

Old Loggers Trail



Mountain biking is permitted along Old Loggers Trail. Be courteous to hikers!

The 4.5-mile Old Loggers Trail offers hikers the chance to see how forests develop, and how they can be managed to improve wildlife habitats. You can access the trail just past the Seven Points campground entrance station or just before the Susquehannock campground entrance station. The main trail, numbered 1-16, follows old logging roads, farm roads and deer paths.

Through a partnership with the Ruffed Grouse Society, 500 acres surrounding the Old Loggers Trail area are being managed to improve the habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock and other wildlife species. Management of the trail includes timber cuts, bridge improvements, tree plantings, wetland enhancements, and installation of trailside exhibits and tree identification signs. The trail area is used to show small scale management techniques that are being duplicated on a larger scale elsewhere on the Raystown Lake Project.



Ruffed grouse (Pennsylvania's state bird) live in 38 of the 48 continental United States.

While hiking the Old Loggers Trail, you'll notice different sizes of trees and different forest stages. These demonstrate how, if left undisturbed, an open field will be invaded gradually by shrubs and saplings, young trees and finally mature forest. The stages of forest succession that you'll see reflect not only natural progression but also the effects of logging over the years by the timber industry.

Forest management techniques are in use today to make the forest a better home for wildlife.

Follow the Sheep Rock trail spur for a panoramic view of the lake, Seven Points Recreation Area and Marti's Island. The spur is named for Sheep Rock (now under water), which was a natural rock shelter used by early settlers to keep their livestock safe from attack.



New vegetation grows after changes such as farming, timber harvesting, hurricanes, or fire. This process is called forest succession.



scavenger hunt

What Did You Do on Your Hike?

Kids, fill out the hiking journal below and bring this page to the Visitors Center for a free "I Hiked the Old Loggers Trail" certificate!

- I hiked ___ miles.
- I saw _____
- I heard _____
- I touched _____
- I smelled _____
- What I liked best _____

What Did You Find on Your Hike?

Write down what you found on the trail:

- In the field area, I saw _____
- In a timbercut area, I saw _____
- In a successional field area, I saw _____
- In the mature forest, I saw _____

For updated trail conditions or more information, visit our website:

