two miles of its users, and contain at least 25 acres. Playgrounds at local elementary schools available to the public, such as Bennetts Valley Elementary School and Austin Area School District, are examples of community parks.

Smaller parks, between five to 25 acres and within three-quarters of a mile of residents, are neighborhood parks. These parks intend to provide recreational opportunities close-to-home. Driftwood playground, Sterling Run playground, and Thunder Mountain Park are neighborhood parks.

Linear parks are the fifth park classification. Linear parks, sometimes referred to as ribbon parks, have trails for walking or bicycling. Bucktail State Park is one linear park located within the region.

***Bucktail State Park Natural Area*** is a 75-mile scenic drive along Route 120 from Emporium to Lock Haven. The route, although this state park is predominantly private property, it follows the Native American path of the “Old Sinnemahoning Trail,” and is named in honor of the Bucktails Civil War regiment.

#### *State Forests*

The first State Forest Land purchase occurred in 1898 with the intent to acquire and protect watershed following devastating logging practices and that resulted in fires of the late 1800s and early 1900s. In 1900, forest reservations were declared parks and outing grounds for the public. However, it was not until 1920 that any formal recreational areas were established.

State Forest lands provide a variety of recreational opportunities that include non-motorized and motorized activities. Non-motorized activities include camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, trapping, picnicking, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, boating, rafting, cross-country skiing, geocaching, and wildlife watching. Motorized activities include snowmobiling, off-road vehicle riding, and scenic driving.

Due to the variety of recreational opportunities, conflicts arise between impeding recreational activities, such as wildlife observation and use of off-road vehicles. Even hunters and hikers can clash. In efforts to minimize conflicts among users, some recreational activities are restricted to certain areas. For example, natural areas and keystone trails are not available for equestrian use while some trails are designed for equestrian use.

Within the project area, there are four State Forests—Elk, Moshannon, Sproul, and Susquehannock.

***Elk State Forest*** provides 198,000 acres of valuable forest resources, recreational opportunities, water supply, and wildlife habitat within Cameron and Elk counties. The majority of the forest is located within the project area. Named after the great number of elk in the area; it is the only place in Pennsylvania where free-roaming elk herds exist.

**Moshannon State Forest** is located south of the Elk State Forest in Clearfield and Elk counties. Home to the Quehanna Wild Area, Moshannon State Forest provides 187,000 acres of forestland for recreational, wildlife, and forest products.

Only a small portion of **Sproul State Forest** in Clinton County is located within the project area. The entire forest provides over 300,000 acres of forest resources to Pennsylvanians. It is the largest Pennsylvania State Forest.

**Susquehannock State Forest** is located in Potter County and the headwaters of First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek that contains Freeman Run. Most of the forestland is located within the project area providing over 260,000 acres of valuable forest resources. The name is derived from the Susquehannock tribe, which once inhabited the land in this region.

### Trails

Links among communities, trails provide alternative transportation, recreation, and educational opportunities. Activities utilized on trails include hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, ATV riding, snowmobiling, cultural and historic cultivation, and environmental education. In addition to the numerous state park and state forest trails identified in Appendix K, there are three well-known trails in the region.



**Quehanna Trail near the Parker Dam Trailhead**

**Susquehannock Trail** is an 85-mile trail that loops around the Susquehannock State Forest with varying degrees of difficulty. The trail is a state forest trail maintained by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and volunteers from the Susquehannock Trail Club.

**Quehanna Trail** is a 75-mile trail that loops around Moshannon and Elk State Forests. It begins at Parker Dam State Park, the trail passes through the Quehanna Wild Area, Sinnemahoning, and the Marion Brooks Natural Area. DCNR and volunteers from the Quehanna Area Trails Club maintain the trail.

**Bucktail Path** is a 34-mile trail that travels through Elk State Forest from Sizerville State Park to the village of Sinnemahoning. DCNR and volunteers from the Keystone Trails Association maintain the trail.

**Elk Trail** is a 19-mile trail that provides opportunities to view wildlife. Parking is available on Dents Run Road approximately two miles north of Route 555.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and snowmobile use is a popular recreational activity. An off-road vehicle, off-highway vehicle, or ATV is any motorized vehicle capable of cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. A snowmobile is an engine-driven vehicle designed to travel over snow or ice with an endless belt track or tracks, is steered by a ski or skis, and has an overall width of 48 inches or less. The use of ATVs and snowmobiles is on the rise, and the improper or illegal use by some has given this activity a bad reputation.

DCNR, along with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, regulates the use of ATVs and snowmobiles according to Chapter 77 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Law. In 2001, Act 68 modified the law that requires ATV owners and operators to register their vehicles. Snowmobile registration is required with DCNR. In

addition, snowmobiles in Pennsylvania purchased after October 23, 2001 must have a title issued by DCNR. Older snowmobiles do not require a title until transferred to a new owner. ATV and snowmobile registration fees are used to finance efforts to develop and maintain trails on public lands, encourage trail development on private lands, teach safety and riding etiquette, and for law enforcement.

Recreational areas for snowmobile use are more available than those for ATVs. Public facilities for the exclusive use of ATVs are needed in the Sinnemahoning region. It is illegal to ride ATVs on state game lands, except by disabled hunters. West of Sinnemahoning Creek watershed, the Allegheny National Forest offers more than 70 miles of trails for riders. Environmentally sound public trails or an ATV park would provide riders with legal opportunities to ride, and thereby reduce damages to private property and increase safety for riders.

State parks, state forests, and state game lands within the Sinnemahoning and the areas that surround the region have over 700 miles of trails available for snowmobile use. In addition, over 650 miles of roadways are available for snowmobile use. Appendix K and Figure 5-3 identify trails and roadways available for use by snowmobiles.

Enhanced efforts are needed to educate riders about how to recreate in an environmentally sound manner. Youth snowmobile operators between the ages of 10-16 must complete a snowmobile safety course to ride on public trails. Youth under the age of 10 cannot operate a snowmobile on any public land. Youth ATV operators between eight and 16 years of age must complete an ATV safety course to ride on public lands. Youth under the age of eight cannot operate an ATV on any public land. Youth operators under the age of 16 cannot ride on or cross highways and roads.

Equestrian trails are also available in state forest and state game lands. The Thunder Mountain Equestrian Trail provides 26 miles of trail through the Elk State Forest. State game lands provide 65.5 miles of additional trails within the region. Horseback riding in state game lands is limited to designated routes and certain times of the year. Consult the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) website for details on these limitations and for maps of designated routes.

