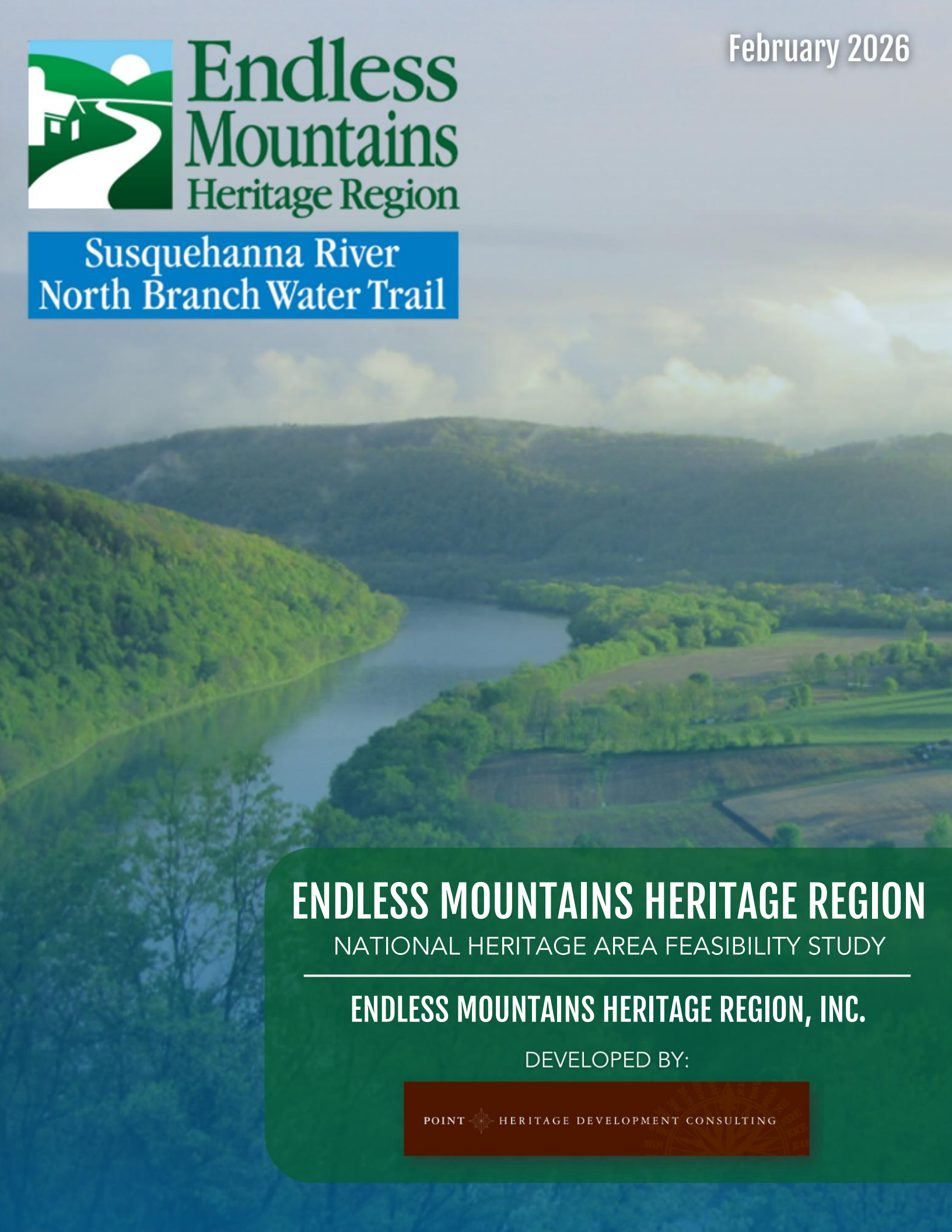


February 2026



**Endless
Mountains**
Heritage Region

**Susquehanna River
North Branch Water Trail**



ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE REGION

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE REGION, INC.

DEVELOPED BY:

POINT  HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT CONSULTING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY	1
National Heritage Areas.....	1
National Significance and Interpretive Themes.....	1
The Tipping Point – Contested Lands and Cultural Shifts	2
A Revolutionary Change	2
Cultivating History – Agriculture in the Endless Mountains.....	2
Transportation and Transformation.....	2
Boom, Bust, and Rebirth.....	2
Guiding Purpose, Enduring Place.....	3
Our Vision.....	3
Our Mission	3
The Feasibility of National Heritage Area Designation.....	3
A Call to Action	4
CHAPTER 1 – A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS	5
Purpose.....	5
National Heritage Areas.....	6
Project Background.....	6
Study Area.....	7
Historic Context of the Endless Mountains.....	7
The Planning Team.....	8
The Feasibility Study Process and Community Engagement.....	9
Concurrent Plans.....	10
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Other Laws	10
Next Steps.....	11
CHAPTER 2 – SIGNIFICANCE, THEMES & RESOURCES	12
Introduction.....	12
Statement of Significance.....	13
Theme 1: The Tipping Point – Contested Lands and Cultural Shifts	15
Resources	20
Theme 2: A Revolutionary Change.....	22
Resources	26
Theme 3: Cultivating History – Agriculture in the Endless Mountains.....	27
Resources	33
Theme 4: Transportation and Transformation	34
Resources	41
Theme 5: Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	42

Resources	49
Summary of Significance and Themes.....	51
CHAPTER 3 – JUSTIFICATION FOR A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.....	52
Introduction.....	52
A Strategic Assemblage of Resources.....	53
Endless Mountains Resource Inventory – Development and Overview.....	53
Resource Inventory Analysis.....	54
Living Traditions.....	56
Defining the Endless Mountains National Heritage Region Boundary.....	57
Why a National Heritage Area?.....	58
Roles for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region.....	59
Organizer.....	59
Project Implementer	59
Technical Assistance Provider.....	59
Funder	59
Promoter.....	60
Expanded Opportunities with National Designation.....	60
Conclusion	60
CHAPTER 4 – GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	62
Introduction.....	62
Organization and Current Initiatives.....	62
Management and Operations Needs.....	63
Key Collaborative Relationships and Partnerships.....	64
Financial Projections, Fund Development, and Sustainability	65
Five-Year Financial Projection	67
Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals	68
Mission Statement	68
Vision Statement.....	68
Goals of EMHR	68
Integration of Goals with Mission and Vision	70
CHAPTER 5 – NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA CRITERIA EVALUATION	71
Purpose.....	71
Criterion A: The Region Represents Distinctive Aspects of American Heritage.....	71
Criterion B: The Region Reflects Living Traditions, Customs, Beliefs, and Folklife.....	72
Criterion C: The Region Offers Outstanding Opportunities for Conservation, Recreation, and Education	72
Criterion D: The Region’s Resources Retain Integrity for Interpretation.....	73

Criterion E: There is Demonstrated Public and Governmental Support and a Conceptual Financial Plan	73
Criterion F: A Capable Coordinating Entity Has Been Identified	74
Criterion G: A Clearly Defined and Publicly Supported Boundary Exists.....	75
APPENDICES	76
Appendix A – Planning Participants	78
Appendix B – Public Engagement Activities	81
Appendix C – Endless Mountains Heritage Region Partners	91
Appendix D – Subject Matter Expert Review and Support.....	101
Appendix E – Concurrent Plans.....	111
Appendix F – Affected Environment	114
Appendix G – Maps	117
Appendix H – Endless Mountains Resource Inventory.....	123
Appendix I – Resolutions and Letters of Support	140



**Pennsylvania
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources**

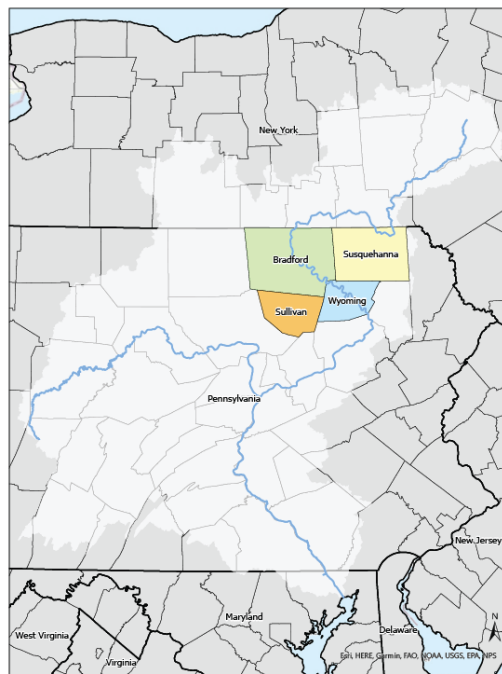
This feasibility study was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program and the Heritage Areas Program under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Grant Agreement #BRC-SR-28.6-9

Cover Image: A late summer evening view of the Susquehanna River and the Endless Mountains from the Marie Antoinette Overlook in Wyalusing. (EMHR)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Endless Mountains region of northeastern Pennsylvania – encompassing Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties – is a landscape formed by the Susquehanna River and defined by its rolling hills, forested plateaus, working farms, historic river towns, and vibrant communities. It is a region rich in layered histories and strong local identity, where generations of residents have drawn sustenance, meaning, and economic livelihood from the land and water.

The effort to designate a National Heritage Area (NHA) for this region is led by *Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc.*, a nonprofit organization that has served as the state-designated heritage area coordinating entity for over 25 years. With extensive experience in partnership development, heritage conservation, outdoor recreation, and regional planning, the organization is uniquely positioned to carry out the work of NHA designation and coordination.



The Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail traverses through the Endless Mountains region upon entering Pennsylvania at Susquehanna and Bradford counties. (Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission)

National Heritage Areas

NHAs are congressionally designated landscapes where natural, historic, cultural, and scenic resources tell nationally significant stories and are conserved and interpreted through voluntary, locally led partnerships rather than through federal land ownership or regulation. NHAs are part of the National Heritage Area System but are not units of the National Park System; instead, the National Park Service provides technical assistance and oversight. This feasibility study is being conducted pursuant to the National Heritage Area Act (Public Law 117-339), enacted in January 2023, which establishes the criteria and process for evaluating proposed NHAs. The study assesses whether the Endless Mountains region meets those criteria; the National Park Service will review the findings, and Congress retains sole authority to designate an NHA.



The "Wyalusing Rocks" scenic overlook, also known as "Prayer Rocks." This was a sacred site and served as a key signal point or beacon for the Native Americans who inhabited the area in the 18th century. (EMHR)

National Significance and Interpretive Themes

The Endless Mountains of northeastern Pennsylvania are nationally significant for the role the four-county region has played in shaping the political, cultural, economic, and ecological development of the Mid-Atlantic and the nation. What distinguishes the Endless Mountains on a national scale is not simply the presence of a major river, but the way the ancient Susquehanna River cuts across the Allegheny Plateau of the Appalachian Mountains, creating a rare corridor where deep geological time, Indigenous lifeways, colonial conflict, westward expansion, industrial extraction, and modern conservation remain visibly layered on the landscape. Here, one of the continent's

oldest rivers shaped enduring travel routes, settlement terraces, and contested borderlands that became sites of Indigenous displacement, a watershed Revolutionary War campaign, religious experimentation, and extractive booms tied to timber, coal, bluestone, and natural gas. Unlike many eastern river corridors in the United States where urbanization erased earlier patterns, the Endless Mountains retain exceptional integrity: Indigenous trails still underlie roads, boomtowns survive as ghost towns, rail viaducts remain active, farms still dot the landscape, and regenerated forests and parks created through New Deal conservation sustain outdoor recreation opportunities. Together, these tangible remnants allow nationally significant stories of adaptation, conflict, exploitation, and recovery to be read clearly in the present-day landscape.

This is captured in the statement of significance:

Continents collided, creating the Endless Mountains of northeast Pennsylvania, and channeling the waters of the ancient Susquehanna River. The mountains shaped the currents of history, from the Indigenous people that first paddled the Susquehanna watershed and harvested its bounty to today's summer sojourners. This rugged landscape defined settlement patterns, religious movements, war campaigns, and agricultural and extractive economies. Through its heart flows one of the world's oldest rivers, the Susquehanna, a source of life, agriculture, transportation, commerce, recreation, and the water that sustains our nation's most significant estuary system.

The feasibility study identifies five themes that support the region's national significance. Each theme, summarized below, is supported by a cohesive network of historic, cultural, and natural resources that remain visible and interpretable across the landscape.

The Tipping Point – Contested Lands and Cultural Shifts

The Susquehanna River corridor was a center of Indigenous land use and diplomacy, later upended by European and early American settlement and its attendant conflicts.

A Revolutionary Change

War, displacement, and opportunity reshaped the region during and after the American Revolution, as military campaigns gave way to land speculation, settlement, and cultural transformation.

Cultivating History – Agriculture in the Endless Mountains

Rugged terrain and family farms fostered self-reliant communities and agricultural lifeways that adapted to broader national changes.

Transportation and Transformation

From footpaths and river routes to canals, railroads, and highways, evolving transportation networks connected the region to larger markets and concepts of freedom, and also shaped its physical and economic landscape.

Boom, Bust, and Rebirth

Cycles of resource extraction and decline gave way to resilience, seen in forest regrowth, watershed restoration, and renewed connections to the natural landscape.



Historic barns and farms are seen across the Endless Mountains region's pastoral landscapes. (David Landis of V2V Trails)

Guiding Purpose, Enduring Place

The proposed National Heritage Area in the Endless Mountains Heritage Region envisions a place where shared stewardship of cultural, historical, and natural resources inspires connection, pride, and economic vitality.

Our Vision

Through diverse partnerships, the work of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region leads to an appreciation for and investment in our heritage, culture, natural resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities, fostering both community pride and economic vitality in the counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming.

Our Mission

To celebrate, preserve, and enhance the unique rural character and culture of the Endless Mountains.

The Feasibility of National Heritage Area Designation

The chapters that follow provide the framework and evidence for designation of the Endless Mountains National Heritage Region. Each chapter builds on the last, collectively demonstrating the region's national significance, the strength of its resources, the clarity of its interpretive themes, and the capacity for effective, locally driven management. Together, they form a comprehensive case for why the Endless Mountains merit recognition and support as a National Heritage Area.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the feasibility study's purpose, process, and guiding principles. It introduces the National Heritage Area concept, describes the study area, and outlines the collaborative planning and engagement strategy undertaken to assess readiness for designation.

Chapter 2 provides a chronological and thematic overview of the region's history, including Indigenous lifeways, the Revolutionary War, European and early American settlement, industrial development and devastation, and modern conservation efforts through the 20th century. This chapter includes the historical foundation and the themes and resources that define the region.

Chapter 3 contributes to the case for National Heritage Area designation by documenting a strategic assemblage of resources, a clearly defined four-county boundary, and a compelling regional identity rooted in shared history, geography, and community priorities. The chapter outlines how national designation would strengthen preservation, interpretation, recreation, tourism, and economic development efforts across the region.

Chapter 4 details the recommended governance structure, including the partnership network, mission and vision statements, organizational goals, and staffing and budget projections. It emphasizes a collaborative approach grounded in local leadership and cross-sector partnerships.



Cyclists traverse the Endless Gravel PA bikepacking loops during the Endless Mountains Grand Depart event. The loops and Grand Depart were created by the EMHR and several partner organizations. (David Landis of V2V Trails)

Chapter 5 summarizes how the region satisfies the criteria for designation set forth in the National Heritage Area Act of 2023. The criteria set forth a series of requirements for analysis, documentation, and determinations for proposed National Heritage Areas, including a nationally distinctive landscape, resource integrity, local support, and capacity for long-term management.



Crew members at the Lehigh Valley Railroad yards at Sayre in Bradford County, circa 1944. (*Bradford County Historical Society*)

A Call to Action

Designation of a National Heritage Area for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region offers an opportunity to recognize and invest in a landscape where national history is etched into river corridors, ridgelines, and rural communities. As one of the most defining forces in the region's story, the Susquehanna River's path through the Endless Mountains continues to influence how people live, connect, and care for the place they call home. With broad public support, a strong coordinating entity, and a cohesive region vision, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region is ready to be recognized as a National Heritage Area – a designation that can strengthen identity, support local priorities, and ensure its stories are well told and its future shaped by those who know it best.



A paddler raises his arms in triumph after kayaking over the former Oakland Dam site in Susquehanna County during an EMHR paddle in June 2024. (*EMHR*)



A view of the Endless Mountains from Windy Valley in Wyoming County. (Cal Otten)

CHAPTER 1 – A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IN THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS

Purpose

The purpose of this feasibility study is to assess the eligibility and preparedness of the Endless Mountains region in northeastern Pennsylvania to become a designated National Heritage Area (NHA). At its core, this process is about recognizing and elevating the region’s nationally significant landscapes and stories – its historic, cultural, and natural assets – while ensuring that a structure of partnerships and leadership exists to coordinate the NHA and manage the responsibilities that come with designation.

Chapter 5 explains the planning evaluation using the criteria initially developed by the National Park Service (NPS) and established in law through the National Heritage Area Act (Public Law 117-339), enacted in January 2023.¹ The criteria include the articulation of nationally significant themes, identification of related tangible and intangible resources, and confirmation of a viable coordinating entity to carry out the work. Importantly, the process also gauges community support and capacity for long-term stewardship, promotion, and sustainable development under the NHA framework.

Embedded in this planning effort is a broader strategy to foster regional collaboration, garner national recognition, expand economic opportunities, and enhance community pride.

¹ National Heritage Area Act of 2023, Public Law 117-339, <https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ339/PLAW-117publ339.pdf>, accessed December 15, 2025.

National Heritage Areas

National Heritage Areas are places where historic, cultural, and natural resources are woven together to tell nationally significant stories. Designated by Congress, each NHA is a lived-in, working region – home to communities, businesses, farms, schools, and traditions – where conservation is achieved through partnerships and voluntary collaboration rather than regulation. NHAs are not units of the National Park System, but they are part of the NPS' National Heritage Area System. They are managed by local coordinating entities that receive annual funding appropriated by Congress and technical assistance through NPS on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

The National Heritage Area program is founded on the principle that the stories of America are best told not only through monuments, but also through enduring connections between people and places across generations, cultures, and geographies. NHAs provide a framework for sharing these stories, advancing heritage tourism and recreation, and fostering community-based preservation and revitalization that contributes to economic development while highlighting what makes each region distinctive and nationally meaningful.

This feasibility study for the Endless Mountains is being conducted in accordance with the National Heritage Area Act of 2023, which establishes a standardized framework and criteria for evaluating proposed NHAs. This study is intended to demonstrate whether the region meets the statutory criteria for designation. Upon completion, NPS will review the study and assess its findings. Congress, informed by the study and the NPS evaluation, retains sole authority to designate an NHA by statute.

Project Background

The Endless Mountains region was originally designated as a Pennsylvania Heritage Area under a state program that differs fundamentally from the National Heritage Area program in purpose and evaluation criteria. The state heritage area program was created as a targeted economic development initiative, using history, heritage, and place-based identity as tools to support economically distressed communities across the Commonwealth. As reflected in the early management action plan for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, agriculture – expressed through the theme “Living with the Land” – was identified as a focal organizing theme, emphasizing working landscapes and community sustainability rather than national-level significance.

The initiative to explore NHA designation for the Endless Mountains region builds on more than two decades of success as a state-designated heritage area. Established in 1998 through the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) has been managed by a nonprofit organization of the same name, consistently demonstrating its capacity to advance preservation, education, tourism, and community development. Over the past 25 years, EMHR has raised over \$7 million in funding to support a diverse range of initiatives, including historic site restoration, scenic byway improvements, trail development, and educational programming, with more than \$3 million going out to partnership grants in the region.

The region's most recent *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan 2022–2026* identified the pursuit of national designation as the next logical step in EMHR's evolution.² With support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), EMHR initiated an NHA feasibility study in late 2023 and established a dedicated NHA Advisory Committee to guide the process. This study evaluates the region's readiness and builds momentum toward a unified regional identity that can be stewarded through expanded partnerships and national recognition.

Study Area

The proposed Endless Mountains National Heritage Region spans 2,850 square miles in northeastern Pennsylvania and is geographically aligned with the state-designated Endless Mountains Heritage Region. It includes in their entirety the four counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming.

The study area contains a cohesive concentration of heritage resources, interpretive themes, and an existing network of organizations and stakeholders. These factors contribute to its eligibility for designation and support the long-term coordination required for managing a National Heritage Area.



Study area for the National Heritage Area feasibility study.
(Diane Turrell / DDH Design)

Historic Context of the Endless Mountains

The Endless Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania are a dissected plateau within the Allegheny Plateau, an elevated landscape in the Appalachian Mountains that was carved into repeating ridges and valleys by erosion. The history of the Endless Mountains region unfolds along the course of the ancient Susquehanna River, whose glacially sculpted terraces and fertile bottomlands have shaped patterns of life and settlement for millennia. This rugged landscape, which began to take shape more than 300 million years ago, became an important corridor for human activity long before written history.

Indigenous peoples were the first stewards of the region, with archaeological evidence indicating human habitation stretching back more than 12,000 years. Over time, these early inhabitants transitioned from nomadic foraging to settled village life, cultivating corn, beans, and squash along the river's edge. By the Late Woodland period, complex societies flourished in the Susquehanna Valley, marked by permanent stockaded villages and extensive trade networks. These societies laid the foundation for the Susquehannock and Lenape peoples, whose histories were later disrupted by European contact, disease, and warfare.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, the region became a contested frontier shaped by shifting Indigenous alliances and expanding European interests. The Susquehannocks were pushed

² Relevant Strategies and Solutions. 2022. *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan 2022-2026*. Prepared for Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc. Accessed June 4, 2025.

<https://emheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EMHR-Management-Action-Plan-2022-2026.pdf>.

south by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, while French and English traders sought access to the fur-rich woodlands. The fur trade intensified competition, introduced new goods and diseases, and marked the beginning of extractive economic activity in the region. Haudenosaunee diplomacy led to land cessions, opening the region to colonial settlement while reinforcing territorial tensions that would erupt in later wars.

Colonial and Indigenous struggles came to a head during the Revolutionary era. The 1779 Sullivan-Clinton Campaign, launched by the Continental Army to subdue Haudenosaunee and Loyalist resistance, devastated Indigenous communities in the Susquehanna Valley. The campaign left the region open to postwar settlement. Land speculators, war veterans, and farmers from New England poured into the area, and new settlements took root.

Throughout the 19th century, agriculture became the cornerstone of life in the Endless Mountains. The rich soils along the Susquehanna and its tributaries supported diversified farming, which gradually evolved into a specialized dairy economy. The cultural landscape included barns, silos, Grange halls, and creameries, many of which still dot the countryside today. Transportation improvements that grew from Indigenous trails and turnpikes to canals and railroads opened new markets, spurred industrial growth, and brought cultural change to the region. The arrival of the railroad, in particular, catalyzed both economic opportunity and environmental degradation, enabling the large-scale extraction of timber, coal, and bluestone.

This period of resource exploitation gave rise to boomtowns such as Barclay, Ricketts, and Laquin, whose populations swelled with immigrant laborers and vanished just as quickly when the industries moved on. The environmental toll was profound – clear-cut forests, polluted waterways, and barren hillsides remained as evidence of the extractive legacy. In the early 20th century, conservation efforts, spurred by leaders like Gifford Pinchot and the work of New Deal programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, helped reforest the land, stabilize the economy, and lay the foundation for the region’s modern system of parks and forests.

By the late-20th century, the region had begun to redefine itself. While farming continued, especially dairy and specialty crops, and significant and active remnants of the bluestone and lumber industries persisted, outdoor recreation and heritage tourism emerged as important drivers of local identity and economy. Visitors came to hike, paddle, hunt, and enjoy the historic communities, while residents worked to conserve their cultural landscapes and living traditions – from county fairs and folk crafts to agricultural societies and historic preservation efforts.

In the 21st century, a new extractive industry – natural gas exploration in the Marcellus Shale – ushered in a new era of economic opportunity and changing landscape use. As before, the landscape has become a site of negotiation between prosperity and conservation, between short-term gain and long-term stewardship. The lessons of history – of boom and bust, resilience and renewal – are ever-present in the rolling hills, forested valleys, and enduring communities of the Endless Mountains.

The Planning Team

The Endless Mountains NHA feasibility study was directed and written by Point Heritage Development Consulting, LLC (PointHDC), a nationally recognized firm with expertise in heritage planning, nonprofit governance, and the NHA management and designation process. The team was led by Dr. Nancy Morgan, and co-led by August Carlino, with Peter Samuel providing technical advice. Together, PointHDC brings decades of experience working across public and private sectors to support heritage regions nationwide.

The planning process was carried out in close collaboration with EMHR’s staff and board under the leadership of Executive Director Cain Chamberlin, supported by a 15-member Board of Directors and a representative Advisory Committee of partners from government, tourism, the arts, outdoor recreation, education, and conservation. These internal and external teams ensured that the process remained grounded in regional realities while meeting the expectations of the National Park Service (NPS). Appendix A – Planning Participants contains a full listing of the members of these organizations.

The Feasibility Study Process and Community Engagement

From its outset, the feasibility study has prioritized transparency, inclusivity, and public participation. Several different approaches were utilized to capture a broad range of ideas and perspectives. Over 600 people participated in the different stages of the feasibility study process. Public engagement activities are described below, and a full list is included in Appendix B – Public Engagement Activities.

The planning outreach commenced with a virtual kickoff meeting in December 2023, followed by multiple in-person visits to all four counties to visit heritage sites, refine regional themes, engage residents, and strengthen the heritage partnership network (see Appendix C – Endless Mountains Heritage Region Partners). The PointHDC planning team also conducted 11 interviews with stakeholders, including elected officials, local government professionals, planning, arts, recreation, resource conservation, preservation, and museum representatives. The interviews were confidential, designed to test support and interest in the concept of a National Heritage Area, what the regional challenges are, and if the EMHR organization is capable of taking on the additional responsibility as an NHA coordinating entity. Additionally, a region-wide online survey was developed and distributed, yielding over 550 responses. The survey explored topics related to partners’ and the general public’s interest in an NHA, including the benefits and challenges of designation, volunteerism, sources of news and information, and general demographic data.

The planning process also provided for three public meetings. The first meeting included an introduction to National Heritage Areas and a discussion about the region’s important places and stories. The mid-point meeting included a discussion on themes, significance, and regional challenges and priorities. During the final meeting, the PointHDC planning team presented the draft feasibility study and solicited comments and support.

EMHR also formed two working committees to shape key components of the study. The Themes and Resources Committee helped identify nationally significant storylines and corresponding assets. The Governance Committee developed a sustainable operating model for the nonprofit organization’s future, and the NHA. Both committees worked closely with the Advisory Committee to validate findings and provide regional insight.

EMHR enlisted five subject matter experts to review the region’s history, significance, and themes prior to presenting that information to the public. Appendix D – Subject Matter Expert Review includes their assessment of the region’s significance, themes, and resources. The experts provided insight from a variety of fields, including history, preservation, and conservation (see Appendix A – Planning Participants).

Although no Native American Tribes are currently located in the Endless Mountains, the region was home to many Tribes prior to European contact and through the eighteenth century. Today, nations descended from the Lenape and Haudenosaunee peoples, who previously lived in the region, are found in New York, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin. EMHR provided the 14 Tribes

connected to the region the opportunity to contribute to and comment on the history, significance, and themes during the development of the feasibility study, as well as to review the full feasibility study draft during the public comment period.

During the study process, EMHR conducted an outdoor recreation survey. At time of writing, more than 330 people had responded; of those, 250 respondents engaged in outdoor recreation activities at least weekly, with hiking, kayaking, birding, fishing, and camping having the most participants. Although the survey was not technically part of the feasibility study, it underscored the importance of recreation in the heritage area.



Paddlers take a swim during the EMHR's Summer Heritage Benefit Paddle in Wyoming County. (EMHR)

More than a technical report, this study has served as a platform for building consensus, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that the vision for a future NHA is inclusive, credible, and shared. EMHR's ability to attract broad and sustained participation underscores its role as a trusted convener with deep community roots.

Concurrent Plans

This feasibility study builds upon existing planning documents, strategies, and initiatives, which provide valuable context and direction. Chief among them is the *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan 2022-2026*, which not only set new organizational goals but also formally prioritized the pursuit of NHA designation. That plan reflects input from a diverse range of stakeholders and aligns with broader state heritage, recreation, and economic development frameworks.

Additional relevant plans include county comprehensive plans, the *Pennsylvania Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan*, the *Pennsylvania Statewide Historic Preservation Plan*, and tourism strategies led by the region's destination marketing organizations. These references are summarized in Appendix E – Concurrent Plans, demonstrating how NHA designation complements existing regional and statewide priorities.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Other Laws

Federal funding was not used in the development of the feasibility study, and the planning project has no potential for significant adverse impacts on the many cultural and natural resources in the region within the proposed boundary of the NHA. As such, no formal declaration is needed regarding NEPA. Upon designation as an NHA, the local coordinating entity named in legislation will be responsible for ensuring that federal and state laws pertaining to preservation and conservation are properly applied in the NHA. Such laws include NEPA, the Archeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Pennsylvania History Code, among others. After designation, if future projects of the NHA are developed that have a direct effect on cultural or natural resources in the region, the entity responsible for the individual project will review the project through appropriate pathways, such as the NHPA Section 106 and NEPA processes, as applicable. The affected environment for the project is described in Appendix F.

Next Steps

The Endless Mountains region of northeastern Pennsylvania is defined by centuries of cultural continuity and transformation, shaped by the Susquehanna River and the communities that have grown up along its course. From Indigenous homelands and colonial crossroads to industrial boomtowns and agricultural landscapes, this four-county region tells a story that resonates far beyond its borders – one that merits recognition within the National Heritage Area system for its contributions to the American experience.

The proposed designation of the Endless Mountains as a National Heritage Area would formally recognize the region’s national significance and expand its benefits across multiple sectors throughout the region. Like NHAs across the country, this designation would amplify regional identity, support preservation efforts, improve access to natural and cultural resources, and stimulate local economies through heritage tourism and outdoor recreation. With more than \$7 million already invested as a state heritage area, EMHR has shown how state designation has been able to generate important benefits, with anticipation that federal designation can multiply that impact – bringing new resources to communities, trails, cultural programs, and heritage organizations.

EMHR has cultivated a broad, effective network of partners: conservation groups, historical societies, tourism agencies, Tribal leaders, local and state governments, and economic development organizations. This feasibility study confirms that the Endless Mountains Heritage Region has the nationally significant story, resource base, and organizational capacity required to become a successful National Heritage Area. The groundwork is in place: a compelling narrative, more than a hundred documented resources, and a coordinating entity already leading with vision and credibility.

With strong support from local and state partners, a unified strategy for heritage development, and growing momentum, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region is well positioned to join the national system of heritage areas. Designation would elevate its story, strengthen its future, and ensure that this remarkable region – its landscape, its people, and its legacy – remains visible, vibrant, and enduring.



The Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct, also known as the Nicholson Bridge, on a foggy fall morning. (Josh Stull)

CHAPTER 2 – SIGNIFICANCE, THEMES & RESOURCES

Introduction

When considering the Endless Mountains region for designation as a National Heritage Area, a key part of conducting a feasibility study is examining the historic themes and the region's national significance. This process involves a thorough analysis of the area's history to identify nationally important themes and resources that have contributed to America's story. This helps determine if the region has a distinctive landscape that can be recognized on a national level. Furthermore, by understanding and identifying the historical and cultural significance of the Endless Mountains, people can appreciate its role in the broader national story and work towards preserving its unique heritage for future generations.

A nationally distinctive landscape is a place that holds significant regional and national stories. These stories, along with their natural and cultural resources, help Americans understand, preserve, and commemorate the country's diverse heritage. Such landscapes include collections of resources with integrity linked to one or more of the following:

1. Important historical periods of the nation and its people
2. Major events, persons, and groups that contributed substantively to the nation's history, customs, beliefs, and folklore
3. Distinctive cultures and cultural mores

4. Major industries and technological, business, manufacturing innovations/ practices, and labor advancements that contributed substantively to the economic growth of the nation and the well-being of its people
5. Transportation innovations and routes that played central roles in important military actions, settlement, migration, and commerce
6. Social movements that substantively influenced past and present-day society
7. American art, craft literature, and music
8. Distinctive architecture and architectural periods and movements
9. Major scientific discoveries and advancements
10. Other comparable representations that, together with their associated resources, substantively contributed to the nation's heritage

The statement of significance and potential themes that highlight the Endless Mountains' unique contributions to America's heritage are key components of the National Heritage Area feasibility study. These themes provide a framework to support the potential NHA designation, illustrating the region's importance and adding context to its distinctive landscape.

Statement of Significance

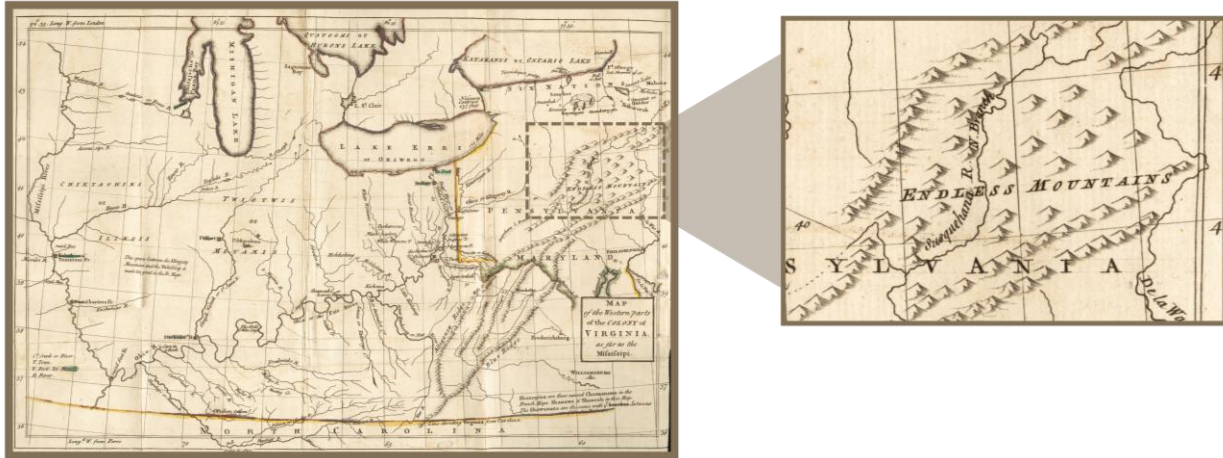
Continents collided, creating the Endless Mountains of northeast Pennsylvania, and channeling the waters of the ancient Susquehanna River. The mountains shaped the currents of history, from the Indigenous people that first paddled the Susquehanna watershed and harvested its bounty to today's summer sojourners. This rugged landscape defined settlement patterns, religious movements, war campaigns, and agricultural and extractive economies. Through its heart flows one of the world's oldest rivers, the Susquehanna, a source of life, agriculture, transportation, commerce, recreation, and the water that sustains our nation's most significant estuary system.

