Forest Recreation

The Cumberland State Forest is open from dawn to dusk and offers opportunities for hiking, wildlife watching, biking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and picnicking. Visitors are asked to adopt a "leave no trace" ethic when visiting the forest, as there are no restrooms or trashcans on the forest itself. Bear Creek Lake State Park, operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, is located within the forest and provides a good starting point for visiting the State Forest. The 14-mile Cumberland Multi-Use Trail weaves through both park and forest and can be accessed from either the park or the Cumberland State Forest office. The 16-mile Willis River Hiking Trail meets the Willis River as it goes from one end of the forest to the other. Hikers may also use the network of forest roads and trails that traverse the forest. Four lakes are available for fishing.

A State Forest Use Permit is required for hunting, trapping, fishing, bike riding and horse riding on Virginia State Forests. Permits are required for individuals age 16 and older, and can be purchased online for $15.00 at http://secure01.virginiainteractive.org/horf/ or where hunting licenses are sold.

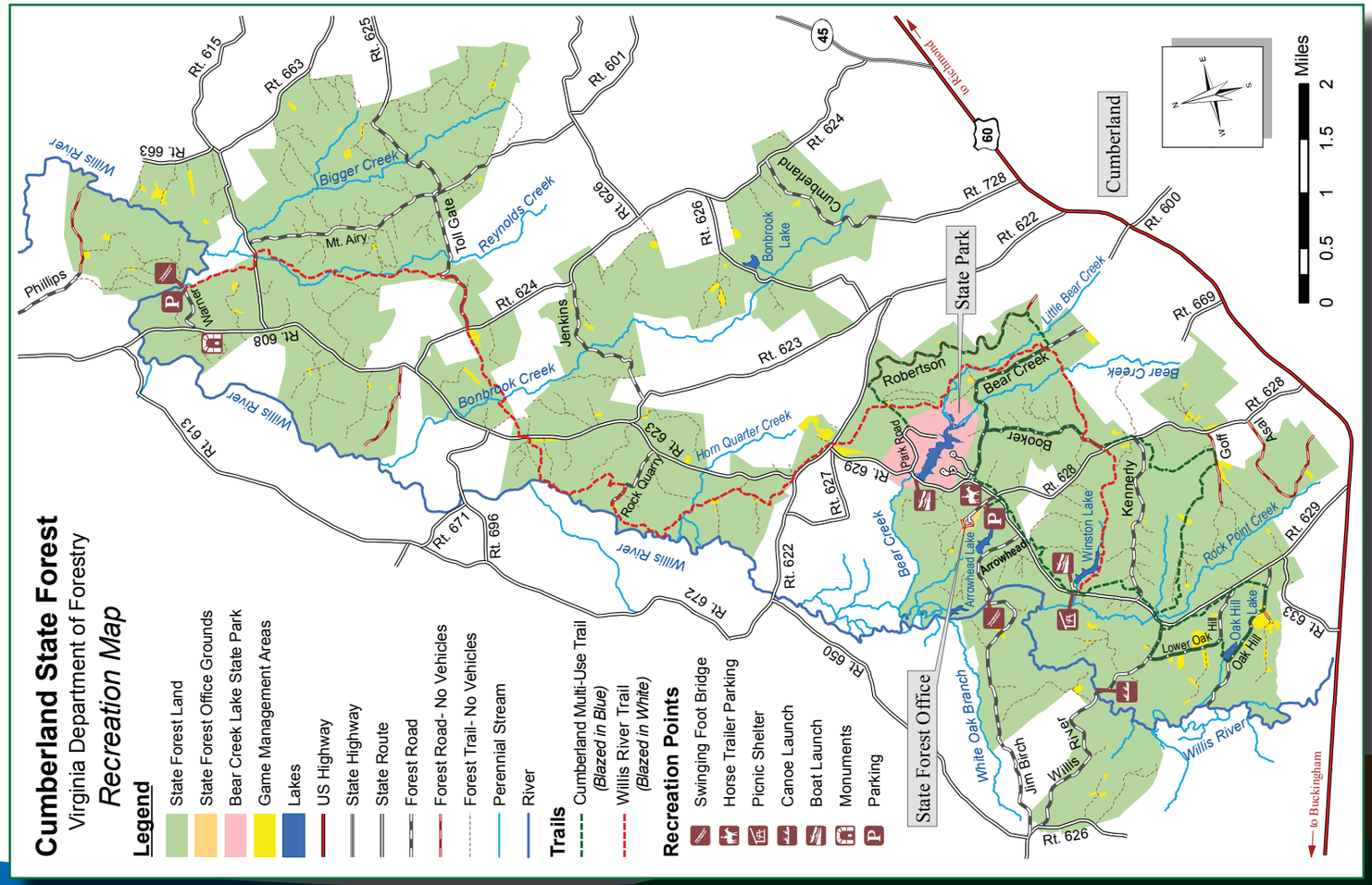
Cumberland State Forest Features:
Trails: 30.5 miles
Vehicle Roads: 24.8 miles
Gated Vehicle Trails: 74.8 miles
Ponds/Lakes: 4
Hunting/Fishing: Yes
Picnic Shelter: 1
Restrooms: No