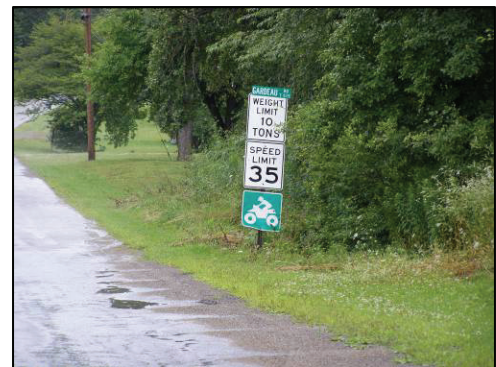
### Golf Courses

There are two golf courses within the project area—Emporium Country Club and Bavarian Gold Course. Built in 1953, Emporium Country Club offers front and back nine holes with a combined yardage of 6,291. The Bavarian Golf Course is a private 18-hole course located outside of St. Marys in the headwaters of West Creek a tributary to Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek.

### Camping

A popular recreational activity, there are a variety of opportunities available for camping. State Forest, State Parks, and private campgrounds provide opportunities. Camping on State Game Lands is not permitted. Seven private campgrounds and six state park campgrounds provide a variety of facilities and amenities. In addition to the organized camping facilities, numerous private camps exist in the region, for hunters and anglers. The structures of these camps vary from shacks without power or water to trailers and houses.

Unlike State Game Lands, State Forest Lands are open to camping. Primitive backpack camping of one night along a trail or anywhere within State Forest land—except for natural areas—is permitted. Motorized camping where a vehicle is



***Municipalities can designate roadways as joint-use roads that permit vehicle and recreational vehicle traffic***

used to transport or store equipment is allowed, but requires a permit from the local district forest office. Group camping with 10 or more people is acceptable in certain areas where little or no environmental harm will come and requires a special activities agreement with the local district forest office.

***Austin Campground*** is located in Potter County, along Nelson Road in Austin. Cabins, campers, a bunkhouse, and 128 sites are available to rent year-round.

***Austin Dam Memorial Park*** permits primitive camping at the site year-round. Registration fees are not required, but donations are requested to help offset cost associated with park maintenance.

***Benezette Store and Campground*** offers primitive and modern camping. Dump station, restrooms, showers, sleep rooms, restaurant, and canopies are available.

***Big Elk Lick Campground*** is a privately-owned campground located off Route 555 in Benezette. Horses are allowed in the campground.

***Cherry Springs State Park*** has an open field campground with 30 rustic sites. Site reservations are not available, campsites are available on a first-come first-served basis.

***Geist Mountain Creek Campground and Cabins*** is a privately-owned campground located near the village of Sinnemahoning.

***Hemlock Campground*** is located along First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek off Wharton Road in Austin, Potter County.

***Medix Run Lodges and Campground*** has 12 sites and three lodges available. Campsites have electric and water hookups and fire ring. Campground also has a bathhouse and pavilions.

***Parker Dam State Park*** has 109 campsites, 16 cabins, and three organized group tent areas available. Modernized campsites have a variety of terrain from grassy to forested areas. Eighty sites have electricity available. A shower house, playground, dump station, and camp store are available. Pets are permitted at designated sites.

***Patterson State Park*** allows primitive camping. Reservations are not available at the site and registration fees are collected using the honor system. Facilities at the park are limited so plan on packing out what you bring in.

***Prouty Place State Park*** has no facilities, but offers primitive camping. Visitors to this park need to follow the Leave No Trace principals and pack out what they bring in.

***Sinnemahoning State Park*** has 35 modern campsites and a rental cabin available. A playground, shower house, and pump station also are available. Pets are permitted in certain areas, but not in the cabin area.

***Sizerville State Park*** provides 18 modernized sites offering electricity and five secluded walk-in sites located along Cowley Run. A playground, shower house, and pump station are available. Pets are not welcome in the campground.

### Cabins, Lodges, and Bed and Breakfasts Facilities

Several cabins, lodges, and bed and breakfasts are available to rent throughout the region. These facilities provide services for guest traveling far distances, families with young children, or are physical limited and expand the profile of potential visitors. Lodging varies from rooms at a bed and breakfast to rustic cabins, such as those at Wapiti Woods or Medix Run, to private houses, such as Elk Country Hideaway. A list of cabins, lodges, and bed and breakfasts is located in Appendix K.

### Geocaching

Initiated in Portland Oregon in May 2000, geocaching is on the rise as a recreational activity. An adventurous treasure hunt game, it uses a global positioning unit (GPS) to find a hidden cache. At first, the game was called GPS Stash Hunt, but was later changed to geocaching, because of the negative connotation of “stash.” The name geocache comes from “geo” meaning earth and “cache” a French word that refers to a place to store or hide items.

The game is simple and can be played almost anywhere in the world. Players obtain coordinates to a cache site via the Internet. They then travel to the cache coordinates and search for the hidden treasure. When a participant finds a cache, they may take an item from the cache if they can replace it with an item of same value. Each visitor is asked to sign the logbook providing information to the cache hider about whom and when the cache was found. More information about geocaching is available on the [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com) website.

Cameron County is the “Geocaching Capital of the World.” Varieties of caches are available within the region. There are more than 3,000 caches within Cameron County with over 2,000 in the Driftwood and Sinnemahoning areas. The Allegheny Geo Trail is a series of geocaches within a 10 county radius that surround the Allegheny National Forest and its gateway counties in north central Pennsylvania. Each county has 10-20 caches. Special county geocoins are given to geocachers who find six caches in a county and those that find six caches in each of the 10 counties can get an Allegheny Geotrail coin. More information about the Allegheny Geo Trail is available on the Internet at [alleghenygeotrail.com](http://alleghenygeotrail.com) (Cameron County Chamber of Commerce, 2008).

### Fishing

Since 1866, the responsibility to protect and manage Pennsylvania’s fishery resources and regulate recreational fishing and boating has been that of Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). Nearly two million people fish in Pennsylvania each year, with an estimated economic impact of \$1.35 billion (PFBC<sup>1</sup>). The Pennsylvania Wilds region provides ample opportunities for anglers. The opportunities are compiled in the Pennsylvania Wilds Fishing Guide available on the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau website.

Abundant fishing opportunities are available with 40 Class A Wild Trout Streams, 26 Approved Trout Waters, and five Special Regulation Areas. Sinnemahoning Creek is a Warm Water Fishery (WWF). The tributaries that enter Sinnemahoning Creek after the confluence of Bennett Branch and Driftwood Branch are High Quality Coldwater Fisheries (HQ-CWFs.)

Bennett Branch is designated as a Coldwater Fishery (CWF) from its source to Mill Run. From Mill Run to the confluence with Driftwood Branch, it is a designated WWF. Thirty-six tributaries to Bennett Branch are designated CWFs, 12 are HQ-CWFs, and three are Exceptional Value (EV) streams.

The mainstem of Driftwood Branch, from its source to Elk Fork, is a HQ-CWF. From Elk Fork to Bennett Branch, its designation is a Trout Stocked Fishery (TSF). Four tributaries are CWF, five are EV, and 36 are HQ-CWF.

First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek and its tributaries are primarily HQ-CWFs. Four tributaries are EV, and the mainstem from Stevenson Dam to the mouth at West Branch Susquehanna River is a High Quality Trout Stocked Fishery (HQ-TSF). Identified in Appendix G are the stream segment designations.