The Susquehanna River likely emerged from a shallow sea between 320 and 340 million years ago, making it one of the most ancient rivers on the globe. The Susquehanna, the New River, and the French Broad River are the North American continent's oldest rivers, forming around the same time and dividing the Appalachian range of mountains into different regions.

The Endless Mountains rose up around the Susquehanna during the Allegheny orogeny, the continental uplift that occurred when Africa's predecessor slammed into what would eventually become the East Coast of North America. The thick, swampy forests through which the river ran became peat and eventually coal, compressed under the weight of the colliding continents. Over the next 250 to 300 million years, the river carved a 444-mile corridor from the Allegheny Plateau of the Appalachian Mountains through the ridge and valley region and the piedmont to the coastal plain that opens into the Atlantic Ocean. The concluding chapter in the river's geologic chronicle was written by the glaciers that sculpted the corridor in their advance, then 15,000 years ago flooded it with meltwater that formed Chesapeake Bay. Lining the river's channel, the wide terraces created by glaciation became favored landforms for the region's next phase of development – human habitation from prehistory to the present.³

³ Cuff, David J., et. al., editors. 1989. *The Atlas of Pennsylvania*, Temple University Press, pp. 24-25.

From the Indigenous people who first made their home in the region to today's residents and visitors, the Endless Mountains and the Susquehanna River have shaped enduring patterns of



Map of the western parts of the colony of Virginia, as far as the Mississippi. This 1754 map accompanied George Washington's journal of his expedition to the Ohio River. The excerpt clearly identifies the Endless Mountains. (Richard H. Brown Revolutionary War Map Collection at Mount Vernon, licensed under a CC BY-NC-SA).

settlement, economy, movement, and land use. What distinguishes the region nationally is the exceptional integrity of the ancient Susquehanna River corridor, where successive layers of American history – from Indigenous travel and settlement, through colonial conflict and Revolutionary War campaigns, to extractive booms, conservation, and renewal – allowing defining national patterns of adaptation, displacement, industry, and stewardship to remain legible in the present-day landscape.

Geologically, the Endless Mountains are not a true mountain range, but rather a deeply dissected plateau within the Allegheny Plateau of the western and central Appalachian Mountains that is characterized by repeating ridges and valleys carved by erosion. Long before European settlement, the Lenni Lenape people used the term "Kittatinny" – translated as "endless mountain" – for the first great ridge of the Appalachians. The precise origin of the name "Endless Mountains" for today's four-county region is lost to history, but it appears on European maps by the mid-18th century, including a 1749 map by Lewis Evans. The name reflects how early mapmakers and settlers experienced the region as a seemingly unbroken series of ridges and hollows. That perception was reinforced by the account of a young George Washington's journey to the French forts on the Ohio River. The name "Endless Mountains" is boldly identified on the 1754 map published with Washington's report, helping fix the idea of an expansive, rugged, and enduring upland landscape in the colonial imagination.

Colonial settlement in the rugged terrain was still sparse when Washington passed through, but the region's Indigenous inhabitants had already begun to feel the pressure of European settlement on the eastern seaboard. The tribes of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, mostly located in what is now New York, were pushing south into lands that had long been under the control of the Susquehannock and Lenape people. The century that followed Washington's journey would bring unprecedented change, but the pattern of communities, farms, and roads that emerged in that era still define the structure of the landscape today.

The Endless Mountains embrace the North Branch of the Susquehanna River before it meets the West Branch and continues its journey toward Chesapeake Bay. Covering an area of about 27,500 square miles, the river's watershed accounts for about 43 percent of the Chesapeake

Bay's drainage area and provides nearly 50 percent of its freshwater flow.⁴ The Susquehanna River is cherished for its beauty, rich cultural history, and abundant opportunities for water-based recreation. It plays a crucial role in the Atlantic Flyway, supporting the migratory patterns of waterfowl, and its water is vital to the globally significant estuarine ecosystem of Chesapeake Bay.

Together, the Endless Mountains and the Susquehanna River that flows through them define a nationally significant landscape that contains stories of settlement and displacement, war and peace, agriculture and resource extraction, destruction and rebirth.

Theme 1: The Tipping Point – Contested Lands and Cultural Shifts

For millennia, Indigenous people lived on lands along the river that took its name from the Susquehannock tribe. In the 17th and 18th centuries, their settlements and way of life were severely altered in the face of competing interests and colonial incursions. The Haudenosaunee Confederacy forced the Susquehannocks south and used their homeland as a military buffer. Colonial pressure on the eastern seaboard led to the Susquehannocks' return, accompanied by other displaced Tribes seeking new homes. The French came for furs, the English came to farm, the Moravians came to missionize, and successive wars over land, loyalty, and freedom set the region on a different path.

The earliest evidence of human habitation in the region dates to over 12,000 years ago in the Paleoindian Period. Near the end of the last Ice Age, small family groups foraged and hunted together in a seasonal round. As the glaciers receded, an environment similar to today emerged, and people adapted their subsistence strategies.⁵ Throughout the Archaic and Transitional periods, the population steadily grew. People became more efficient at exploiting food resources within increasingly smaller territories, and trade networks formed.

The Woodland period, beginning about three thousand years ago, is marked by permanent settlements and early agriculture. Between 950 AD and 1250 AD there is evidence of widely spaced farmsteads along the Susquehanna and its tributaries. The farmsteads had one or two houses, each sized to hold a large nuclear family, and people grew corn, squash, and beans. Small upland sites suggest that seasonal hunting and foraging was still important. After 1250, in the Late Woodland, permanent villages appeared, and by the middle of the 1500s, these were often stockaded for protection from neighboring tribes.⁶ These increasingly complex and permanent settlements formed the cultural foundation encountered – and disrupted – by Europeans colonists in the 17th century.

The earliest European presence in the Endless Mountains was driven by economic interest rather than settlement. Fur traders came to the region in search of pelts, initiating a new era of commerce that profoundly altered Indigenous economies, trade patterns, and lifeways. The

⁴ "Susquehanna River Basin Facts," Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Accessed June 11, 2024. <https://www.srbc.gov/our-work/fact-sheets/docs/river-basin-facts.pdf>.

⁵ "Paleoindian Period," Pennsylvania Archaeology, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Accessed June 12, 2024. <https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/archaeology/native-american/paleoindian-period.html>.

⁶ "Late Woodland Period," Pennsylvania Archaeology, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Accessed June 12, 2024. <https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/archaeology/native-american/late-woodland-period.html>.

infamous French explorer and trader Étienne Brûlé may have reached the upper Susquehanna in the early 17th century, though historical documentation is inconclusive. French and English traders sought the pelts of beaver, muskrat, fox, otter, panther, mink, marten, bear, and raccoon, sending them down the Susquehanna for shipment to European markets. The fur trade introduced new goods and technologies, but also disease and environmental strain. Overhunting – especially of beaver – triggered competition and territorial expansion, particularly by the Haudenosaunee, and marked one of the earliest forms of resource extraction in the region. It also contributed to the eventual displacement of the Susquehannocks from their homeland and the decline of wildlife communities.⁷

The Susquehannocks, an Iroquoian-speaking people distinct from the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, were the primary inhabitants of the Endless Mountains region when Europeans arrived in the New World.⁸ They are believed to be close relatives of the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, possibly migrating south from present-day New York in the years before European exploration. Historical accounts indicate that the Susquehannocks shared many cultural traits with the Haudenosaunee, including language and religion.⁹

In the eastern portion of the Endless Mountains region, with their homeland centered on the Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, lived the Lenape, also known as the Lenni-Lenape or the name given to them by Europeans, the Delaware. One of the most ancient continuous cultures in the Northeast, the Lenape were Algonquian-speaking and maintained distinct cultural practices from their Haudenosaunee neighbors. Oral history passed down through generations records their arrival over the “frozen sea” where “they crossed waters where the land almost touched,” before they made their way to Lenapehoking, their homeland between the rivers. As colonial expansion intensified during the 18th century, Lenape communities in the region were displaced by war, land loss, and diplomatic pressure. By the early 19th century, most had been forcibly removed from their ancestral territories.¹⁰

Today, three federally recognized tribes – the Delaware Nation (Oklahoma), the Delaware Tribe of Indians (Oklahoma), and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians (Wisconsin) – are descendants of Lenape peoples who once lived in the Endless Mountains and

⁷ Parrott, Zach and Tabitha Marshall. “Iroquois Wars,” The Canadian Encyclopedia. Originally published 2006, updated 2019. Accessed June 11, 2024.

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/iroquois-wars>.

⁸ The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy or the Five Nations, were comprised of the Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, and Seneca Nations. After 1722, they were joined by the Tuscarora, many of whom were relocated from North Carolina, and became the Six Nations.

⁹ Kent, Barry, *Susquehanna’s Indians*. 2nd ed. 2001. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

¹⁰ “The History of the Delaware Nation.” Delaware Nation. Accessed June 6, 2025.

<https://www.delawarenation-nsn.gov/history/>.

“Lenape History.” Official Web Site of the Delaware Tribe on Indians.” Accessed June 6, 2025.

<https://delawaretribe.org/blog/2013/06/26/history/>.

“Brief History – The Muh-he-con-ne-ok.” The Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians. Accessed June 6, 2025. <https://www.mohican.com/brief-history/>.

broader mid-Atlantic region. The Stockbridge-Munsee share Munsee Lenape ancestry, but developed as a distinct Tribal nation through later relocations. Though removed far from their original homelands, these communities continue to assert cultural and historical ties to the Susquehanna River Valley and participate in linguistic and cultural conservation and education efforts.

Epidemics and pressure from fledgling European settlements decimated Indigenous populations and realigned territories up and down the eastern seaboard. In the late 1500s and early 1600s, the Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy extended their territory into the Endless Mountains, forcing the Susquehannocks south along the Susquehanna River to the mouth of Chesapeake Bay in the 1600s. The Haudenosaunee treated the Endless Mountains as a firewall against the neighboring Lenape. As beaver and other targets of the fur trade were becoming scarce, they used the area mostly for hunting and trapping, not permanent settlement.

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy, composed of the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and later the Tuscarora, held considerable political and military influence over the Endless Mountains region in the 17th and 18th centuries. Though their original homelands were centered in present-day New York, Haudenosaunee leaders asserted territorial claims across northeastern Pennsylvania, often treating the region as a military and diplomatic buffer zone. Their presence shaped the geopolitical landscape long before formal colonial settlements took root.

By the early 1700s, Haudenosaunee diplomacy played a central role in land cessions to the Province of Pennsylvania. Through figures such as Shikellamy, an Oneida leader and British-appointed overseer at Shamokin, and his close collaborator Conrad Weiser, the Confederacy formalized its authority to speak for vast territories – including those traditionally occupied by displaced groups like the Susquehannocks and Lenape. Together, they helped broker a series of treaties that gradually opened the region to colonial expansion, most notably through the 1736 Philadelphia Treaty and later agreements that laid groundwork for the 1754 Albany Congress. These negotiations reinforced the Confederacy's intermediary role between colonial governments and other Native nations, while also fueling long-term tensions over land sovereignty and displacement.¹¹

Although the Haudenosaunee themselves did not establish permanent settlements in the Endless Mountains, they maintained control of its hunting grounds and travel corridors. By the mid-18th century, waves of colonial settlement and military conflict during the French and Indian War and American Revolution disrupted Indigenous use of the region. The Battle of Wyoming in 1778, in which American patriots were defeated by English loyalists and Haudenosaunee allies, led to the 1779 Sullivan-Clinton Campaign. In Pennsylvania and New York, Haudenosaunee villages and food systems were brutally targeted during the campaign, resulting in a significant reduction of Haudenosaunee influence in the region.

Today, several Haudenosaunee-descended nations, including the Cayuga Nation, Onondaga Nation, Oneida Indian Nation, Seneca Nation of Indians, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, Towanda Band of Seneca, and the Tuscarora Nation, continue to acknowledge ancestral and cultural ties to this landscape. Though based in New York and Oklahoma, these governments remain engaged in matters involving land use, historic preservation, and

¹¹ Faull, Katherine M. (ed.). 2024. *Cultures at the Susquehanna Confluence: The Diaries of the Moravian Mission to the Iroquois Confederacy, 1745-1755*. Penn State University Press.

consultation on projects that affect their ancestral homelands.¹² Their enduring presence and continued engagement reflects the deep historical layers of sovereignty, diplomacy, and cultural identity embedded in the terrain of the Endless Mountains.

By the mid-18th century, the Endless Mountains had become a place of transition and refuge for multiple Native nations displaced by colonial expansion, warfare, and epidemic disease. In addition to the Lenape and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the region was traversed or intermittently inhabited by groups such as the Shawnee, including bands now represented by the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, and Shawnee Tribe – all of which were forcibly removed westward in the 18th and 19th centuries. Other displaced peoples, such as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, descend from Christianized Mohican and Munsee groups who were relocated from New England and the Hudson Valley to central New York and later Wisconsin. While these nations are not originally from the Endless Mountains, the region formed part of a broader Indigenous landscape of movement, alliance, and contested refuge in a time of upheaval. Their historical passage through this region adds further depth to the story of cultural shifts, adaptation, and dispossession.

In the 18th century, as English colonies flourished in Virginia, the Susquehannocks began a gradual return to their homeland in the Endless Mountains, accompanied by remnants of other Tribes who were losing their territory and culture in the face of European disease and displacement. Native American Tribes in the Endless Mountains during the 18th century often contained members of several groups. The largest settlement was at Tioga Point, the gateway to the Haudenosaunee Confederacy at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers. Other Indigenous settlements identified on 18th century maps include Wyalusing, Tunkhannock, Meshoppen, and Towanda.¹³

These earlier diplomatic efforts laid the groundwork for later colonial expansion and were echoed in subsequent alliances and treaties that reshaped land control in the Endless Mountains. By legitimizing Haudenosaunee claims to territories traditionally occupied by other Native nations, these alliances and treaty negotiations helped lay the groundwork for future colonial expansion into the region.

¹² "History and Culture," Cayuga Nation: People of the Great Swamp. Accessed June 9, 2025. <https://cayuganation-nsn.gov/about/history-and-culture/>.

"Timeline," Onondaga Nation: People of the Hills. Accessed June 9, 2025. <https://www.onondaganation.org/history/timeline>.

"Oneida History," Oneida Indian Nation. Accessed June 9, 2025. <https://www.oneidaindiannation.com/tag/oneida-history>.

"History," Seneca Nation of Indians. Accessed June 5, 2025. <https://sni.org/culture/history/>.

Wright, Muriel H. "A Guide to the Indian Tribes of OK: Seneca," Seneca-Cayuga Nation. Accessed June 6, 2025. <https://sctribe.com/history/05-03-2016/guide-indian-tribes-ok-seneca>.

"Culture and History," St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. Accessed June 6, 2025. <https://www.srmt-nsn.gov/culture-and-history>.

"Home," The Tonawanda Reservation Historical Society. Accessed June 9, 2025. <https://tonawandareservationhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com>.

¹³ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, prepared for the Endless Mountains Steering Committee by JMA/Watson, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Urban Research and Development Corporation, November 1998, pg. 2-5.

The fur trade also set the stage for decades of conflict among Europeans and Native Americans over resources and territory. French and English colonial powers engaged in a series of shifting alliances with native peoples, who participated in the colonial wars in order to ensure or bolster their own regional economic or political power. This culminated in the French and Indian War (1754-1763), during which the Haudenosaunee Confederacy were allied with the English, who ultimately gained control of all French holdings in what is now Canada and the United States. The Susquehanna River became an important border for spheres of influence between the French and the British in Pennsylvania. Although little of the war touched the Endless Mountains, this Haudenosaunee-British alliance would bring significant consequences to the region in the American Revolutionary War a little more than a decade later.

Although forts and military actions in the French and Indian War did not intrude in the Endless Mountains, at the war's conclusion, English colonists pushed the frontier further west as agricultural land became scarcer in the colonies. In the interim between the French and Indian War and the American Revolution, colonists settled in Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties on agricultural lands along the Susquehanna and its tributaries. Only after the Revolution did colonists venture into the more rugged terrain of Sullivan County in significant numbers.¹⁴

This period included the first of three Yankee-Pennamite wars, when Connecticut and Pennsylvania became embroiled in a dispute over an expanse of land that lay at the border of both colonies. Land in the region was deeded by entities in both colonies to encourage settlement, resulting in settlers coming to arms over conflicting claims for the same tracts. The First Yankee-Pennamite War (1769-1770) culminated in arbitration through which the land was awarded to Pennsylvania, but did not resolve competing claims. As a result, the Second Pennamite War flared up in 1775. Land speculation increased after the American Revolution, and Pennsylvania speculators tried to take large tracts claimed by the original Connecticut settlers. After the American Revolution, this led to the Third Yankee-Pennamite War (1784-1788). The Intrusion Law of 1795 marked the final resolution of the Yankee-Pennamite wars, requiring Connecticut claimants to repurchase land titles from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.¹⁵

While English colonists came for agricultural land, Moravians who originated in Germany came to the Endless Mountains to missionize Native peoples. They established Friedenshütten, meaning "Huts of Peace," in 1763 along the Susquehanna River near present-day Wyalusing, one of many Utopian communities Moravians set up in the Northeast. Friedenshütten served as a mission for converting and providing refuge to Native Americans, particularly refugees from the east and south, including the returning Susquehannocks and the Lenape. The Moravians, under leaders like David Zeisberger and John Ettwein, aimed to create a harmonious and self-sustaining community where European settlers and Native Americans could coexist peacefully. The settlement featured a church, school, and communal living arrangements, reflecting the Moravians' spiritual and communal values.¹⁶

¹⁴ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pp. 2-7 – 2-8.

¹⁵ Ousterhout, Anne M. 1995. "Frontier Vengeance: Connecticut Yankees vs. Pennamites in the Wyoming Valley," *Pennsylvania History*. 62 (3), pp. 330-363.

¹⁶ Hiduk, Rick. "What We Know and May Never Know About Friedenshütten," *EndlessMtnLifestyles.com*. Published September 5, 2021. Accessed June 12, 2024. <http://www.endlessmtnlifestyles.com/what-we-know-and-may-never-know-about-friedenshutten>.

During its brief existence, Friedenshütten became a notable example of successful cultural and religious integration during a turbulent period in American history. However, the settlement faced numerous challenges, including pressures from colonial expansion and conflicts between European settlers and Native American tribes. By 1772, increasing tensions, many tied to the coming revolution, forced the Moravians and those Native Americans who had converted to Christianity to relocate to Ohio.¹⁷

Resources

Many resources associated with Indigenous history are natural places and landscape features. As such, the concept of “Indigenous Cultural Landscape,” first introduced in the Comprehensive Management Plan for the John Smith National Historic Trail, is universally applicable in the Endless Mountains. Among the most notable are Wyalusing Rocks (originally from “M’chwihilusing” in the Iroquoian language), Standing Stone, Red Rock, the Great Bend of the Susquehanna River, and Tioga Point at the Susquehanna’s confluence with the Chemung River. The Susquehanna and its tributaries were critical for all aspects of life, including settlement sites, hunting and fishing, agriculture, transportation, and trade. Indigenous people were the first to recognize the importance of the region’s natural resources, from coal (“the stone that burns”) to the bark of hemlock trees that was used for tanning, to the mammals whose fur would eventually draw European traders to the Endless Mountains.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) manages many sites and trail corridors, supporting both the conservation of Indigenous cultural landscapes and their interpretation through signage, programs, and public access.

Indigenous trails provided overland connections between major tributaries. The Sheshequin Path ran between the West Branch of the Susquehanna to the North Branch where Ulster Township in Bradford County is today. The Towanda Path led from Towanda to Lycoming Creek at Leolyn, crossing through today’s Bradford, Sullivan, and Lycoming counties; part of the ancient trail is incorporated in Pennsylvania’s Loyalsock Trail for hikers. The Wyalusing Path followed Muncy Creek between Wyalusing in Bradford County and Muncy in Lycoming County, along today’s U.S. Route 220. The Great Warrior Path ran along the Susquehanna River; today’s U.S. Route 6, which traces it, is still referred to colloquially as “the Path.”¹⁸ Several of the trails are marked with historical plaques.

Archaeological research conducted across Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties since the 1970s has affirmed the deep Indigenous presence in the region, reflecting patterns of land use, seasonal settlement, and cultural continuity over more than 11,000 years. These investigations contribute to the understanding of contested and evolving relationships between people and the landscape over millennia.

Initial professional excavations in the 1970s and 1980s, particularly in Bradford County, focused on documenting late prehistoric and protohistoric villages associated with the Susquehannock and earlier cultural groups. Sites such as Kennedy (36BR43) and Blackman (36BR83) yielded important insights into habitation structures, ceramic traditions, and cultural transitions during

¹⁷ Hiduk, “What We Know and May Never Know About Friedenshütten.”

¹⁸ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pp. 2-8.

the early contact period.¹⁹ These foundational studies provided context for interpreting the material evidence of Indigenous societies at the point of European contact.

Beginning in the late 20th century and accelerating in the 2000s, cultural resource management (CRM) projects driven by infrastructure and energy development greatly expanded the number of recorded prehistoric sites. Surveys conducted in advance of highway projects and natural gas extraction identified lithic scatters, tool production areas, and campsites spanning the Archaic to Late Woodland periods. CRM findings are routinely added to the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey (PASS) database, which saw robust growth from 2018 through 2024, with hundreds of new entries each year, many concentrated along the Susquehanna River and its tributaries. Bradford County saw the most new site entries, 18, while during that time same time period Sullivan County saw only one addition, a site located in 2018.²⁰ More broadly, comparative analyses of toolmaking sites, such as those documented in neighboring counties, provide regional context for understanding cultural patterns in the region.²¹

Together, these archaeological findings underscore the long-term occupation and cultural development of the Endless Mountains landscape. The documented material record provides a tangible link to the Native peoples whose lifeways were deeply embedded in the region's rivers, ridges, and valleys, offering direct support for Theme 1's interpretation of Indigenous presence, persistence, and transformation.

Indigenous history is also memorialized in place names that persist to the present throughout the Endless Mountains region. Language is a crucial lens into Indigenous worldviews, revealing insight into the past and present through oral tradition and storytelling. Indigenous communities use the spoken word to share creation stories, cultural beliefs, and personal, family, or Tribal histories and experiences. Lisa Brooks, in her book *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War*, notes that "the land itself is an archive that demands interpretation... These ancient and ongoing places all have stories attached to them – features that evoke memories, embed oral traditions, and map subsistence and survival, and that can reveal acute insight into a historical document."²²

Although few structures remain from the earliest European settlements in the region, several of the towns trace their history to that time, including Wyalusing, Tunkhannock, Meshoppen, and

¹⁹ Kent, Barry C. *Susquehanna's Indians*. 1984. Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, , pp. 347–56.

²⁰ Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. Selected Highlights from PASS Annual Reports, 2018–2024. Pennsylvania Archaeology (blog). Accessed June 9, 2025. <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/>.
Note: many, but not all, sites recorded have an Indigenous component.

²¹ Swisher, Christopher and Jonathan Burns. "Investigations at the James Hatch Site and the Houserville Archaeological National Register District, Centre County, Pennsylvania: The Benefits of Collaboration Between Institutes of Higher Learning and Government Agencies." Paper presenter at the Society for American Archaeology 83rd Annual Meeting, 2018. Accessed June 6, 2025. <https://juniata.academia.edu/JonathanBurns>.

²² Brooks, Lisa. 2019. *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip's War*, pg. 7. "One of the most crucial lenses to viewing history anew is Indigenous language, a vastly underutilized archive of place names and concepts... being able to understand the nuances of language has at times shed remarkable light on the historical landscape."

Towanda. No physical traces remain of the Yankee-Pennamite Wars, despite their role in reshaping governance in the region.

An 1871 marker and a state historic plaque interpret Friedenshütten in Bradford County. Archaeologists from King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, unearthed evidence of the original site in the early 1970s, and historians continue to explore the documentary record associated with the Friedenshütten.

Finally, there are many historical societies in the Endless Mountains dedicated to township, community, and county history. All of these have extensive collections related to Indigenous cultures and early settlement.

Theme 2: A Revolutionary Change

In 1779, Continental Army General John Sullivan led more than 4,000 soldiers up the Susquehanna River valley to suppress the aggression and resistance of Native Americans aligned with the British. The trek led to the decimation of Native villages and the final displacement of Native people of the region. After the Revolutionary War, the abandoned territory sparked land speculation and a wave of new settlement. War veterans sought new opportunities, New England Yankees sought farmland, and French aristocrats sought asylum from the French Revolution.

The decade after the French and Indian War saw mounting tension over land and liberty in the Endless Mountains and the nearby Wyoming Valley. Despite the small population in the region, an atmosphere of unrest arose from the Yankee-Pennamite Wars, divisions among the Native groups, and many colonists' waning loyalty to the British crown.

Much of the Endless Mountains region was part of the "New Purchase," land claims settled in the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix. In the treaty, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy ceded large territories of northeastern Pennsylvania to colonial authorities. Early



Major General John Sullivan was a Continental Army officer, politician, and judge who fought in the Revolutionary War. His leadership of the Sullivan Expedition – a campaign against British-allied Haudenosaunee nations – has made him a controversial figure. (New Hampshire History Network)

European-American settlement followed unevenly and contentiously, with Connecticut claimants and squatters among the first arrivals, followed by settlers operating under Pennsylvania land claims. Many of these settlers were later driven out during the American Revolution.

In the early years of the American Revolution, the Continental Army had little luck recruiting farmers from the Endless Mountains, whose efforts to build lives in the wilderness were all-encompassing. When France entered the war to support the Continental Army, the British feared their old enemies would try to retake parts of Canada lost in the French and Indian War. The British responded by recruiting Loyalists and allies from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy to foment war along the northern and western borders of the colonies. Raids conducted by this coalition resulted in significant loss of colonists' lives on vulnerable farmsteads and frontier settlements. These raids



Seneca war chief and diplomat Gaiänt'wakê/Kaiiontwa'kon/Cornplanter fought on the side of the British in the American Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Wyoming. 1796 portrait by F. Bartoli. (New York Historical, Gift of Thomas Jefferson Bryan)

culminated in the Battle of Wyoming in the summer of 1778, when British Major John Butler led 110 Loyalists and 464 Haudenosaunee warriors from Tioga Point to the Wyoming Valley, taking Pittston, Forty, and Wintermoot forts. About 300 Americans were killed in a battle for the final fort. Major Butler reported that his force had burned a thousand houses and driven off livestock. Fleeing settlers' stories galvanized support for American independence, inciting outrage in the American public and an armed response by the Continental Army.²³

In retaliation, General George Washington launched a large-scale offensive to destroy the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's ability to wage war. The first phase occurred in the fall of 1778, when a Continental regiment under Colonel Thomas Hartley was sent to the region with the promise of a thousand men, but the reality of only 200. On the premise that the best defense is a good offense, Hartley led his men on an expedition toward Tioga. They followed the Sheshequin Path from Fort Muncy on the West Branch of the Susquehanna up Lycoming and Towanda creeks. They were not strong enough for a major attack, but burned Tioga and a nearby Indigenous village, then traveled south along the North Branch of the Susquehanna to the Wyoming Valley. This 300-mile trek over difficult terrain and deep in enemy territory took only two weeks. The Hartley expedition provided valuable reconnaissance for what was to follow, demonstrating the vulnerability of the British and their allies.²⁴



Map of General Sullivan's march from Easton to the Seneca & Cayuga countries [1779]. The route follows the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. ([gm71002211](#), Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress)

In August of 1779, General John Sullivan led a force of more than 4,000 Continental soldiers up the Susquehanna River as part of a coordinated campaign to eliminate the threat posed by Loyalists and their Haudenosaunee allies. Marching south from the Mohawk Valley in New York, Brigadier General James Clinton commanded a second contingent. In a remarkable feat of frontier logistics, Clinton's men dammed Otsego Lake to raise the water level, then released it to float their boats down the upper Susquehanna, allowing his force to rendezvous with Sullivan at Tioga Point – present-day Athens in Bradford County. There, the two armies combined and

²³ Trussel, John B. 1976. "The Battle of Wyoming and Hartley's Expedition," Historic Pennsylvania Leaflet, No. 40, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, pp. 2-3.

²⁴ Trussel, "The Battle of Wyoming and Hartley's Expedition," pg. 4.

launched the joint Sullivan-Clinton Campaign, one of the largest offensives of the Revolutionary War.

From Tioga Point, the combined forces moved north through Haudenosaunee territory, burning more than 40 villages and destroying food stores and crops in a scorched-earth campaign designed to break Indigenous resistance and cut off British support. The American victory at Newtown (just north of the Pennsylvania border) forced the Haudenosaunee to retreat toward Fort Niagara, and the devastation wrought by Sullivan and Clinton's troops effectively ended the Confederacy's capacity to wage war in the region. As a result, the campaign opened the Endless Mountains and surrounding areas to postwar land speculation and settlement.²⁵

Following the American Revolution, settlers and investors alike viewed the frontier as more secure, opening the region to land speculation and immigration. Pennsylvania seized and sold off large tracts of Loyalist lands, and investors from Philadelphia, New York, and even Europe met opportunity with capital.

By the 1790s, most arable land in New England had been settled. Both smallholders and tenants flooded into the region from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York to build their future on what, to them, was a blank slate ready for agricultural development. These Yankees were primarily of English, Scotch-Irish, and German descent and predominately Protestant.²⁶



The Aaronic Priesthood Restoration Site is located in Oakland Township, Susquehanna County. Joseph Smith translated most of the Book of Mormon here in the home he shared with his wife, Emma. He was baptized nearby in the Susquehanna River, marking the restoration of priesthood authority in the church. (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints)

Among the Yankee settlers who made their way to the Endless Mountains in the decades after the American Revolution were Isaac and Elizabeth Hale, parents of Emma Smith, the wife of Joseph Smith, who founded the Latter Day Saint movement (Mormonism). In 1790, the Hales settled on 150 acres along the Susquehanna River in Oakland Township (Susquehanna County). Emma Hale married Joseph Smith in 1827, after which he came to live on the farm, eventually building a home of their own. Several important tenets of Mormonism are tied to this site, including the Aaronic Priesthood (the authority to baptize), Smith's own baptism in the Susquehanna River, and his translation of the Book of Mormon along with Oliver Cowdery.²⁷

The Nine Partners of Harford Township also found their way to Susquehanna County in 1790. Coming from Attleborough, Massachusetts, nine men sought "amplur room and cheaper soil."²⁸ They divided 2,560 acres into sixteen plots and built a community. In 1890, descendants erected

²⁵ "The Clinton-Sullivan Campaign of 1779," Fort Stanwix National Monument, National Park Service. Accessed June 12, 2024. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/the-clinton-sullivan-campaign-of-1779.htm>.

²⁶ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-53.

²⁷ "Priesthood Restoration Site," The Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints. Accessed May 18, 2024. www.churchofjesuschrist.org/learn/locations/priesthood-restoration-site.

²⁸ Uncharted Lancaster. Accessed Jun 5, 2025. <https://unchartedlancaster.com/2019/12/08/discover-the-hidden-obelisk-that-honors-the-nine-pioneers-who-settled-harford-township/>.

the Nine Partners Monument to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the community's founding. More than a century later, the monument still stands.

Veterans of the American Revolution also sought prosperity in a new land. Many had seen the agricultural promise of the region as soldiers on Sullivan's March. Land grants were made to some veterans, and others returned to purchase land in the mountains north of the Wyoming Valley settlements.²⁹ Among the veterans who chose to make a home in the Endless Mountains was Prince Perkins, a free African American man from Connecticut. In 1793, Perkins established a 153-acre agricultural property that has remained in the hands of his descendants ever since; today it is the oldest African American-owned farm in the United States. At the time Perkins established what is known today as the Dennis Farm, 90 percent of African Americans were enslaved, and of the 10 percent who were free, very few were landowners. Land ownership was a building block of freedom. Although documentation is difficult to find, oral tradition also holds that the farm served as one of many Underground Railroad stops that ran through northeast Pennsylvania into upstate New York and eventually Canada.³⁰

In the last decade of the 18th century and first few years of the 19th century, French aristocrats sought safety and opportunity on the new frontier, fleeing the violence of the French Revolution and the uprisings of enslaved people in Saint-Domingue. Financiers from Philadelphia purchased land and planned the settlement of French Azilum that was built in 1793 on a horseshoe bend along the Susquehanna River. Eventually 50 houses and another 50 shops and community structures were built for refugees. One of the largest buildings was La Grande Maison, a home built for Queen Marie Antoinette and her two children if they had managed to escape France.³¹ Due to economic factors and the chance for refugees to return to their homeland, the settlement lasted only a decade. The land was sold for farming, and settlers who chose to remain in the region helped settle nearby communities. One such family was the LaPorte family; John LaPorte was born at the settlement and grew up to serve in both the Pennsylvania and U.S. House of Representatives. Nearby, in 1794, French refugee Aristide Dupetit Thouars was among the first settlers in the area that would later become the town of Dushore.

Among the nationally significant cultural figures shaped in part by the Endless Mountains are individuals whose creative and spiritual contributions influenced American identity. George Catlin, born in the Wyoming Valley in 1796 and raised in what is now Wyoming County, grew up surrounded by the frontier landscapes and Indigenous histories of the Susquehanna River valley. This early exposure helped shape his vision and led to his life's work documenting Indigenous cultures through art. Often regarded as one of America's first ethnographers, Catlin's paintings and journals remain invaluable records of 19th-century Indigenous life.

Stephen Foster, the celebrated songwriter often called the "father of American music," spent part of his adolescence in Towanda, Bradford County, in 1840 while living with his brother, a county judge. Though his time in the region was brief, it came during a formative period in his

²⁹ Carmer, Carl. 2021. *Rivers of America: The Susquehanna*. 2nd ed. Lyons Press.

³⁰ Splain, Shelby Weaver, "Three Centuries of the Dennis Farm: Looking Forward, Part 1," Pennsylvania Historic Preservation, Blog of the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. Accessed May 18, 2024. <https://pahistoricpreservation.com/three-centuries-the-dennis-farm-looking-forward-part-1/>, February 15, 2017.

³¹ "French Azilum Historic Site, 1793-1803," French Azilum, Inc. Accessed May 18, 2024. <https://thefrenchazilum.com>.

life. The sounds, stories, and frontier character of the Susquehanna River valley likely informed the emotional landscapes that define many of his nostalgic and widely beloved compositions.

In the same era, Julia Hutchison Kinney Scott, known as the “Poet of Sheshequin,” was giving voice to the moral and religious ideals of early Universalism through her widely published verse. Living in Bradford County, Scott was part of a vibrant intellectual and spiritual community that made the Endless Mountains a hub of literary and theological thought. Her church, the Universalist Meeting House of Sheshequin, still stands today as a testament to the region’s religious pluralism and cultural vitality.