State Forest Regulations

- Hunting and trapping with State Forest Use Permit in accordance with state hunting regulations.
- Fishing in designated areas only with State Forest Use Permit in accordance with state fishing regulations.
- Biking and horse riding in designated areas only with State Forest Use Permit.
- State Forest Use Permits required only for anyone age 16 and older.
- No removal of any tree, plant or mineral.
- Remove all trash.
- No camping, ATVs or public display of alcohol.
- No fireworks, campfires or open air fires of any type.
- Firearms are prohibited except for hunting purposes.
- Gasoline motorized boats are not permitted.
- Vehicular traffic on established roads only; not permitted on gated roads.

For a complete listing of State Forest Regulations, go to www.dof.virginia.gov.

Hunters map available at www.dof.virginia.gov.



Cumberland State Forest

Cumberland State Forest

Forest History

The land that comprises Cumberland State Forest has a long history of farming. Evidence of the land's former inhabitants can be seen in the cemeteries and old homesteads scattered throughout the forest. By the mid-1930s, much of this land had become unproductive and was highly eroded. At that time, the federal government began purchasing marginal farmland under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, enacted to help conserve and restore the health of the land. Much of this purchased land was soon leased to the state. In 1954, the federal government deeded land to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the Cumberland State Forest was born. Under the Virginia Department of Forestry's management, the forest grew to its present 16,222 acres in central Virginia's Cumberland County.

Cumberland State Forest is rich in history. The Charles Irving Thornton tombstone, with an inscription written by Charles Dickens, is on the National Register of Historical Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. The forest is also the site of Col. Jesse Thomas' homestead. Colonel Thomas rode his famous horse "Fearnaught" through the night to warn Baron Von Steuben that Cornwallis was coming, thus saving Von Steuben's regiment and the Continental Army's sole remaining supplies in Virginia.

Forest Management

One management goal on the Cumberland State Forest is sustainable timber production. Management activities on the State Forest demonstrate good forestry and conservation practices and provide sites for applied research in forestry. Wildlife habitat, recreation, and watershed protection are all compatible with sound timber management strategies.

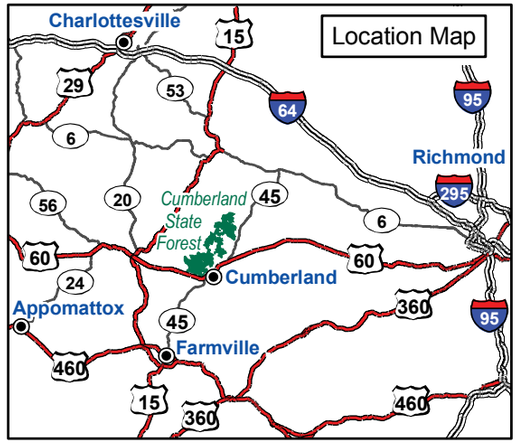
In the 1930s, much of today's forest was open farmland. When farming ceased, native pines colonized the abandoned fields. Today, the Cumberland State Forest contains a diversity of timber types, including loblolly pine stands and mature oak-hickory forest.

About Your State Forests

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) manages 19 State Forests and other state lands, totaling 57,685 acres. Virginia's State Forests are managed for multiple uses: water quality, recreation, forest products, wildlife and scenic beauty. The primary management goals of individual State Forests may vary, usually depending on the wishes of the donor of the land.

The State Forests of Virginia are self-supporting and receive no taxpayer funds for operation. Operating funds are generated from the sale of forest products. In addition, up to 25 percent of the revenue received from the sale of forest products is returned to the counties in which the forests are located. You can support educational programs on your State Forests by donating a portion of your state tax refund to Virginia's State Forests Fund.

Location



More Information

To learn more about what your state forests have to offer and to get directions to any state forest, visit **www.dof.virginia.gov**.

Contact Information

State Forest Main Office and Cumberland State Forest Office:

Phone: (804) 492-4121 ; FAX: (804) 492-9213
751 Oak Hill Road, Cumberland, VA 23040-2511

Virginia Department of Forestry
Headquarters
900 Natural Resources Drive, Suite 800
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Cumberland State Forest

~ 16,222 Acres ~
Cumberland County

Virginia Department of Forestry
www.dof.virginia.gov