**Wilderness Trout Waters Program**, established in 1969, was designed to protect and promote native brook trout fisheries, the ecological requirements necessary for natural reproduction of trout, and wilderness aesthetics. In order for a stream segment to be classified as wilderness trout waters, it must have an EV designation. It must provide a wild trout fishing experience in a remote, natural, and unspoiled environment where there are minimal disruptive activities. Approximately 47 miles of stream within the Sinnemahoning watershed received the wilderness trout designation (PFBC, 2008). They are identified in Appendix K.

**Class A Wild Trout** streams support a population of naturally produced trout of sufficient size and abundance to support long-term and rewarding fisheries. Waterways under this designation do not participate in stocking programs. Forty tributaries that have received the designation of Class A Wild Trout streams in the Sinnemahoning Creek watershed are identified in Appendix K.

**Approved Trout Waters** are waterways—lakes, ponds, and reservoirs—that meet the criteria that qualify them to be stocked with trout by PFBC. Twenty-seven waterways that qualify as Approved Trout Waters are identified in Appendix K.

**Special Regulation Areas** are waterways that fall into various regulations of PFBC, such as Catch and Release, Fly-Fishing Only, and Delayed Harvest. As of 2008, there are five special regulation areas in the Sinnemahoning Creek watershed. Consult the annual fishing summary guidelines for changes to regulations.

***Birch Run Watershed*** is designated as a Wild Brook Enhancement Area. Birch Run and its tributaries are open year-round with no tackle restrictions. Brook trout cannot be killed or kept in anglers' possession; all other species are legal during regular seasons.

***Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek*** is designated as a Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only area from the Shippen Township building to Route 120 west of Emporium. The area is open to anglers year-round from one hour before sunrise to one hour past sunset. Artificial lures are required, and anglers must have a trout stamp and cannot have any trout in their possession.

***Hunts Run*** is designated as Catch and Release Only for 4.7 miles that starts at the confluence of McNuff Branch to the mouth. Anglers are required to have a trout permit and cannot have trout in their possession.

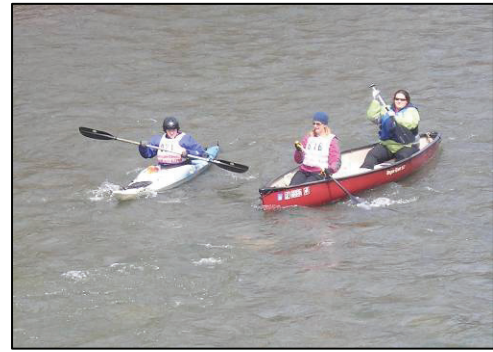
***First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek*** is designated as a Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only area, and is open to anglers year-round. Spin or fly rods that use lures made from synthetic materials are permitted. Anglers are limited to three, nine-inch trout from June 15 to Labor Day. All other times, fish must be released.

***G.B. Stevenson Reservoir*** participates in the Early-Season Trout Stocked Water Program. From March 1 to March 31, the reservoir is open for trout fishing. Anglers are required to have a trout stamp and are limited to three fish at least seven inches long each day.

### Boating

Boating regulations are under the jurisdiction of the PFBC. An estimated 2.5 million people boat on the 83,000 miles of rivers and streams in Pennsylvania each year. In 2005, approximately 350,600 boats were registered. Recreational boating generates an estimated \$1.7 billion to the economy each year (PFBC, 2007a).

PFBC manages 250 public access areas to Pennsylvania's waterways; in addition, organizations and municipalities manage many other access points. In 2005, in an effort to increase public access to waterways, PFBC initiated the Boating Facility Grant Program. This program provides grant money to public entities to establish stream access points that are open to the public. Grants are awarded for land acquisition, project design, engineering, development, expansion, and rehabilitation of public recreational boat access facilities. The grants require a 25 percent match.



*Participants in the 2008 Cameron County Canoe Classic paddle Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek*

Access to area waterways is limited due to the existence of railways that parallel the streams. Railroad officials have denied access across rail line tracks, and since the 2006 Norfolk Southern train derailment, enforcement of trespass laws has increased. Local government officials, sportsmen and conservation groups, and railroad officials should discuss and settle on a public waterway access plan.

### Hunting

A popular recreation activity throughout western Pennsylvania, PGC manages and regulates hunting in Pennsylvania. An individual can begin hunting at 12 years of age after passing a hunter safety course.

The number of hunters in many states is on a rapid decline, as it is in Pennsylvania. It is essential for future wildlife management and preservation of the hunting and trapping heritage of Pennsylvania that the recruitment of new hunters and trappers is successful. Since 1998, the sale of licenses has decreased. Table 5-1 lists the number of licenses sold from 1998 to 2007.

Area sportsmen groups organize hunts and youth programs in efforts to increase participation. For example, Sinnemahoning Sportsmen's Association hosts annual coyote and rattlesnake hunts, and Saint Marys Sportsmen's Club hosts coyote and deer hunts. Local sportsmen's clubs, in cooperation with PGC, host hunter safety courses to educate new hunters about laws and safety.

Abundant amounts of public land are open to hunters throughout the region. Seven state game lands account for 52,398 acres, five state forests with 952,000 acres, and three state parks provide 2,126 acres for hunting.

***Elk State Forest*** includes 198,000 acres within Cameron and Elk counties.

***Moshannon State Forest*** includes 187,000 acres of Clearfield County. Only a portion of this acreage is located within the project area.

**Table 5-1. Hunting Licenses Sold**

Year	Licenses
1998	1,071,205
1999	1,033,315
2000	1,038,846
2001	1,047,820
2002	1,017,154
2003	1,018,248
2004	1,013,866
2005	964,158
2006	945,842
2007	924,448

(Source: PGC, 2008)

***Sproul State Forest*** is partially located within Sinnemahoning Creek watershed in Clinton County. Only a portion of the 305,000 acres designated as state forest is within the project area.

***Susquehannock State Forest***, partially located in the project area, has 262,000 acres available for public hunting.

***Parker Dam State Park*** has 526 acres designated for hunting. Hunters are encouraged to use extreme caution due to other visitor uses at the park.

***Sinnemahoning State Park*** has 1,400 acres available for hunting.

***Sizerville State Park*** has 200 acres open to hunting.

***State Game Lands 14***, located near Howard Siding within the headwaters of Hicks Run and Dents Run, has 13,819 acres available for public hunting.

***State Game Lands 25***, partially located within the northwestern corner of the watershed above Saint Marys, provides access to 23,136 acres for public hunting.

***State Game Lands 30***, is located within the southern portion of McKean County and provides 11,572 acres for hunting, of which a portion is within the Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek subwatershed.

***State Game Lands 34*** provides 8,800 acres in the Medix Run area, of which only a portion is located within the Medix Run and Mix Run subwatersheds.

***State Game Lands 93***, is located within the headwaters of Bennett Branch, in Huston Township, Clearfield County. A portion of its 4,876 acres is within the Bennett Branch subwatershed.