Together with Emma Hale Smith, whose early life on the Susquehanna helped shape the founding theology of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, these figures exemplify how the landscapes and communities of the Endless Mountains helped shape individuals who, in turn, shaped the nation. Whether through art, music, religion, or poetry, their legacies reflect the power of place in nurturing American cultural and spiritual expression.

Resources

Many extant resources help tell the story of this revolutionary change marked by the removal of Indigenous people from the Endless Mountains in the American Revolution and followed by a wave of land speculation and immigration by the newly minted Americans from New England, Pennsylvania, and other parts of the East.

The most significant site for the story of the American Revolution is the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers, the stronghold of the Loyalists and their Haudenosaunee allies. A park at the former site of Fort Sullivan at Tioga Point holds archaeological resources and historical markers, augmented by the nearby Tioga Point Museum, which interprets local history, including the fort. The routes followed by the Hartley and Sullivan expeditions are well known and interpreted in the counties through which they passed. The former followed the Sheshequin Path, the latter followed the Susquehanna River on the Great Warrior Path. Wyalusing Rocks, by which Sullivan’s forces passed, is one of several places with a Pennsylvania historic marker. In addition, all four of the region’s county courthouses contain monuments to veterans of the nation’s wars. DCNR-managed lands and interpretive trails provide public access to several sites associated with Sullivan’s March, preserving key landscapes while interpreting the Revolutionary era’s impact on the region.

The region’s early settlement is evident in many places across the landscape. The Dennis Farm (founded by Prince Perkins), the Priesthood Restoration Site (home to Joseph and Emma Smith and her parents, Isaac and Elizabeth Hale), and French Azilum are among the most significant properties remaining from that era. All three are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Dennis Farm was chosen as the inaugural America250 site in Pennsylvania, receiving a Semiquincentennial Bell. In 2015, the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust received the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Chairman’s Award. The property includes a cemetery where Perkins, Bristol Budd Sampson, and other veterans are buried,



Dignitaries and descendants of the Dennis/Perkins family pose at the dedication of the first America250PA Semiquincentennial Bell at The Dennis Farm on June 28, 2023. (Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust)

archaeological resources, trails, and a house from the 19th century currently undergoing preservation to develop it into an educational center.³²

The Priesthood Restoration Site is a sacred site that holds important elements of the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The multi-faceted property features historic landscapes, three monuments, two reconstructed homes, a cemetery, the baptismal site on the Susquehanna River, and a welcome center with an orientation exhibit.

French Azilum and the Marie Antoinette Overlook together tell the story of the short-lived settlement for refugees of the French nobility and gentry. Only archaeological resources remain of the original settlement of over a hundred structures that supported the more than 250 residents. The Laporte House, built in 1836 by the son of one of the original settlers, is the largest building on the property. It is complemented by a smoke house, blacksmith shop, and barn, as well as the Laporte family cemetery. The site also contains a 1790s log cabin moved to the site in 1962 by the Welles family of Wyalusing. The Marie Antoniette Overlook was originally built in the 1930s as part of New Deal-era infrastructure improvements. The site, restored in 2009 as a partnership project with French Azilum, Inc., Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, has the original state historic marker and provides visitors a panoramic view of the former settlement nestled in a horseshoe bend of the Susquehanna River.³³

The region's many historical societies share the histories of war and early settlement. The largest of these are the county facilities – Bradford County Historical Society and Museum, Sullivan County Historical Society Museum, Susquehanna County Historical Society and Museum, and Wyoming County Historical Society Museum and Genealogical Library. In addition to exhibits, all have extensive archival collections and research libraries.

The current layout of many town centers dates to this period, illustrating the story of settlement. Historic buildings and features that supported emerging communities in the late 18th and early 19th century also contribute to this story, including historic houses, churches, and the ruins of early grist and sawmills on the region's waterways. Two churches that gave birth to the Universalist movement in the Endless Mountains in the first quarter of the 19th century also remain. The First Universalist Church of Brooklyn in Susquehanna County retains an active congregation, and the Universalist Meeting House of Sheshequin in Bradford County is used for summer services. Finally, the Home Textile Tool Museum interprets 19th century textile production in early American homes, including lessons in spinning and weaving that help keep traditions alive.

Theme 3: Cultivating History – Agriculture in the Endless Mountains

Agriculture has been the cornerstone of the Endless Mountains, shaping its identity and sustaining communities. While the ancestors of the Susquehannock people were the first to cultivate the river's rich valley, the settlers who came after the American Revolution established the patterns of agricultural fields, woodlots, and town centers that still exist today. Evolving transportation systems broadened market access, while westward expansion

³² "The Dennis Farm: Where an Untold Chapter in African American History Unfolds, 1793-Present," The Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust. Accessed May 18, 2024. <https://thedennisfarm.org>.

³³ "French Azilum Historic Site, 1793-1803," French Azilum, Inc. Accessed May 18, 2024. <https://thefrenchazilum.com>.

intensified competition. Subsistence agriculture gave way to wheat farming, then a regional specialization in dairy. With each passing generation, a legacy of resilience and stewardship is etched into the landscape, an enduring bond between the people and the land they cultivate.



Farming is a longstanding tradition in the Endless Mountains, which is why agriculture is a focal/industrial theme of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. (*Bradford County Historical Society*)



The A.B. Cole Dairy Farm in Meshoppen, Wyoming County. The Endless Mountains region was once home to over 2,800 dairy farms in the 1950s, but the tradition has since dwindled to fewer than 500. (*EMHR*)

Agriculture is central to the history of the Endless Mountains. It has sustained inhabitants of the region for at least a thousand years, and it remains an economic mainstay in the region in the 21st century. Unlike the broad, mechanized farms that came to dominate the Midwest and Great Plains, agriculture in the Endless Mountains evolved within a landscape defined by thin soils, steep slopes, narrow valleys, and a cool, upland climate. These conditions limited large-scale grain production but favored diversified, family-scale farming and, ultimately, a durable regional specialization in dairy. As agriculture consolidated elsewhere, the Endless Mountains retained a working landscape of small farms – patterns established after the American Revolution and still evident today.

Agricultural history in the region starts with the Indigenous people that first domesticated and cultivated crops in the rich bottomlands of the Susquehanna River valley. Beginning with the arrival of people of European descent, there are four distinct eras between the mid-18th century and 1960 identified in the historic context statement developed by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC). These are “the period from settlement to about 1830, the period of farm making; from about 1830 to about 1860, a diversified woodland, grassland, and livestock economy; 1860-1900, when diversified home dairying dominated; and 1900-1960, when fluid milk dairying and poultry production were emphasized.”³⁴ PHMC’s historical analysis is based on “farming systems,” considering not only the landscape characteristics and crops, but also cultural values, social relationships, labor systems, and the socioeconomic and political contexts.

³⁴ “Northern Tier Grasslands, 1830-1960,” *Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project*, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission. Accessed May 21, 2024.

<https://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/history/index.html>.

Agriculture is part of the living cultural landscape of the Endless Mountains, so contemporary trends and living traditions are also included in this section.

Indigenous people likely began domesticating the plants for which they foraged as part of their seasonal round as early as the Late Archaic Period, around 6,800 years ago. Domestication and cultivation slowly increased through the Early and Middle Woodland Periods, still part of a larger sustainability strategy reliant on the wild plants and game in the region. Agriculture intensive enough to support permanent homes finally flourished in the Late Woodland Period, which began around 950 AD. By 1250 AD in the Susquehanna River valley, scattered houses had coalesced into village sites surrounded by agricultural fields in which they grew corn, beans, and squash. This remained the settlement pattern until Europeans arrived on the shores of North America, initiating the cycle of disease and displacement that would unfold across the continent over centuries.

In the Endless Mountains, the promise of agriculture drew financiers and farmers to the region after the American Revolution. Of those who came to farm, some were landowners and others were tenants on the large tracts bought up by investors. The abandoned Indigenous fields in the rich bottomlands along the Susquehanna River and its tributaries were the first areas to be settled, followed by the wooded uplands as land became scarcer. The patterns of agricultural fields, wood lots, and community centers established by the settlers in the last quarter of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 19th century still characterize the region today.³⁵

The diversification of crops and livestock established in the early settlement days would continue over centuries. Farm families grew wheat, oats, corn, rye, flax, kitchen gardens, and crops to feed the livestock they also raised. Like the Indigenous Tribes before them, they supplemented what they grew with the bounty of the region's forests and streams through hunting, fishing, and foraging.

Farmers used surplus wheat and other grains to trade for or purchase items that they could not produce themselves, such as gunpowder, salt, and luxury goods. Gristmills were built along the waterways, often giving structure to communities that grew up around them. By 1790, farmers on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River sent 150,000 bushels of wheat to downriver markets. As the population increased, so did surplus produce, and by 1824, more than 800,000 bushels of wheat were sent to Philadelphia and other market towns.³⁶

Alongside gristmills and sawmills, small-scale manufacturing developed to process local resources and agricultural products. In the early 1800s, English immigrant George Lewis established a glass factory at Lewis Lake, now known as Eagles Mere, while a woolen mill operated in Forksville from 1802 until about 1860, illustrating the close relationship between farming, waterpower, and early rural industry in the Endless Mountains.

When the prime bottomlands were all spoken for, settlers and investors alike turned their attention to the uplands. They harvested timber and developed sawmills, reaping the triple benefit of clearing more land for cultivation, providing lumber to build the region's growing communities, and turning a profit. Settlers generally equated wilderness with chaos and agricultural fields with order, so they industriously cleared the stands of white pine, hemlock, beech, birch, maple, cherry, ash, chestnut, and hickory. They used pine for construction, chestnut for fencing, and hemlock for tanning. Landowners built small sawmills across the region, floating

³⁵ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-10.

³⁶ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-17.

logs and lumber on the tributaries and down the Susquehanna River each spring. The wood that could not be used or sold was burned to make potash, used to make soap and fertilizer. Settlers also tapped the abundant trees for maple syrup. The use of the forests in the late 18th century and early 19th century foreshadowed the logging that would redefine much of the region later.³⁷

Susquehanna and Bradford counties had larger land bases, more arable land, and a less rugged landscape than Sullivan and Wyoming counties. Due to these factors, market farming in the two northern counties always exceeded that in the two southern counties, in which subsistence agriculture continued to dominate. Agriculture remains diversified across all four counties. In some areas with large limestone deposits, lime kilns to make fertilizer provided farmers with another source of income. Many farmers distilled wheat into whiskey, expanding revenue generation while also reducing shipment costs with a more compact product. As the temperance movement gained momentum, advocates pushed for less whiskey production and more beef cattle, which could be fattened with grains and walk themselves to market. Sheep and swine production also grew in the first half of the 19th century.

Societal shifts and technological advances contributed to change in the Endless Mountains' agricultural economy over time. By the middle of the 19th century, westward expansion had reached the Midwest, and canals in places like New York and Illinois improved transportation to markets. New agricultural technology suited to Midwestern prairies, not the rocky fields of the East, further increased competition. Wrought iron plows, and the adoption of seed drills, cultivators, and eventually mechanical reapers led to major increases in productivity. Furthermore, during the same time period as agriculture was moving steadily west, an agricultural philosophy focused on long term productivity through better land management and animal husbandry practices emerged. This differed from the pioneer attitude of survival and profit that had resulted in the depletion of soils in the Endless Mountains and other areas in the former colonies. By the 1850s, all of these factors led to highly successful production of grain, livestock, and wool in Midwestern states, forcing farmers in the Endless Mountains to pursue more specialized markets.

In the 1850s and 1860s, agricultural societies developed as a source of information and fellowship. These organizations provided important forums for families of the Endless Mountains to understand and confront changing trends in agriculture. In turn, these groups of farmers established the first county fairs to highlight agricultural accomplishments and share new technologies. County fairs became the major social events of the year, a position they hold to the present day. In the late 19th century, Granges – fraternal organizations organized around agriculture – took the place of agricultural societies as social, educational, and marketing entities that formed an important part of community fabric.

Pennsylvania farming was transformed by the combination of mechanization, agricultural science, western competition, and urban markets. As the number of farms decreased statewide, productivity rose due to increased mechanization and greater specialization in perishable products for urban consumers. Farmers in the Endless Mountains made a decided shift toward dairy farming. Livestock had always been a vital component of agriculture in the region, and improved transportation connected rural farms to urban markets. While dairying increased across the state, the production of milk, butter, and eggs was especially pronounced in northeastern counties with access to New York City.³⁸ Between 1850 and 1880, Bradford County saw an 85

³⁷ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-10.

³⁸ Cuff, *The Atlas of Pennsylvania*, pg. 94.

percent increase in head of cattle. During that same period, Sullivan County experienced a 160 percent increase.³⁹ By 1880, Bradford County farms averaged production of over 700 pounds of butter annually, with several farms producing more than a ton.⁴⁰ Dairying also drove the development of processing facilities for butter and cheese in the Endless Mountains because fluid milk was not a viable product until the development of faster rail and road systems in the early 20th century. Creameries were important agribusinesses, as were icehouses in the days before refrigeration.

The number of farms in the region peaked between 1900 and 1910. This coincided with a shift from diversified farming with an emphasis on dairy products, especially butter, to a specialization in fluid milk dairying. This era is characterized by the sale of fluid milk to urban and industrial markets, and centralized off-farm dairy processing of butter, ice cream, and other dairy products. Fast rail transportation and improved highway systems facilitated this change. After 1910, the number of farms fell and farm sizes increased, reflecting the shift away from diversification to more complex, expensive enterprises. Between the 1920s and 1950s, rural populations declined, and urbanization increased, even as farm prosperity continued to rise.⁴¹ This coincided with national educational, scientific, and political trends that promoted capitalistic, mechanized, scientific farming and agribusinesses.

Agricultural trends in the Endless Mountains follow state patterns from the 1960s to the present. According to statistics tracked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the number of farms has declined by nearly half during this time period, and the amount of farm acreage has declined by about 40 percent. Interestingly, during this time period there are increases in the smallest farms (under ten acres) and the largest farms (over one thousand acres). Agriculture in Pennsylvania has followed the national economy, as there are more farms today than there were in the years following the recession in the early 1980s. Similarly, a recent peak is evident just before 2007, after which the number of farms has declined slightly.⁴² In much of Pennsylvania, the recent decline might also be connected to the rise in natural gas production.

In the mid-2000s, extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale began in the Endless Mountains. The Marcellus Shale, a limestone formation older than the Susquehanna River, extends across Pennsylvania with its area of greatest thickness occurring in the counties in the Endless Mountains. Recent advances in hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and horizontal drilling have made extraction economically feasible, leading to the rapid expansion of the natural gas industry. Once the formation's potential for natural gas production was understood, prices for leasing farmland skyrocketed. This has impacted the agricultural industry in the region more than any industry in nearly a century. The Center for Rural Pennsylvania documented positive and negative effects of the gas industry on agriculture. Positive effects include using lease and royalty income to stay in business and reinvest in operations and having the ability to pass property to children and grandchildren. In addition, the industry has helped improve and maintain roadways for small rural communities and provided other types of community assistance. Current industries also benefit from the natural gas developments. For example, the Procter & Gamble plant in

³⁹ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-20.

⁴⁰ "Northern Tier Grasslands, 1830-1960," pg. 19.

⁴¹ "Northern Tier Grasslands, 1830-1960," pg. 42.

⁴² "Pennsylvania Historical Agricultural Statistics" (2017 and 1982). Census of Agriculture Historical Archive. United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed May 21, 2024. <https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/>.

Mehoopany – one of the region’s largest employers since 1966 – uses on-site wells to power the facility, reducing costs and selling energy back to the grid. Negative effects include difficulty of retaining farm labor due to the availability of gas industry jobs, significant increases in traffic, the complexities of monitoring and accountability, and uncertainty about environmental impacts and future quality of life.⁴³

The Marcellus Shale also contains lithium, valuable for its use in the manufacture of the lithium-ion batteries that power digital devices. A pilot project in Susquehanna County includes the development of a commercial lithium extraction facility, which began lithium extraction from shale wastewater in the first half of 2025.⁴⁴

Agriculture remains an important part of the social and economic fabric of the Endless Mountains. According to the 2022 USDA Agricultural Census, there are over 2,540 farms in the Endless Mountains region, down from 2,958 in the 2017 census. Following historic patterns, more than half of these are located in Bradford County, and the smallest number are in Sullivan County. Farming in all four counties retains a significant level of diversity, as it has throughout the region’s history. The dairy specialization remains strongest in Bradford and Susquehanna Counties, with fluid milk being the largest product. Wyoming County’s biggest product is grain, while Sullivan County’s farms produce grain and dairy in fairly equal amounts. In each county, around a hundred family farms remain; in Bradford, this makes up a small percentage, but in Sullivan this accounts for over 60 percent. In all four counties, the median age of farmers has dropped in recent years, and a substantial number of new farmers have entered the industry. As with statewide trends, there are increases in the numbers of small farms and farms over a thousand acres, but declines in farms of middle acreage.⁴⁵

Finally, agribusinesses in the Endless Mountains continue to thrive. Of the over 2,500 farms in the Endless Mountains, only 34 reported that they sell directly to consumers. However, the numbers of farm stands, maple sugar farms, wineries, and cideries are on the rise, and there are still many local creameries that sell fresh butter, cheese, and ice cream. From feed and grow stores to large animal veterinarians to processing facilities, there are a wide range of businesses built around the agricultural economy. In Wyalusing, Cargill purchased a family run beef-processing plant in 2002, taking in more than 550,000 cows annually. Each cow hide can produce more than 108 baseballs, one plant manager estimated that seven out of ten balls in the Major League were made of hide from the Cargill facility.⁴⁶

⁴³ Braiser, Kathryn, et.al. “The Marcellus Shale Impacts Study: Chronicling Social and Economic Change in North Central and Southwest Pennsylvania,” The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, September 2014. Accessed May 21, 2024. <https://rural.pa.gov/getfile.cfm?file=resources/pdfs/research-report/the-marcellus-shale-impacts-study.pdf&view=true>.

⁴⁴ “Successful lithium-from-Brine Pilot Test in Susquehanna County, PA.” Marcellus Drilling News. Accessed August 28, 2025. <https://marcellusdrilling.com/2025/06/successful-lithium-from-brine-pilot-test-in-susquehanna-county-pa/>.

⁴⁵ “2022 Census of Agriculture: County Profile” (Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming). Census of Agriculture Historical Archive. United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed May 21, 2024. <https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu>.

⁴⁶ “Dairy cows get turned into major league baseballs at a Pa. meat processing plant,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Accessed May 21, 2024. <https://www.inquirer.com/news/dairy-baseball-phillies-cargill-pennsylvania-20240505.html>.

Resources

The most significant resource associated with agriculture is the rural cultural landscape that extends across much of the four-county region, reflecting the way in which agricultural settlement shaped the region beginning 250 years ago. The past can still be seen in the patterns of today's communities, fields, wood lots, the stone fences that trace boundaries, and the roads that connect these features.

The built environment within this cultural landscape is characterized by historic farmhouses and the many outbuildings that were essential to life on a farm. Farms often had many outbuildings, including granaries, smokehouses, poultry houses, root cellars, ice houses, corn cribs, wagon sheds, farm shops, milk houses, and privies. Silos and barns of both English and German design are the largest structures on the landscape, their numbers are a testament to the past and present importance of agriculture. In addition, historic Grange halls and places like the Troy Sale Barn, where livestock sales were held, share a part of this heritage. There are several active farmland conservation organizations and barn preservation organizations that are helping to conserve rural land and historic buildings.



The historic Troy Sale Barn operated as a community livestock auction pavilion in the early 1920s and was slated to be torn down after years of non-use in 2014. Local citizens came together to purchase and restore the barn that is now used as a venue and community hall. (EMHR)

The Susquehanna farmsteads described in the previous theme – the Dennis Farm and the Hale and Smith farm at the Priesthood Restoration Site – are nationally significant resources that can help tell the story of agriculture in the Endless Mountains. The Century Farm recognition effort began in Bradford County in 1949 and was soon adopted by Sullivan County in the 1960s; these early local programs laid the groundwork for Pennsylvania's official Century Farm Program, established statewide in 1976 to honor farms that have remained in the same family for at least 100 years, whether they operate as full-time enterprises, part-time ventures, or preserved as heritage or hobby farms. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture recognizes many century farms in the Endless Mountains – farms that have been in the same family for at least one hundred years. In addition, there are several local museums dedicated to interpreting agricultural history, including the Heritage Village and Farm Museum, and the Manley-Bohlayer Farm in Bradford County. Finally, all the historical society museums include exhibits related to agriculture, including many tools of the trade, from plows to blacksmithing irons to dog-powered butter churns.

The living traditions associated with agriculture and agribusinesses are as important as the cultural landscape upon which they sit. The region's many agribusinesses and specialty farms are also part of the agricultural story. As mentioned above, this ranges from the cideries, wineries,

and farm stay locations to you-pick orchards and berry farms. Local creameries still produce ice cream and butter, and a range of businesses provide everything from machinery to animal feed.

County fairs are another tradition with a long history in the region, emerging from agricultural societies established in the mid to late 19th century. The oldest is the Wyoming County Fair, which was first held in Eaton Township in 1857. The Harford Fair in Susquehanna County began the following year. The Sullivan County Fair, located in Forksville, has also been in operation for more than 150 years. The Troy Fair in Bradford County began in 1875. Today, as in the past, the fairs are an important social venue where the community comes together, and farm families showcase their skills and accomplishments in a wide range of living traditions.

Community festivals built around local produce also celebrate Endless Mountains heritage. There are festivals organized around apples and cheese, maple products, and corn. In the fall, corn mazes pop up across the landscape.

Finally, many traditions survive from the days when people had to make or grow most of what they needed. This includes quilting, spinning, weaving, lace making, and rug hooking – textile arts still taught at the Home Textile Tool Museum and supported through organizations like the Endless Mountains Quilt Guild. Artisan crafts such as pottery production, basket weaving, furniture making, blacksmithing, and gunsmithing are other cultural traditions kept alive in the Endless Mountains. Agricultural organizations like Farm Bureaus, Granges, 4-H, Future Farmers of America, and the Ag Lab also support today’s farmers and help pass on agricultural traditions to future generations.

Theme 4: Transportation and Transformation

For millennia, the Susquehanna River flowed as the vital lifeline of the region, connecting communication and trade networks to Chesapeake Bay. Aside from the river, footpaths were the only way for Native Americans and early settlers to cross the rugged terrain. By the 19th century, turnpikes were built atop footpaths to form the first links to larger markets, and the North Branch Canal further opened the region to commerce. Railroad construction in the late 19th century reshaped the region, opening the wilderness to unprecedented resource extraction, dairy farming, and tourism. Highways fueled the automobile craze of the early 20th century, further enhancing tourist access and agricultural transport. Remnants of these transportation modes underscore their profound impact on landscapes, communities, and economies.

Transportation history is written on the landscape in the Endless Mountains. Many of the major stages in the evolution of transportation in the United States are evident in the remnants of historic transportation corridors and in the active corridors built in the last century.

The earliest transportation corridors, those used by Indigenous people for thousands of years, were the waterways and the overland footpaths that ran between them. The Susquehanna River and its tributaries formed an important route for trade and transportation, connecting the Haudenosaunee and Susquehannocks in the northern watershed to Indigenous Tribes in the Mid-Atlantic and



Atlantic Coast Line 1031, a 1913 Baldwin-built 4-6-0 "Ten-Wheeler" steam locomotive, passes beneath the Martins Creek Viaduct, built between 1912 and 1914. (Steamtown National Historic Site Collection)

Chesapeake Bay regions. Marine shells found in archaeological contexts far north of Chesapeake Bay are evidence of the extent of the pre-contact trade network that relied on the Susquehanna River.⁴⁷

Indigenous inhabitants not only canoed the rivers and streams to travel far from their homelands, but they also established footpaths that ran long distances between waterways or into territory where waterways provided no access. Most of the paths were no wider than 18 inches. They were used for hunting, trade, and even war, and today some have survived as hiking trails, while others lie beneath modern highways. Among the most important Indigenous trails in Endless Mountains were the Sheshequin Path, the Towanda Path, the Wyalusing Path, and the Great Warrior Path. The Sheshequin and Towanda paths connected settlements on the North Branch of the Susquehanna River to the West Branch and Lycoming Creek. The Wyalusing Path followed Muncy Creek to its confluence with the Susquehanna. The Great Warrior Path, also known as the Seneca Trail, was a network of trails that ran through the Great Appalachian Valley. In the Endless Mountains, it closely followed the route of the Susquehanna River. When the Haudenosaunee drove the Susquehannocks from the Endless Mountains, the Susquehannocks followed the river for which they are named, settling between southern present-day Pennsylvania and the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.⁴⁸

The first Europeans in North America came to trade, not colonize. French and English explorers followed established Indigenous waterways and paths from the coast into the interior. The French traveled south from the Saint Lawrence River valley, the English went north from Virginia and the Chesapeake Bay. Between 1607 and 1609, Captain John Smith, who had come to North America from England with the Virginia Company, led an exploration of Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In 1608, the expedition took his small crew six miles up the Susquehanna River, during which he encountered the Susquehannock people. This voyage and the maps he created from it helped establish one of the first major European trade corridors into the interior of North America. In recognition of the importance of the Susquehanna as an Indigenous trade route, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail extends northward to include the entirety of the North and West branches.

When settlers first made their homes in the Endless Mountains, they, too, relied on Indigenous land and water routes. As the population increased, however, transportation became a barrier to industrial and commercial development. The Susquehanna River provided a means by which products could be shipped in temporary transport boats called arks that had shallow drafts. Because the river's lack of depth was generally considered non-navigable for commercial shipping, arks were sent down the river and the men who accompanied them walked back, and lumber could only be floated down during spring flooding. Pack horses followed the Indigenous paths. Over time, their use widened the trails traveled the most, and farmers began to employ two-wheeled ox carts. Settlers crossed smaller waterways on rough log bridges, and entrepreneurs established ferries at the key points along the Susquehanna.

During the first quarter of the 19th century, investors began to develop turnpikes, selling subscriptions to raise funds. The purpose of the turnpikes was to connect regional population centers such as Easton, Philadelphia, Elmira, Binghamton, and Owego. Segments of some of the turnpikes crossed through the Endless Mountains, fortuitously tying the region into a larger

⁴⁷ Gollup, Jasmine N. 2011. *An Overview and Analysis of 'Proto-Susquehannock' Sites in the Upper Susquehanna River Valley*. Cornell University.

⁴⁸ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pp. 2-6 – 2-8.

transportation network. The rustic turnpikes provided more direct routes to market centers and increased the value of the frontier lands held by investors. Turnpikes that crossed through the Endless Mountains included the Philadelphia and Great Bend, the Great Bend and Cocheton, the Newburgh, the Milford and Owego, the Berwick and Elmira, the North Abington, the Susquehanna and Tioga, and the Bridgewater and Wilkes-Barre.⁴⁹

The turnpikes helped build economies and communities. Hostlers established lodging establishments at crossroads to accommodate travelers that passed through the region. Roads made it easier for locals to come to town, so merchants built stores to supply residents. By the 1840s, turnpikes were less essential to travelers as the development of the Erie Canal and railroads changed interregional transportation patterns. Local residents became the primary turnpike users, and turnpike companies consigned the roads to public ownership.

As roads became increasingly integral to daily life, bridges were constructed so people could cross the region's waterways. Wooden bridges had a lifespan of about 20 years, but covered bridges were built to survive much longer, as the enclosure protected their wooden structural members from rot. In Sullivan County, three Burr-Arch truss bridges built in 1850 still survive.

In the decades before the Civil War, the roads, trails, and rivers of the Endless Mountains carried more than goods and travelers – they carried ideas. As national debates over slavery intensified, the region became a quiet but meaningful landscape of resistance and transformation. The same transportation routes that linked markets and communities were also used by those seeking liberty, and by those who championed a Union defined by freedom.

Opposition to slavery in the Endless Mountains and adjacent northern tier of northeastern Pennsylvania emerged from a convergence of settlement patterns, lived experience, and evolving political conflict rather than from a single ideological source. Many early settlers arrived from New England – particularly Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island – bringing with them religious traditions and reform impulses rooted in regions that were centers of abolitionist thought. This outlook was reinforced by the presence of individuals who had witnessed slavery firsthand. The operation of the Underground Railroad further shaped local attitudes, as communities encountered formerly enslaved people whose stories and physical scars made the realities of slavery impossible to ignore, while confrontations with slave catchers brought the violence of the institution directly into northern towns and villages. Over time, national flashpoints, including the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 and violence in “Bleeding Kansas,” forced residents who may not initially have identified as abolitionists to take a moral and political stand. Together, these influences fostered a regional culture of opposition that was often understated but persistent, expressed through networks of assistance, political resistance, and a belief that slavery violated both moral principles and local notions of fairness and independence.

David Wilmot, one of the most influential antislavery politicians of his time, made his home in Towanda, Bradford County. In 1846, as a U.S. Congressman, he introduced the Wilmot Proviso, an unsuccessful but influential amendment to ban slavery in territories acquired from Mexico. Though it never passed, the proviso became a rallying cry for the Free Soil movement and a forerunner to the Republican Party. Wilmot's political ideals reflected the moral convictions of many in the Endless Mountains, where opposition to slavery was strong even in small, rural communities.

⁴⁹ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pp. 2-16 – 2-17.

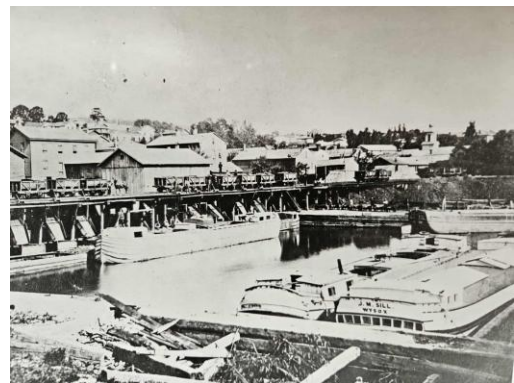
The region's landscape also played a practical role in the Underground Railroad. The Susquehanna River stretched from Cooperstown, New York, to Chesapeake Bay. The nearly 450-mile route spanned from free territory in the north to plantation country where enslavement was legal until the Civil War. The river acted as a signpost for freedom seekers traveling north and also provided food and water. Oral histories and local traditions point to properties like the Dennis Farm in Susquehanna County, founded by Prince Perkins, a free African American Revolutionary War veteran, as possible safe havens for freedom seekers traveling north. The rugged terrain and scattered farmsteads of the Endless Mountains offered concealment and protection along lesser-known routes that linked to larger abolitionist networks in New York and New England. These stories are difficult to verify in the historical record, but they speak to a regional ethos of quiet defiance and moral resolve.

When the Civil War broke out, many residents of the Endless Mountains answered the call to defend the Union. Motivated by ideals rooted in Wilmot's politics and the values of the region's religious and civic life, men from all four counties enlisted in significant numbers. Their service is commemorated today in monuments found at each county courthouse, enduring symbols of the region's commitment to national unity and the unfinished promise of liberty.

Canal building ushered in the next phase of transportation advances in the Endless Mountains. Politicians and investors realized that Pennsylvanians needed to improve the transportation infrastructure to capitalize on the wealth coming from the new frontier and compete with major ports like Baltimore, Boston, and New York. The success of New York's Erie Canal, opened in 1825, prompted the construction of the North Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal as part of the Commonwealth's Main Line of Public Works. Construction began in the 1830s, a decade after canals were built in other parts of the state. The first canal to be built followed the route of the Susquehanna River between Pittston and the New York border above Athens.

The project was ill-fated from the beginning. Construction was delayed until funding and financing could be secured in 1836. The following year, the national economy was devastated in the Panic of 1837, slowing construction progress. By 1841, the state had pulled its support, and the unfinished project was transferred to private ownership under the North Branch Canal Company. Topography and geology also impeded progress. The Irish immigrants who served as the primary labor force had to level steep, rocky slopes and seal the gravel bottom with a thick, clay cap to ensure water would stay in the channel. A series of floods in the 1840s resulted in the laborers having to redo large portions of what had been accomplished. In 1848, additional state funds were allocated to the project, which continued in fits and starts until the canal was partially opened in 1854 and fully ready for business in 1856.

The large canal boats that mules pulled along the channel could carry up to 80 tons of cargo, far more than the small arks that the natural river could support. Early rail lines brought semi-bituminous coal to Towanda from Bradford County's Barclay coal fields. From there, canal workers loaded the coal onto the boats and shipped it north to Waverly, where canal cargo was transferred back to rail and sent across the nation.



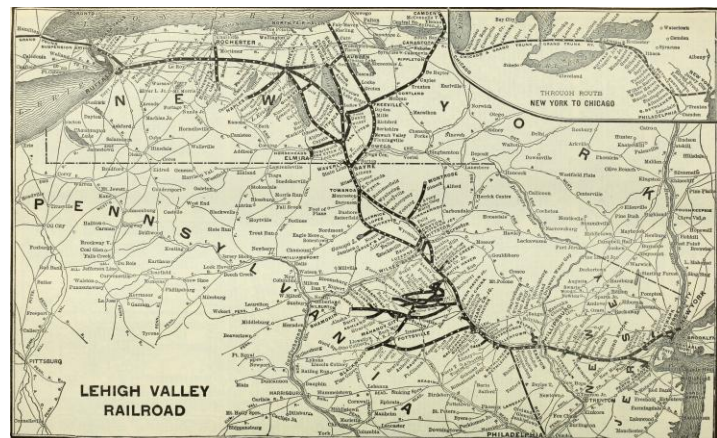
An extension of the basin of the former North Branch Canal that was used to load coal from the Barclay Railroad onto canal boats in the 19th century. The basin was located just below the current Veterans Memorial Bridge in Towanda (Bradford County). (Bradford County Historical Society)

For communities along the canal, the economic growth from construction and the increase in commercial and industrial activities showed in expanded commercial centers and wealthy new neighborhoods. In addition, population swelled with the influx of Irish immigrants who came to build the canal and the merchants who were drawn to economic opportunity. Ultimately, however, the canal did not meet residents' hopes and expectations. It failed to improve market access for outlying communities, and spring floods in 1864 and 1865 caused financial losses. Most significantly, the canal faced obsolescence within a decade of opening, as railroading transformed the region once again.⁵⁰

To mitigate financial difficulties, the North Branch Canal Company was reorganized as the New York Canal and Railroad Company. They began construction of a railroad line adjacent to the towpath. For four years, the canal and railroad operated side by side, but when the bottom fell out of the canal near Tunkhannock in 1871, the canal was closed north of Pittston. Rail profits far exceeded the revenue generated by the canal, and the company petitioned the state for the right to abandon the channel, replacing it with a second rail line in 1873. Both lines were taken over by the Pennsylvania and New York Railroad and leased to the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

Railroad magnate Asa Packer and his nephew Robert Asa Packer played pivotal roles in transforming the Endless Mountains region from a canal-reliant frontier to a hub of rail-driven commerce and industry. Asa Packer, originally a canal boat operator, recognized the limitations of waterborne transport and spearheaded the expansion of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, which supplanted the struggling North Branch Canal and forged vital connections through Bradford and Susquehanna Counties. His nephew Robert helped solidify the railroad's northern operations, making Sayre, in Bradford County, a major maintenance and transportation hub with one of the largest locomotive repair facilities in the country. Their investments not only accelerated the movement of coal, timber, and agricultural goods but also catalyzed the growth of towns like Towanda, Athens, and Sayre, reshaping the region's economic and physical landscape.

