

The Endless Mountains Regional Trail System Feasibility Study Steering Committee



Todd Arthur
Brian Baker
Dave Bower
Mike Clementoni
Joe Dotzel
Robin Feaster
Matt Frye
David Gardner
Mike Getz
Richard Glinski
Ann Henderson
Tom Hess
Jim Hine
Mike Hufnagel
Chris Iachini
Mel Lewis
Dennis Norman
Robert Rabb
Charlotte Rodriguez
Dennis Smouse
Bill Williams

This study was supported by the Sullivan Co. Commissioners, Wyoming Co. Office of Community Planning, the Lycoming Co. Planning Commission, PSSA, Bradford Co. Planning Commission, State Senator Roger Madigan, Sullivan Co. Office of Planning and Development, and Representative Tina Pickett, 110th District.

Project Mission and Goals

In November of 2007, The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Highland Lake Snowmobile Club shared a vision to explore the development of an interconnected, multi-use trail system that builds on the existing resources of the region. This partnership forged the basis of the Endless Mountain Regional Trail Feasibility Study. The scope of this study included:

- Evaluating the needs, opportunities, and feasibility for establishing a system of multi-use trail corridors and related trail-head centers.
- Taking inventory of existing facilities and resources.
- Establishing goals and objectives for guiding the trail design process.
- Gathering information from landowners and potential trail users regarding needs/concerns relative to a regional trail system.
- Analyzing data gathered relative to project goals and objectives.
- Developing conceptual trail layouts.
- Researching land ownership relative to concept trails; contact landowners.
- Identifying trail segments for and early development project.
- Recommending management structure.
- Identifying partners and funding sources for trail development projects.

Full Report Can Be Viewed at:

[ftp://ftp.larsondesigngroup.com/
Endless Mtn Regional Trail Feasibility Study 7-22-11.pdf](ftp://ftp.larsondesigngroup.com/Endless%20Mtn%20Regional%20Trail%20Feasibility%20Study%207-22-11.pdf)

Endless Mountain Regional Trail System Feasibility Study



Funded by:

**The Pennsylvania Department of
Conservation and Natural Resources
(DCNR)**

**The Pennsylvania Department of
Community and Economic Development
(DCED)**

**The Highland Lake Snowmobile and
Outdoor Recreation Club**

August 2011

Endless Mountain Regional Trail System Feasibility Study: Findings and Recommendations

Existing Conditions

There are 171 miles of designated Snowmobile Trails in northcentral Pennsylvania.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Mileage</u>
Loyalsock Forest	117
World's End State Park	3.13
Ricketts Glen State Park	28.28
State Gamelands # 12	21.85
State Gamelands # 13	23.6

These trails are located on public lands: Information was gathered from a survey and through local key person interviews. This data was compared with data from the State Snowmobile Study, the State Recreation Plan, and industry studies. Key findings include:

- Increasing snowmobiling opportunities would be good for the region's economy.
- The region's snowmobile trails are segmented.
- Trail conditions are not consistent and do not promote good riding experiences.
- Existing trails are not connected to trail-head facilities or other points of interests



Opportunities

While this study found no new interconnecting trail segments to be feasible at this time, there is still great opportunity in this region. The Bureau of Forestry and State Parks have many miles of no winter maintenance roads that are maintained as snowmobile trails. The potential of enhancing and expanding snowmobile trails on these lands depends upon collaboration between State Parks and State Forest officials with regional snowmobile enthusiasts and volunteers. Likewise, the Pennsylvania Game Commission also has a need for volunteers to help maintain trail corridors. Each of these agencies have expressed concerns for lack of equipment and staff time for trail enforcement and maintenance. In order for expansion and/or enhancements to these existing trails, support is needed by the local riders.

Become a Volunteer

Start a club or join a club and become a volunteer, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact:

Loyalsock State Forest
Loyalsock District Office
6735 Route 220
Dushore, PA 18614
(570) 946-4049
fd20@state.pa.us

**State Game Lands
North East region**
Post Office Box 220
Dallas, PA 18612-0220
(570) 675-1143

**Ricketts Glen
State Park**
695 State Route 487
Benton, PA 17814
570-477-5675

**State Game Lands
North Central Region**
Post Office Box 5038
Jersey Shore, PA 17740
(570) 398-4744

Recommendations

- **Develop the Endless Mountain Regional Trail System Commission** to administer the operation of the Endless Mountains Regional Trail System.
- Act as a liaison between Trail users and property owners. Some landowners will be reluctant to sign a long-term agreement, allowing trail access to their land.
- Make recommendations for trail improvements.
- Maintain the segments of the Trail System which are located on private and municipal land.
- Raise funds for trail maintenance and improvements.
- Promote the Trail System.
- Work with local businesses to expand and improve amenities and services that enhance visitors' experiences.
- Measure and communicate the economic benefits of the Endless Mountains Regional Trail System to area residents as well as trail users.

Composition: In order for this Commission to be effective, it must have representation from the following:

- Bureau of Forestry.
- Bureau of State Parks.
- Game Land Manager from Game Land #12 and Game Land #13.
- Departments of Planning and Economic Development of Bradford, Sullivan and, Lycoming Counties.
- Tourist Promotion agencies of Bradford, Sullivan, and Lycoming Counties.
- Chamber of Commerce.
- State and local law enforcement representatives.
- Representatives from each of the area's snowmobile clubs.
- DCNR Regional Recreation Advisor.
- Municipal Representatives.