***State Game Lands 293*** provides 2,284 acres along West Creek in Saint Marys for public hunting.

***State Game Lands 311*** passes through Dents Run in the Bennett Branch subwatershed, provides 1,730 acres for public hunting.

#### ***Wildlife Watching***

For many residents in the area, wildlife watching, including birds, is a favorite pastime. The region has seen increased tourism for wildlife observation from recent advertisement efforts about the Pennsylvania Wilds. This is especially true because the area is home to the only free-roaming elk herd in Pennsylvania and contains numerous amounts of forest habitat for wildlife. In addition to all the state parks, state forestlands, and trails, these areas are great places to view wildlife.

***Beaver Run Dam*** is a shallow water impoundment and field located off Quehanna Highway about nine miles southeast of the Route 555 intersection. The dam provides opportunities to see waterfowl, wading birds, songbirds and deer. It is also located within close proximity to several trails.

**Bucktail State Park Natural Area** is a 75-mile scenic drive along Route 120 from Emporium to Lock Haven. The route, although this state park is predominantly private property, it follows the Native American path of the “Old Sinnemahoning Trail,” and is named in honor of the Bucktails Civil War regiment.

**Hicks Run Viewing Area** is part of Elk State Forest along Route 555 about 12 miles east of Benezette. Elk and grassland birds are common at the site.

**Johnson Run Natural Area** is a 216-acre old-growth hemlock-hardwood forest, which can only be accessed by way of the Bucktail Hiking Trail within Elk State Forest.

**Lower Jerry Run Natural Area** is a secluded old-growth white pine and hemlock forest located within Elk State Forest. The only access to the site is by foot. The area is a reptile and amphibian special protection site.

**Marion Brooks Natural Area** is 917 acres of birch stands located within Moshannon State Forest, just off the Quehanna Highway. The area is home to various species of woodpeckers, butterflies, dragonflies, birds, and snakes. Birds, foxes, coyotes, and bears feed upon the blueberries and huckleberries that grow at the site.

**Pine Tree Trail Natural Area**, within Elk State Forest, is 276 acres of white pine stands that was once a farm. Follow the pine tree trail through the natural area, crossing Dents Run. This site is a good place for bird and wildlife watching.

**Porcupine Run Viewing Area** is located at the intersection of Winslow and Dewey Roads in the Elk State Forest near State Game Lands 311. It is a great location for bird and elk viewing.

**Quehanna Wild Area** is known as Pennsylvania’s first large forest area devoted to peace and solitude. It includes 48,000 acres of second-growth mixed hardwood forest within Moshannon and Elk State Forests. It contains the 1,215 acre **Wykoff Run Natural Area**, featuring large paper birch stands and large open meadows.

**Shagger’s Inn** is a shallow water impoundment providing critical wetland habitat. A popular bird watching spot near Parker Dam State Park, it is one of a few locations where osprey nest in Pennsylvania.

**Winslow Hill Viewing Area** is the most popular elk viewing area in Pennsylvania. In addition to the elk, this is a great location to see various bird species, such as wild turkey.

**Wykoff Run Road to Quehanna Highway** provides several pull-offs along Wykoff Run, a well-known trout stream. It is a popular bird watching area for red-tailed and broad-winged hawks.



*Wildlife watchers utilize resources available at the Winslow Hill Elk Viewing Area*

Two area businesses, PA Elk Range Adventures and Big Woods Adventure, provide guided hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching adventures. Both provide guide services throughout the Pennsylvania elk range.

### **Winter Recreation Opportunities**

Outdoor recreation does not have to cease through the winter months. Within the Sinnemahoning watershed, there is a plethora of recreational opportunities that include snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, ice skating, and sledding.

Snowmobile use is a popular recreational activity throughout the area, with access to over 700 miles of trails. The resources available for snowmobile use were discussed in further detail in the trails section.

Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing were historically used as a means for transportation over snow. Today their use is for recreational purposes. Snowshoes and skis distribute a person's weight equally over the snows surface so they do not sink in the snow. Skiing is a faster method of transportation and utilizes poles that push off the snow to gain speed. Snowshoeing does not utilize poles and leaves a person's hands free for other activities. Parker Dam and Sizerville State Parks have cross-country skis and snowshoe equipment available for use under the Get Outdoors Pennsylvania recreation program. Parker Dam State Park has educational programs to help first time cross-country skiers and snowshoe users; check their website for program details <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/parkerdam.aspx>.

Parker Dam and Sinnemahoning State Parks offer anglers opportunities to ice fish at their own risk. Ice thickness should be at a minimum of four inches before accessing the lake. Anglers are encouraged to carry safety equipment with them.

The beach area at Parker Dam State Park provides opportunities to ice skate, conditions permitting. Ice is monitored for safety in the skating area.

Another popular recreational activity on public or private lands, anywhere there is a hill clear of hazards, such as trees and boulders is sled riding. Parker Dam State Park has a designated sledding area in the park near the boat rentals.

Area residents inquired about possibilities for additional winter recreational activities. The mountainous terrain is ideal for downhill skiing. Establishing a ski resort in the area would increase tourism into the area during peak and off-peak seasons. Careful planning and study are needed to determine if a ski resort would be possible and beneficial to the region. A ski resort would provide additional jobs year-round; the number of opportunities would ultimately be determined by the extent of facilities established.

### **Annual Events**

Annual events bring people together to celebrate the heritage of an event, place, or time. This region hosts several events on an annual basis that highlight its heritage and preserve a way of life.

*Autumn Festival* takes place at Sizerville State Park on the first Saturday in October. The festival is a celebration of old time skills and crafts. Demonstrations on quilting, bee keeping, woodcarving, candle making, and tatting (making dollies or lace) take place during the event.

**Cameron County Canoe and Kayak Classic** held the first Saturday in April. Contestants paddle along 11 miles of Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning Creek from the Cameron County Country Club, Emporium to Driftwood. The Classic started in 1975 as a race among friends and has grown from the 16 original paddlers to 129 vessels in 2008.

The **Dam Show**, sponsored by Austin Dam Memorial Association and Potter County Fine Arts Council, takes place each summer at the Austin Dam Memorial Park. The event remembers the devastating events that occurred when the dam broke and flooded the town below in 1911. This music festival features local artists of all ages and includes story telling and light shows. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.damshow.com>.

The **Elk Expo**, hosted by Northwest Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitor's Bureau, takes place at the Elk County Fairgrounds in Kersey. The event features chainsaw carving demonstrations, 3D archery shoot, photography contest, elk education center, seminars, elk viewing tours, and the elk hunting license drawing.

**Fall Festival** is held at Parker Dam State Park. This even is a celebration of old time skills and features a pumpkin float to commemorate the Pumpkin Floods that occurred in Clearfield, Pa.

