



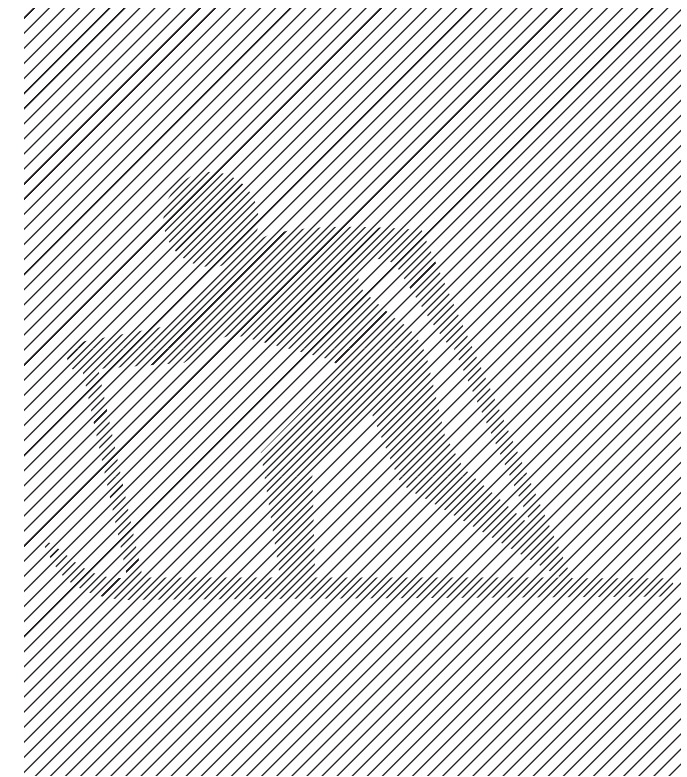
United States Department of Agriculture



Forest Service

Buzzard Swamp

Wildlife Viewing & X-C Ski/Hiking Area



BUZZARD SWAMP

WILDLIFE VIEWING & HIKING AREA

WELCOME to Buzzard Swamp. A 11.2 mile system of inter-connecting trails offers excellent opportunities to view wildlife, cross-country ski, mountain bike or go bass fishing. Fifteen man-made ponds were constructed in the early 1960's in partnership with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Buzzard Swamp is within a special management area that emphasizes wildlife management and recreational opportunities.

FINDING THE AREA – Two trailheads provide access to the area. The southern trailhead is located on Forest Road 157, 1 mile south of Marienville on Loleta Road. The northern trailhead is located on Forest Road 376, 2.5 miles east of Marienville on Lamonaville Road.

HIKING THE AREA – Most of the trails are not marked with diamonds, so watch the informational signs for directions. The skill level of the trails is easy and the terrain is relatively flat. Some of the trails are located within meadows with little protection from the sun and wind. Be prepared. "You Are Here" signs are located at trail junctions and other key locations.

Buzzard Swamp offers some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities on the Forest. The area is an important link in the Atlantic flyway during the waterfowl migration. During spring migration, 20-25 species of waterfowl can be seen around the swamp. An observant hiker could see bear, deer, beaver, coyote, snapping turtles, turkey, osprey and bald eagles. Don't forget your binoculars or spotting scope for great views of the native fauna.

All of the ponds have small and largemouth bass, perch, catfish, crappie, and bluegill. Boating is permitted on the ponds, but no motors are allowed. The nearest pond is 1 mile from the trailhead, and since no motorized vehicles are allowed within the swamp, boats must be carried.

The Songbird Sojourn Interpretive Trail is a 1.5 mile self-guided nature trail. The trail starts at the Forest Road 157 trailhead and is marked with gray diamonds. Pamphlets are available at the trailhead and the Marienville Ranger Station, 2 miles north of Marienville on State Route 66.

PROPAGATION AREA – Entering the propagation area for any reason is strictly prohibited. Minimizing access to this small propagation area (40 acres) has enabled essential vegetation to proliferate, providing critical habitat for nesting waterfowl. Excellent wildlife viewing opportunities are possible from trails bordering the propagation area. We ask for your cooperation in retaining this unique habitat.

REGULATIONS – These trails are for hiking, skiing, and mountain biking. Motorized vehicles, ATVs, and snowmobiles are not allowed on any of the trails. Forest trails policy prohibits the use of a saddle, pack, or draft animals on hiking or cross county ski trails. Entry into the waterfowl propagation area is strictly prohibited. No motorized boats are allowed on any of the ponds. Please take care not to disturb nesting animals and their young. Disturbance may cause the adults to abandon their young.

SAFETY – The skill level of these hiking trails is Easiest and you should be in good health to enjoy them. We encourage you to hike with at least one other person and to leave your itinerary with friends so they'll know where to look if you don't return on time or need assistance.

These trails are open for winter hiking. Remember to dress in layers appropriate for the weather conditions. Be aware that these trails are used heavily in the late fall and spring by hunters. It is a good idea to wear bright fluorescent colored clothing if hiking during these time periods. Practice NO TRACE ETHICS—PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT...and for sanitary disposal of wastes, dig a pit on flat ground at least 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from water.

EMERGENCY – The nearest hospital is in Brookville, 25 miles south. The nearest telephone is located in Marienville, 1 mile north on Loleta Road. The pump water in the developed recreation areas is safe for drinking. Water from any other sources should be boiled before consumption.

VOLUNTEERS – If you, a friend, or a club is interested in volunteering to help maintain trails in this area, please contact the Ranger Station.