Initially in the Endless Mountains, rail was a passthrough, connecting large markets and areas where resource extraction had begun in earnest. An early exception to this was the Barclay Railroad, built in 1854 to connect the Barclay Mines to the North Branch Canal. Unlike the government-subsidized canal system, the rail system was wholly private and built only where there was potential for profit. The Lehigh Valley Railroad and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western



1910 Map of Lehigh Valley Railroad Lines.

Railroad (DL&W) were the primary corridors through the Endless Mountains. The latter was the major outlet for coal from the Wyoming Valley. In the latter half of the 19th century, several smaller railroads helped connect to the larger lines, including the Williamsport and North Branch Railroad, the Susquehanna and Eagles Mere Railroad, the Susquehanna and New York Railroad, the Sullivan and State Line Railroad, the Bowman's Creek and Harveys Lake branches, the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, and the Main Line Erie Railroad. In the 1910s, an electric

⁵⁰ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-24 – 2-25.

passenger and freight trolley, the Northern Electric Trolley, ran from the city of Scranton up through Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties, terminating in Montrose.

The development of a network of railroads brought unprecedented change to the region. Some routes increased access to agricultural communities, providing the first reliable transportation of perishable dairy products to the East's urban centers. This helped drive the increasing specialization toward dairy farming. Other routes supported logging and mining, enabling resource extraction on a much larger scale than previously possible. Sullivan County boasted many temporary narrow-gauge lines to transport lumber; these were often pulled up and reused as timbering operations exhausted one forest and moved to the next. The Barclay Railroad and the Sullivan and Erie Railroad provided access to the Barclay and Bernice coal fields. In farming, tanning, and timbering, railroading was also behind a growing trend of moving from smaller operations to consolidation into larger corporate entities.

Railroading significantly enhanced the region's economy. Railroad depots in towns throughout the Endless Mountains arose as hubs of activity, as people and goods moved in and out of the region. Across the region, commercial centers grew, especially in places like Sayre and Susquehanna. In Sayre, a roundhouse and railroad repair shops thrived with the effort of keeping the railroad lifeline flowing smoothly. The Susquehanna Depot included the Starrucca House, a hotel with rooms for 200 people, as well as a roundtable. In Sullivan County, the railroad brought tourism to the town of Eagles Mere and the high-country lake of the same name. Eagles Mere was laid out with tourism in mind and, in the first half of the 20th century, was home to several luxury hotels where guests came to escape from the urban summer heat. Another popular rail destination in Bradford County was Minnequa Springs, a mineral spring near Canton, where the first hotel was built in the 1860s. In both Eagles Mere and Minnequa Springs, the resorts spurred the development of private summer cottages.⁵¹

The construction of three railroad viaducts in the region also contributed to the region's physical, social, and economic transformation. The Starrucca Viaduct, built in 1848, and the Tunkhannock and Martin's Creek viaducts, built in the 1910s, are still the largest structures on the rural landscape. They enabled rail lines to cross streams at grade, resulting in increased speed and reduced travel times for passengers and freight.

The Starrucca Viaduct was designed by Julius W. Adams and James P. Kirkwood and built of structural concrete, brick, and locally quarried Pennsylvania bluestone by the New York and Erie Railroad. It was constructed in record time – about a year – by 800 men earning one dollar a day, among the first engineering works built with structural concrete.⁵² When it was completed in 1848, it was likely the world's largest stone



The Starrucca Viaduct near Lanesboro is one of Pennsylvania's most remarkable feats of 19th-century engineering. Built in 1848 by the New York and Erie Railroad, it is the oldest railroad bridge in the state still in active use and measures over 1,000 feet in length. (EMHR)

⁵¹ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pp. 2-26 – 2-28.

⁵² "Starrucca Viaduct," ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers. Accessed June 7, 2024.

<https://www.asce.org/about-civil-engineering/history-and-heritage/historic-landmarks/starrucca-viaduct>.

railway viaduct, and at a cost of \$325,000 (more than \$12 million today), also the most expensive railway bridge, too.

More than a half-century later, the Martin's Creek Viaduct (also known as the Kingsley Bridge) and the Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct (also known as the Nicholson Bridge) were built of concrete by the DL&W. Both viaducts were part of a project to create the New Line, a cut-off between Clark's Summit and Halstead that reduced grades and mileage from the original route. The Martin's Creek Viaduct was completed in 1914, under budget and ahead of schedule, and celebrated with a bridge-top dance. It stands 150 feet tall and 1,600 feet long.⁵³ Both viaducts were designed and built by Abraham Burton Cohen using innovative steam-shovel technology developed in the construction of the Panama Canal. At 240 feet tall and 2,375 feet in length, the Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct was the largest concrete structure in the world when it was completed in 1915.⁵⁴

All three viaducts are significant for their role in providing increased capacity for carrying coal, iron, steel, and passengers in the northeast, contributing to the Industrial Revolution in the United States. Each required hundreds of thousands of dollars, hundreds of laborers, and several years to build. The populations of nearby communities swelled during construction, often resulting in different ethnic mixes than the Yankee stock that had been predominant in the region. After construction, however, most of the laborers sought new jobs elsewhere. All three viaducts continue to support active rail lines today.



A vintage photo the Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct/Nicholson Bridge standing tall over the town of Nicholson in Wyoming County. Once the largest concrete structure in the world, the bridge measures 2,375 feet long and 34 feet wide, standing 240 feet above Tunkhannock Creek below.

The final chapter in the transportation history of the Endless Mountains is the development of the region's highways. Following rail service's peak in the 1910s, the government began to improve public roadways in the 1920s. This enabled trucks to compete with railroads as a more flexible way to transport goods to market. Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot, who in his second term in 1931 pledged to "get the farmers out of the mud," oversaw the paving of more

⁵³ Darcy, John Martin II. 2022. *The Martin's Creek Viaduct & the D., L.&W Railroad in Alford, Kingsley & Hop Bottom, Pennsylvania, USA, 100 Years Ago*. Edited by Sarah Darcy. 2nd ed.

⁵⁴ "Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct," Nicholson Heritage Association. Accessed June 7, 2024.

<https://www.nicholsonheritage.org/tunkhannock-creek-viaduct/>.

than 18,000 miles of rural roads in the Commonwealth by 1940.⁵⁵ By the middle of the 20th century, cars and trucks were the American way to get around.

In the Endless Mountains, many of the major roads follow the same paths as the Indigenous trails and early turnpikes, including U.S. Route 11. In portions of Wyoming and Susquehanna counties, Route 11 was built on part of the Main Line of the DL&W; it was sold to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$1 and was known as the Lackawanna Trail. Among Pinchot's accomplishments is U.S. Route 220, which became known as the "Yellow Brick Road" of rural counties.⁵⁶ U.S. Route 6, one of the nation's first transcontinental highways, runs through the Endless Mountains and across the northern tier of Pennsylvania. It remains one of the country's longest roads, and its storied history and sense of place are critical elements of the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor, a state-designated heritage area. The route, stewarded by the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor Alliance, is also designated as an official Pennsylvania State Scenic Byway in Tioga, Potter, McKean, and Warren counties; the intention is to expand this designation into the Endless Mountains. Interstate 81, which runs south-north across the Commonwealth before it crosses New York into Canada, is referred to as the Penn-Can Highway.

All of these and the many improved local roads eventually eclipsed passenger rail service and outpaced freight rail operations. Although all industries saw advantages in the expanded road network, farming and tourism reaped the largest benefits. For farmers, trucks could now go directly from their fields and barns to market. For tourists, the popular pastime of exploring by automobile expanded their choice of destinations. Economic opportunity followed through much of the 20th century.

Resources

The history of transportation in the Endless Mountains closely follows the national trajectory of transportation. In most places in the nation, the march of progress has obscured this history, as urban expansion consumed the remnants of the past. In the rural Endless Mountains, however, each stage remains visible in the present.

The Susquehanna River and its tributaries still flow across the landscape carrying paddlers. Hikers and highways follow Indigenous trails. Some of these ancient trails still cross quietly through the region's dense forests, others became farm roads, turnpikes, and eventually the modern network of roadways. There are three covered bridges in Sullivan County – two that span the Loyalsock River and a third that crosses Muncy Creek. Three massive railroad viaducts tell the tale of rail in Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties. In addition, there are many more bridges and tunnels that were built during the railroading era. The Pennsylvania Department of Forestry and the Civilian Conservation Corps used former logging railroads as roadbeds for administrative access, fire control, and public access, including hiking trails. Historic depots and grand old railroad-era buildings are found throughout the region, including the Sayre Depot in Bradford County, which now houses the Sayre Historical Society; the Starrucca House in Susquehanna County, currently undergoing preservation; and the Nicholson Depot in Wyoming County, home to the Nicholson

⁵⁵ "The Pinchots and the Greatest Good: How One Family Improved Social Justice and Civil Rights in America," Grey Towers National Historic Site, United States Department of Agriculture. Accessed June 5, 2024. https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd500676.pdf.

⁵⁶ Barrett, Barbara. "Pa. Route 220 Known as 'Yellow Brick Road' of Rural Counties," *The Muncy Luminary*. Accessed June 11, 2024. <https://www.muncyluminary.com/news/local-news/2023/08/23/pa-route-220-known-as-yellow-brick-road-of-rural-counties/>.

Heritage Association and local history exhibits. Even the infrastructure of the short-lived canal can still be seen in a few places, and the North Branch Canal Trail follows the old towpath. DCNR's parks and forests also encompass many historic transportation corridors – from portions of the canal at Vosburg Neck State Park to logging railbeds across many of the region's public lands – offering interpretive access to the physical infrastructure that shaped regional commerce and mobility.

Several resources in the Endless Mountains help illuminate the region's connection to antislavery politics and the Civil War. The Dennis Farm in Susquehanna County, founded by free African American Revolutionary War veteran Prince Perkins, is a nationally significant site believed to have been connected to the Underground Railroad. Monuments at each of the four county courthouses commemorate local veterans who served in the Union Army. These public memorials demonstrate the region's contribution to the preservation of the Union and reflect the civic values rooted in the political legacy of local leaders such as David Wilmot.

A number of specific resources are named in the previous section, but a few deserve additional recognition. The Captain John Smith National Historic Trail, managed by the National Park Service, extends from the headwaters of the Susquehanna to Chesapeake Bay, recognized for its recreational, cultural, and historic significance. The Forksville, Sonestown, Hillsgrove, and Knapp's covered bridges, all dating to the 1850s, are part of a multiple property listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Pennsylvania's section of U.S. Route 6 was designated a state heritage area in 2003.

The three viaducts are of particular importance. Two of the three – the Starrucca Viaduct and the Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct – are listed in the National Register of Historic Places with national significance and designated as Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks by the American Society of Civil Engineers. This latter designation has only been given to 280 structures globally. The Tunkhannock Creek Viaduct has also been recognized by the National Railway Historical Society.

The vast majority of the resources that reflect the story of transportation are the commonplace structures and buildings that comprise communities in the Endless Mountains. Many of them are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Theme 5: Boom, Bust, and Rebirth

In the 19th century, the Endless Mountains thrived on the promise of abundant resources, birthing boomtowns from timber and coal. Immigrants seeking opportunities swelled populations. Economic prosperity flourished, but at a cost. Unrestrained exploitation scarred the landscape and polluted rivers. As resources dwindled and markets fluctuated, the boom collapsed. Companies and people moved on, leaving barren hillsides and ghost towns in their wake. Today, industrial remnants persist amidst regrown forests and recovering streams of the Susquehanna watershed, serving as dual symbols of both devastation and regeneration.



The Saye Historical Society Museum in Bradford County is a preserved Lehigh Valley Railroad station with volunteer staff. (EMHR)

The nation matured in the 19th century, with coast-to-coast development, technological advances in transportation and industry, and a rapidly expanding population. Building and sustaining the country's growth required unprecedented amounts of raw materials, of which the Endless Mountains had in abundance. The region possessed timber and bluestone to build towns and cities, bark to support tanning, and coal to heat homes and fuel industry, from steam engines to blast furnaces. There were plenty of robber barons to develop industry and reap its profits, and there were plenty of laborers to timber and mine, many newly arrived from foreign shores. The economic opportunities seemed limitless, and the consequences irrelevant, until the boom had passed, leaving environmental destruction behind.

While agriculture and timber were the dominant and enduring industries of the Endless Mountains, small and localized coal fields produced brief but intense periods of extraction that mirrored broader regional patterns of boom, labor dependency, and abrupt decline. Below the ground, the Endless Mountains did not have the rich anthracite coal deposits of the nearby Wyoming and Lackawanna valleys, where mining began as early as the 1820s. Instead, only one small anthracite deposit existed in the southwestern portion of Susquehanna County, along with a few dispersed deposits of semi-anthracite, bituminous, and semi-bituminous coal in Bradford and Sullivan counties. Mining followed the development of rail lines that made it economically feasible to develop the necessary operations.

Mining in Bradford County coincided with the opening of the North Branch Canal. The Barclay Railroad and Coal Company built a line to move coal shipments from Barclay Mountain to Towanda, where it would be loaded on a canal barge. After the canal failed, the Erie Railroad obtained the Barclay Railroad, managing the mines for much of their existence. Coal shipments from the Barclay mines in Bradford County peaked in the 1870s and slowly declined through the 1890s, when an economic depression eventually resulted in their closure.⁵⁷

During its heyday, Barclay Mountain boasted several communities, the largest of which was Barclay. That town held as many as 2,000 residents along with the stores, churches, schools, and mills to support them. As with canal construction, many miners came from Europe, especially Ireland, making the community primarily Catholic in contrast to the region's largely Protestant population. While some families stayed in the region after the mines were exhausted, the majority moved on. The buildings were disassembled and removed, with only a cemetery remaining as mute witness to Barclay Mountain's decades of mining.⁵⁸

In 1871, an outcropping of anthracite coal was discovered in Forest City. The deposit is on the northeastern edge of the Northern Field of anthracite coal that runs through the Lackawanna and Wyoming valleys. The Hillside Coal and Iron Company built a small breaker in 1872 and a much larger one in 1886. The second drew an influx of immigrants from mining regions in Europe, and by the late 1880s there were more than 300 men and boys employed in coal production.⁵⁹ They were Welsh, Irish, Italian, Prussian, and Southern and Eastern European. Forest City, as its name implies, was also an important lumber town. Mining, lumber, and silk

⁵⁷ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-29.

⁵⁸ Farley, Henry "The Irish at Barclay Mountain." Accessed June 6, 2024.

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~pasulliv/SullivanCountyHistoricalSociety/Barclay.htm>.

⁵⁹ "The History of Forest City, PA," Forest City Area Historical Society. Accessed June 7, 2024,

<https://forestcityareahistoricalociety.org/forest-city1.html>.

production together helped build a population of about 6,000 in the early 20th century, roughly three times the size of today's population.⁶⁰

A spur line of the Barclay Railroad provided access to the semi-anthracite, semi-bituminous deposits near Bernice in Sullivan County. The communities of Lopez, Mildred, Murraytown, O'Boyles, Sonesville, and Bernice all benefited. Over 1,500 people, mostly immigrants, were drawn to the mining towns in this era. The Murray brothers of Scranton opened a mine near Lopez in 1902, erecting the tallest breaker in the coalfield, one of the tallest in the state at that time. Prosperity followed, and Lopez grew to include a hardware store, clothing stores, barbershops, schools, churches, hotels, saloons, ice cream parlors, and the first theater in Sullivan County, along with many other enterprises. The increase in population even enabled the establishment of the Mason's Silk Mill, which employed young women from the miners' families.⁶¹



The Loyalsock Creek in Lopez during the winter of 1905. (Nate Wiggins/"Our Sullivan County" Facebook group)

Although all three coalfields supported a robust mining industry in the Endless Mountains for a few decades, mining never defined the region in the way that agriculture and timber did. The majority of the immigrants whose families came to work the mines moved on when the boom was over, although there are still many families in the region who trace their ancestry to the mining era. The rise and collapse of coal boom towns demonstrated patterns that would be repeated in timbering communities across the region, including rapid population growth, single-industry dependence, and limited long-term sustainability.

Another natural resource around which an industry was built is Pennsylvania bluestone, found across the region but primarily in Susquehanna County. The beautiful sandstone formed in the time before continents collided, about 360 million years ago, and its density makes it an excellent building material. While residents had long known about its qualities, bluestone gained prominence as a marketable commodity during the construction of the Starrucca Viaduct in 1848. The viaduct is made of locally quarried bluestone, along with bricks and structural concrete. After completion, no less than six bluestone quarries near the viaduct project continued to quarry and sell their stone elsewhere, using the rail network to ship it around the world. Pennsylvania bluestone can be found in Independence Mall in Philadelphia, the White House Rose Garden in Washington, DC, and the United Nations Headquarters in New York.⁶²

Above the ground, the Endless Mountains offered another resource – white pine forests ringed with hemlock, a seemingly limitless supply of timber and bark. White pine and hemlock forests were once widespread across Pennsylvania, particularly in river valleys and northern uplands, but the Endless Mountains contained a higher relative concentration of hemlock-dominated and

⁶⁰ "Rich in History," Forest City, PA, Est. 1888. Accessed June 7, 2024.

<http://www.visitforestcitypa.com/the-town/history/>.

⁶¹ Shuman, Edith B., ed. *100 Years of Pride: A History of Lopez, Pennsylvania*. 1976, transcribed by Derek Davis in 2004. Accessed June 6, 2024.

https://sites.rootsweb.com/~pasulliv/sullivancountyfolk/scf2/lopez/lopez_text.htm.

⁶² "Pennsylvania Bluestone," Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. Accessed June 7, 2024.

<https://www.susqco.com/community-information/pennsylvania-bluestone>.

hemlock–white pine mixed forests than much of the Mid-Atlantic. While white pine occurred more sporadically statewide, hemlock formed extensive, contiguous stands in this region prior to the late 19th- and early 20th-century logging era, after which the density of these forests declined dramatically across Pennsylvania as a whole.

Logging was important from the earliest days of settlement, although it was initially a by-product of the need to clear land for agriculture. With improvements in technology for harvesting and transportation, the industry grew exponentially in the mid-to-late 19th century. Mechanization of harvesting enabled men to clear entire mountains in a season – an unimaginable task for early settlers. While the spring freshets remained important for moving logs down the rivers, railroads could provide access to remote stands of timber, making harvesting those stands not only feasible, but highly profitable. Financiers helped build the narrow-gauge lines that reached far into the forests and connected to the major lines already running through the region. The narrow-gauge lines were temporary, intended to be pulled up when an area had been cut over, and reused for the next mountainside.



Barclay Mountain in Bradford County experienced intense logging in the early 20th century, centered around the company town of Laquin, which was founded in 1902 to harvest vast hemlock and hardwood forests for timber and tanneries. (Bradford County Historical Society)

In Sullivan County, Lopez and Ricketts boomed in succession, beginning in the 1880s. The Loyalsock and Muncy creeks connected the communities to the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The twin fates of these two communities were played out in many towns across Sullivan County.

J.S. Hoffa, from the more established community of Dushore, built the first large sawmill in Lopez in 1886. In 1888, both the Jennings Brothers and Trexler and Terrill established sawmills there. Other timber-related enterprises, including a kindling factory and a clothespin factory, helped to diversify the community's economy and ensure its survival to the present day, albeit with half the population it had a century ago.⁶³

Ricketts, on the border between Sullivan and Wyoming counties, boomed in 1891. In that year, Albert Lewis Lumber Company and Trexler and Terrill both built large mills, employing over 300 men between them. By the 1910s, the forests were clear cut, and the town was completely abandoned.⁶⁴ The ghost of the single-source community lies within Ricketts Glen State Park and is interpreted on summer tours.

In Bradford County, the town of Laquin was founded along Schrader Creek in 1902, not far from the coal deposits at Barclay. Laquin, which came into existence after the nearby mines had closed, was home to five companies that processed wood in numerous ways, including lumber,

⁶³ "Lopez History," Lopez, PA. Accessed June 7, 2024. <http://lopezpa.com/lopez-history/>.

⁶⁴ *Sullivan County Industries Then and Now*. 1954. Endicott, NY: The Endicott Printing Company. Accessed June 7, 2024.

<http://www.pagenweb.org/~sullivan/SullivanCountyHistoricalSociety/SullivanIndustries.htm>

barrel staves, veneers, and bark for tanning. Laquin was a company town built by the Laquin Lumber Company. The planned development included the mills, workers' housing, more elaborate abodes for management, a post office, two schools, churches, a hotel, the company store where families bought on credit that kept them tied to the company, and a railroad track running through the heart of town. The town's population approached 2,000 at its height, but by 1932, Barclay Mountain had been clear cut and all of Laquin's mills had shut down. Families were encouraged to leave, so the company could pull up the rails and dismantle the structures for use elsewhere.⁶⁵ As with Ricketts, Laquin is a true ghost town; no buildings still stand, only foundations are left amid State Game Lands 36.

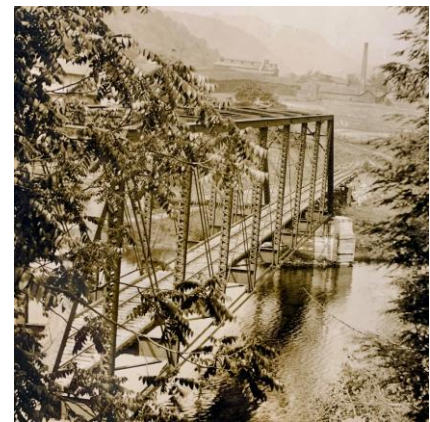
Some towns remain, as does the influence of their namesakes. Charles W. Sones built a sawmill in the Kettle Creek Valley of Sullivan County, and the town of Soneville grew up around it. Sones connected logging grades to the Eagles Mere Railroad, increasing the efficiency of transporting logs from the area. Sones eventually moved on to Lycoming County, taking a place in the state senate after his retirement.

Most of the region's virgin white pine had been cut over by the late 1880s. From there, lumber barons moved to hemlock. Although hemlock wood was not as desirable for construction because it split easily, the invention of the wire cut nail helped mitigate this issue. More importantly, the hemlock stands provided bark for tanneries.

Like timbering, tanning was a long-standing tradition in the Endless Mountains. Just as the white pine forests were disappearing from the region, the national need for leather was increasing. Mechanization of many industries required a durable grade of leather belts to drive machinery, and leather was in everything from shoe soles to suitcases. In the West, the commercial slaughter of buffalo herds was reaching its crescendo, and the railroads made it easy to transport hides to tanneries in Pennsylvania. Tanneries were located throughout the region, with the most in Sullivan County. When the hemlock stands were gone by the 1930s, the tanneries closed.⁶⁶

Unchecked resource extraction came at a cost. When the Great Depression hit the nation in 1929, the majority of the Endless Mountain's resources had been plundered, leaving behind culm banks from coal processing, hillsides bare of trees, and streams choked with sediment and polluted with chemicals from mining and tanning. Ultimately, the widespread removal of the white pine and hemlock forests had a more significant environmental impact on the region than mining. Local microclimates changed, forest fires and flooding became more common, and wildlife habitats were decimated.

Pennsylvania Governor Gifford Pinchot, often referred to as the "Father of Forestry" in the U.S., approached forestry with a conservation bent not common in his era. After graduating Yale, he



The Susquehanna & Eagles Mere Railroad Trestle over Loyalsock Creek at Hillsgrove with the massive Hillsgrove Tannery complex in the background, which was considered one of the most isolated tanneries in Pennsylvania until a railroad reached the area in 1904. (Nelson Caulkins/"Our Sullivan County" Facebook group)

⁶⁵ Carl, Matthew T. 2023. *Laquin: The Rise and Fall of a Pennsylvania Lumber Town*. LeRoy Heritage Museum, Bradford County Historical Society.

⁶⁶ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-33.

sought further education at the French National School of Forestry. He served as head of the Division of Forestry under President William McKinley and became the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service upon its establishment in 1905. In 1922, he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania. He was re-elected in 1930, just as the last extractive industries were abandoning the Endless Mountains and the Great Depression was worsening.

As lumber companies abandoned large tracts of cutover land, especially in the southwestern portion of the region, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased it at fire-sale prices. The intent was two-fold – heal the land and make it productive again. Pinchot recognized that well-managed forests were important for citizens who relied on natural resources for income, and that parks provided “social good.”⁶⁷ The state set up forestry management areas in the 1930s.

This coincided with what was happening at the national level under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s approach to combatting the Great Depression. During the 1930s, federal New Deal programs played a major role in shaping public infrastructure and conservation. The Public Works Administration (PWA), created in 1933, funded large-scale construction projects through private contractors. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) launched in 1935, provided direct employment for local laborers building roads, trails, park facilities, and cultural resources. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), created in 1933 as part of Roosevelt’s New Deal, employed thousands of young men in conservation and public works projects to plant trees, restore wildlife habitat, and build recreational amenities. All three entities helped shape the public resources in the Endless Mountains.



Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-95/Company 383 in Laporte, Sullivan County, in May 1934. (Sullivan County Historical Society)

The Commonwealth created Wyoming State Forest (today part of the Loyalsock State Forest) in 1929 on land purchased from the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company in Sullivan County. Second growth hardwoods took root in fledgling forests that the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry – today’s Bureau of Forestry under DCNR – protected from forest fires. The CCC, who developed six camps in the region, aided these efforts, building roads that provided easier access and planting groves of conifer trees. Governor Pinchot established Worlds End State Park in Sullivan County in 1932. The CCC built many of the park’s facilities, including cabins that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Other state parks and forests followed different historical trajectories, with several being private farmland before passing into public ownership, but all were a result of the concerted effort to reverse the damage wrought by industry and celebrate Pennsylvania’s natural resources. The first tract of Pinchot State Forest was established in 1902 in Lackawanna County, shortly after the establishment of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, precursor to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.⁶⁸

⁶⁷ “Gifford Pinchot: The Father of Forestry,” National Park Service. Accessed June 7, 2024. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/gifford-pinchot.htm>.

⁶⁸ “Pinchot State Forest History,” Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Accessed June 5, 2025. <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dcnr/recreation/where-to-go/state-forests/find-a-forest/pinchot/history.html>.

While the clear cutting of forests and their eventual regeneration had the most noticeable impact on the landscape, mining had a more profound yet less visible effect on the waterways. Erosion from polluted culm banks, wastewater from underground mines, and raw sewage polluted the Susquehanna and its tributaries with sediments, acid, and metals, depleting the oxygen in the water and killing all aquatic life. Pollution was compounded as the Susquehanna flowed south, through the heart of Pennsylvania’s coal country and the industrialized northeast before reaching Chesapeake Bay. Although the Commonwealth began to reinvest in forest recovery in the 1930s, the recognition and action needed to save the waterways was much slower in coming. An 1878 decision in a state Supreme Court case called *The Pennsylvania Coal Company vs. Sanderson and Wife*, centered on the pollution of stream that ran through the Sanderson property, noted that coal- mine owners could not do business if they were held liable for damage caused in the normal course of operations. This ruling and the attitude that it reflects dominated the legal and practical approach to the health of the waterways for about a century. In 1947, Pennsylvania Governor James A. Duff, an avid outdoorsman, led a charge to build sewage treatment plants along the Susquehanna. Finally, in 1965, with pressure from a broad coalition led by sportsmen, the Commonwealth’s General Assembly passed legislation that held mining companies liable for stream health. Although the companies mounted a legal fight, in 1976, the state Supreme Court finally overturned the 1878 decision. In 1977, they reaffirmed their decision on the mining industry’s liability. Federal help came in the form of the 1972 Water Control Act. By the 1980s, water quality had improved significantly, although work remains to be done today. From the headwaters to Chesapeake Bay, there are many environmental organizations and agencies dedicated to a clean and healthy Susquehanna watershed.⁶⁹

As the landscape and its waterways began to recover, more Americans were exploring by automobile. No longer bound to hotels linked with the railroads, people with means could travel to more places and build summer cottages in areas that lacked rail access, such as Bradford County’s Lake Wasauking and Wyoming County’s Lake Carey. Hunting and fishing became important pastimes for residents and visitors as the region’s ecosystem recovered.⁷⁰



Cross country skiers enjoy time along the 38-mile Delaware & Hudson (D&H) Rail Trail in Susquehanna County. The trail was named the Pennsylvania Trail of the Year in 2021, after being nominated by the EMHR. (Rail Trail Council of NEPA)

The efforts to conserve and renew the landscape and waterways in the 20th century laid the foundation for today’s lushly forested mountains and cold, clear streams. Today, these healthy resources draw thousands of visitors from within and beyond the four-county region to enjoy the outdoors. They can hike through the forests, bike or ride horses along old transportation routes, camp in the wilderness, visit waterfalls, and paddle the waterways. The region’s wildlife offers opportunities to hunt, fish, and birdwatch. In the winter, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, and skiing – downhill at Elk Mountain, as well as cross-country – get people outdoors. Recreation is a major economic driver and a significant contributor to quality of life. Outdoor recreation is carefully balanced with responsible forestry and bluestone quarrying that are an important part of the region’s heritage and economy.

⁶⁹ Stranahan, Susan Q. 1993. *Susquehanna River of Dreams*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

⁷⁰ *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan*, pg. 2-36.

Interestingly, a new extractive industry arose in the Endless Mountains in the early 2000s – natural gas exploration in the Marcellus Formation. It has already surpassed expectations by proving how economically beneficial it is, providing jobs, and also extra income for farmers who lease or sell land for drilling. However, the future is still uncertain concerning what change the industry will bring, especially regarding environmental impacts and quality of life.⁷¹ Hopefully, the lessons of the past will continue to guide sustainable decision-making in this latest boom.

While decades of conservation and regulation have led to measurable improvements, it is important to acknowledge that many streams and river segments in the Endless Mountains continue to face challenges from legacy pollution, runoff, and modern land-use pressures, underscoring the ongoing need for stewardship and restoration. Similarly, although forests have regrown across the region, many are affected by non-native pests, invasive species, and the lasting impacts of historic extraction. These challenges present opportunities for active, science-based water and forest management that builds resilience, restores ecological health, and carries forward the region’s long tradition of caring for its working landscape.

Resources

The complete abandonment of entire communities is comparatively rare because humans tend to build and rebuild on the same ground. The intensity of late 19th and early 20th-century mining and timbering in the rural Endless Mountains, however, led to the building and abandonment of several single-source communities that have never been resettled. Laquin and Ricketts are two such “ghost towns,” and both offer important interpretive potential for sharing the history and consequences of America’s approach to extraction industries. Physical reminders of the impact of the extraction industries are found across the landscape, from culm banks to the rail trail that follows the route of the Delaware and Lehigh Railroad, to the active rail lines that still traverse the three massive viaducts, including the Starrucca Viaduct made of Pennsylvania bluestone. Although populations have shrunk in many communities since the boom era, towns reflect the wealth of this era in historic theaters, elaborate houses, and early 20th-century streetscapes. Importantly, the region’s many historical societies and county museums have exhibits, tools, books, and research materials that tell the story of these industries.

Salt Springs State Park, Woodbourne Forest Preserve, and Kettle Creek Natural Area retain rare stands of old-growth timber in the region. Some of the hemlock trees in the state park are over 500 years old and are among the state’s largest trees, giving visitors a glimpse of the forests that existed prior to the cutover.

The region’s state parks, state forests, and waterways all have a before-and-after story to tell of how the Endless Mountains went from extraction and pollution to renewal and regrowth. Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest share a CCC history, along with the results of that corps’ efforts a century later. Loyalsock State Forest has three CCC camps within the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, including 4 original CCC buildings still in use as cabins and other forestry support; one even retains the original bark on its hemlock siding. Pinchot State Forest, Loyalsock State Forest, Rickett’s Glen State Park, Mt. Pisgah State Park, Worlds End State Park, and Vosburg Neck State Park are among the region’s abundance of public lands and private forest reserves. These provide birds and animals with critical habitat and offer people places to enjoy year-round outdoor recreation in a wide variety of activities. DCNR’s continued

⁷¹ Braiser, Kathryn, et.al., 2014.

stewardship of reforested lands and public parks tells the story of environmental recovery, highlighting the region’s transformation from industrial exploitation to ecological renewal.

For visitors past and present, the region offers a peaceful retreat into nature. Eagles Mere Historic District, The Minnequa Springs Hotel in northern Canton, and the Montrose Club (among the state’s oldest golf courses) are all testament to more than a century of tourism in the Endless Mountains. Over the years, organizations have also found solace among the trees – from the Methodists’ Dimmock Camp Meeting established in 1877 to Camp Archibald, the nation’s second oldest Girl Scouts camp.

Community parks and playgrounds are also connected to this theme because they reflect a legacy of investment that followed periods of industrial boom and bust. Many originated in, or were expanded during, eras when industrial leaders and municipalities sought to support worker well-being and community stability through shared outdoor spaces. Today, these parks continue that pattern of adaptation and renewal; several have been enhanced using natural gas impact funds to support outdoor recreation, quality of life, and economic resilience in communities shaped by earlier extractive industries.



A presentation about native wildlife during an EMHR event at Larnard-Hornbrook County Park in Bradford County. (EMHR)

As with agriculture, the living landscape of the Endless Mountains includes modern industry that traces its roots to the region’s historical economy. There are many commercial logging and milling operations, including family enterprises that have been in business for much of the last century. Some of these are Ordie Price Sawmill, Cummings Lumber Company, Dwight Lewis Lumber Company, and Deer Park Lumber, among others. Quarries, too, are still in operation, exporting Pennsylvania bluestone around the globe. The industry’s trade organization, the Pennsylvania Bluestone Association, is headquartered in the town of Montrose.

Summary of Significance and Themes

The significance and themes outlined in these pages by no means present a comprehensive history of the Endless Mountains. There are many important histories, illustrious lives, and fascinating details that can be documented and shared as the National Heritage Area develops. Instead, this narrative is intended to provide an overview of the ways in which the Endless Mountains region both contributed to and was shaped by significant trends in the history of this country. These defining storylines include prehistory and early colonial settlement; the rural

region's role in the fight for American independence; the way in which agriculture shaped landscape, culture, and economy; the transformative impact of changes in transportation; and the boom and bust cycle of resource extraction, followed by the rebirth of a natural wonderland. The constant in all of these histories is the landscape defined by the ancient Susquehanna River and the Endless Mountains that rose up around it.