**Winter Family Festival**, sponsored by Clearfield YMCA, takes place at Parker Dam State Park in January or February. The event provides opportunities to learn about winter recreation, such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, ice harvesting, and winter survival. Other events included super snowball flag football tournament, blizzard volleyball tournament, frozen salami sling, snowman contest, sleigh rides, and snowmobiling.

**Woodhick Weekend** takes place on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend at Parker Dam State Park. Participants compete in five events used by the early timbering industry for the coveted title of Woodhick or Woodchick of the year.

The **Woodsman Show**, hosted at Cherry Springs State Park in August each year, celebrates the history of the lumbering times past. Lumberjacks compete in events, such as axe throwing, crosscut sawing, and tree felling. Chainsaw carving competition and auction, exhibits, historic reenactments, vendors, and traditional music are also part of the festivities sponsored by the Galeton Rotary Club. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.woodsmenshow.com>.

**Woodsy Owl Weekend** is hosted during a spring weekend at Parker Dam State Park where volunteers enhance the park through trail maintenance, litter removal, tree plantings, and painting. Volunteers receive free camping for the weekend in return for their efforts.

Area sportsmen clubs host several annual events, including youth fishing derbies, youth field days, coyote hunts, snake hunts, and educational events, such as hunter's safety, throughout the year. These events encourage youth participation in the outdoors and highlight the region's natural resources, including its waterways and wildlife.



*Participants of the annual Cameron County Canoe Classic make their way down Driftwood Branch on April 5, 2008*

## Local Attractions

**Austin Historical Society Museum** is a replica of E.O. Austin's house. Located adjacent to the original site, the museum houses and preserves archives from the town of Austin and the surrounding area.

**Bucktail Monument**, located in Driftwood, recognizes and honors the Bucktail regiment for their service during the civil war.

**Cameron County Historical Society's Little Museum**, originally a two-room schoolhouse until the consolidation of schools in 1962, houses historical artifacts from Cameron County's past. The collection at the museum highlights the lumbering and coal mining era, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps, and famous sons of Cameron County. Located along Route 120, the museum is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from Memorial Day through October.

**CCC Interpretive Center** located at Parker Dam State Park honors the work done by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The center is open during the summer season on Sundays.

**Tom Mix Comes Home Museum** is located on a rural route outside of Driftwood. This museum highlights the birthplace of western actor Tom Mix and his celebrity outhouse.

**Wayside Memorial Spring**, also known as Pepper Hill Fire Memorial, honors the memory of eight CCC members who lost their lives battling a wildfire at Pepper Hill on October 18, 1938 (<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/stateforests/elkhistory.aspx>).



*Civilian Conservation Corps museum located at Parker Dam State Park*

## Artisans

The Sinnemahoning watershed boasts a surplus of talented artisans, people who are skilled in the arts, such as quilters, painters, woodworkers, jewelers, potters, photographers, and many more. Artisans help to define the wilderness and back-to-basics character of the area, because their work is unique and made by hand, instead of the ever-growing line of mass produced products. Watershed artisans also provide a major attraction for tourists, which can, in turn, add to the economy. The artwork used on the cover of the Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed Conservation Plan, as well as other promotional materials, is an original painting by local artisan, John Sidelinger. This piece of artwork has sparked awareness and interest in the plan that otherwise might not have been achieved, and further demonstrates how art is important to the community.

Artisans of the watershed can easily be inspired by nature, and some may even create artwork (wreathes, decorations) from what they find in nature. The population of the watershed is exposed to art, whether it is for sale in a local restaurant or in a designated location. The Pennsylvania Wilds planning team formed an artisan network to identify all artisans located within the PA Wilds twelve county region. As of January 2007, the count of local artisans was at 304. Some artisans and locations where local art can be displayed are already recognized on the PA Wilds website. July 2008, Cameron County Chamber

of Commerce opened an Artisan Center at its office in Emporium. The center opened with a display of artwork from 10 artists.

Nearby, Elk County Council on the Arts—located in Ridgway, Pa.—offers a place for artisans to display their work, and hosts events, performances, and classes for the public. The Enchanted Woodlins Project, also of Ridgway, Pa. is a partnership between the Appalachian Arts Studio, community, state, and federal government to construct outdoor chainsaw art pieces that will be distributed throughout the PA Wilds region. Other lumber products, such as carved wood birdhouses are unique creations of this area because of its plentiful hardwood forests. Saint Marys, Pa. is the location of Carved in Stone, a store that produces beautiful hand-carved stones. In addition, the individual artisans scattered throughout the area add to their specific communities and beyond.

## Environmental Education

Environmental education can be, and has been, defined in different ways. In 1984, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and DCNR joined efforts with other environmental educators from the state to develop the Pennsylvania Master Plan for Environmental Education. The plan describes environmental education as, “a learning process concerned with the interrelationships among components of the natural and human-made world, producing growth in the individual, and leading to responsible stewardship of the earth” (Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education). Many groups throughout the state are invested in bringing this definition to life and teaching environmental education to students of all ages.

### Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

The Sinnemahoning Creek watershed is home to six state parks: Cherry Springs State Park, Parker Dam State Park, Patterson State Park, Prouty State Park, Sinnemahoning State Park, and Sizerville State Park. Each state park is managed by DCNR, which offers a variety of environmental education activities and programs to the public. Schools and teachers can take advantage of the curriculum-centered activities and programs to further their students’ education.



*The education center at Sizerville State Park provides informational displays and equipment rental to park visitors*

Of the six state parks, Cherry Springs State Park and Parker Dam State Park provide year-round environmental education. Cherry Springs State Park is located in Potter County along PA Route 44, while Parker Dam State Park is situated in the north western corner of Clearfield County. Some environmental education and interpretive programs at both parks include campfires, hands-on activities, and guided walks. Cherry Springs also boasts the darkest skies in the east, which enables wonderful stargazing educational opportunities; and Parker Dam State Park has additional opportunities, such as maple sugaring demonstrations in the spring and apple cider making in the fall. Parker Dam also is the only park within the watershed that presents a year-round watershed specific education program.

Patterson State Park and Prouty State Park do not have environmental education at this time. However, the chance to be in the outdoors is an environmental educational experience all in its own. Patterson State Park is located at the Susquehannock Trailhead and has two pavilions for picnicking. Prouty State Park is five acres of land near Susquehannock State Forest.

The remaining two state parks within the watershed are Sinnemahoning State Park and Sizerville State Park. Both parks provide environmental education for designated months out of the year. Sinnemahoning's program runs from May through October, and Sizerville's starts a month earlier, and goes to October. Sinnemahoning State Park has some specialized environmental education in addition to the central program developed by DCNR. Sizerville State Park is equipped with an Environmental Education Building, which provides interactive displays and learning opportunities. Outside the building there is a butterfly garden with plants designed to attract butterflies, visitors use the garden to monitor and learn about butterfly species. Sinnemahoning State Park also has butterfly gardens.

### **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

DEP continues to support environmental education through the Pennsylvania Environmental Education Grants Program, by displaying curriculum and information on their website, and by regular participation at community events.