CUSTOMER SERVICE – The Marienville area offers food, lodging, gas, and a small medical center. We would like to hear about your trail experience. Please report any unsafe trail conditions. We appreciate your support.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about this and other Forest opportunities, please contact:

Marienville Ranger District
HC 2, Box 130
Marienville, PA 16239
814-927-6628
814-927-8881 TTY
www.fs.fed.us/r9/alleghey

NWPA Great Outdoors
Visitors Bureau
175 Main Street
Brookville, PA 15825
814-849-5197
800-348-9393
www.pagreatoutdoors.com

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This brochure can be obtained in large print at the Allegheny National Forest, P.O. Box 847, Warren, PA 16365, (814) 723-5150.



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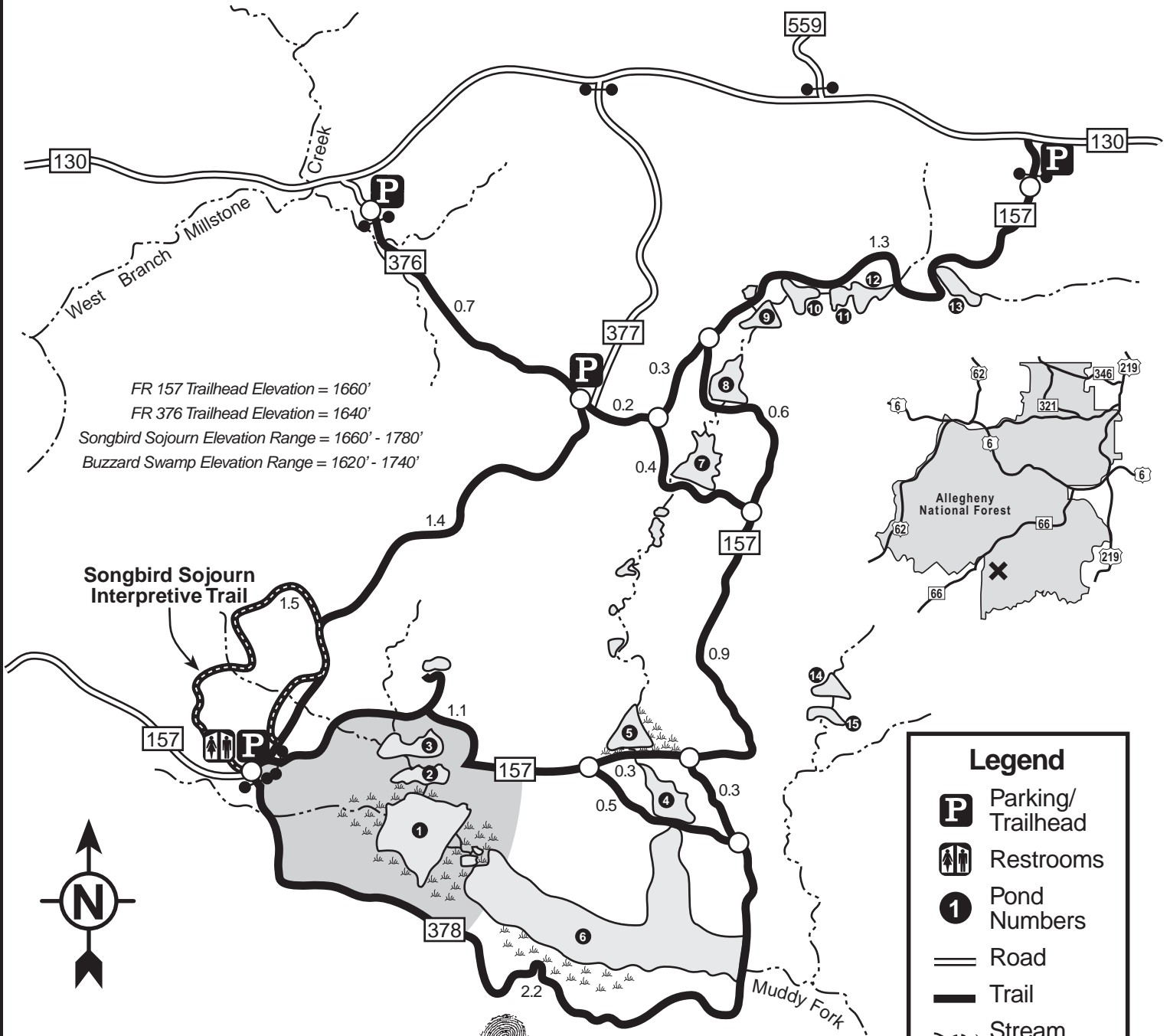
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Allegheny National Forest

Buzzard Swamp Trail System

Cooperatively Managed By
Allegheny National Forest and Pennsylvania Game Commission



FR 157 Trailhead Elevation = 1660'
FR 376 Trailhead Elevation = 1640'
Songbird Sojourn Elevation Range = 1660' - 1780'
Buzzard Swamp Elevation Range = 1620' - 1740'



Legend

- Parking/Trailhead
- Restrooms
- Pond Numbers
- Road
- Trail
- Stream
- Gate
- Swamp
- Propagation Area
- Information Signs

NOTE: All trail distances between intersections (marked with circles) are in miles.



Tread Lightly! is an educational program dedicated to increasing awareness of how to enjoy the outdoors while minimizing impacts.

Tread Lightly! Pledge:

- Travel and recreate with minimum impact.
- Respect the environment and the rights of others.
- Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go.
- Allow for future use of the outdoors, leave it better than you found it.
- Discover the rewards of responsible recreation.

Land stewardship ethics courtesy of Tread Lightly! (tlinc@xmission.com)