The Loyalsock Canyon Vista in Worlds End State Park (Sullivan County) provides a stunning view of the Endless Mountains and Loyalsock Creek. (EMHR)



The Marie Antoinette Overlook sits approximately 500 feet above the North Branch of the Susquehanna River. It was originally built in 1930, and in 2009, the overlook was restored to its former glory with the help of French Azilum, Inc. and Penn DOT, DCNR and EMHR. The Overlook provides views of the river, many farms, and the French Azilum Historic Site that was intended to be a refugee site for those escaping the French Revolution in 1793. (EMHR)

CHAPTER 3 – JUSTIFICATION FOR A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Introduction

Building on the significance, themes, and resources presented in the previous chapter, the following pages demonstrate how the Endless Mountains region meets core criteria for National Heritage Area designation by presenting a strategic assemblage of resources, a cohesive and manageable boundary, and a clear set of potential roles and opportunities that designation would enable. While the following chapter will focus on the history, structure, and management capacity of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as the coordinating entity, this chapter highlights the broader regional framework, emphasizing how existing resources, geographic identity, and stakeholder priorities position the region to benefit meaningfully from federal recognition and support.

A Strategic Assemblage of Resources

The criteria for designating a National Heritage Area include the existence of “a strategic assemblage of natural and cultural resources that relates to the identified themes.”⁷² In the context of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, this strategic assemblage encompasses a geographically cohesive array of historic, cultural, natural, and recreational resources that together reflect the nationally distinctive character of this landscape. These resources collectively illustrate the region’s enduring historical narratives, lifeways, and ecological identity as expressed through the interpretive themes found in Chapter 2.

The resources described in Chapter 2 and shown on maps of the region (Appendix G) and the Endless Mountains Resource Inventory (Appendix H) demonstrate that the region possesses a concentration of natural, cultural, and historic places that can support a unified interpretive and preservation framework. These resources are rooted in the landscape and tell intersecting stories of Indigenous presence, frontier settlement, transportation, extractive industry, environmental transformation, and cultural resilience. Their proximity, historic integrity, and thematic relevance form the foundation for a place-based experience that is both meaningful and nationally significant.

The inventory includes a broad and diverse body of resources across the four-county region. This includes nationally and locally designated historic properties, state parks and forests, museums, waterways, and outdoor recreational assets, among others. These resources vary in type and setting, ranging from intact 19th-century main streets and historic farms to towering viaducts, ghost towns abandoned after the timber boom, and forested conservation areas featuring trails for public access.

Endless Mountains Resource Inventory – Development and Overview

The PointHDC planning team worked with the Themes and Resources committee to develop an inventory that aligns with the major interpretive themes and provides a representative cross-section of the region’s resources (see Appendices F and G). The inventory catalogues:

- Resource type (Educational/Interpretive, Historical, Cultural/Living Traditions, Natural, Recreational)
- Designations (National Register, National Historic Landmark)
- Ownership information (Public, Private, or Nonprofit)
- Location (Address, City, State)
- Public access

Looking past the feasibility study, the inventory will continue to evolve through local engagement, scholarly research, and interdisciplinary planning. The strategic assemblage of resources that the inventory documents at present provides a foundation for interpretation, economic development, and conservation strategies that can be leveraged through National Heritage Area designation. Many of the resources fall within or adjacent to areas of recognized

⁷² National Park Service. 2019 *National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines*. Accessed June 11, 2025. https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/upload/NHA-Feasibility-Study-Guidelines_FINAL-Revisions-2019_508-compliant.pdf.

conservation or heritage value, offering opportunities for cohesive management and cross-sector collaboration.

Resource Inventory Analysis

The resource inventory documents 150 unique resources across the four counties that comprise the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. These resources were evaluated not only for their significance and visibility on the landscape, but also for their thematic relevance, accessibility to the public, and potential for partnership development.

Thematic Alignment

Each inventoried resource was mapped to one or more of the four interpretive themes guiding the feasibility study:

- Tipping Point – 37 resources
- Revolutionary Change – 37 resources
- Cultivating History – 72 resources
- Transportation and Transformation – 89 resources
- Boom, Bust, & Rebirth – 75 resources

This thematic distribution confirms that the region’s stories are well represented by tangible, place-based assets that remain visible and accessible across the landscape. Importantly, many sites are aligned with more than one theme, highlighting the overlapping nature of economic, social, and environmental change across the region's long and layered history.

County-Level Distribution

Resources are present across all four counties in relatively balanced proportions:

- Bradford County – 51 resources
- Sullivan County – 33 resources
- Susquehanna County – 33 resources
- Wyoming County – 36 resources

This distribution reinforces the regional scope of the proposed NHA and demonstrates that each county contributes meaningfully to the whole. No one county is overrepresented, and all four possess resources that support the nationally significant storylines articulated in the study.



Participants from an EMHR hiking event visit the learning center cabin at the Eagles Mere Conservancy in Sullivan County. (EMHR)

Resource Types

Inventoried sites reflect a wide range of resource types, further supporting the feasibility of an NHA built on regional collaboration and interpretive diversity. These include:

- Historical resources – 90
- Natural resources – 53
- Cultural and living traditions – 51
- Recreational resources – 65
- Educational and interpretive resources – 67

Publicly Accessible Resources

The high proportion of publicly accessible resources, 138 out of 150, greatly strengthens the region's readiness to support a National Heritage Area, as it demonstrates the capacity to serve residents, host visitors, provide educational experiences, and contribute to quality of life and heritage tourism-based economic development.

Federal and State Designations and Management

In assessing the assemblage of resources for NHA designation, it is helpful to look at the resources that have already been granted national and state designations or that are managed by either the federal or state government. There is no federal management of resources in the Endless Mountains Region. The Susquehanna North Branch Water Trail is a designated National Recreation Trail, giving the region a nationally recognized recreational spine. The region has 32 listings in the National Register of Historic Places. There are opportunities to list additional properties, as well to consider higher levels of significance for several properties, including the Dennis Farm and the three viaducts.

The region has 17 resources recognized or managed by state agencies. These include five state parks, two state forests, two PA bike routes, the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor, and a scenic byway. In addition, there are 56 state game lands in the region that are not included in the inventory but provide extensive access to conserved landscapes and hunting, an important living tradition in the region. There are ten state game lands in Bradford County, 25 in Susquehanna County, seven in Sullivan County, and 14 in Wyoming County.

The analysis of the inventory underscores the diversity and importance of the region's heritage resources at the local, state, and national levels.



The Heritage Village & Farm Museum at Alparon Park in Troy has a massive collection of agricultural machinery, tools, and more. (EMHR)

Living Traditions

In addition to its documented historic, cultural, and natural resources, the Endless Mountains region is defined by living traditions that continue to shape community identity, land use, and the regional economy. These traditions reflect long-standing relationships between people and place and remain visible through working landscapes, ongoing industries, recreation, and annual events that celebrate heritage across all four counties. Moreover, they are tied to the region's themes.

Agriculture is among the most enduring traditions in the Endless Mountains, stretching back to Indigenous cultivation along the Susquehanna River and continuing through successive waves of European settlement to the present day. Family farms, dairies, maple producers, and specialty agriculture remain integral to the region's economy and cultural life. Agricultural traditions are reinforced through county fairs, farmers markets, quilting organizations and events, and community festivals that showcase both historic practices and contemporary innovation.

Forestry is another living tradition with historic roots. While the region's forests were heavily exploited during the 19th and early 20th centuries, forestry today reflects a balance between working landscapes and conservation. Modern logging, milling, and forest management – often carried out by multi-generation family enterprises – continue to support local economies while sustaining the forested character that defines the Endless Mountains.

Paddling on the Susquehanna River represents a tradition that reaches back to prehistory, when Indigenous peoples used the river as a primary travel corridor for trade, diplomacy, and daily life. Today, recreational paddling reconnects residents and visitors to that ancient route. Organized heritage paddles and youth sojourns link outdoor recreation with interpretation of the river's cultural, ecological, and historic significance, reinforcing the Susquehanna's role as both a living resource and a connective thread across the region.



Paddlers enjoy the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail during an EMHR river sojourn. (EMHR)

Rail excursions also contribute to the region's living traditions, celebrating transportation heritage that shaped economic and social life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Special event excursions on the Reading Blue Mountain & Northern Railroad (RBM&N Railroad) evoke the era when railroads connected rural communities to national markets and tourism networks. These excursions, often tied to seasonal festivals and community celebrations, keep the region's rail legacy active and visible.



Paddlers listen to a presentation about the removal of the dilapidated Oakland Dam in Susquehanna County during the EMHR's celebration paddle in June 2024. (EMHR)

Across the Endless Mountains, annual festivals and events reinforce these traditions and provide opportunities for public engagement. From community festivals to county fairs, these gatherings reflect the region's agricultural, forestry, transportation, and river-based heritage. The table below highlights annual events that support living traditions in the region.

Month	Event Name	Location	County
April	Endless Mountains Maple Festival	Troy (Alparon Park)	Bradford
June	Founder's Day (includes RBM&N Railroad excursion)	Tunkhannock	Wyoming
July	Troy Fair	Troy (Alparon Park)	Bradford
July	Youth Heritage Sojourn	Susquehanna River	Wyoming
July	Summer Heritage Paddle	Susquehanna River	Wyoming
August	Harford Fair	Harford (Fairgrounds)	Susquehanna
August	Montrose Blueberry Festival	Montrose (Public Square)	Susquehanna
August	Sweet Corn and Sunflower Festival	Tunkhannock (Brown Hill Farms)	Wyoming
August–September	Sullivan County Fair	Forksville (Fairgrounds)	Sullivan
August–September	Wyoming County Fair	Meshoppen (Fairgrounds)	Wyoming
September	Pennsylvania Heritage Festival	Troy (Alparon Park)	Bradford
September	Pennsylvania Endless Mountain Fiber Festival	Harford (Fairgrounds)	Susquehanna
September	Endless Mountains Quilting	Athens	Bradford
October	Sullivan County Fall Festival (Lumberjack / Chainsaw Carving Competition)	Forksville (Fairgrounds)	Sullivan
October	Fall Heritage Paddle	Susquehanna River	Bradford
December	Santa Train Rides (RBM&N Railroad)	Tunkhannock	Wyoming

Annual Festivals and Events in the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Defining the Endless Mountains National Heritage Region Boundary

Defining the boundary of a National Heritage Area is a deliberate, multi-step process shaped by research, public engagement, and regional consensus. The resulting boundary aligns with the state-designated heritage area boundary and encompasses a concentration of thematically interconnected natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources that collectively illustrate a nationally distinctive landscape shaped by the presence of Indigenous peoples, frontier settlement, agriculture, extractive industries, conservation, and cultural continuity.



Proposed National Heritage Area boundary for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (Diane Turrell / DDH Design)

The proposed boundary follows the four-county Endless Mountains Heritage Region in Pennsylvania – comprising Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties. This region has been identified as the Endless Mountains for more than 250 years. For over 25 years, this geography has served as a cohesive cultural and planning unit under Pennsylvania’s Heritage Areas Program. This long-established framework has fostered enduring partnerships, community identity, and coordinated preservation and tourism efforts. The region’s existing collaboration infrastructure and proven heritage-based programming provide a strong foundation for successful National Heritage Area designation and long-term management.

The boundary reflects both the historical and cultural cohesion of the region, as well as the physical landscape that has shaped its development. The area is united by the North Branch of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, which served as an important travel corridor for Indigenous peoples, Euro-American settlers, and later industries. Historic trade routes, shared economic patterns – particularly in timber, agriculture, and natural gas – and common narratives of displacement, resilience, and land stewardship further unite the counties.

While political boundaries are not the primary determinant of National Heritage Area designation, they have played a secondary, functional role in delineating a boundary for the Endless Mountains National Heritage Region. The four counties provide a manageable, contiguous unit that encompasses the major resources aligned with the proposed NHA’s

interpretive themes and supports unified management by the existing regional coordinating entity.

Stakeholders did consider a broader geography during the planning process, including the potential for incorporating a short section of the Susquehanna River that loops north from Susquehanna County into New York before flowing back into Bradford County. This section is currently part of the Susquehanna Heritage Area, a New York state-designated heritage area that covers Broome and Tioga counties. While the idea of incorporating the loop remains a possibility for future expansion or external partnerships, participants expressed a strong and consistent preference for focusing on the Pennsylvania counties that define the long-standing Endless Mountains identity. The shared heritage, cultural landscape, and collaborative history of these four counties present a clear and compelling case for National Heritage Area designation.

Ultimately, the proposed boundary is both meaningful and practical: it captures the region's most significant and thematically aligned resources, reflects the historical and cultural patterns that define the Endless Mountains, benefits from strong regional identity and visibility established through more than 25 years as a state-designated heritage area, and is realistic to manage effectively through established local partnerships and infrastructure.

Why a National Heritage Area?

Across the region, EMHR representatives, partners, and the public support EMHR's decision to seek NHA designation for many reasons. They hope NHA designation will contribute to increased funding, historic preservation, sustainable local economies with good job opportunities, increased tourism, and a quality of life that makes people want to remain in the area. Gaining national recognition also presents a growth opportunity for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. As an EMHR board member noted, "NHA designation provides a chance for board members to work together, to be a better organization, to provide more services to the region... We need to be able to do more, to work towards a common goal."

The designation would also enhance the region's ability to share its history. "We want to tell the story. There are so many stories of national significance across the four counties, and we want to organize and link them," said an NHA Advisory Committee member. Beyond storytelling, the recognition that comes with NHA designation adds credibility and increases partners' leveraging power: "NHA designation is a feather in our caps – it gives us more points for grant applications."

People feel the timing is right. "Why now? We have a strong leader, a good board, and great partners. We want to leverage this," one stakeholder explained. With a shrinking population across the region, others view the NHA designation as improving the quality of life, helping to retain younger residents and attracting new ones. As one person noted, "Anything that gets our identity on the map really adds to the region. Something like this [NHA designation] puts it on a totally different level. This isn't everything, but it is another important piece."



Taking a look at a proposed Partnership Grant project at the Home & Textile Tool Museum in Bradford County. The EMHR's Partnership Grants program has brought well over \$3 million in state funding to the region for heritage preservation, outdoor recreation, educational programming, and more. (EMHR)

Roles for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

National Heritage Areas across the United States are often structured to play multiple roles in their regions, including organizer, implementer, technical assistance provider, funder, and promoter. EMHR already operates in all of these roles at the state level. As described in Chapter 1 and Appendix B – Public Engagement Activities, the PointHDC planning team conducted a robust public outreach effort – including public meetings, a regional survey, and in-depth stakeholder interviews – to explore how EMHR’s existing work might evolve if national designation is achieved. Participants affirmed the value of the organization’s current roles and identified specific areas where expanded capacity could lead to significant community benefits.

Organizer

Stakeholders overwhelmingly agreed that EMHR’s role as a regional convener is essential to the success of collaborative heritage work. Many respondents commented on the importance of continuing this work, stating: “Being an organizer is critical, and EMHR needs to continue to do this,” and, “This is where EMHR puts most of its effort now, and they do a great job. I would not want this to go away with national designation.” Stakeholders consider EMHR’s ability to bring partners together and coordinate across organizational and geographic boundaries a defining strength.

Project Implementer

While EMHR has historically focused on collaborative rather than independently led projects, public input suggested that increased resources through NHA designation could position the organization to take a more active implementation role, particularly in historic preservation and outdoor recreation initiatives. One respondent noted, “EMHR does some of this now, but this seems to be an area for growth with national designation.”

Technical Assistance Provider

EMHR’s provision of technical support, particularly for smaller or volunteer-run organizations, was consistently praised. Stakeholders emphasized the need for more training, guidance, and capacity-building assistance, with one noting, “For smaller organizations especially, this is desperately needed, both training and funding for training.”

Funder

The increased funding that NHA designation could bring – through the NPS Heritage Partnership Program, enhanced competitiveness for grants, and leveraging power – is one of the primary reasons people support designation. EMHR has successfully distributed mini-grants and leveraged public and private resources to support heritage projects across the region. Partners and the public saw clear potential for national designation to enhance this role. One participant expressed hope for “more funding and fund-leveraging opportunities,” while another commented, “Additional funding could possibly attract new funding or in-kind support from the counties.”



The grand opening of the Nicholson Tourism Center in the rehabilitated 19th century DL&W Railroad Station in Wyoming County. The Nicholson Heritage Association was awarded multiple EMHR Partnership Grants to help renovate the historic rail station into a museum. (Josh Stull)

Promoter

The organization's efforts to raise awareness about the region's culture, history, and natural beauty were noted as valuable. This is particularly important in a region that lacks a unifying media presence – all news broadcast hubs are situated outside the four-county region, and there are three destination marketing organizations (DMOs) within the region. National designation could contribute to strengthening regional visibility, and EMHR will continue to build on its successful relationships with the DMOs. Stakeholders confirmed this, suggesting EMHR work closely with rather than duplicate their efforts, stating: "EMHR doesn't need to do the advertising themselves, but rather work with the tourism agencies who can handle the promotion."

Expanded Opportunities with National Designation

With National Heritage Area designation, EMHR could gain access to additional funding and technical support that would significantly expand the scope and impact of its work. Stakeholders expressed interest in a variety of initiatives that could benefit from this enhanced capacity.

In terms of resource stewardship, the region could pursue the preservation of iconic cultural landmarks, such as historic railroad viaducts, barns, cemeteries, and working agricultural landscapes. There is enthusiasm for expanding trail systems, completing long-envisioned trail linkages between state parks, and expanding the grant program to support trail maintenance and emergency needs for preservation or recreation infrastructure. The organization could also take a more active role in collaborative archaeology, cultural landscape research, and Indigenous history initiatives. Increased access to the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, along with new conservation partnerships, could further strengthen the region's connection to its waterways and scenic landscapes.

Regarding heritage tourism, stakeholders envisioned opportunities to develop authentic, locally grounded visitor experiences, from scenic train excursions to historic walking tours and mural projects. There was interest in creating a central headquarters for the heritage area that could serve as a destination in its own right, offering amenities such as a walking trail, interpretive exhibits, community programming, and visitor orientation.

Finally, in the realm of community revitalization, EMHR could expand its support for preserving historic downtowns, assisting with designations and preservation planning, and incentivizing small businesses that celebrate local history and culture. By combining existing partnerships with new resources from national designation, EMHR would be well-positioned to help the region's communities balance economic growth with cultural conservation.

Together, these opportunities reflect a strong and unified vision for the future of the Endless Mountains – one rooted in decades of local leadership and better prepared to take the next step on the national stage.

Conclusion

The Endless Mountains region of Pennsylvania offers a strategic assemblage of natural, cultural, and historic resources that reflect themes of national significance and regional identity. Through a clearly defined four-county boundary and decades of collaboration under Pennsylvania's Heritage Areas Program, the region is well-prepared to take on expanded heritage development roles. With National Heritage Area designation, partners across the Endless Mountains would gain new tools to preserve meaningful places, support community revitalization, strengthen cultural tourism, and promote regional stories to a national audience.

The next chapter will explore how the coordinating entity – Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc. – is positioned to support and sustain this vision through effective leadership and strategic management.



The EMHR hosts an annual meeting each year that provides members the opportunity to elect new board members and officers, as well as to hear about the EMHR's accomplishments throughout the year. (EMHR)

CHAPTER 4 – GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Introduction

The success of the proposed Endless Mountains National Heritage Region will rest upon a governance and management framework rooted in regional collaboration, proven program delivery, and a strategic outlook grounded in partnerships, stewardship, and sustainability. At the heart of this strategy is the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, a nonprofit entity that has served the four-county region of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties for more than two decades. Established as a state heritage area in 1998 as part of the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program, EMHR has cultivated deep trust across its region and built a structure capable of assuming the role of a National Heritage Area coordinating entity.

Organization and Current Initiatives

Since its founding, EMHR has embraced the unifying theme “Living with the Land,” capturing the enduring relationship between people and the landscape of the Endless Mountains. The organization’s mission – to celebrate, preserve, and enhance the region’s unique rural character and culture – guides its five programmatic pillars: greenways, trails and conservation; agricultural heritage; partnership grants; education and interpretation; and regional outreach. These initiatives reflect a balanced approach to economic viability, resource conservation, and public engagement.

EMHR’s evolution has been marked by both consistency and innovation. The 2017 and 2022 Management Action Plans placed renewed focus on emerging opportunities, including regional branding, storytelling, outdoor recreation, and infrastructure for heritage tourism. A new vision statement adopted in 2022 highlights EMHR’s commitment to fostering community pride and economic vitality through partnerships that promote appreciation and investment in heritage and outdoor recreation.

Today, EMHR is recognized not just as a grant maker or convener, but as a regional leader in heritage-based development. Its projects have included the development of recreational amenities, enhancements to interpretive signage and wayfinding, and collaborative marketing,

all of which result in improved access to heritage resources for residents, and increased heritage tourism. EMHR's work in recreation has been recognized in two important projects. First, since EMHR was established in 1998, the organization's stewardship of the Upper North Branch Susquehanna Water Trail – a National Recreation Trail and part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network – has garnered the river's recognition as River of the Year by the public, the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers, and PA DCNR in 2004, 2016, and 2023. EMHR's role as a water trail manager illustrates its dual commitment to heritage conservation and outdoor recreation. Second, Endless Gravel PA – a 430-mile bikepacking loop and a series of shorter gravel cycling loops across all four counties – was recognized as a "2025 Great Greenway/Trail" in Pennsylvania as part of the American Planning Association's "Great Places in Pennsylvania" program. This collaborative effort among EMHR, the tourism promotion agencies, the county planning departments, and the Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission demonstrates the power of partnerships in the region.



Cyclists traverse one of the many multi-surface bikepacking loops created by the EMHR and partner organizations as part of the Endless Gravel PA cycling initiative. (David Landis of V2V Trails)

Management and Operations Needs

EMHR is governed by a 15-member board of directors that reflects both geographic and sectoral diversity. Each county in the region is represented, alongside leadership from the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission, Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau, Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency, Susquehanna County Tourism & Promotion Agency, the county planning departments, and local community organizations. The board has demonstrated steady stewardship and remains engaged in the transition to NHA coordination and management responsibilities. The creation of a Governance Committee and NHA Advisory Committee represents a deliberate effort to build board capacity and align operations with the demands of NHA designation.

EMHR's staffing model, while effective, is at a tipping point. The current team includes a full-time executive director, administrative assistant, and programming development associate, along with part-time positions for a grants program coordinator, a fiscal coordinator, a communications coordinator, and a small team of water trail managers. Yet stakeholder interviews and survey results reveal that EMHR is operating at maximum capacity, and additional staff will be needed to fulfill the expanded role that comes with NHA designation.

Future staffing considerations include continued support for the programming development associate's grant-funded position to oversee interpretive programming, outdoor recreation events, partner engagement, and heritage tourism initiatives. Additional staffing could also include a grant writer and development manager to secure and manage diversified funding streams. These roles will complement the current team, ensuring that EMHR maintains both operational efficiency and strategic agility.

The organization is also evaluating potential new headquarters locations. Stakeholders emphasized the value of a more public-facing presence tied to a visible, mission-aligned space – ideally co-located with a trail, cultural site, or interpretive center. Such a space would elevate

EMHR's profile, provide a base for programming, and serve as a regional hub for heritage activity.

Volunteerism and community engagement are integral to EMHR's culture and future operations. Existing relationships with local organizations, historic sites, and friends groups associated with state parks and forests, as well as paddling and hiking groups, provide a strong foundation for expanded volunteer programming. EMHR has an active volunteer program that can be further expanded as programs and partnerships evolve under a National Heritage Area. If so, a more formalized volunteer program, including student internships, could be established. This program should include orientation, project assignments, and recognition strategies. Together, these can further strengthen organizational capacity and increase program delivery and technical assistance to communities.

Key Collaborative Relationships and Partnerships

The Endless Mountains region benefits from a robust network of partners that includes destination marketing organizations (DMOs), state, county and municipal planning agencies, historical societies, land trusts, farm bureaus, conservation districts, and academic institutions. These partnerships are not merely transactional; they are collaborative engines that help develop projects, co-sponsor events, and advance shared goals (see Appendix C – Endless Mountains Heritage Region Partners).

One of the strongest partners is the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) which has long been a foundational and trusted partner to the EMHR, providing critical financial, strategic, and programmatic support since the organization's designation as a state heritage area in 1998. DCNR not only financed the original Management Action Plan that launched EMHR but has continued to fund its operations, capacity-building efforts, and programming through the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program. This partnership was instrumental in the development of EMHR's most recent *Management Action Plan (2022–2026)*, which reaffirms EMHR's role in preserving the region's cultural and natural assets while also advancing goals tied to regional advocacy, outdoor recreation, and organizational excellence.

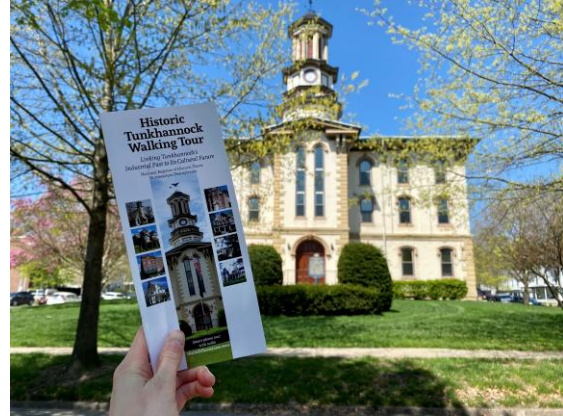
DCNR's engagement with EMHR is more than financial – it is strategic and enduring. A DCNR representative serves on EMHR's board and planning committees, helping guide both daily operations and long-term planning efforts. As EMHR has expanded its reach and ambition, including exploring National Heritage Area designation, DCNR has remained closely involved, funding the feasibility study and providing active leadership and technical support.

DCNR also brings with it a long history of collaboration with the National Park Service, as Pennsylvania is home to 12 state-designated heritage areas, six of which are also federally designated NHAs. This unique alignment positions DCNR as a bridge between state-level heritage development and national-level recognition, making it a crucial ally in EMHR's pursuit of NHA status. The depth of this interagency partnership not only enhances EMHR's credibility but also bolsters the feasibility and sustainability of long-term heritage stewardship in the Endless Mountains.

EMHR's ties with the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission are particularly foundational. The Commission incubated EMHR from its inception and continues to play a crucial role on the board, providing economic development expertise and regional connectivity. Likewise, EMHR's partnership with the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau (serving Sullivan and Wyoming counties), the Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency, and

Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency has led to co-funded projects, co-branded campaigns, and integrated visitor experiences.

Reflecting its grassroots philosophy, EMHR has prioritized meaningful outreach to communities and the agricultural sector, recognizing these relationships as central to preserving the region's identity. In the agricultural realm, EMHR collaborates with local farm bureaus, the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation, and Penn State Extension to celebrate and sustain rural landscapes and farming traditions that define the region's heritage. EMHR's community engagement extends across the four-county region, where its presence is felt in trail development, educational programming, interpretive events, and partnerships with historical societies, arts organizations, and conservation groups. Equally important is EMHR's expertise in building collaboration and reaching across jurisdictional boundaries – an approach that has strengthened regional cohesion and amplified the impact of its work. This commitment to local collaboration is exemplified by EMHR's Partnership Grants program, which channels funding directly to grassroots initiatives, empowering dozens of local partners to lead projects that reflect their community's stories and needs.



The Wyoming County Courthouse in Tunkhannock is surrounded by historic homes featured in the Historic Tunkhannock Walking Tour guide that was funded in part by an EMHR Partnership Grant. (*Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau*)

Financial Projections, Fund Development, and Sustainability

The financial feasibility of the proposed Endless Mountains National Heritage Region rests on the strong fiscal foundation and strategic evolution of EMHR. Since its founding, EMHR has operated with a financial model centered on public investment, primarily through the DCNR. Today, more than 90 percent of EMHR's annual revenue is derived from state government sources, supporting both core operations and project-specific initiatives. Through this model, EMHR has secured and leveraged over \$7 million in public funding to preserve historic assets, enhance recreational infrastructure, and support cultural programming across Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties.

As EMHR prepares to transition to an NHA coordinating entity, it recognizes the need to evolve its financial structure. National Heritage Area designation creates increased visibility and opportunity along with increased responsibilities. To meet those demands and to ensure long-term sustainability, EMHR has developed a forward-looking financial strategy, motivated by the feasibility study process and informed by its demonstrated fiscal performance over the past five years.

Discipline, adaptability, and a consistent record of year-end surpluses have marked the organization's financial management during that period. This record of performance, underpinned by conservative budgeting and prudent investment in programmatic growth, positions EMHR for the incremental expansion outlined in its five-year financial projection.

The updated financial projection anticipates a phased path to sustainable growth. Total annual revenues are expected to increase from just over \$700,000 to slightly over \$860,000 by year five. This growth will be fueled by a combination of continued state heritage funding, enhanced

private philanthropy, and an expanded grant portfolio. The most notable increase occurs in earned income, especially through special event programming, which is projected to generate \$165,000 in revenue over five years – putting events as central pillars of both community engagement and financial sustainability.

Earned income more broadly including fee-based programs is expected to rise from \$13,000 in Year 1 to \$15,000 by Year 5. Membership income is projected to triple, from \$500 to \$1,500 annually, reflecting strategic efforts to cultivate a stronger sense of shared ownership among regional stakeholders. Contributions and donations are also anticipated to increase steadily, rising from \$6,700 in Year 1 to \$10,700 by Year 5.

Importantly, the financial plan assumes that federal funding associated with NHA designation will become available through the National Park Service’s Heritage Partnership Program. These federal funds, which must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-federal resources, will be pursued in parallel with other federal opportunities. The projected revenue diversification – combining state grants, private support, event-generated income, and philanthropic contributions – will strengthen EMHR’s ability to meet federal match requirements and responsibly steward the public investments.

To achieve these targets, EMHR will implement a multi-pronged fund development strategy. This includes growing individual giving, launching a corporate sponsorship campaign, and introducing structured membership tiers. These strategies will be tailored to local capacities across the four counties, allowing EMHR to test, adapt, and scale its fundraising approach while simultaneously expanding its donor base and deepening its community presence. These fundraising activities will be complemented by marketing efforts and new tools for donor and membership engagement.

On the expenditure side, projected increases align with EMHR’s expanding role. Personnel costs will rise incrementally to support current staff, including making some part-time staff into full-time employees, adding capacity in program management, communications, and administrative coordination. Increases in operational spending will also support regional outreach, cultural programming, and grantmaking to local partners – functions that will increase with NHA designation. Expenses also include projected costs for professional staff and board development, along with travel-related expenditures. These investments reflect a clear understanding of the operational demands of a National Heritage Area and EMHR’s commitment to building the internal infrastructure needed to meet those demands.

Finally, EMHR intends to establish a reserve operating fund to stabilize cash flow, mitigate risks associated with economic fluctuations, and strengthen its financial position in the eyes of institutional funders. This revenue, which includes grant funding that is permitted to be carried forward, will serve as a critical strategic asset, underscoring EMHR’s commitment to long-term financial stewardship and operational resilience.

In total, the revised five-year projection and accompanying financial strategies demonstrate that EMHR is both prepared and positioned to serve as a National Heritage Area coordinating entity. Its longstanding record of responsible fiscal management, paired with a clear-eyed strategy for revenue diversification and organizational growth, provides strong evidence of financial feasibility. With disciplined planning, sustained public and private investment, and a growing sense of regional engagement, EMHR is prepared to be increasingly effective, uphold its mission, and meet the expectations of NHA designation.



The Hillsgrove Covered Bridge in Sullivan County was built around 1850 and is 186 feet long. Sullivan County has a collection of three covered bridges, with the other two in Forkston and Sonestown. (EMHR)

Five-Year Financial Projection

The table below is a projection of revenues and expenses for EMHR once it is designated as a National Heritage Area.

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS NATIONAL HERITAGE REGION						
Five-Year Projection - Annual Operating Revenues & Expenses						
REVENUES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	5-Year Totals
Earned Income	13,000	13,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	71,000
Contributions/Donations	6,700	7,700	8,700	9,700	10,700	43,500
Membership	500	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	5,500
Special Event Income	25,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	165,000
Sales of Goods	1,000	1,200	1,500	2,000	2,000	7,700
NHA Funding	150,000	150,000	150,000	300,000	300,000	1,050,000
DCNR PA Heritage Area	488,500	400,000	425,000	450,000	475,000	2,238,500
Local Grants- County & Municipal	18,000	22,000	24,000	18,000	18,000	100,000
Sponsorships	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	24,000
Total Revenue	706,700	634,900	665,200	836,200	862,200	3,705,200
EXPENSES	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	5-Year Totals
Administration, Operations, Management	175,000	180,250	230,000	237,000	245,000	1,067,250
Consultants	225,000	152,750	55,000	50,000	55,000	537,750
Equipment & Maintenance	10,000	15,000	20,000	22,000	24,000	91,000
Grant Expenses/Pass Thru Grants	75,000	62,000	73,000	68,000	72,000	350,000
Insurance	26,750	27,750	30,000	32,000	39,000	155,500
Marketing & Communications	30,000	30,000	35,000	37,000	43,000	175,000
Office & Facility / Utilities	36,000	42,000	44,000	47,000	49,000	218,000
Printing, Copying, Postage	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	30,000
Professional Expenses (Board/Staff)*	4,000	5,000	6,000	7,000	8,000	30,000
Program Expenses	40,200	23,100	38,000	45,000	48,000	194,300
Professional Org. & Membership Fees	500	1,000	1,000	1,500	2,000	6,000
Supplies & Furnishings	15,000	10,000	20,000	25,800	30,000	100,800
Travel & Related**	20,500	23,000	25,000	27,500	30,000	126,000
Misc. & Other	500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,500
Total Expenses	662,450	577,850	584,000	607,800	654,000	3,086,100
Carry Forward Reserve (non-federal)	44,250	57,050	81,200	228,400	208,200	619,100

* Costs for professional development, training, and conferences

** Includes travel within and outside of Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Mission, Vision, and Strategic Goals

The mission and vision of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region provide the foundation upon which its governance framework and strategic direction are built. These guiding statements not only articulate the organization’s core purpose and long-term aspirations but also serve as a guiding framework for decision-making, program development, and partnership cultivation. In the context of governance, they offer clarity of intent and alignment for the Board of Directors, staff, and stakeholders, ensuring that all activities reinforce a shared understanding of EMHR’s role in the region. The goals outlined in the *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan 2022-2026* directly reflect and put into operation the mission and vision, translating these values into measurable actions that guide leadership, partnerships, and organizational growth. The goals are provided below and are followed by an explanation of how each one supports and advances the organization’s mission and vision.⁷³

Mission Statement

To celebrate, preserve, and enhance the unique rural character and culture of the Endless Mountains.