### **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)**

Through workshops, PFBC provides curriculum-based environmental education to teachers and other educators to enhance their instruction of youth. Through PFBC, educators are able to access the international conservation education program Project Wild and the Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Educator Workshop. PFBC also supplies the public with informational outreach and assumes an active role in envirothon competitions, which are further explained in the envirothon section.

### **Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)**

The amount of public land in the Sinnemahoning watershed allows for many hunting opportunities. PGC offers hunter-trapper education to youth and adults, which provides an excellent form of wildlife education. Through other programs (such as Project Wild) conducted in cooperation with a variety of organizations, PGC conveys a wildlife education message to citizens throughout the state.

### **Schools**

With the Sinnemahoning watershed's rural character and abundant natural resources, it is not a surprise that teachers within the watershed have a very active role in environmental education. Notably, Austin Area Junior Senior High School students are actively engaged in several different forms of environmental education. For example, the school participates in the Trout in the Classroom Program, sponsored by Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited; and each year, 6<sup>th</sup> graders embark on a canoe trip. Saint Marys Area Senior High School also has a very energetic outdoor club and provides a quality outdoor classroom. Other schools within the watershed contribute on varying scales to the environmental education of area youth.

### **Envirothons**

The Pennsylvania Envirothon provides environmental education to students throughout the state. Students involved in envirothons must answer questions on topics, such as aquatics, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and current issues. Each school has the opportunity to create envirothon teams to compete in a county competition organized by county conservation districts. The winning school from each county moves on to compete in the state competition.

The results of the state competition can offer a glimpse of how well students within the watershed are environmentally educated in comparison to other areas. The 2008 envirothon results are listed in Table 5-2. A student

**Table 5-2. 2008  
Envirothon Results**

<b>County</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Cameron	65
Clearfield	41
Clinton	49
Elk	32
McKean	57
Potter	64
Total	67

*(Source: PA Envirothon)*

who participates in an envirothon not only enhances their environmental education, they can participate as mentors to their peers and during other events.

### **County Conservation Districts**

County conservation districts collaborate with state agencies, watershed associations, school districts, and other groups to provide environmental education to their communities. A part of that work (as mentioned above) involves organizing and conducting the county Envirothon competitions. Cameron, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, McKean, and Potter County's environmental education efforts include in-school conservation presentations, field days, day camps, educational tours, demonstrations, festivals, and celebrations. College scholarships are also available through some conservation districts to students who have an interest in the environment.

### **Penn State Cooperative Extensions**

Penn State University provides environmental education outreach through their county cooperative extension offices. Each office provides access to the expertise and resources of Penn State University while maintaining local service providers and accessibility. Programs run by Penn State Cooperative Extensions include after school programs, youth development and 4-H, and economic and community development.

### **PA CleanWays**

PA CleanWays, a nonprofit organization, operates a chapter in Elk and McKean counties, as well as the affiliate CleanScapes, Incorporated in Clinton County. PA CleanWays spreads the environmental education message of the impact litter and illegal dumps have on the earth. The organization leads illegal dump surveys, roadside cleanups, educational outreach, a roads adoption program, proper disposal efforts, and beautification projects.

### **Clearfield County Solid Waste Authority**

The Solid Waste Authority in Clearfield County provides educational programs to civic groups about the prevention, cleanup, and enforcement of illegal dumping in Clearfield County. In addition, the Authority conducts radio and television advertisements discouraging illegal dumping activities.

## **Historical Resources**

### **Historical Overview**

Potter and McKean counties were created from Lycoming County on March 26, 1804. Potter County was named to honor General James Potter, an American Revolution hero, even though General Potter never came to the region named after him. McKean County was named for Governor Thomas McKean.

Clearfield County was created on March 26, 1804 from portions of Lycoming and Centre counties, and is named for Clearfield Creek that flows within its bounds.

Elk County, named after the free-roaming elk herds that roam the region, formed from portions of Clearfield, Jefferson, and McKean counties in April 1843.

Cameron County, formed March 29, 1860 from portions of Potter, Clearfield, Elk, McKean, and Clinton counties, is named in honor of Simon Cameron, a Pennsylvania politician.

### **Origin of names**

The name "Sinnemahoning" comes from the Indian word "Achsinnimahoni," which means Stony Lick (Bennett, 1996). The word "elk" comes from the German word "elch," meaning moose or

“Waapiti,” the Native American word for white rump, which describes the lighter fur on the elk’s hindquarters.

### Early Settlement

Before European settlers first stepped foot in Pennsylvania, Native Americans lived throughout the commonwealth. Evident by their villages, fields, camps, and paths, they had been here for some time. As the number of settlers increased, they brought with them many new technologies and goods. Native Americans would trade animal pelts and land for these goods, becoming dependent on trade. However, not all European influences were beneficial to Native Americans. Diseases and alcohol had devastating results on Native American communities and on their physical and social well-being.

### Settlement

Vast forestlands and natural terrain surrounded the hardy, active, and energetic settlers. Following slender, well-worn paths of Native Americans, they came to stake their claim on Iroquois lands. Ignoring numerous warnings of the Iroquois, the settler refused to vacate, that is until the raids by the Native Americans forced them to. In revenge, three settlers trailed the Native Americans to Sinnemahoning Creek where they attacked and killed eight of them (Beers & Co., 1890).

David Zeisberger, a Moravian minister and a missionary, was the first non-Native American among the Mohawk. A student of their language and culture, he became fluent in their language and conducted negotiations with England to protect Native American rights (Wikipedia Foundation, 2007).

In 1784, the Chief of the Six Nations signed the new purchase, which transferred ownership of the land to Pennsylvania and forced the majority of Native Americans to flee to Ohio, Canada, or further west.

The earliest known settlement was that of John Bennett and his father in 1787. They came to the Caledonia area via the Susquehanna River and Sinnemahoning Creek, the namesake for the portion of the stream he traveled. Settlement into the Cameron County region occurred in the early 1800s, when John Jordan established a settlement in Second Fork, known today as Driftwood. Others soon followed, adding to the settlement in Driftwood.

Shortly after, additional settlements occurred throughout Cameron County. Emporium was established in 1810 by John Earl Sr. Joseph Houser settled in the Rich Valley in 1811. The first settlement along Portage Creek was that of Hiram Sizer in 1820. In 1844, the first settlement along West Creek occurred.

### Industrialization

The area’s natural resources held much potential for early settlers. The vast array of wildlife and fish kept food on their tables, while timber and mineral resources provided industrial opportunities, around which early pioneers built their daily lives.

The establishment of gristmills throughout the region began in 1811. The first mill was established along Clear Creek, and the second along North Creek. Prior to the establishment of the first gristmill, settlers had to travel 100 miles to Williamsport to grind their grain.

Early industry revolved around lumber, due to the considerable amounts of timber resources. Typically, harvesting of timber occurred during winter months while the ground was solid and movement of timber was easier. In the spring, rafts transported timber down waterways during spring floods. Rafts that floated Sinnemahoning Creek were typically smaller so they could negotiate the narrow, shallow, and crooked waterways (Lumber Heritage Region, 2001).

