

Sat.-Sun., June 25-26. Loyalsock Trail Backpack, Sec 2 & 3. 3C15

## General Description

In these two days, we will hike the complete section 2 and most of the section 3 of the Loyalsock Trail (LT). LT is blazed with metal discs that are painted red with the yellow letters "LT" in the center. The description below is based on the assumption that we will only stay on the LT; however, on the first day, there are a few side trails for us to explore and all the side trails will lead back to the LT. We can decide whether we will take the side trails on the spot, but if the time or the weather does not seem promising, the leaders would make the final decision.

Most ascents and descents are on the first day. The terrain of the second day is generally mild, and some of route coincides with road walking.

## Friday night, June 24.

We recommend you to camp at the **Worlds End State Park** on Friday night.<sup>1</sup> It takes about 1 hr driving from there to the finish point and another 30 minutes to the starting point. If you decide to camp at the Worlds End State Park, you have to let the leaders know in advance, because we have to make reservations.

Another option for Friday night camping is at **4.60 of the LT**. You can park your car at the Ranger Headquarters at 4.81 and hike southeast for 0.21 miles to the camping spot, where the LT joins Peter's Path at stream crossing.

## Day 1 – Saturday, June 25.

- **Meeting time & Shuttle**

We will meet at the 16.10 of the LT at 8:30 am on Sat and place our cars at the finish point and drive to the starting point.<sup>2</sup>

- **Route**

**Starting point** – Ranger Headquarters at Little Bear Creek (4.81)

**End point** – There are two options:

- A) Snake Run stream crossing (10.05) – estimated travel time<sup>3</sup>: 5hrs 46 mins
- B) Hessler Run hollow (13.08) – estimated travel time: 8hrs and 20 mins

We set off at the Ranger Headquarters, and start with steep ascends for about 0.5 miles. The ascends become more moderate later on. At 5.54, we encounter a white trail. At 6.24, another trail junction with red X trail. We reach summit of Smiths Knob at 6.38. So far, we have hiked 1.57 miles and gain 1142 feet of elevation.

Possible **lunch spots** are:

- 1) 6.65 Smiths Knob Vista, which is a feature of the LT.
- 2) 6.94 DER View, where hikers look north into Loyalsock Valley.

After Lunch, at 7.28 we meet the red X trail, and at 7.92 we cross Painter Run. This is our first water source. From the summit of Smiths Knob, we gather 482 of elevation loss and start to

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1 <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/worldsend.aspx>

2 Driving directions are at the bottom of this document.

3 Every "estimated travel time" in this document includes lunch and breaks.

climb again.

At 8.00 and 8.08, there are trail junctions where the LT meets a white trail and red X trail respectively. At 8.15, we cross Painter Run again. At 8.19, and 9.10, there are trail junctions. At 9.53, we start to descend. There's 525 feet elevation gain after we cross Painter Run the first time.

We have two possible camping options, (see **End point** above). If we choose option A, we have another 405 feet descent. If we choose option B, we have another 500 feet ascent and 505 feet descent and two more trail junctions.

- **Mileage & Elevation change**
  - Option A: 5.24 miles, 1,717 +, 887-
  - Option B: 8.27 miles, 2,217+, 987-
- **water sources**
  - 7.92 Painter Run.
  - 8.15 Painter Run.
  - 10.05 Snake Run.
  - 12.54 Big Grand Dad Run.
  - 13.08 Hessler Run.
- **camping options**
  - 10.05 Snake Run stream crossing
  - 13.08 Hessler Run hollow

## Day 2 – Saturday, June 26.

- **Starting Time** – no later than 8:30 am.
- **Route**

**Starting Point** – Hessler Run hollow (13.08) <sup>4</sup>

**End Point** – Road leading to Camp Genesee. (19.30), estimated travel time: 5 hrs 15 mins

The hike today has mild ascent and descent, and part of the route coincides with road walking.

Starting from 13.08, the first trail junction is at 13.53. Here is the end of section 2 of the LT. At 14.82, the LT crosses Old Huntersville Road and here is also a trail junction, which is the last trail junction of the hike. From 15.41 to 15.45, the LT is on Dunwoody Road, and at 15.90 it crosses old woods road and Laurel Run. From 16.10 to 18.25, the LT is on Genesee Trail Road. We finish our hike at 19.30, where we will see a road leading to Camp Genesee.

- **Mileage & Elevation change**  
6.22 miles, 750+, 750 -
- **Water Sources**
  - 15.90 Laurel Run
  - 16.90-17.40 Stream parallel to the LT

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<sup>4</sup> There are actually two possible starting points, but to avoid duplicate information, I assume that we start at the Hessler Run hollow (13.08).

## **Driving Directions:**

### **From your home to Worlds End State Park:**

Please go to the website of the Worlds End State Park and use the directions link from the webpage to get door-to-door directions.

### **From your home to Ranger Headquarters at Little Bear Creek (4.61):**

Suppose you are traveling from the starting point of the Loyalsock Trail. (LT, is a footpath which begins on PA Route 87, 9.0 miles north of the Route 87 – Montoursville Exit from Interstate 180 (US Route 220))

Follow Route 87, and turn right onto Little Bear Creak Road, and after you travel about another mile, you can park at the ranger station at 4.81.

### **From the Worlds End State Park to the meeting point (16.10):**

Follow PA-154, travel southeast and turn right onto US-220.

Follow US-220, travel southwest and turn right onto PA-864.

Take PA-864 West and turn right onto a paved road at Huntersville.

About one and half miles along this road, you will reach an Y intersection.

Take the RIGHT fork to follow Genesee Road which becomes a gravel road and merges into LT at 16.10.

### **From the Ranger Headquarters to the meeting point (16.10):**

Follow PA-87, drive south and turn left onto PA-864.

Follow PA-864 East and turn left onto a paved road at Huntersville.

About one and half miles along this road, you will reach an Y intersection.

Take the RIGHT fork to follow Genesee Road which becomes a gravel road and merges into LT at 16.10