Vision Statement

Through diverse partnerships, the work of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region leads to an appreciation for and investment in our heritage, culture, natural resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities, fostering both community pride and economic vitality in the counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming.

The governance strategy for EMHR is built upon a clear and compelling foundation: a mission rooted in celebrating and conserving the region’s rural character, and a vision for a connected, proud, and economically vibrant region. These statements are not abstract declarations – they serve as daily guideposts for EMHR’s decisions, partnerships, and operations, and they shape the organization’s strategic priorities as it prepares to assume the role of a National Heritage Area coordinating entity.

Goals of EMHR

EMHR’s four strategic goals provide a governance framework that brings this mission and vision to life. They support the organization’s evolution from a regional heritage partnership to a federally designated coordinating entity capable of managing a complex, inclusive, and multi-faceted National Heritage Area. These goals include:

- Regional Leadership and Advocacy
- Partnerships and Community Impact
- Awareness and Engagement
- Organizational Excellence



The EMHR utilizes DCNR funding to provide sponsorships to regional school districts, allowing them to procure the Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab from the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation. (EMHR)

⁷³ Relevant Strategies and Solutions. 2022. *Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan 2022-2026*. Prepared for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. <https://emheritage.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EMHR-Management-Action-Plan-2022-2026.pdf>. Accessed June 4, 2025.

The goals were developed to meet the expectations of national designation while remaining responsive to local values and opportunities.

Regional Leadership and Advocacy

EMHR's first strategic goal – strengthening its role as a regional leader and advocate – advances the mission by championing the cultural and environmental assets that define the Endless Mountains. It formalizes what stakeholders have long recognized: that EMHR is uniquely positioned to be the voice of the region, advocating for policies, resources, and recognition that enhance the quality of life while preserving the traditional way of life rooted in the culture, landscape, and identity.

This leadership role is essential to achieving the vision of broader investment in the region's heritage and outdoor recreation opportunities. Stakeholders have expressed a strong desire for EMHR to continue to focus on this work, elevating regional priorities in state and federal forums and forging stronger alliances with elected officials, civic institutions, and peer heritage organizations. Leadership, in this context, is not just about convening – it is about using EMHR's credibility, relationships, and local knowledge to help advance the region's priorities.

Partnerships and Community Impact

The second goal – expanding partnerships and generating community impact – resonates directly with the vision of fostering appreciation and investment through diverse collaboration. A successful heritage area cannot operate in isolation; it depends on a network of relationships across sectors, disciplines, and counties. EMHR's governance approach reinforces this by institutionalizing partnerships as a core mode of operation and effective delivery.

With over \$2.5 million already secured and invested in regional projects, EMHR has a strong foundation upon which to build. As it transitions to a National Heritage Area, EMHR must ensure that these partnerships go beyond institutional affiliations and continue to actively engage community members, including youth, small business owners, and historically underrepresented groups. Governance practices that support shared decision-making, transparency, and accountability will be essential to strengthening this partnership base and elevating the region's investment in heritage development and tourism.



A ribbon cutting is held along the D&H Rail Trail in Susquehanna County after the Stevens Point walking bridge was opened to the public. (EMHR)

This goal also fulfills the mission's call to preserve and enhance the region's culture by ensuring that EMHR's work is not top-down but is developed by engaging with a variety of perspectives and needs. In practice, this will mean supporting grassroots initiatives, providing technical assistance and mini-grants, and convening local leaders to define and act on shared priorities.

Awareness and Engagement

The third goal – raising awareness of EMHR's work and increasing engagement – reflects the mission's emphasis on *celebrating* the region's identity, as well as the vision's call to foster community *pride*. Awareness is not a superficial objective; it is central to building a collective sense of identity, ownership, and stewardship.

Residents must know and feel the value of their region to support and protect it. As the coordinating entity of a future NHA, EMHR will need to expand its outreach, communications, and public education activities – both to tell the story of the Endless Mountains and to empower others to tell their own. Whether through interpretive signage, media partnerships, digital platforms, or in-person gatherings, the governance structure must ensure that communication is strategic, inclusive, and effective.

Several stakeholders emphasized the importance of making EMHR more visible, not just to visitors, but also to residents who may not yet perceive themselves as part of a regional narrative. By strengthening connections through storytelling, visibility campaigns, and place-based programming, EMHR can build the cultural cohesion and community investment envisioned in the organization’s state-mandated Management Action Plan and this feasibility study.

Organizational Excellence

While perhaps the least externally visible, the fourth goal – organizational excellence – is arguably the most critical. All other goals depend upon this foundation. This objective addresses EMHR’s internal capacity, encompassing the quality of its leadership, the strength of its staff, the diversity of its funding sources, and the maturity of its governance practices.

The vision of long-term community impact and regional vitality cannot be realized without a well-functioning, financially sustainable organization. Stakeholders praised EMHR’s progress in recent years but voiced concern that the demands of NHA designation could outpace current capacity. Accordingly, the governance strategy includes provisions for increased staffing, board development, creation of a reserve fund, and performance monitoring.

This goal aligns with the mission not only by sustaining EMHR’s ability to preserve and enhance regional assets, but by building the kind of institutional stability that ensures those efforts are lasting. It also reinforces the vision’s call for long-term investment – starting with the organization itself.

Integration of Goals with Mission and Vision

Taken together, the four goals of EMHR’s Management Action Plan create a governance framework that is directly responsive to its mission and vision. The mission focuses on preserving and celebrating the rural character of the Endless Mountains, and each goal supports that imperative through leadership, collaboration, communication, and capacity building. The vision looks ahead to a region defined by pride and investment, and the goals set the organizational structure needed to achieve that future.

However, the governance process during the feasibility plan project also revealed opportunities to deepen EMHR’s connection to the people it serves. While the focus on partnerships is vital, governance strategies should also reflect a commitment to grassroots engagement – ensuring that residents are not just recipients of heritage programming, but co-creators and stewards of their own stories.

As EMHR moves forward, the organization will revisit its goals regularly to ensure continued alignment with both the evolving needs of the region and the enduring values captured in its mission and vision. In doing so, EMHR will not only strengthen its internal governance but also reaffirm its role as the heart of the Endless Mountains – a region defined by its people, shaped by its history, and united by its shared future.



The Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail at Towanda in Bradford County.

CHAPTER 5 – National Heritage Area Criteria Evaluation

Purpose

This chapter presents an evaluation of how the proposed Endless Mountains National Heritage Region meets the criteria established by the National Park Service for National Heritage Area designation and enacted in *Section 120103 (a)(3) Requirements (A-G)* of Public Law 117-339, the National Heritage Area Act of 2023. These criteria serve as the formal framework for determining whether a region possesses nationally significant stories, associated resources, and the organizational capacity needed to support a successful heritage area. Drawing on the findings of the feasibility study – including historical research, public engagement, a resource inventory, and partner input – this chapter demonstrates that the Endless Mountains region not only fulfills the requirements for designation, but also embodies the collaborative, place-based approach at the heart of the NHA model.

Criterion A: The Region Represents Distinctive Aspects of American Heritage

The Endless Mountains region tells a multifaceted story that intersects with several defining themes in U.S. history: Indigenous lifeways and displacement, contested colonial expansion, Revolutionary War military campaigns, land speculation and settlement, agricultural transformation, industrial extraction, and ecological recovery. Its physical geography, marked by the Allegheny Plateau and the Susquehanna River, shaped the course of these events. Their occurrence is still visible on the landscape.

The 1779 Sullivan Expedition passed through this landscape as part of the Continental Army’s scorched-earth campaign against Native American allies of the British. In the early 19th century, the region became a patchwork of farming settlements, bolstered by land companies and speculative ventures. Later, coal mining, timber extraction, and bluestone quarrying helped fuel the rapid expansion of the U.S. economy. Transportation innovations – from canal to rail to highway – connected these resources to national markets. These narratives are embedded in the region’s surviving architecture, transportation corridors, and cultural memory.

This convergence of land, river, conflict, production, and resilience gives the Endless Mountains national interpretive value exemplifying how rural regions participated in and responded to major national currents while retaining distinctive cultural identities.

Criterion B: The Region Reflects Living Traditions, Customs, Beliefs, and Folklife

The Endless Mountains remains a place where history and heritage are lived, not just remembered. The region's active agricultural communities and forestry industry help to preserve traditional lifeways while contributing to the local economy. As described in Chapter 3, community festivals, county fairs, farmers markets, dairies, historic train excursions, and recreational paddling events that invoke the region's heritage provide a sense of continuity across generations.

The region is home to a large number of local historical societies, museums, and arts councils that operate with paid professional staff, volunteer leadership, and strong community support. These organizations host events, produce exhibits, and maintain archives that celebrate local customs and social histories. Residents continue to mark the seasons with fairs, parades, quilt shows, maple festivals, and rural heritage days. The region's deep-rooted religious traditions, family-owned farms, and multi-generational land stewardship remain integral to its identity.

EMHR helps sustain these living traditions by funding interpretive programs, partnering with community institutions, and integrating heritage themes into recreation and education initiatives. The region demonstrates how local traditions can remain vibrant through engagement and adaptation.

Criterion C: The Region Offers Outstanding Opportunities for Conservation, Recreation, and Education

The Endless Mountains region offers a compelling model for landscape-scale conservation that integrates natural beauty with historical relevance. The Susquehanna River and its watershed is one of the oldest and most ecologically important in North America. Its course through the region shapes both its ecology and history and is a nationally significant resource in other downstream NHAs. The river serves as a wildlife corridor, a scenic and outdoor recreation attraction, and a cultural symbol.

Protected lands within the region include five state parks, two state forests, several preserves held by land conservancies, and numerous public game lands. These areas offer ecological benefits while also preserving historic transportation routes, settlement sites, and industrial remnants. EMHR has helped coordinate interpretive signage and access improvements in many of these locations, supporting both conservation and public use.



The EMHR partners with the DCNR and its regional state parks and forests to host hikes throughout the year. Here, hikers enjoy the Endless Mountains' newest state park, the Vosburg Neck State Park in Wyoming County. (EMHR)

Partnerships with DCNR, the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and local conservancies ensure that land conservation is connected to educational and heritage goals. The integration of trails, signage, and habitat protection reflects a holistic view of conservation that aligns with the

NHA model. The opportunity to expand this work at a national scale strengthens the case for designation.

The region's rivers, trails, forests, and historic towns create immersive recreational and learning environments. EMHR manages the upper North Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail and partners on land trails, including the region-spanning Endless Mountains Gravel, the series of bikepacking loops that span all four counties. Visitors can explore historic rail corridors, canal towpaths, and scenic byways that pass through areas of cultural and ecological significance.

Recreational programming such as paddling sojourns, bike rides, guided hikes, and park-based workshops frequently incorporates historical interpretation, performances, and community storytelling. EMHR and its partners have developed wayfinding and interpretive signage at dozens of sites, helping visitors understand how history, industry, and landscape intersect.

Educational efforts also include youth-oriented programs, field days, and exhibits developed with local schools and agricultural organizations. Museums supported by EMHR offer exhibits on Indigenous history, early settlement, and industrial heritage, reinforcing classroom learning and civic engagement. The combination of place-based recreation and heritage education contributes to public understanding of regional and national history in a compelling, experiential way.

Criterion D: The Region's Resources Retain Integrity for Interpretation

The cultural landscape of the Endless Mountains remains intact and legible. Agricultural fields, village clusters, industrial ruins, historic bridges, and transportation infrastructure retain high levels of authenticity and are well suited to interpretive use. The region includes more than 30 National Register properties and three nationally recognized railroad viaducts. These resources remain in their original locations and settings and maintain their design and materials.

Historic downtowns, such as those in Towanda, Tunkhannock, and Montrose, retain their core streetscapes, and several communities have well-preserved civic buildings, theaters, and churches dating to the 19th century. Rural roads, stone walls, and farm complexes with historic barns at their center reinforce a sense of continuity between the past and present.

EMHR's emphasis on small-scale, community-based preservation through its grant program and signage projects has contributed to the ongoing visibility and coherence of these resources. The overall integrity of the landscape enables a wide range of interpretive strategies that draw from authentic features.



Wyalusing's Main Street in Bradford County. Also pictured (yellow building) is the new home of the EMHR since October 2025. (EMHR)

Criterion E: There is Demonstrated Public and Governmental Support and a Conceptual Financial Plan

The feasibility study process has demonstrated broad-based public support for designation. EMHR conducted extensive public engagement in 2024 and 2025, including a public survey, stakeholder interviews, review by subject-matter experts, and public meetings. Participants expressed interest in heritage tourism, historic preservation, outdoor access, and economic revitalization. Local governments, partner organizations, and individual residents voiced support

for a designation that brings new visibility and funding to the region’s assets, and reinforces organizational and regional connectivity.

EMHR’s financial plan builds on 25 years of grant administration, securing and leveraging more than \$7 million in state funding. From 2019 to 2023, the organization maintained a stable financial position, with positive year-end balances in four out of five years and no long-term liabilities. EMHR’s *Management Action Plan 2022-2026* includes fundraising and earned-income strategies that are compatible with NHA designation. The plan also outlines pathways to increase staffing and operational capacity.

The combination of public support and demonstrated fiscal stewardship makes EMHR a credible and capable organization for managing federal funding and matching it with local and state resources.

County and municipal governments throughout the region have a history of working with EMHR. Over two dozen public entities have received mini-grants or participated in regional initiatives. All four counties – Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming – have engaged in the feasibility study process, including through commissioner interviews and participation in the Advisory Committee.

The coordinating entity’s board includes planning and tourism representatives, and EMHR’s governance structure ensures that local perspectives are part of decision-making. Elected officials see EMHR as a partner in delivering value to constituents without introducing regulation. Many see national designation as a tool for attracting resources to support economic development and quality of life.

The voluntary, partnership-based model of NHAs aligns with the preferences of local governments. EMHR’s proven role as a convener and funder positions it to expand collaborative efforts under NHA designation.

Support is documented in Appendix I – Resolutions and Letters of Support, including resolutions from all four counties and more than 40 partner letters of support.

Criterion F: A Capable Coordinating Entity Has Been Identified

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc., a nonprofit formed in 1998, has served as the coordinating entity for the state-designated heritage area for more than 25 years. It has administered funding, overseen grant programs, managed trails and signage projects, and coordinated regional partnerships. EMHR has earned a reputation for transparent operations, collaboration, and results.

Its board includes representatives from all four counties and sectors such as tourism, agriculture, conservation, and economic development. The Executive Director, Cain Chamberlin, has been widely recognized for strengthening the organization’s reach and relationships. The staff, though small, is skilled and supported by a broad network of partners.

The feasibility study recommends scaling staff and operations as part of the transition to NHA status. Given EMHR’s record of performance and planning, it is well positioned to take on the expanded responsibilities of a National Heritage Area.



The EMHR educates school students about regional history, outdoor recreation opportunities, and the natural resources of the Endless Mountains. (EMHR)

The region's economy relies heavily on agriculture, recreation, tourism, and small-scale manufacturing and services. Recent studies indicate more than \$350 million in annual spending tied to heritage and outdoor tourism, with substantial job creation and tax revenue. EMHR has supported this activity through interpretive signage, guides, marketing partnerships, and event coordination.

Projects like the *Outdoor Recreation* and *Farm to You* guides highlight small businesses, farms, and heritage sites. The bikepacking loops connect town centers and trailheads across the region, encouraging overnight stays and local spending. Agritourism, outfitters, and historic accommodations benefit directly from EMHR's programming and infrastructure investments.

National Heritage Area designation would help attract longer-stay visitors, off-season tourism, and investment in underutilized downtowns. It also creates opportunities to align with regional and state-level economic development strategies, especially in rural revitalization and outdoor recreation.

Criterion G: A Clearly Defined and Publicly Supported Boundary Exists

The proposed boundary matches that of the existing state heritage area, encompassing the four-county region of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming. These counties share geography, history, infrastructure, and cultural identity. The boundary includes historic transportation corridors, the Susquehanna River, industrial centers, the natural environment, and agricultural landscapes that together illustrate the region's themes and reflect its resilience.

The feasibility study process affirmed strong public support for using this existing boundary, with no major concerns raised about its adequacy or logic. Because the heritage area already operates across this geography, no new administrative structures or jurisdictions are required.

The consistent and coherent boundary supports interpretation, partnership coordination, and branding. It allows for effective program delivery while maintaining alignment with the state designation.

APPENDICES

The appendices that follow provide important supplemental documentation that supports the findings and conclusions of this National Heritage Area (NHA) Feasibility Study and contributes directly to meeting the National Park Service criteria for designation. Taken together, these appendices provide essential context, evidence, and supporting materials that complement the main report and demonstrate the region's readiness and capacity for National Heritage Area designation.

Each appendix serves a distinct purpose:

Appendix A – Planning Participants

Appendix A documents the individuals and organizations involved in developing the feasibility study. It identifies staff, board members, advisory committee members, consultants, subject matter experts who provided technical review, stakeholders who participated in interviews, and federal and state partners with NPS and DCNR.

Appendix B – Public Engagement Activities

Appendix B summarizes the full range of public engagement conducted over the past two years. It documents meetings, events, workshops, and other outreach activities that informed the study and ensured opportunities for public awareness, input, and dialogue throughout the process.

Appendix C – Endless Mountains Heritage Region Partners

Appendix C describes existing and potential partners within the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. It includes information on partner organizations, their missions, and the ways in which they are currently engaged, or could be engaged, in advancing the goals of the heritage area.

Appendix D – Subject Matter Expert Review

Appendix D contains letters from subject matter experts listed in Appendix A. These individuals provided written feedback into the sections of the report that detail significance, themes, and associated resources. Their professional expertise helped strengthen the study.

Appendix E – Concurrent Plans

Appendix E identifies regional plans, studies, and initiatives that intersect with the interests of the proposed NHA. It lists partner organizations and, where possible, provides links to these plans, illustrating alignment and opportunities for coordination.

Appendix F – Affected Environment

Appendix F provides a brief overview of the region's affected environment, including population demographics, industry and economic context, and key environmental characteristics that frame heritage resources and planning considerations.

Appendix G – Maps

Appendix G includes a map of public and conserved lands in the region, as well as interpretive maps developed by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc. The maps highlight key historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources in Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan, and Wyoming counties and are used as interpretive tools at numerous sites within each county.

Appendix H – Endless Mountains Resource Inventory

Appendix H presents the comprehensive resource inventory compiled for the feasibility study. It documents the region’s historic, cultural, natural, scenic, and recreational resources, including connections to interpretive themes, resource types, locations, National Register of Historic Places status, and public accessibility.

Appendix I – Resolutions and Letters of Support

Appendix I documents formal expressions of support for the proposed National Heritage Area. It includes a list of resolutions and letters, full resolutions from Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan, and Wyoming county governments, and letters from more than 40 partner organizations.

APPENDIX A – PLANNING PARTICIPANTS

Endless Mountains Heritage Region Staff

- Cain Chamberlin – Executive Director
- Marci Dake – Administrative Assistant
- Dave Hindman – Fiscal Coordinator
- Vanessa Billings-Seiler – Grants Coordinator
- Rachel Flad – Programming Development Associate
- Emily Baldauff – Water Trail Coordinator
- Rick Hiduk – Communications Coordinator

Board of Directors

Bradford County

- Scott Hauser – Bradford County Airport N27
- Zachary Gates – County Commissioner

Sullivan County

- Gavin Siegfried – Laporte Enhancement Committee, Sullivan County Historical Society
- Barb Warburton – Bradford-Sullivan Farm Bureau
- Scott Myers – County Commissioner

Susquehanna County

- Staci Wilson – Susquehanna County Promotion and Tourism Agency
- David Palmer (Board President) – Brooklyn Historical Society
- Patti Peltz – Susquehanna County Planning Director

Wyoming County

- Carolyn Crowley – Keystone College
- Lynnelle Farber – Hunt Engineers, Architects & Surveyors
- Rick Wilbur – County Commissioner

At Large Members

- Amy Benjamin (Board Secretary) – Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission
- Jean Ruhf – Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
- Robyn Cummings (Board Vice President) – Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency

State Liaison

- Christine Dettore – Northeast Regional Advisor, PA DCNR

Former Board Members

- Chris Desrochers – Progress Authority (former)
- Brian Lione – Lione Heritage Consulting, LLC
- Candy Williams – Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
- Matt Williams – Progress Authority

NHA Advisory Committee Members

- Kevin Abrams – Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development (retired)
- Vanessa Billings-Seiler – EMHR Grants Coordinator
- Robyn Cummings – Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency
- Christine Dettore – Northeast Regional Advisor, PA DCNR
- Lynnelle Farber – Hunt Engineers, Architects & Surveyors
- Rich Glinski – Loyalsock State Forest
- Candace Hillyard – PA Route 6 Alliance
- Brian Lione – Lione Heritage Consulting, LLC
- David Palmer – Brooklyn Historical Society
- Christopher Roenning – Sullivan County Planning & Development
- Erica Rogler – Dietrich Theater
- Jean Ruhf – Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
- Rick Wilbur – Wyoming County Commissioner
- Candy Williams – Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
- Matt Williams – Bradford County Planning & Public Safety
- Staci Wilson – Susquehanna County Promotion and Tourism Agency
- Bonnie Yuscavage – Susquehanna County Historical Society

Themes and Resources Committee

- Matthew Carl – Bradford County Historical Society
- Rich Glinski – Loyalsock State Forest
- Melanie Norton – Sullivan County Historical Society
- David Palmer – Brooklyn Historical Society
- Richard Fitzsimmons – Wyoming County Commissioner (former), 444 Club Member

Governance Committee

- Kevin Abrams – Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development (retired)
- Brian Lione – Lione Heritage Consulting, LLC
- Judy Mead – Wyoming County Commissioner (former)
- Christopher Roenning – Sullivan County Planning & Development

Consultant Team

POINT Heritage Development Consulting

- Dr. Nancy I. M. Morgan, Principal
- August R. Carlino
- Peter Samuel
- Elizabeth Holtzer, Designer

Stakeholder Interviews

- Morgan Clinton – Curator, Wyalusing Valley Museum
- Lynn Conrad – Director, Rail Trail Council of NEPA
- Henry Farley – Mayor, Sayre Borough
- Judy Herschel – Susquehanna County Commissioner (former)
- Bill Kern – Director, Countryside Conservancy
- Jill Robinson – Deputy Director, Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
- Patrick Robinson – Co-Founder and Board President, Kitson Arts Alliance
- Josh Stull – Vice Chair, Nicholson Heritage Association
- Frank Thompson – Director, Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission
- Thomas “T” Thompson – Vice President of Economic Development, Progress Authority
- Staci Wilson – Director, Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency

Subject Matter Experts

- Cindy Adams Dunn – Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Andrea MacDonald – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
- Brent Glass – Director Emeritus, Smithsonian Museum of American History; Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (former)
- David “Brook” Lenker – Executive Director, Keystone Trails Association; Manager of Education and Outreach (former), PA DCNR (former); Director of Watershed Stewardship (former), Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Don Williams – Susquehanna River and outdoor recreation advocate

Technical Reviewers

- David Maher – Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Coordinator, PA DCNR
- Eliza Kunz – Heritage Areas Coordinator, Southeast Region, National Park Service
- Elizabeth Vehmeyer – Assistant National Coordinator, National Heritage Areas Program, National Park Service

APPENDIX B – ENDLESS MOUNTAINS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

An important component of the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area feasibility study was a robust and sustained commitment to public engagement. From the outset, EMHR held itself to a philosophy that designation emerges from a planning process deeply rooted in community voices. Guided by the principles of inclusivity, transparency, and collaboration, outreach efforts were designed to satisfy the NPS criteria, while also reflecting the region's values, priorities, and aspirations.

The strategy combined traditional public meetings, targeted interviews, surveys, committee deliberations, presentations to partners, and participation in existing community events. Collectively, these efforts ensured that hundreds of stakeholders, including residents, business leaders, educators, elected officials, historians, conservationists, artists, and youth, informed the feasibility study. This comprehensive outreach provided the foundation for the broad support required for NHA designation.

Community Conversations

Public meetings, titled "Community Conversations," were key moments of exchange, offering both information and dialogue. EMHR hosted three formal public meetings during the feasibility study process:

- **January 18, 2024 – Dietrich Theater, Tunkhannock (Wyoming County)**
This meeting introduced the feasibility study, explained the NHA designation process, and invited residents to share stories and resources they believed defined the Endless Mountains. Attendees highlighted the Susquehanna River as a central feature, along with the region's coal and lumber legacies, ghost towns such as Ricketts and Barclay, and the region's enduring farming traditions.
- **August 14, 2024 – Keystone Theatre, Towanda (Bradford County)**
The second session updated the public on study progress, shared draft historic themes and significance, along with preliminary findings, and facilitated open discussion about regional stories. Participants¹ emphasized agricultural heritage, outdoor recreation, and cultural identity, while discussing funding, regulatory misconceptions, and local government involvement and capacity.
- **October 8, 2025 – Wyalusing Fire Hall, Wyalusing (Bradford County)**
The third meeting presented the draft feasibility study, allowing residents to respond to the proposed themes, governance model, and management framework. This meeting

¹ In this study, the terms *participants* and *registrants* are generally used interchangeably; however, *registrants* is used when formal registration was required and may not reflect the actual number of people who attended.

initiated the public review period and also emphasized next steps, including the designation process and ongoing community support.

Press releases, social media, and partner communications promoted each meeting, ensuring wide awareness and encouraging attendance.

Regional Public Survey

PointHDC developed a 35-question electronic survey using the SurveyMonkey platform to gauge public awareness, support, and concerns related to NHA designation. In June 2024, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region distributed the survey electronically through its social media channels and an e-newsletter subscription list of more than 1,000 recipients, with additional circulation by partner organizations through their own outreach platforms. The survey was open from June 10 through July 22, 2024, and received 558 responses. Questions addressed support for designation, perceived benefits and concerns, goals for a National Heritage Area, the effectiveness of EMHR, partnership engagement, outreach and communication strategies, and charitable giving trends.

Survey findings demonstrate strong public recognition of the Endless Mountains as a cohesive landscape of interconnected natural, historic, and cultural resources, and broad support for designation, with 87 percent of respondents expressing “support” or “strong support.” Respondents most frequently identified preservation of cultural heritage, historic buildings, environmental conservation, outdoor recreation, and sharing the region’s history as anticipated benefits. High levels of interest in participation (85.84 percent) and partnership engagement further reinforce the conclusion that designation aligns with community values and expectations.

Responses characterized as “concerns” do not indicate organized opposition to designation. Instead, the most frequently cited concerns – those related to property rights and increased regulation (35 percent) – reflect common misunderstandings about the National Heritage Area program rather than resistance to national designation. These concerns coexisted with overwhelming overall support and are consistent with those documented in other feasibility studies. Similarly, concerns regarding long-term funding (55 percent) reflect a realistic understanding of implementation challenges and underscore the importance of education, partnership development, and sustainable planning. Collectively, the survey findings indicate broad-based support, informed public engagement, and no substantive opposition that would preclude designation, consistent with the statutory expectations for NHA feasibility studies.

Stakeholder Interviews

Targeted interviews with 11 stakeholders offered deeper insights into regional priorities and potential partnerships. Interviewees included local elected officials, museum directors, conservation leaders, tourism professionals, trail advocates, economic development officers, and arts administrators. These conversations highlighted:

- Strong community identity rooted in local history and rural character.
- The importance of volunteer networks in sustaining museums, trails, and cultural organizations.

- Opportunities for expanded collaboration in outdoor recreation, agritourism, and heritage tourism.
- Support for EMHR and acknowledgment that organizational capacity and sustainability will be critical for the success of the NHA.

These perspectives helped the study assess institutional readiness and ensured that underrepresented voices were included in planning.

Committees and Advisory Leadership

To guide the feasibility study, EMHR convened two working committees. The Themes & Resources Committee was comprised of historians, museum leaders, and conservation professionals, developed the draft statement of national significance, identified interpretive themes, and reviewed a resource inventory of more than 120 historic, cultural, and natural assets.

A Governance Committee consisting of nonprofit leaders and local officials evaluated organizational capacity, financial projections, mission and vision statements, and board structures to ensure that EMHR could effectively serve as the coordinating entity for the National Heritage Area.

In addition, a regional Advisory Committee of nearly two dozen members – including representatives of local government, PA DCNR, tourism agencies, arts councils, and historical societies – met regularly to provide oversight. This advisory body validated findings, reviewed draft documents, and anchored the planning process in community accountability.

Public Outreach and Community Events

Public engagement extended beyond formal meetings. Between January 2023 and October 2025, EMHR integrated the NHA initiative into its annual events and programs, reaching hundreds of participants across the four counties. These included:

- Annual Meetings (2023, 2024, 2025)
- Grants Workshops (2024, 2025)
- Heritage Management and Cemetery Preservation Workshops
- Outdoor paddling events such as the North Branch Sojourn and Youth Heritage Sojourns
- Small business support hikes, heritage benefit paddles, and trail hikes
- Regional conferences including the Eastern PA Greenways & Trails Summit held in 2024

Each event included presentations on NHA designation and discussions with participants, broadening outreach to residents who may not typically attend formal public meetings.

Summary of Informational Meetings and Presentations

The following list summarizes documented public meetings, workshops, and community events at which information about the proposed NHA was shared between 2023 and 2025.

Participation totals reflect public-facing events only and do not include monthly meetings of the EMHR Board of Directors, the consultant team, or the Advisory Committee, which provided continuous guidance throughout the feasibility study.

2023 – Early Outreach (1 meeting, 60 participants)

- September 28 – EMHR Annual Meeting, Tunkhannock – introduction of NHA initiative.

2024 – Public Engagement (14 meetings/events, 606 participants)

- January 18 – Public Meeting, Dietrich Theater, Tunkhannock (Wyoming County) (44 participants)
- March 29 – Annual Grants Workshop (102 registrants)
- April 13 & 20 – Heritage Management Workshops (50 registrants)
- June 2 – Oakland Dam Removal Celebration Paddle (60 registrants)
- June 6-10 – North Branch Sojourn (15 registrants)
- June 27-29 – Youth Heritage Sojourn (44 registrants)
- July 13 – Summer Heritage Benefit Paddle (25 registrants)
- August 14 – Public Meeting, Keystone Theatre, Towanda (Bradford County) (23 participants)
- September 18-20 – Eastern PA Greenways & Trails Summit (115 registrants)
- October 2 – EMHR Annual Meeting (42 registrants)
- October 5 – Fall Heritage Benefit Paddle (25 registrants)
- November 3 – Small Business Support Hike, Barclay Mountain (33 registrants)
- November 15 – Small Business Support Night Hike, Mt. Pisgah (28 registrants)

2025 – Public Engagement (14 meetings/events, 435 participants)

- January 31 – Annual Grants Workshop (65 registrants)
- March 29 & April 5 – Cemetery Preservation Workshops (50 registrants)
- June 21-22 – Small Business Support Hike, Salt Springs Park (20 registrants)
- July 10-12 – Youth Heritage Sojourn (46 registrants)
- July 12 – Summer Heritage Benefit Paddle (18 registrants)
- July 31-August 3 – North Branch Sojourn (22 registrants)
- August 16-17 – Hike the D&H Rail Trail with EMHR (12 registrants)
- October 8 – EMHR Annual Meeting, Dushore (Sullivan County) (56 participants)
- October 8 – Public Meeting, Wyalusing Firehall (Bradford County) (26 participants)
- Quarterly – Outdoor Recreation Roundtables (average of 30 participants per session)

Total Documented Participation (2023-2025):

- More than 45 events, meetings, and presentations
- More than 1,000 attendees engaged

Presentations to Partner Organizations

The EMHR executive director and staff also carried the NHA message to numerous regional and statewide gatherings, including:

- Heritage PA (the coalition of Pennsylvania State Heritage Area managers, along with Preservation Pennsylvania the statewide nonprofit, and Pennsylvania state agency representatives)
- Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency
- Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
- Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency
- County commissioners' meetings in all four counties
- Wyalusing Area Rotary Club
- America250PA Bradford County Committee

These presentations built awareness among regional and state leaders, ensured alignment with county governments, and positioned the NHA pursuit as a shared regional initiative.

Ongoing Communications

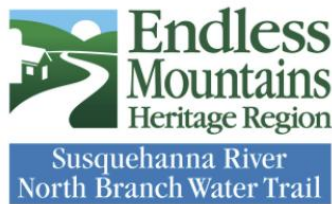
Throughout the study, EMHR relied on its website, social media, newsletters, and press releases to inform the public, share updates, and promote participation. This consistent communication strategy reinforced transparency and built momentum for the designation process.

Through surveys, public meetings, interviews, working committees, and integration into existing community events, EMHR has conducted a far-reaching and inclusive engagement process. These efforts confirm broad community support for designation, helped to identify the region's nationally significant themes and resources, confirm public support for and a general understanding of a national heritage area, and establish a foundation of governance and partnerships. Together, they meet the NPS's requirement that the feasibility study demonstrates substantial public involvement and support, and positions the Endless Mountains region of Pennsylvania as both ready and committed to become an NHA.

Examples of Outreach

Endless Mountains Heritage Region Website (www.emheritage.org)

Serving Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties Since 1998



Contact

Join Us ▾ What's New ▾ Grants ▾ Heritage Map Outdoor Recreation ▾ Water Trail ▾ 🔍

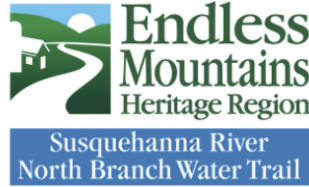
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA CAMPAIGN

After 26 years as a state-designated Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) is taking steps to achieve a National Heritage Area designation under the National Parks Service. The EMHR is currently undergoing a feasibility study for an NHA designation with Point Heritage Development Consulting of Lakewood, CO to see if the organization has what it takes to become the seventh NHA in Pennsylvania. The study will also determine and illustrate the Endless Mountains' "story of national significance", which is required when becoming an NHA. This designation also takes a literal act of Congress to obtain, requiring a carefully planned legislative endeavor to gather support and pass the required laws.

To kick off the development of legislative support for the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, the EMHR and its consultants held meetings in Washington, DC, from February 5th to 7th, 2024. Meetings included House and Senate staff and Senate committee staff, marking the initial steps in advancing the feasibility study and garnering legislative backing. We have been in contact ever since to ensure we can keep the process moving forward.