The first sawmills in the region were established in 1811 at the mouth of North Fork, and in 1814 in Emporium. The majority of the mills that existed throughout the region were developed after the 1820s. That was due to the steep terrain of the countryside and the settlement pace of the region. Most early sawmills were not built along waterways, which required the timber to be transported to waterways. Log slides were used to transport timber from the woods to streams. Log slides were paths created of split logs that were used to pull and drag logs down the mountains (Lumber Heritage Region, 2001).

Early sawmills were small, family-operated mills. It was not until 1847, when industrial lumbering began in the region that lumber companies formed and expanded the industry (Lumber Heritage Region, 2001). The transportation of logs via rafts began in 1849. Bennett's Branch Improvement Company was formed by timber owners to navigate the difficulties along Bennett Branch. In 1871, a large splash dam was built near Benezette, followed by another one 10 miles upstream. These improvements, along with the consistent use of Bennett Branch for transportation of lumber, increased the stream's width. (Lumber Heritage Region, 2001).

With the expansion of the railroad into the region, rafting phased out due to efficiency and economic reasons. The last raft floated down Driftwood Branch in 1903, and the last raft floated down Sinnemahoning Creek in 1915.

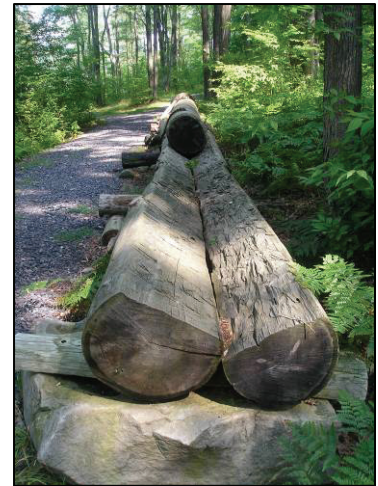
Millions of acres in Potter County were timbered between 1884 and 1920, which depleted the resources. In 1886, the Goodyear Lumber Mill was built in Austin, with a 400,000 board feet per day production capacity.

In the 1880s, tanneries began to appear throughout the region. Tanneries hired immigrant workers known as "woodhicks." They lived in camps in the woods, and stripped the bark off hemlock trees. The bark produced a liquor, which was required in the tanning process. In 1881, a tannery was established in Austin, and another was established in Costello in 1886 (Downs, 1998).

With the depletion of resources, the economy decreased and officials enticed George Bayless to establish a paper mill in the town of Austin. Opened in 1900, the paper mill provided 200 jobs and was the largest plant in Austin. The mill attracted many people to the region. Seasonal water shortages in Freeman Run, where the plant was located, affected business, and in 1910, the Bayless Dam was built (Downs, 1998).



*Remnants of the Austin Dam*



*Replica of a log slide built by William Parker in 1868, located at Parker Dam State Park*

After an uncharacteristic mild winter in January 1911, the dam bowed 36 feet, which raised residents' fears that the dam would break. To ease fears and decrease pressure on the dam, a section of the dam and a stopper were removed. On September 30, 1911, after a season of heavy precipitation, the Bayless Dam broke, and released millions of gallons of water and more than 20,000 cord feet of lumber into the towns of Austin and Costello, killing 78 people (Downs, 1998).

Although a majority of the people moved, some remained and rebuilt the town. The dam and paper mill were rebuilt,

only to be destroyed by fire in 1933. The second dam broke in 1942, with less damage and harm (Downs, 1998).

#### Civilian Conservation Corps

On March 31, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Act that led to the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC—a work relief program for young men ages 18-25 during the Great Depression—provided jobs, training, and housing. Members were placed in camps where they lived and participated in conservation work to improve access and amenities to address the recreational demand. Projects included building roads, bridges, foot trails, horse trails, cabins, and recreational impoundments.

Pennsylvania had the second most camps in the U.S. second to California. There were 14 camps situated throughout the Sinnemahoning Valley from Cherry Springs all the way to Parker Dam. Projects at these camps varied from fire protection, flood recovery, road and trail building and maintenance, park enhancements, dam building, and stream improvements to emergency rescues (Pennsylvania CCC Archive).

During the construction of the dam at Parker Dam State Park, three different CCC camps assisted in the projects—S-73, S-116 Anderson Creek, and S-118. Work to repair the old pond and splash dam at the site was started by the Laurel camp. Limited work force and materials slowed the development of the project. When William Dague became interested in the project at Parker Dam in 1934, additional resources from the Anderson Creek and Medix Run camps became available. Completed in 1935, the dam was damaged in the flood of March 1936. Members of S-116 and S-118 camps rebuilt the dam in time for the grand opening of Parker Dam State Park in July 1937, which again failed that fall. In 1938, members of S-116 and S-118 reconstructed the dam and by spring 1940, the dam and lake were ready for public use (Rensel, 2003).

In 1942, the U.S. involvement in World War II caused a depletion on resources and the workforce necessary to continue the CCC program; therefore, it was deauthorized. The efforts of these young men through a challenging time in history are evident at the numerous state and national parks across the U.S.

#### Postal Delivery

In colonial times, communications depended on friends, merchants, and Native Americans to carry messages between colonies. However, most correspondences ran between the colonies and England. William Penn established Pennsylvania's first post office in 1683 (U.S. Postal Service).

In May 1775, as the colonies separated from England, a Continental Congress was organized to establish an independent government. One of the first questions before its delegates was how to convey and deliver the mail. Benjamin Franklin was appointed chairperson of the committee to establish a postal system, and he was later appointed the first Postmaster General. The present day postal service descends from the system planned by Benjamin Franklin (U.S. Postal Service).

In the days prior to telephones, radios, and television, communication from the outside world was obtained through mail and newspapers. Mail was delivered to the post office and picked up by recipients.

**Table 5-3. Civilian Conservation Corps Camps**

Camp	Location
S-72 PA	Huntley
S-73 PA	Laurel
S-84 PA	Dents Run
S-85 PA	Sizerville
S-86 PA	Wycoff Run
S-117 PA	Penfield
S-118 PA	Medix Run
S-130 PA	Lushbaugh
S-131 PA	Potterdale
S-132 PA	Cameron
S-134 PA	Costello
S-136 PA	Cherry Springs
S-144 PA	Charles E. Baer
S-147 PA	North Creek

*(Source: Pennsylvania CCC Archive)*

Many families waited days, weeks, or months to pick up their mail. They had to coordinate trips for supplies, food, or equipment to pick up mail.

### Transportation

Early forms of transportation routes were paths created by Native Americans. These paths provided a means for travel and trade among distant and diverse Native American communities. Settlers followed these paths on foot and horseback as one of the ways to enter the area. They also used canoes and Native American boats.

The Sinnemahoning path is the only major Native American path that traverses the region. Beginning in Lock Haven, the path follows the West Branch Susquehanna River to Keating, where it then follows Sinnemahoning and Portage creeks to Port Allegheny.