www.raystown.nab.usace.army.mil



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Baltimore District

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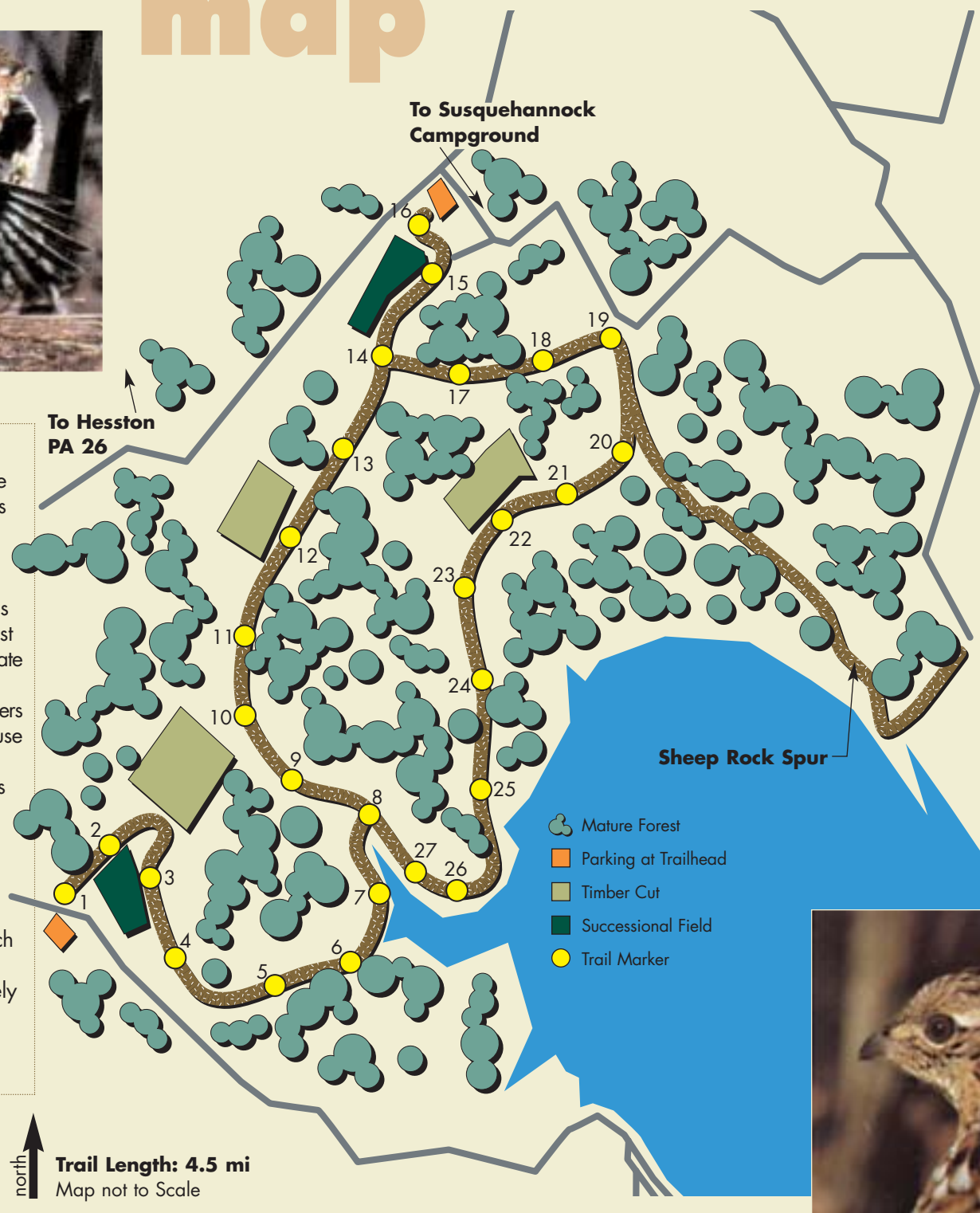
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map



The male ruffed grouse proclaims his property rights by "drumming"—beating his wings against the air to create a vacuum. The trail markers indicate grouse drumming survey points used to determine population trends. The distance between each marker is approximately 600 feet or one tenth of a mile.



Trail Length: 4.5 mi
Map not to Scale

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The Ruffed Grouse Society established the project in memory of member Jim Bashline, a wildlife enthusiast and writer who was vocal in his dedication to the improvement of wildlife habitats. For more information about ruffed grouse and the Ruffed Grouse Society, you may visit their website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org



Forest Management Techniques:

Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)

- Undesirable trees are removed; higher quality trees grow
- Allows sunlight to reach the understory vegetation and promote dense growth

Shelterwood

- A percentage of trees are removed to promote young seedling growth
- After five years, the remaining "shelter" trees are removed; new trees receive unlimited sunlight and create a new forest

Salvage Cut

- Removal of trees or a stand of trees infested by pest, disease, or damaged by fire or natural disaster
- Provides for the retrieval of some value from the impacted stand while preparing the site for new growth

Clear-cut or Even-age Management

- All standing trees are cut down, usable parts removed, undesirable parts left behind
- Improves wildlife habitat by providing cover
- Repairs an unhealthy forest by starting over
- Provides a more diverse forest

be a safe & courteous hiker

- Carry drinking water and a first aid kit
- Let someone at home know your plans
- Leave only footsteps, not litter
- Stay on designated trails
- Dress for the terrain and the weather
- Don't smoke or start fires outside official camping areas
- Don't disturb plants or animals
- Share the trail with other users
- Take time to look and listen