The EMHR and its consultants have also held two public meetings at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock and the Keystone Theatre in Towanda, where we received wide support for our NHA pursuit. We also conducted a public survey that garnered nearly 600 participants, which also showed overwhelming support for the Endless Mountains obtaining an NHA designation. If you're interested in helping our organization and region achieve National status, please write or contact your state and federal legislators to voice your support. **It is imperative that we have the backing of our Endless Mountains residents and visitors to achieve this designation!**





Regional Benefits of Becoming an NHA

National Heritage Areas offer numerous benefits to the communities included within them. Some of these benefits include:

Preservation of Cultural and Natural Resources —

NHAs typically aim to conserve and protect significant cultural, historic, and natural resources within a designated region. This preservation helps maintain the unique character and identity of the area for future generations.

Promotion of Tourism and Economic Development —

Designation as an NHA often leads to increased tourism as visitors are drawn to explore the region's historical sites, scenic landscapes, and cultural attractions. This influx of tourists can boost local economies through spending on lodging, dining, shopping, and other services.

Community Engagement and Education —

NHAs often sponsor educational programs, interpretive exhibits, and community events that engage residents and visitors alike in learning about the area's heritage. These activities can foster a sense of pride and stewardship among community members while also raising awareness about the region's significance.

Partnerships and Collaboration: Collaboration among various stakeholders,

Partnerships and Collaboration —

Collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and local communities, is essential for the success of NHAs. These partnerships facilitate coordinated efforts in resource management, conservation, and sustainable development.

Enhanced Quality of Life —

Preservation of natural landscapes, historic sites, and cultural traditions can contribute to an improved quality of life for residents by providing recreational opportunities, preserving green spaces, and fostering a sense of community pride and identity.

Grant Funding and Technical Assistance +

Increased Visibility and Recognition +

Economic/Business Benefits of National Heritage Areas

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) can have several economic impacts on the regions in which they are established. These impacts can include:

Job Creation —

NHAs can generate employment opportunities directly and indirectly. The development of tourism infrastructure, such as hotels, restaurants, and recreational facilities, creates jobs in the hospitality sector. Additionally, the promotion of cultural and heritage activities can lead to job creation in fields such as interpretation, tour guiding, event management, and artisan crafts.

Increased Visitor Spending —

NHAs can attract a larger number of tourists, resulting in increased visitor spending in the local economy. Tourists spend money on accommodations, dining, shopping, transportation, and recreational activities, providing a direct boost to local businesses. This spending can have a multiplier effect as it circulates through the economy, supporting additional jobs and generating income for the local community.

Revenue Generation —

The economic activities generated by NHAs can result in increased tax revenues for local and regional governments. The taxes collected from visitor spending, sales tax, hotel occupancy tax, and other forms of taxation on tourism-related activities can contribute to public funds. These revenues can be utilized for infrastructure development, community services, and further conservation efforts.

Preservation of Historic Properties —

NHAs often prioritize the preservation and restoration of historic buildings and landmarks. This preservation activity can create employment opportunities in construction, architectural restoration, and historic preservation trades. It also contributes to the revitalization of historic downtown areas, increasing property values and attracting new businesses and investments.

Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development +

Community Development +

Cultural Heritage Industries +

Save the Date: **EMHR's Annual Meeting, Public Meeting for NHA Study Oct. 8**



Annual Meeting

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region will be holding its **2025 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 8 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Pealer Hall at 109 East Main Street in Dushore, Sullivan County.** On behalf of our Board of Directors, we'd like to invite you to hear about the EMHR's exciting year-in-review as well as what we have in store for 2026! The EMHR and its many heritage partners are working together to enhance our four county region through historic preservation, outdoor recreation development, educational programming, managing the Upper North Branch Susquehanna River Water Trail, and more! Please come celebrate with us and help further our mission!

Following a short business meeting in which our members have the right to vote, we will hear from Executive Director Cain Chamberlin and an array of guest speakers, including:

- "Endless Gravel PA" Initiative and Endless Mountains Grand Depart 2025
- EMHR's 2025 Partnership/Mini-Grant recipients.
- Our consultants from Point Heritage Development Consultants regarding EMHR's draft feasibility study for a National Heritage Area designation.

Lunch from a local small business will be provided following the meeting. Registration is opening soon at www.emheritage.org/events. Stay tuned!

Public Meeting for NHA Feasibility Study

Following the EMHR's Annual Meeting, a final public meeting will be held later in the day regarding the Heritage Region's draft feasibility study for its National Heritage Area designation. All are welcome to attend this meeting with the EMHR and our consultants of Point Heritage Development Consulting of Lakewood, CO. **The meeting will be at the Wyalusing Fire Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 8 at 6 p.m.,** beginning with a presentation of the draft study that encompasses our four-county region's story of national significance, the Heritage Region's capacity to become an NHA, and a review of the process that has led to this point. This feasibility study has been in the works since October 2023 and we have been working with our consultants, advisory committee, subject matter experts, and the general public ever since. The study compiled nationally significant stories and heritage sites, natural and recreational resources, and information from various EMHR partner interviews and public meetings to develop the study. Those who attend the meeting will have the opportunity to view the study and provide feedback. **Those who would like to RSVP for the Oct. 8 meeting can send an email to contact@emheritage.org.**



Public provides input as Heritage Region seeks national recognition

By MATT JENNINGS Staff Writer Jan 20, 2024

TUNKHANNOCK — The Endless Mountains Heritage Region was originally established in 1998 with a mission “To celebrate, preserve, and enhance the unique rural character and culture of the Endless Mountains.” In the 25 years since, the EMHR has partnered with community organizations, municipalities, and private citizens to accomplish that goal.

On Thursday, Jan. 18 Executive Director of EMHR Cain Chamberlin explained to a crowd at the Dietrich Theater in Tunkhannock the organization’s next steps.



“We feel it is time to see if we have what it takes to become a National Heritage Area here in the Endless Mountains,” Chamberlin declared.

National Heritage Areas were first conceived in 1984, with the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Area, dubbed at the time by President Ronald Reagan as “a new kind of national park.” Since then 62 areas in 32 states have received the designation. EMHR hopes its 2,850 square mile footprint encompassing all of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties can join those ranks.

In pursuit of the designation, the EMHR hired Point Heritage Development Consulting, a firm with experience in the process to advise and consult. Nancy Morgan, Principal Consultant at Point Heritage, explained the benefits an area sees from designation and went over the process.

“National Heritage Areas are areas that are representative of the National experience,” she explained.

Morgan described NHAs as a combination of natural features and history and culture, calling them “a living landscape” distinct from National Parks, though NHAs fall under the National Park Service purview.

They also function as a strategy to preserve cultural touchstones and protect history. The Bost Building in Homestead, Pennsylvania was used as an example. Headquarters of the famous Homestead Strike of 1892, the building had fallen into severe disrepair before the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area dedicated the time and resources to restore the building and establish it as a history center for the Pittsburgh industrial area.

NHAs receive federal appropriation for projects involving historical preservation, environmental stewardship, heritage tourism, economic development, and other goals. These appropriations are matched by local funds.

A region must also demonstrate that it has a plan in place to manage its National Heritage Area, including what areas and activities would be highlighted and showing what improvements would need made with federal funds.

Augie Carlino, President of the Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area, said it was up to the EMHR and the community to come up with the “story” of the proposed area designation. He, Morgan, and the rest of the Point Heritage team had spent the last two days touring significant areas throughout the region, and now looked to the public to discuss what the goals of this designation would be.

He opened the presentation up into a more open discussion, with audience members discussing the historic and natural resources of the area.

Several cited the Susquehanna as the Region’s most important geographic feature, with proposed projects involving cleaning the river, expanding access for recreation, and education on its historical significance.

One attendee noted that Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints was baptized in the Susquehanna in Oakland Township. Carlino replied that such historical significance like that would be a big part of telling the area’s story.

Others cited the area’s coal and lumber industries that once powered the local economy, citing ghost towns like Ricketts and Barclay as important cultural sites and the Nicholson Viaduct as a still-functioning testament to the area’s railroad history. Chamberlin noted that EMHR still works to highlight its theme of “Living with the Land” and mentioned to Carlino that the area has a strong dairy farming heritage.

The meeting turned to discussing potential uses of federal funding to improve the communities of the area and improving access to its natural resources. Carlino explained that the EMHR would need continued civic engagement both from private individuals and its municipal partners to formulate the plan for designation.

Morgan advised that ultimately, designation is “100% political” and the EMHR and the advisory committee that will form to advise on the process will have to work simultaneous with the region’s member of Congress, Dan Meuser (R-Pa.-9) works to pen legislation to that effect. A Meuser staffer was present at the discussion. National Heritage Area designations often are passed in larger omnibus bills, according to Morgan.

The team from Point Heritage explained that they would return to the area to tour more significant sites and converse with more stakeholders as the process continues.

Cain expressed assurance that the grand project could be seen through to its conclusion.

“We are confident we have all the key elements to make this happen,” Chamberlin said.

The next step for EMHR will be creating a committee to oversee the process of applying for designation and coordinating with Meuser’s office on legislation. Pennsylvania is home to 12 state heritage regions, of which six have successfully been designated National Heritage Areas.

Appendix C – Endless Mountains Heritage Region Partners

ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE REGION – CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS		
ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES
Academic Institutions		
Keystone College	Area college that includes a Woodlands Campus with a trail network, nature preserve, maple sugaring operation, and environmental studies and programming	Opportunities for outdoor recreation, interpretation, and environmental programming; representation on EMHR Board; grant recipient
Lackawanna College	Area college with a wide range of educational opportunities	Opportunities for educational partnership; representation on EMHR Board
Arts, Civic and Cultural Organizations		
Bradford County Regional Arts Council / Keystone Theater	County-wide nonprofit that advocates for arts, cultivates arts programming, and stewards historic theaters as venues for performances, community events, and movies	Collaboration on arts programming, historic preservation, and use as a venue; grant recipient
Kitson Arts Alliance/ North Branch Art Trail	Gallery and organization that supports arts, arts education, and the North Branch Art Trail celebrating arts, antiques, and agriculture	Opportunities for collaboration on arts programming, and thematic alignment with historic resources and agriculture; participation in NHA planning interview
Montrose Theater	Historic theater that hosts special events and contemporary cinema	Collaboration on programming, use as a venue
Sullivan County Council on the Arts*	Arts organization that supports county-wide programming for youth and general audiences	Collaboration on arts programming; grant recipient
Troy Lions Club Foundation*	Civic organization active in Troy, helped connect community to fairgrounds	Grant recipient
Valley in Motion	Organization to build community pride, quality of life, and recreation through public murals, dialogues, and events	Collaboration on public art, recreation, and events; grant recipient
Wyalusing Area Rotary Club	Civic organization with an emphasis on youth engagement and community volunteerism	Collaboration opportunities for volunteerism; donor and presenter for the EMHR's Youth Heritage Sojourn
Wyoming County Cultural Center / Dietrich Theater	County-wide nonprofit that advocates for arts, supports arts programming, and stewards the historic Dietrich Theater as a venue for performances, community events, and movies	Collaboration on arts programming, historic preservation, and use a venue; representation on NHA Advisory Committee; grant recipient
Business and Industry		
Bradford County Airport N27	County airport authority interested in general aviation, aviation commerce, and economic development	Interest in regional economic development; representation on EMHR Board

Bradford-Sullivan Farm Bureau	One of Pennsylvania's 54 farm bureaus; the volunteer board is active in farming history, land ownership, networking, and current agricultural issues	Collaboration on agricultural programming, supporting one of the major interpretive themes
Central Bradford County Chamber of Commerce	Organization dedicated to supporting and advocating for economic vitality in the county	Supports business entrepreneurship and connectivity
Greater Wyalusing County Chamber of Commerce	Organization dedicated to helping businesses grow, create connections, and advocate	Supports business entrepreneurship and connectivity
Hunt Engineers, Architects & Surveyors	Design firm specializing in architecture, engineering, and land surveying for public and private clients	Representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee
Lione Heritage Consulting, LLC	Firm with expertise in historic preservation and cultural heritage management in domestic and international spheres	Collaboration on technical workshops; representation on NHA Advisory Committee
Penn State Extension of the Endless Mountains	Agricultural educational outreach program that provides practical knowledge and resources to local communities, manages Master Gardener volunteers, and hosts special events	Collaboration on agricultural and educational programming, supporting one of the major interpretive themes and living traditions
Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation	Organization dedicated to promoting agricultural education and literacy, agricultural heritage	Collaboration on agricultural programming, supporting one of the major interpretive themes and living traditions
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce	The chamber helps foster a positive business environment through networking, advocacy, support for businesses, economic development, and community revitalization	Supports business entrepreneurship and connectivity; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee
Susquehanna County Farm Bureau*	One of Pennsylvania's 54 farm bureaus; the volunteer board is active in farming history, land ownership, networking, and current agricultural issues	Collaboration on agricultural programming, supporting one of the major interpretive themes and living traditions
Wyoming-Lackawanna County Farm Bureau*	One of Pennsylvania's 54 farm bureaus; the volunteer board is active in farming history, land ownership, networking, and current agricultural issues	Collaboration on agricultural programming, supporting one of the major interpretive themes and living traditions
Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce	Organization dedicated to the success and growth of the county's business community through advertising, advocacy, and networking	Supports business entrepreneurship and connectivity
Economic Development and Tourism		
Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency	Designated county tourism agency to promote tourism development through marketing, collaboration, and grants	Marketing collaboration, including development of Endless Gravel, outdoor rec, and agricultural guides; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee
DiscoverNEPA	Regional organization that coordinates tourism and event guide for counties in northeastern Pennsylvania	Marketing collaboration in Susquehanna and Wyoming counties; tour and interpretive development

Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau	Designated tourism agency in Sullivan and Wyoming counties to promote tourism development through marketing, collaboration, and grants	Marketing collaboration, including development of Endless Gravel, outdoor rec, and agricultural guides; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee, participation in NHA planning interview
Laporte Enhancement Committee	Community organization focused on building social and economic relations to support a strong sense of community in Laporte	Collaboration in community revitalization, economic development, and recreation; grant recipient
Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission	Nonprofit organizations serving five counties in economic development, with technical and financial assistance to businesses, local governments, and individuals	Incubated EMHR; collaboration in planning; representation on EMHR Board, NHA Advisory Committee, and NHA Subcommittee; participation in planning interview
Progress Authority	Economic development authority providing economic development and technical assistance to businesses in Bradford and Susquehanna counties	Representation on EMHR Board; participation in NHA planning interview
Susquehanna County Promotion and Tourism Agency	Designated county tourism agency to promote tourism development through marketing, collaboration, and grants	Marketing collaboration, including development of Endless Gravel, outdoor rec, and agricultural guides; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee, participation in NHA planning interview
Environment and Recreation		
444 Club	EMHR program to recognize people who have paddled the entire Susquehanna from NY to MD;	Support and promotion of Susquehanna River conservation and recreation; representation on NHA Subcommittee
Athens Township Parks and Rec Committee	Maintains and develops parklands owned by the municipality	Opportunities for collaboration on outdoor recreation; grant recipient
Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network*	NPS network of places that provide opportunities for education, tourism, and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Opportunities for conservation, recreation, and interpretation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed
Countryside Conservancy	Land conservation organization committed to protecting and connecting greenspace near the Tunkhannock Creek watershed	Collaboration on land conservation and outdoor recreation; participation in NHA planning interview
Eagles Mere Conservancy	Land conservation organization to preserve natural resources through land acquisition for a wildlife sanctuary and preservation of scenic beauty through	Collaboration on land conservation and outdoor recreation
Endless Mountain Outfitters	Outfitter for kayak rentals, shuttles, and trips on the Susquehanna River	Collaboration on outdoor recreation programming
Five Mountain Outfitters	Outfitter for kayak sales and rentals, fishing gear, shuttles, and trips on the Susquehanna River	Collaboration on outdoor recreation programming
Friends of Starrucca Creek	Volunteer organization to steward the creek and its environs	Collaboration on annual cleanups and outdoor recreation; grant recipient

Friends of Worlds End State Park	Volunteer organization to conserve, support, and protect the park's resources through promoting education, recreation, and stewardship	Collaboration on outdoor recreation, historic preservation, and programming; support of interpretive themes; grant recipient
Friends of Salt Springs State Park	Volunteer organization to support the state park and manage two adjacent tracts that they purchased	Collaboration on outdoor recreation; support of interpretive themes; grant recipient
Friends of Vosburg Neck State Park	Volunteer organization to conserve, support, and protect the park's resources through promoting education, recreation, and stewardship	Collaboration on outdoor recreation; support of interpretive themes; grant recipient
Friends of Mt. Pisgah State Park	Volunteer organization to conserve, support, and protect the park's resources through promoting education, recreation, and stewardship	Collaboration on outdoor recreation; support of interpretive themes; grant recipient
Keystone Trails Association	Organization to provide, protect, preserve, and promote recreational hiking trails and hiking opportunities	Collaboration on hiking trails and opportunities; grant recipient
Loyalsock Foundation	Foundation focused on building recreation opportunities in Sullivan County	Grantor, grant recipient, and partner for recreation projects
Mokoma Foundation and Conservancy	Land conservation organization that purchased and manages Conflin Run Wilderness Area	Collaboration on land conservation and outdoor recreation; grant recipient
The Nature Conservancy*	National land conservation organization that holds multiple preserves in the Endless Mountains Region	Collaboration on land conservation and outdoor recreation; grant recipient
North Branch Land Trust	Land conservation organization that protects natural, working, and scenic landscapes in northeastern Pennsylvania	Collaboration on land conservation and outdoor recreation; grant recipient
Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)	Statewide organization that works with community-based organizations to protect and restore the state's rivers and watersheds through advocacy, education, and volunteerism	Technical assistance, support, and promotion (including annual river of the year award)
Rail-Trail Council of Northeast Pennsylvania	Organization dedicated to building and stewarding system of rail-trails in the region, including interpreting the region's rail history	Outdoor recreation partner; thematic alignment for interpretation; participation in NHA planning interview; grant recipient
The Summit: Center for Wellness	Wellness center in Sullivan County developed by the Loyalsock Foundation, including indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities	Collaboration on outdoor recreation, including trail development; grant recipient
Susquehanna Greenway Partnership	A corridor of parks, trails, and communities connected through outdoor recreation along the Susquehanna River	Steward of part of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River; collaboration on conservation, promotion, and outdoor recreation on the river
Susquehanna Kayak & Canoe Rentals	Kayak and canoe rentals, portages, and trip planning on the Susquehanna River and other local waterways	Collaboration on outdoor recreation programming

Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)	Federal-interstate coordinating agency that leads conservation, development, and administration of the Susquehanna River Basin to enhance its scenic and recreational value	Opportunities for collaboration in conservation and recreation
WeConserve PA	Organization that assists Environmental Advisory Councils and other organizations with green infrastructure, outdoor recreation, and land use	Collaboration on outdoor recreation and land conservation; grant recipient
Heritage Areas		
Heritage PA	Statewide organization comprised of the leadership of the PA state heritage areas, focused on advocacy, partnership, and technical assistance	Collaboration on advocacy, partnership, and technical assistance with the other 11 state heritage areas
Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority	Coordinating entity for the Lackawanna Valley State and National Heritage Area	Collaboration on outdoor recreation and interpretation, including Lackawanna Heritage Trail that extends from Lackawanna Valley into EMHR
Lumber Heritage Region	Coordinating entity for the state-designated Lumber Heritage Region	Coordination on outdoor recreation and interpretation
PA Route 6 Alliance	Coordinating entity for the state-designated PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor	Coordination on historic preservation, tourism marketing, and grants; representation on NHA Advisory Committee
History, Historic Preservation, and Humanities		
Bradford County Heritage Association and Farm Museum	Museum dedicated to agricultural history and preservation of historic structures, engaged in educational programming and living traditions	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming; grant recipient
Bradford County Historical Society	County historical society and museum located in historic jail; features exhibits, research, and programming	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming; representation NHA Subcommittee; grant recipient
Brooklyn Historical Society	Historical society focused on history of Brooklyn and the Martin's Creek Viaduct; oversees an archival collection and the Martin's Creek Viaduct overlook	Collaboration on collections and interpretation; representation on EMHR Board, NHA Advisory Committee, and NHA Subcommittee; grant recipient
Clifford Township Historical Society	Historical society focused on the early settlement of Clifford and its environs; includes a museum in the renovated Hoover school, an agricultural museum, a children's garden, and the Yarns Cider Mill	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust	Organization that stewards the historic Dennis Farm and honors the family legacy of Prince Perkins -- veteran and freedman	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient

Eagles Mere Museum	Organization dedicated to the history of Eagles Mere and stewardship of its historic structures; located in a historic general store	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
French Azilum Historic Site	Organization dedicated to the history and stewardship of the French Azilum, including the landscape and historic structures	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming, historic preservation, and recreation; grant recipient
Forest City Area Historical Society	Organization dedicated to programming and exhibits on the history of Forest City and stewardship of a historic church	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Harford Historical Society	Organization dedicated to the preservation of historic sites within the village of Harford, including the Civil War era Soldiers' Orphan School	Interpretive sites aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for historic preservation; grant recipient
Home Textile and Tool Museum	Interpretive site featuring historic buildings and a large collection of 19th century implements	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
LeRoy Heritage Museum	Interpretive site focused on the history of LeRoy, Canton, Granville, Laquin, and Barclay Mountain	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Nicholson Heritage Association	Community organization for preservation in Nicholson and the surrounding area; oversaw preservation and interpretation of the Historic DL&W Railroad Station, which includes the Nicholson Tourism Center	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; participation in NHA planning interview; grant recipient
Old Mill Village Historic Site	Living history museum featuring a collection of historic buildings and special event programming	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Oldest House of Laceyville	Interpretive site along the Susquehanna River providing seasonal tours and programming	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
P.P. Bliss Singer-Songwriters Museum	Interpretive site dedicated to American composer, conductor, and Gospel-singer Bliss and other area songwriters	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Riverside Cemetery Association	Oldest publicly accessible cemetery in the region with veterans' graves from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War	Collaboration opportunities for cemetery preservation and interpretation; thematic alignment; grant recipient
Sayre Historical Society	Organization dedicated to history of Sayre, with museum in the Lehigh Valley Railroad Passenger Station	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient

Sullivan County Historical Society	Organization dedicated to history of Sullivan County, including museum and research center	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Subcommittee; grant recipient
Susquehanna County Historical Society and Free Library Association	Organization dedicated to history of Susquehanna County, including museum and genealogy research center	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Tioga Point Museum	Organization dedicated to local history and the collection of artifacts from around the world; museum is in historic library	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Troy Historical Society	Organization dedicated to recording the history of Troy; archival collections and artifacts are available for exhibit and research	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming; grant recipient
Wyalusing Valley Museum Association	Organization dedicated to the history of Wyalusing Valley, from Laceyville to Standing Stone along the Susquehanna River, with a focus on exhibits, archival and historic collections, educational programming, and historic preservation	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; participation in NHA planning interview; grant recipient
Wyoming County Historical Society	Organization dedicated to the history of Wyoming County, with a focus on exhibits, historic collections, historic preservation, and a geological research library	Interpretive site aligned with themes; collaboration opportunities for programming and historic preservation; grant recipient
Local Government		
Bradford County	County government, agencies include the airport authority, the historical society, the library, and the conservation district	Collaboration opportunities on historic preservation, natural resource management, agriculture, community revitalization, recreation; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee
Bradford County Conservation District	The county conservation district oversees programs in natural resource protection, agriculture, and education	Collaboration opportunities in natural resource protection, agriculture, and education
Clifford Township (Susquehanna)	Township government, including a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board that oversees community clean-ups, parks, and recreation	Collaboration opportunities on trails and access to Tunkhannock Creek; grant recipient
Dushore Borough (Sullivan)	Borough government, overseeing town's engagement in outdoor recreation and community revitalization initiatives	Collaboration opportunities for tourism infrastructure for nearby state parks, outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Eaton Township (Wyoming)	Township government, including parks, events, and historic resources	Collaboration opportunities for parks, events, and historic resources; grant recipient
Forest City Borough (Susquehanna)	Borough government, including a Parks and Recreation department; borough oversees engagement in community revitalization initiatives	Collaboration opportunities for parks, trails, events, and historic resources; grant recipient

Forksville (Sullivan)	Borough government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection, and special events	Collaboration opportunities for tourism infrastructure for nearby state parks, outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Harford Township Municipal Authority (Susquehanna)	Township government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Jamison City (Sullivan)	Portion of larger town in adjacent county, engaged with historic resource protection and interpretation, outdoor recreation	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation and historic preservation; grant recipient
Lanesboro Borough (Susquehanna)	Borough government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection, and special events	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Laporte Borough (Sullivan)	Borough government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection, and special events	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Monroe Borough (Bradford)	Borough government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection, and special events	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Nicholson Borough (Wyoming)	Borough government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection, and special events	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Oakland Borough (Susquehanna)	Borough government, engaged with outdoor recreation, historic resource protection, and special events	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Sayre Borough (Bradford)	Borough government, engaged with historic resource protection, special events and recreation	Collaboration opportunities for community revitalization and special events; participation in NHA planning interview; grant recipient
Sullivan County	County government, including GIS and economic development, and planning offices and the conservation district	Collaboration opportunities for economic development and outdoor recreation; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee
Sullivan County Conservation District	The county conservation district oversees programs in natural resource protection, land use, and education	Collaboration opportunities in natural resource protection and education
Susquehanna County	County government, including GIS and planning, economic development, historical records, promotion and tourism, and the conservation district	Representation on EMHR Board; participation in NHA planning interview
Susquehanna County Conservation District	The county conservation district oversees programs in natural resource protection, agriculture, and education	Collaboration opportunities in natural resource protection, agriculture, and education

Susquehanna Depot (Susquehanna)	Borough government, including a Parks and Recreation department and a community development association; borough oversees engagement in recreation, events, and community revitalization initiatives	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Towanda Borough (Bradford)	Borough government, including a Parks and Recreation committee; borough oversees engagement in recreation, events, and community revitalization initiatives	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Tunkhannock Borough (Wyoming)	Borough government, including a Parks committee; borough oversees engagement in recreation, events, and community revitalization initiatives	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Wyalusing Borough (Bradford)	Borough government, including a Parks and Recreation committee; borough oversees engagement in recreation, events, and community revitalization initiatives	Collaboration opportunities for outdoor recreation, community revitalization, and special events; grant recipient
Wyoming County	County government, engaged in GIS, land use, and community development	Collaboration opportunities on historic preservation, natural resource management, agriculture, community revitalization, recreation; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee; representation on EMHR Board and NHA Advisory Committee
Wyoming County Conservation District	The county conservation district oversees programs in natural resource protection, land use, and education	Collaboration opportunities in natural resource protection and education
State & Federal Government		
Loyalsock State Forest	State forest under PA DCNR in Bradford and Sullivan counties; engagement in natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation	Collaboration on outdoor recreation and natural resource protection; representation on NHA Advisory Committee
National Park Service	Federal agency that oversees NHA program and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network	Collaboration and technical assistance on heritage areas, interpretation, historic preservation, natural resource conservation, and recreation
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)	State agency focused on business and entrepreneurial innovation, recruitment, and support as a pillar for the economic health of the Commonwealth's communities, residents, workers, businesses, and entrepreneurs	Collaboration opportunities and training in economic development; potential funding opportunities for EMHR and partners
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)	Lead state agency for natural resource protection and outdoor recreation, including the PA Heritage Areas Program, state parks, state forests, and outdoor recreation	Funding and contracting through PA Heritage Areas Program; funding and collaboration opportunities in natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation; representation on the EMHR board
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)	State agency for transportation, including multi-modal transportation and trails	Potential source or conduit for transportation funding; collaboration on signage

Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)	State agency for environmental protection of the built and natural environment	Potential source for natural resource conservation funding and water trails
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	State agency dedicated to protection, conservation, and enhancement of the Commonwealth's aquatic resources and fishing and boating opportunities; includes licensing	Collaboration opportunities on wildlife conservation, water quality, and fishing and boating
Pennsylvania Game Commission	State agency that manages wild birds and mammals and their habitats; includes land management and licensing	Collaboration opportunities on wildlife conservation, natural resource protection, and outdoor recreation, including hunting
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission (PHMC)	State agency dedicated to the Commonwealth's history and protection of its historic resources; includes the State Historic Preservation Office	Collaboration, technical assistance, and training for historic preservation and the identification and designation of historic resources; potential funding opportunities for EMHR and partners
Religious Community		
Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church	Congregation of the oldest church in Eagles Mere	Collaboration on historic preservation; grant recipient

* Indicates potential partners

APPENDIX D – SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT REVIEW AND SUPPORT

Review and Support

An important step in the development of the feasibility study was review of the region’s significance, thematic framework, and supporting resources by professionals with expertise in the region’s history and environment. The individuals that reviewed these components provided comments directly to the planning team, as well as letters confirming their assessment that the Endless Mountains region merits designation as a National Heritage Area. The Subject Matter Experts include:

- Cindy Adams Dunn – Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- Andrea MacDonald – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission; Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
- Brent Glass – Director Emeritus, Smithsonian Museum of American History; Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (former)
- David “Brook” Lenker – Executive Director, Keystone Trails Association; Manager of Education and Outreach, PA DCNR (former); Director of Watershed Stewardship (former), Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Don Williams – Susquehanna River and outdoor recreation advocate



Oct. 3, 2024

Cain Chamberlin
Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
602 Main St. Suite 7
Towanda, PA 18848

Dear Mr. Chamberlin:

I'm writing in support of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's designation as a National Heritage Area. The Endless Mountains, which encompass 2,850 square miles and four counties in northeast Pennsylvania, is a truly special place and rises to the level of national significance. Its unique landscape, rich history, abundant outdoor recreation opportunities, and natural resources are some of the best in Pennsylvania and in the nation.

The region is home to four state parks, including Ricketts Glen, which attracts thousands of visitors from all over the country (and world) who marvel at its 21 waterfalls cascading through the forest. It's home to Loysock State Forest, which features rugged mountains, winding creeks, wilderness experiences and jaw-dropping fall foliage. The forest hides a rich history of a booming lumber industry, and sustainable forest management is a key part of the culture and economy.

Most important to me, it's home to the North Branch Susquehanna River, the most scenic stretch of the longest river on the East Coast, and among the oldest rivers on Earth. It was on the North Branch where, while leading the inaugural Susquehanna Sojourn in 1990, I was first struck by the unique magnificence of the Endless Mountains. As our group paddled towards each cliff or mountain, it was the most interesting experience to see the river fall away into the distant folds of mountains that indeed looked endless. I've returned many times since, and I've yet to find a more beautiful place to paddle and have many sharp memories, and still enjoy paddling there when I get the opportunity. Although I have paddled all over Pennsylvania and many other states and places, the paddles in the Endless Mountains stand out as the most remarkable.

I remember paddling near Tioga Point, where the Chemung meets the Susquehanna where Haudenosaunee and other native peoples convened, hunted, fished and lived. It is special to travel the river in the same manner they did-by canoe. Many people experience the stunning views from the cliffs overlooks such as the Wyalusing Rocks along the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor, but the view of the cliffs from the water is equally impressive. The native peoples of the region used the rocks as overlooks as they could see for miles, and today, most of the scenery remains fairly natural, and a national designation would help secure the conservation of this landscape with willing landowners. With the rich history of native peoples in the region, the designation as a national heritage area would help create the capacity and the opportunity to further evaluate and magnify this region and its unique stories.

Since EMHR was founded in 1998, the organization has done an exemplary job of working with DCNR and other partners to steward—and connect people to—these incredible natural and cultural resources. EMHR understands that the outdoors can transform individuals and communities, and it has been a leader in expanding recreational access and embracing emerging activities (such as bikepacking and gravel cycling).

Like the six existing National Heritage Areas in Pennsylvania, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region contains world-class natural resources, layers of history, and strong connections the American story. I strongly support its designation as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Adams Dunn".

Cindy Adams Dunn
Secretary



16 January 2026

Cain Chamberlain, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
76 Main Street
Wyalusing PA 18853

RE: Support for the Draft Endless Mountains Heritage Region National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Dear, Cain.

Thank you for recognizing the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) as a partner in the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area Feasibility Study. PA SHPO is pleased to offer our support and commitment to the study's implementation. As a state heritage area for nearly thirty years, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region has developed diverse partnerships which highlight and support the region's historic and natural resources. The new Feasibility Study will further enrich Pennsylvania's northern tier by expanding support for programs which celebrate our nationally important shared heritage and provide high-quality experiences for residents and visitors alike. We are encouraged by the pursuit of a National Heritage Area designation and the possibilities of wide-ranging, positive impacts that designation could bring to the region.

We value our partnership with Endless Mountains and look forward to working together on the proposed actions in the Feasibility Study. Together we can enhance the natural, cultural, historic, scenic, and recreational resources of our region. Pursuit of a National Heritage Area designation aligns with several goals of Pennsylvania's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, *Historic Preservation: They Keystone of Community*, specifically the recommendations related to Goal 2: Historic preservation and historic places are valued as integral to community identity, sense of place, economic development, and sustainable growth in Pennsylvania communities.

We are pleased to support the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area Feasibility Study and look forward to working with you to implement the goals set forth in the study.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. MacDonald,
Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

BRENT D. GLASS & ASSOCIATES

PUBLIC HISTORY LEADERSHIP | MUSEUM MANAGEMENT | CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

September 6, 2024

Cain Chamberlin
Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region

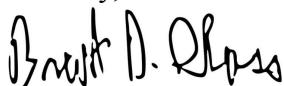
Dear Mr. Chamberlin:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the feasibility study for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region prepared by Point Heritage Development Consulting. The report is very impressive and makes a strong case for the region's connections to important historical themes in American history. As a public historian for fifty years and in my capacity as Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (1987-2002) and Director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (2002-2012), I have had the opportunity to experience, learn about and appreciate this region's rich heritage. Even without a single National Historic Landmark, there are a remarkable number of events, people and places that can engage and educate residents and visitors and expand their understanding of our national experience.

When I wrote my book, *50 Great American Places* (2016), I selected sites based on several criteria including geography, historical period and public access. I also identified places with a strong connection to defining themes that have shaped our history: freedom, war, innovation, diversity, landscape. The Endless Mountains region provides an excellent context for these themes including the Haudenosaunee Confederacy; General John Sullivan's March in 1779; Joseph Smith and the origins of the Church of Latter-Day Saints; David Wilmot and the abolitionist movement; and the engineering marvels by Abraham Burton Cohen. In addition, the natural beauty of the region has shaped its history and continues to be an important resource in enhancing the visitor experience. Finally, the small towns of the region—Montrose is among my favorites—provides textbooks examples of the architecture and town planning and the setting for many cultural traditions.