With the increase of settlers that entered the region, transportation improvements were needed. In early days, packsaddles were used to transport goods and commodities from one place to another. They followed mere paths over mountains, and through forests. In the early 1800s, the establishment of roadways was being started.

In 1806, in an effort to increase access into their territory, the Holland Land Company established Ellicott Road. This road, designed as a wagon road from Dunnstown to Ellicottsville, followed a portion of Sinnemahoning and Driftwood Branch Sinnemahoning creeks.

By the mid-1800s, railroad establishments were active throughout the region. They revolutionized land transportation, and transformed the standard of living. In 1863, the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad company laid tracks through Driftwood. The establishment of a fork in the tracks allowed transportation north and west.

The Buffalo, New York & Philadelphia Railroad was completed to Emporium on December 23, 1872. The first rail on the old Buffalo & Washington Railroad was placed in October 1867, and opened to Emporium on December 28, 1872.

In 1874, the Low Grade Railroad opened from Driftwood (Cameron County) to the mouth of Redbank Creek (Clarion and Armstrong counties).

### Education

Many pioneer settlers had limited education, and wanted more for their children. Early schools were subscription schools, which required fees for students to attend. It was not until the enactment of the Common Schools Act in 1838 that established a general system of education and provided all students with a free education (Beers, 1890).

The first schools were organized in the early 1800s. In 1817, Eliza Dodge taught a summer term near the mouth of North Creek. William Boyd taught in a school along Sinnemahoning Creek in 1818. Several schools soon followed, with the first built above Emporium, near Rich Valley, in 1819. The first high grade schools were established in Sinnemahoning around 1864-1865, which were later suspended in 1873 due to finances (Beers & Co., 1890).

### Significant People

**George Bayless**, an industrialist from Binghamton, New York, was the owner and operator of the Bayless Dam. In September 1911, the dam broke flooding the towns of Austin and Costello.

The **Bucktail Regiment**—a famous civil war regiment—was composed of 700 men from Cameron, Clearfield, Elk, McKean, and Tioga counties of Pennsylvania. These men, by trade, were lumberjacks, raftmen, and farmers from the rugged mountains of northern Pennsylvania. They got their name from their regimental badge of honor—the tail of a whitetail buck. Each recruit had a deer tail attached to his cap.

**Tom Mix**, a popular silent film actor and King of Cowboys, was born and raised near Driftwood. During his career, he starred in over 300 western films.

**Joseph T. McNarney** was a World War I flying ace and a four star general from Emporium.

In 1872, **Victoria Claflin Woodhull**, who spent many years of her childhood in Sinnemahoning, was the first woman nominated for president of the U.S. She represented the equal rights party, but lost the election to Ulysses S. Grant (Bennett, 1996).

#### *Pennsylvania Folklore of Buried Treasure*

Near the village of Gardeau in McKean County, buried treasure exists. During a hurricane, in 1680 a Spanish galleon sank off the coast of Baltimore. Undetectable at the bottom of the ocean, efforts to retrieve the vessel failed. That is until 1811, when the British Captain Blackbeard recovered the wreckage. Mounting conflict between Britain and France, compounded with knowledge of his discovery among privateers Blackbeard knew transportation of the treasure via the ocean was impossible. However, 400 miles away laid safety in the British ally of Canada (Scully).

From Baltimore, Blackbeard spent several months traversing up the Susquehanna River to its West Branch tributary. War looming between Britain and America, Blackbeard continued his journey into the rustic and wild territory of northern Pennsylvania via Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek. The journey harsher than originally estimated, Blackbeard buried his treasure of silver bars near an old saltlick (Scully).

Anticipating returning after the war, he left Colonel Noah Parker to guard the treasure. Keeping intruders away, Parker vowed that he never found the silver. Thousands continue to search for the treasure but never find it although part of Pennsylvania folklore, it is believed that all or a portion of the treasure remains buried in the northern Pennsylvania wilderness (Scully).

#### **Historical Sites, Structures, and Districts**

In 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act established the National Register of Historic Places. Listed properties include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and other objects significant to American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Although it is encouraged that registered sites and structures are to be maintained to preserve historic integrity, private property owners can maintain or manage their property as they see fit.

The Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission manages the register for Pennsylvania. The state historic preservation officer submits nominated properties to the state review board. If the property owners or the majority of the owners (if the property is owned by more than one person), object to the nomination, it is sent to National Parks Service for a determination of eligibility without formally listing the property in the National Register (National Parks Service, 2001).



*Cherry Springs State Park Picnic Pavilion built by the Civilian Conservation Corps*

Within the Sinnemahoning watershed, five sites—Parker Dam State Park Family Cabin District, Parker Dam State Park Octagonal Lodge, Parker Dam State Park Dam District, Austin Dam, and Cherry Springs Picnic Pavilion—are identified in the National Register. The CCC, with Austin Dam being the only privately built structure, built four of the five historical structures.

#### Parker Dam State Park

The CCC operated two camps at Parker Dam State Park, S-73 and S-118. S-73, also referred to as the Laurel or Tyler camp, existed from May 1933 to October 1935. S-118, based at the site, existed from June 1933 to late 1941. They provided emergency conservation work for unemployed young men during the Depression.

One of their first projects at the site was to build a dam to replace an old logging interest structure, which was completed in 1934. They also built an adjacent structure that now hosts the CCC Museum. The dam and the museum composed the **Parker Dam State Park Dam District**.

**Parker Dam State Park Family Cabin District** contains 24 buildings, of which eight do not contribute to the character of the district. The eight structures are latrines constructed in 1976. The district contains one of the largest family cabin areas constructed by the CCC. At the site, there are 16 cabins varying from one to three rooms available to rent.

**Parker Dam State Park Octagonal Lodge** is the only octagonal CCC structure built in the Pennsylvania parks system. The octagonal log structure contained saddle corners and white cement. Destroyed by a tornado in the early 1980s, the roof was restored using its original design.

#### Austin Dam

**Austin Dam**, built in 1909, was part of the Bayless paper mill. The structure averaged 46 feet in height and extended 534 feet across the Freeman Run valley. The thickness of the base was 20 feet, and tapered to six feet, nine inches at its height of 32 feet. Breaking in 1911, the Austin Dam disaster is the second-deadliest flooded dam disaster in Pennsylvania history. The ruins of the dam remain in a series of broken sections across the valley. Five sections remained upright, while two large sections and several small sections toppled over.

The Austin dam disaster was significant in creating a tragic flood, and fostered legislation to prevent such disaster. Because of the events that occurred with the Austin Dam, the first regulation and inspection of Pennsylvania dams was enacted.

#### Cherry Springs State Park

The **Cherry Springs Picnic Pavilion** was built by CCC camp S-88 from September 1933 to late 1941. The layout of the building was an H-plan log structure. Built using natural materials—wood, rocks, and white cement chinking—the rural structure blends into its environment.