The Endless Mountains region is a valuable resource that reflects our national experience. I am pleased to support the proposal for consideration as a National Heritage Park and look forward to hearing about your future progress. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Brent D. Glass
Director Emeritus
National Museum of American History
Smithsonian Institution



Keystone Trail Association

46 E. Main Street

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

(717) 766-9690

www.Kta-hike.org

November 21, 2024

Cain Chamberlin
Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc.
602 Main St #7, Towanda, PA 18848

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

I write today to offer my support for the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area Feasibility Study and the efforts to secure this designation for this sublime region. I found the study to be very thorough and inclusive of the rich and exhaustive array of cultural and historical attributes that reflect the unique and noteworthy place that is the Endless Mountains.

I lend my perspective as the executive director of a statewide organization that promotes and preserves hiking trails and as an individual who has explored the region personally and professionally. I also authored a 2019 novel entitled *The Restorers* that attempts to capture the beauty, culture, and spirit of the area.

To the findings of the study, I add these personal anecdotes:

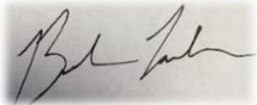
- The Susquehanna River is an amazing natural and cultural resource. I have canoed nearly its entire length and have some of my richest memories from my days on the reaches of the river through the Endless Mountains. The experience deeply moved me as well as the hundreds of fellow paddlers I escorted on formal river sojourns with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The importance of the river is underscored in the study, but I truly believe the river is a binding ribbon, steeped in heritage and compounding in value. Water trail designations, river-oriented events, and new river connections are both symptoms and causes of a river renaissance. Designation as a National Heritage Area will reinforce its grandeur and accelerate the benefits to communities.
- The Loyalsock State Forest, formerly the Wyoming State Forest, and state parks, like Ricketts Glen and Worlds End, preserve and profess the natural and cultural history of the landscape. They are gems in the state's public land estate and some of the most beloved. The Loyalsock Trail has a tremendous hiking draw. Indeed, at Keystone Trails Association, the Loyalsock Trail guide is a best seller. These wildlands and recreational spaces capture and communicate the essence of the Endless Mountains. More outdoor recreation opportunities await the potential that NHA designation can unleash.
- I know the story of fracking quite well. For nearly a decade I directed FracTracker Alliance, a national nonprofit headquartered in Pennsylvania. We studied and mapped extraction issues extensively. While I am no fan of fossil fuel development, I recognize that the fracking boom and

other extractive activities are part of the regional story. How that story is told can be instructive and have lasting societal benefit. NHA resources can help in the interpretation of this complex aspect of the area.

I have been lucky to get to know artists, writers, photographers, musicians, politicians, activists, outfitters, and recreation professionals that call the Endless Mountains home. While it may seem cliché, I can attest that they are spirited people, proud of their roots, determined in their passions. One could say they are vibrant characters. I have no doubt that they can and will maximize the positive impact of NHA designation.

The region has much to celebrate, as exemplified by a new state park and the recent hosting of an important greenways and trails summit. I hope that NHA designation is realized and makes such milestones commonplace. The vitality and history of the Endless Mountains is far from common, but it surely is a most glorious place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brook Lenker", is centered below the word "Sincerely,". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brook Lenker,
Executive Director, Keystone Trails Association

“Time is a sort of a river of passing events, and strong is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and another takes its place, and this too will be swept away.” - **Marcus Aurelius Antoninus - Meditations. IV. 43.** (from *The Long Crooked River* - A.B. Kerr – 1929)

From: Don Williams

Date: December 23, 2024

Re: National Heritage Area Designation for EMHR

The Susquehanna is one of the oldest rivers on earth. Older than the Nile, the Amazon, the ‘Cradle of Civilization’s’ Tigris & Euphrates, Caesar’s Rubicon, Mark Twain’s Mississippi and George Catlin's Missouri, the Hudson, the Delaware, and countless other fabled waterways across the globe...it has a story to tell that spans millennia. Owing to stream piracy, plate tectonics and the most recent Ice Age, the Susquehanna has followed some or all of its present course for over 300 million years and has been home to countless generations of Native Americans including the Susquehannock, the Five Nation Iroquois Confederacy, the Lenni Lenape and many other cultures lost to the passage of time. The Susquehanna’s watershed has, perhaps, the greatest concentration of indigenous place names in America, beginning at Otsego Lake in Cooperstown and flowing past towns like Sheshequin, Towanda, Wysox, Wyalusing, Meshoppen, Mehoopany, Tunkhannock and then on to the Chesapeake Bay...and many of them would still be recognizable to those who lived along the Susquehanna ages ago.

From maple syrup and agricultural production beginning in the late 1700’s to the lumber and coal industries of the 19th and 20th centuries to the current day Marcellus Shale play, the extraction of the Susquehanna's natural resources has provided revenue to fuel both the earliest years of this new nation and, on a much larger scale, the Industrial Revolution that catapulted its growth into the present.

From the Journals of the Officers and Soldiers of Sullivan’s Campaign in 1779 to James Fenimore Cooper’s *Leatherstocking Tales* to Robert Foster’s *Tioga Waltz* and *Camptown Races* to Sheshequin’s Julia H. Kinney Scott’s heartfelt odes to the Susquehanna, those past experiences spanning centuries can still be re-lived today through their words, poetry, and music.

Unless you have paddled the Susquehanna for thousands of miles and in every season, or travelled its highways and unpaved rural roads for more than half a century, or broken bread with those who live along the way...you cannot adequately begin to grasp the essence of what once was, what has been lost over the past three centuries, and what we can learn from all of their successes and failures.

I began fishing the Susquehanna and its tributaries in the 1960’s. I began boating on it in the 1970’s. At one point in time or another I have planned and/or taken part in almost every river-related sojourn or streamside event in Pennsylvania over the past 25+ years. Dating back to the exploits of Etienne Brule in the early 1600’s, I have read dozens of journals written by its early explorers including Lewis Henry Morgan’s 1851 publication *League of the Iroquois* and many others long since forgotten or gathering dust

on my shelves. And from standing on the remnants of Clinton's dam at the beginning of the Susquehanna to touching Standing Stone to sleeping under the stars @ Missicum (French Azilum), I have been in the presence of the past hundreds of times and fully sensed and embraced the connections to that continuum...both tangible and intangible. The significance and role of the Susquehanna River and its people to the past, present and future of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region cannot be overstated. As a lifelong student of its geology, native cultures, and colonial period – as well as more recent developments - I write in full support of any designation that would enhance the ability of this generation to better understand and appreciate its past and promote its potential to benefit future generations.

I will close with a few of my favorite portals to the past:

“A singular event seemed sent by good Providence to our relief; it was reported to me that unusual shoals of fish were seen moving in the clear waters of the Susquehanna. I went and was surprised to find they were herrings. We made something like a small net, by the interweaving of twigs, and by this rude and simple contrivance, we were able to take them in thousands.” - ***April 1789 letter of Judge William Cooper (1754-1809) - Founder of Cooperstown, NY.***

“And when I had asked the name of a river from the brakesman, and heard that it was called the Susquehanna, the beauty of the name seemed to be part and parcel of the beauty of the land. As when Adam with divine fitness named the creatures, so this word Susquehanna was at once accepted by the fancy. That was the name, as no other could be, for that shining river and desirable valley.” - ***Robert Louis Stevenson from Across the Plains - 19 August 1879***

“Some Trout were caught this morning. 22 inches long; they are spotted like ours with Yellow Bellies, yellow flesh when boiled & wide mouths. There are two species, the Common & the Salmon Trout.” - ***Journal entry of Richard Smith 24 May 1769 from A Tour of The Hudson, The Mohawk, The Susquehanna, and The Delaware in 1769***

“This branch is an exceeding fine, pretty river, and opposite the town in midsummer five or six fathom of water, as clear as it can be. - ***From the Journal of Lieut. William Barton (Sullivan's Campaign) - June 12th, 1779***

APPENDIX E – CONCURRENT PLANS

ORGANIZATION	PLAN	AVAILABILITY	CONNECTION WITH NHA
Name of Organization	Title (Year)	Link to Web Address/Location	Brief Explanation of Contents and/or Relevance
Bradford County Department of Community Planning & Mapping Services	Bradford County Comprehensive Plan Update (2018)	2018-Comprehensive-Plan-Update-PDF	County comprehensive plan to identify resources to protect and development potential; includes economic impact of heritage regions
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR)	Forests for All – A Plan for Pennsylvania’s Forests and People (Bureau of Forestry Strategic Plan) (2025)	PA DCNR Elibrary Forests for All Strategic Plan	Plan for resource management, community engagement and enhancements, and organizational development for state forests and their gateway communities
Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR)	Endless Mountains Heritage Region Management Action Plan (MAP), 2022-2026 (2022)	EMHR-Management-Action-Plan-2022-2026.pdf	MAP update focusing on regional leadership, partnerships and community impact, public engagement, and organizational development
Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission	Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Resiliency Plan 2024-2028 (2024)	NTRPDC-CEDS.pdf	Policy and programmatic recommendations for the five-county Northern Tier region that addresses economic challenges and opportunities

PA DCNR	Land and Water Trail Network Strategic Plan 2025-2029 (2025)	Trail Development Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Visioning document to develop a statewide land and water trail network that facilitates recreation, transportation, and healthy lifestyles; the plan runs concurrently with the 2025-2029 SCORP (below)
PA DCNR, Office of Outdoor Recreation	Outdoor Places, Shared Spaces: Pennsylvania's 2025-2029 Statewide Comprehensive outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (2025)	2025-2029 PA SCORP-FINAL-Web -2-.pdf	Outdoor recreation plan to promote community and economic development, advance health and wellness, support access and inclusion, address infrastructure and maintenance, and promote sustainable practices
PA DCNR, Office of Outdoor Recreation	Growing Outdoor Recreation for Pennsylvania: Conclusions Report and Roadmap for the Future (2023)	PA DCNR Elibrary Growing Outdoor Recreation	Vision and organizational roadmap for the recently formed Office of Outdoor Recreation
PA Route 6 Alliance	Moving Forward Along Route 6: Management Action Plan, Corridor Management Plan, Historic Conservation Strategy (2016)	Moving Along Route 6	Management Action Plan for the state heritage area.
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, State Historic Preservation Office	Historic Preservation: The Keystone of Community (2025)	Statewide Historic Preservation Plan Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Statewide historic preservation plan for 2025-2035

Sullivan County	Sullivan County Comprehensive Plan (2011)	Planning & Development — Sullivan County, Pennsylvania	County comprehensive plan to identify resources to protect and development potential
Sullivan County	Sullivan County Comprehensive Parks & Greenway Plan (2022)	Planning & Development — Sullivan County, Pennsylvania	Plan to address recreation facilities and parks, programming, trails, signage, and recreational commerce
Susquehanna County	Susquehanna County Comprehensive Plan Update (2018)	Susquehanna County Comprehensive Plan	County comprehensive plan to identify resources to protect and development potential; includes EMHR
Wyoming County	Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan (2019)	2019-2029 Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan - Wyoming County, PA, USA	County comprehensive plan to identify resources to protect and development potential
Wyoming County	Wyoming County Greenways, Trails, and Open Space Plan	2021 Wyoming County Greenways, Trails, and Open Space Plan - Wyoming County, PA, USA	Plan to conserve natural resources, maintain rural character, enhance recreation, promote tourism, and increase education and interpretation

APPENDIX F – ENDLESS MOUNTAINS AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Population and Socioeconomic Conditions

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region is a 2,850 square mile area that encompasses four rural counties in northeastern Pennsylvania – Bradford County, Sullivan County, Susquehanna County, and Wyoming County. The 2020 US Census reported a population of 130,310 for the four counties.¹ According to the World Population Review, the largest community within the EMHR area is Susquehanna, with 28,977 residents. The remaining townships and boroughs have ~5,000 or fewer residents.²

Census records show demographic data is similar among the four counties. In 2020, median household income was \$66,110 (\pm \$4k), which was \$7,714 lower than Pennsylvania's average household income. Compared with Pennsylvania's 12.0% poverty rate, Bradford County's poverty rate of 13.4% is slightly higher, while poverty rates in the other three EMHR counties average 11.2%, which is lower than the state average. Over 93% of people in all counties identify as white.

The biggest demographic differences within the area are median age. Combined, all EMHR counties had a median age of 48.4. This average is over seven years older than Pennsylvania's 41.1 average age. The median age in Sullivan County was a full 15 years higher (56.1) than the state average.

Land Use and Transportation

Endless Mountains Heritage Region is part of the Appalachian Plateau. Granite highlands, hewn by ancient glaciers and carved by the Susquehanna and other rivers, form plateaus forested with white ash, Eastern hemlock, and American beech. Today these re-forested mountains are gaining popularity for outdoor enthusiasts. The plateaus give way to rolling hills and fertile bottomlands that support a variety of agricultural products including dairy, corn, maple syrup, and fruit. In the early 2000s, natural gas exploration in the Marcellus Formation introduced a new extractive industry to the region - fracking.

Most of the rural region is connected by small roads. The largest highway in EMHR is Interstate 81, known informally as the Penn-Can highway. This north-south highway serves as an important transport corridor because it avoids the congestion found around other routes that run through more populated areas. PA Route 6 traces the Susquehanna River through the region; an east-west corridor that is known as the Grand Army of the Republic Highway and extends from Massachusetts to California, in Pennsylvania, the road is designated as a state heritage area. Pa Routes 11 and 220 are the other important roads through the region.

¹ Census Data, Main Page. Accessed September 15, 2025. <https://data.census.gov/>. All other census data is cited from this source.

² World Population Review. Accessed September 15, 2025. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/>.

Natural Environment

By the 1930s, coal and timber operations had denuded much of the EMHR's natural resources, leaving behind barren hillsides, culm banks, and streams steeped with chemicals and filled with sediment. Erosion and pollution scarred the landscape and destroyed wildlife habitats. Time and active efforts to restore the environmental resources has improved land and water quality, but several native animal and plant species are endangered or threatened due to contamination, habitat loss, and the encroachment of invasive species. Threatened and endangered faunal and floral species include the bog turtle, Indiana bat, American bittern, mountain alder, pumpkin ash, and oblong-fruited serviceberry. Some freshwater mussels, e.g., Brook Floaters and Eastern Lampmussels, are also considered vulnerable.³

Several invasive insects and plants threaten forest health and riparian systems. The emerald ash borer has caused extensive ash mortality, while the hemlock woolly adelgid poses a significant risk to eastern hemlock stands that are critical to forest structure and cold-water stream ecosystems. The spotted lanternfly is an emerging concern with potential impacts on hardwood forests and agricultural resources. Invasive plants, particularly Japanese knotweed, are prevalent along waterways, where they displace native vegetation, destabilize streambanks, and reduce habitat quality. These invasive species affect forest composition, regeneration, and ecosystem function and represent an ongoing management and restoration challenge across the region.

Restoring the water quality of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries has been a priority along its entire length from Cooperstown, NY, to Chesapeake Bay. Its health is vital to plant and animal habitats as well as the people who rely on its resources for their livelihoods.

The river accounts for approximately 43% of the Chesapeake Bay's drainage area and nearly 50% of its freshwater flow.⁴ The river is an important feature of the Atlantic Flyway.

The advent of natural gas extraction has renewed concern about air quality, water quality, and poor health outcomes in the region. Fracking fluid chemicals are prone to seeping into water tables and the release of airborne pollutants is linked to elevated cancer rates and respiratory illnesses.⁵

Tourism, Business, and Industry

Tourism

Tourism is an important economic driver in Pennsylvania. In 2024, 201.6 million visitors generated \$83.9 billion in total economic impact, supporting more than 500,000 jobs in the Commonwealth.⁶

³ "Endangered Species," U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Accessed September 15, 2025. <https://www.fws.gov/program/endangered-species>.

⁴ "Susquehanna River Basin Facts," Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Accessed June 11, 2024. <https://www.srbc.gov/our-work/fact-sheets/docs/river-basin-facts.pdf>.

⁵ "Fracking," Yale School of Public Health. Accessed September 15, 2025. <https://ysph.yale.edu/research/department-research/environmental-health-sciences/fracking/>.

⁶ "2024 Economic Impact of Visitors to Pennsylvania." Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics Company. Accessed January 5, 2026. https://assets.simpleviewinc.com/simpleview/image/clients/pennsylvania/PA_Visitor_Economic.

The successful efforts to restore and protect the EMHR's forests and steams has brought thousands of visitors to enjoy the area's natural and historic resources. Outdoor enthusiasts come to the region for hiking, cycling, camping, hunting, fishing, leaf peeping, skiing, and snowmobiling. Heritage tourists visit for the landmark buildings, covered bridges, and properties with national interest including Dennis Farm and the Priesthood restoration site. Cottage industries based on traditional crafts such as pottery, furniture making, blacksmithing and textile arts (e.g., quilting, weaving, lace making) are still practiced and popular with tourists.

Many visitors embrace the bounty and traditions of the countryside through farm stays and/or patronizing cideries, wineries, and you-pick orchards. Seasonal festivals showcasing apples, cheese and dairy, maple products, and corn are also popular activities. County fairs are enjoyed by excursionists and still considered significant social events by residents.

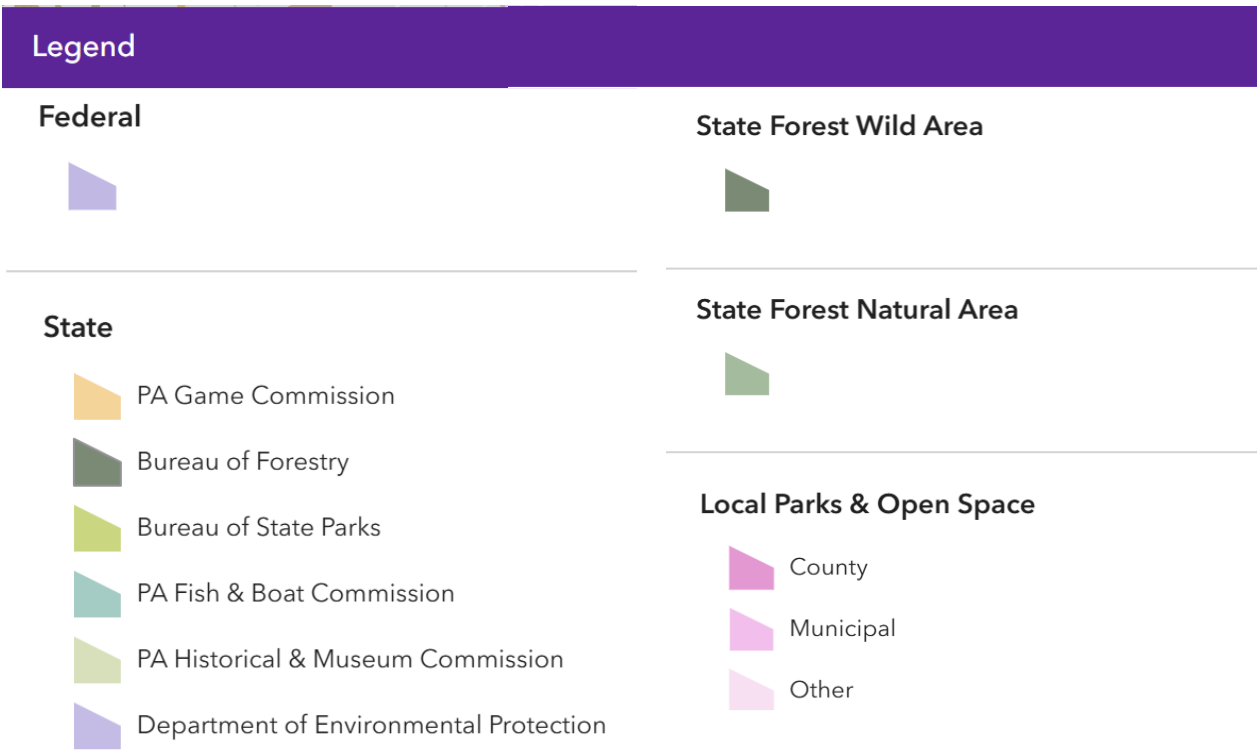
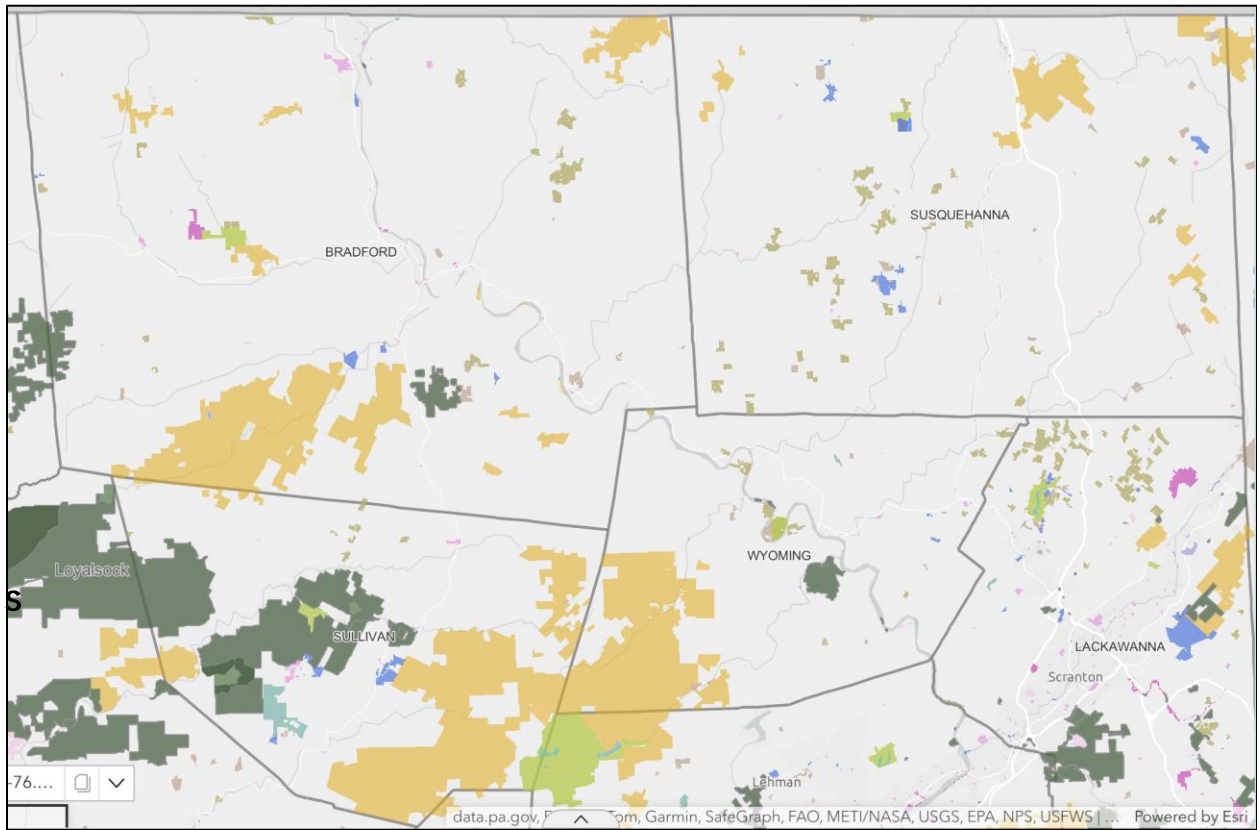
Business and Industry

The 2020 census shows the largest employers in the region are private companies (63.1-70.5%) including education and healthcare industries (20.2-25.1%) and manufacturing (12.2-19.7%). The second and third largest employers are local, state, and federal government (11.4-16.8%) and private not-for profit organizations (8.4-12.5%).

In addition to healthcare and education, agribusiness, timber, natural gas, and tourism are important sectors in the economy of the region. According to the 2022 USDA Agricultural Census, there are over 2,500 farms in the Endless Mountains region. Dairy (especially fluid milk), meat (Cargill Regional Beef) and grain (especially corn) are the region's largest agricultural outputs. In Wyoming county, Procter & Gamble Paper Products is one of the top employers. GasSearch Services is among the largest employers in Susquehanna county.

APPENDIX G – MAPS

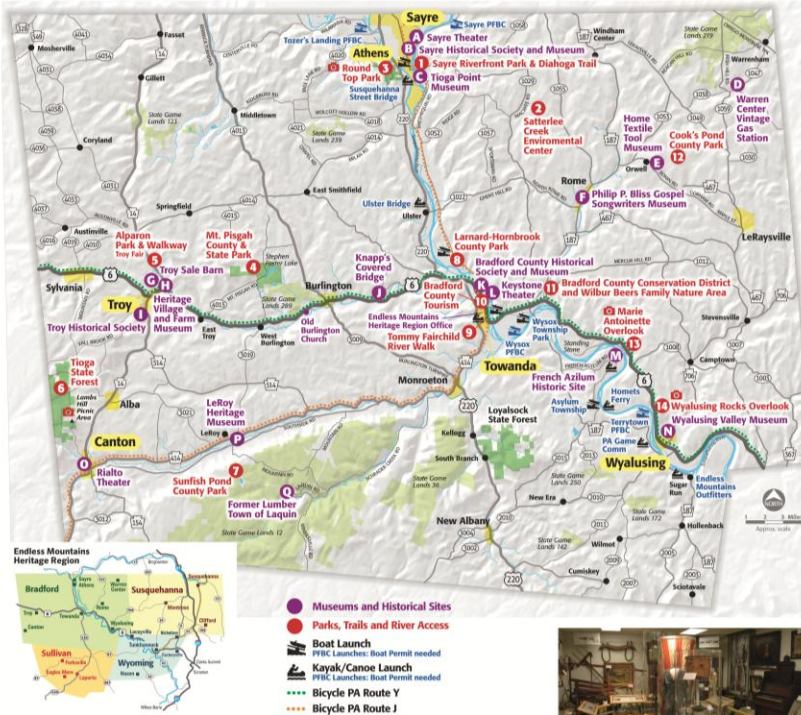
Public and Conserved Lands within the Endless Mountains Heritage Region



Bradford County



Experience Northeastern Pennsylvania - History



Museums and Historical Sites

A Sayre Theatre
205 South Elmer Avenue, Sayre, PA 18840 • 570-882-9000
bracac.org/index.php/sayre
The Sayre Opera House, built in 1914, was transformed into a modern and family-friendly arts center offering live performances, art programs and first-run movies.

B Sayre Historical Society and Museum
103 South Lehigh Avenue, Sayre, PA 18840
570-882-8221 • sayrehistoricalsociety.org
Located in a two-story brick Queen Anne-style Victorian structure (formerly the Lehigh Valley Railroad Passenger Station), the museum preserves artifacts, documents and photos of Sayre.

C Tioga Point Museum
724 South Main Street, Athens, PA 18840
570-888-7225 • tioga-pointmuseum.org
Native American exhibits, Revolutionary and Civil War collections, local canal and railroad history, and more, are displayed in a century-old National Register of Historic Places building.

D Warren Center Sinclair Gas Station
30 School House Road, Warren Center, PA 18881
Warren Center Road (Rt. 1038) at School Road • 570-395-3594
The Sinclair station is a reproduction of an early 20th century gas station that once operated in the rural community of Warren Center. The "Annual Cruise-In" fundraiser event featuring antique cars is the third Saturday in September.

E Home Textile Tool Museum
1819 Orwell Hill Road, Rome, PA 18837
570-209-8681 • hometextiletoolmuseum.org
The Home Textile Tool Museum is unique, featuring old spinning wheels, looms and tools of early America being used as they were 150 years ago. Visitors may touch-and-even try-the-exhibits.

F P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum
969 Main Street, Rome, PA 18837
ppblissmuseum.org
The museum is located in the house P.P. Bliss purchased for his parents. Phillip and Lucy Bliss also stayed here when in Rome during the 1860s until they died in a tragic train crash in 1876. The museum contains Mr. Bliss's restored melodeon and flute.

G Troy Sale Barn
50 Ballard Street, Troy, PA 16947 • troysalebarn.com
Built in the early 1920s by area farmers as a livestock sales pavilion, the renovated Troy Sale Barn continues this legacy as a community hall and arena. Managed by the Troy Sale Barn Operating Corporation, this historic venue is available to rent for weddings, private parties, special events and more.

H Heritage Village and Farm Museum
211 Laurel Lane, Troy, PA 16947
570-297-3410 • theheritagevillage.org
Located one-half mile north of the intersection of U.S. Rt. 6 and Rt. 14 in Troy, the museum houses an extensive collection of rare farm tools and artifacts reflecting 200 years of the local agricultural heritage.

I Troy Historical Society
50 Fenner Avenue, Troy, PA 16947 • 570-297-4458
historyoftroy.com
The Troy Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to recording the history of Troy and western Bradford County, and the people who live there. The collections and artifacts are available for research and display for the general public.

J Knapp's Covered Bridge
The Knapp's Covered Bridge is a Burr Arch Truss covered bridge over Brown's Creek off U.S. Rt. 6 in Burlington Township. Built in 1853, it is 95 feet (29.0 m) long and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

K Bradford County Historical Society and Museum
Old Jail House, 101 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-2240 • bradfordhistory.org
Two floors of exhibits are creatively arranged in cell blocks. The museum also has a genealogical and historical research library.

L Keystone Theatre
601 Main Street, Towanda, PA 18848 • 570-268-ARTS (2787)
bracac.org/index.php/keystone
Live performances, movies, and community events have given new life to the former Hale's Opera House. Built in 1886, the theater was restored in 1988 by the Bradford County Regional Arts Council (BRAC) and community supporters.

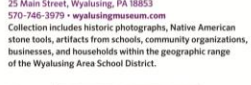


Bradford County Historical Society Museum

M French Azilum Historic Site
469 Queens Road, Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-3376 • frenchazilum.com
Site of a colony from 1793 to 1803 for refugees fleeing the French Revolution. Although none of the 180+ structures remain, the stone-walled root cellar is from the original village. The LaPorte House was built in 1836 by John LaPorte, son of original settlers. Informational signs on-site.

N Wyalusing Valley Museum
25 Main Street, Wyalusing, PA 18853
570-746-3979 • wyalusingmuseum.com
Collection includes historic photographs, Native American stone tools, artifacts from schools, community organizations, businesses, and households within the geographic range of the Wyalusing Area School District.

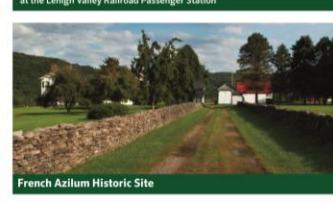
O Rialto Theatre
5 East Main Street, Canton, PA 17724
570-973-4444 • bracac.org/index.php/rialto
Built in 1912, the Rialto Theatre opened as the 308-seat Crawford Theatre. Purchased in 1994 by the Bradford County Regional Arts Council, it has been transformed into an operating movie house.



Rialto Theatre



The Sayre Historical Society and Museum at the Lehigh Valley Railroad Passenger Station



French Azilum Historic Site



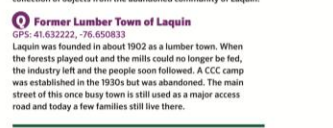
Troy Sale Barn



Knapp's Bridge, Burlington Township

P LeRoy Heritage Museum
257 Mill Street, LeRoy, PA 17724
570-364-5003 • leroyheritage.org
Visitors can learn about coal mining, lumbering, agriculture, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Game Refuge Keeper at Sunfish Pond. The museum also features the largest collection of objects from the abandoned community of Laquin.

Q Former Lumber Town of Laquin
GPS: 41.632222, -76.650833
Laquin was founded in about 1902 as a lumber town. When the forests played out and the mills could no longer be fed, the industry left and the people soon followed. A CCC camp was established in the 1930s but was abandoned. The main street of this once busy town is still used as a major access road and today a few families still live there.



Former Lumber Town of Laquin



This county heritage signage is dedicated to the late Paul Edward "Ed" Buster—a beloved board member of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Bradford County Commissioner, volunteer fireman and an all-around great man who truly cared for the community he so honorably served. August 17, 1960 – April 19, 2020



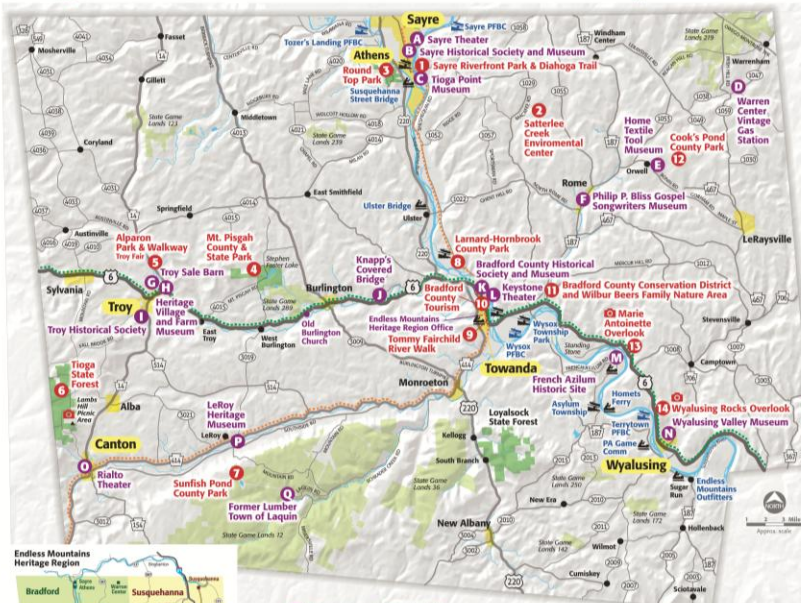
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
602 Main Street, Suite 7, Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-1528 • emhr/heritage.org



Copyright 2021 EMHR
Design: DDH Design
Tunkhannock, PA • ddhdesign.com

Bradford County

Experience Northeastern Pennsylvania-Recreation

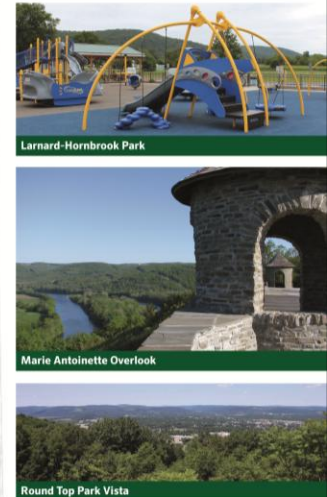


Parks, Public Lands and Vistas

- 1 Sayre Riverfront Park**
Park, event and Diaghoga Trail information: Sayre Borough 110 West Packer Avenue, Sayre, PA 18840 • 570-888-7739
Riverfront Park is located off of South Thomas Avenue and features athletic fields, a boat launch to the Susquehanna River with ample boat trailer parking, a picnic pavilion, and access to the Diaghoga Trail. The park has over 75 paved parking spaces and an open field that can be used for overflow parking. Community events include: Sayre High School baseball and softball, Sayre Little League, Arts4All (May), Antique Car Show (June), and the Borough's End of Summer Celebration (August).
- 2 Satterlee Creek Environmental Center**
2817 Cotton Hollow Road, Litchfield Township/Athens, PA 18810
570-888-6121 • facebook.com/SCCEnter
The SCCE is an environmental educational center for the community to come and interact with nature. There are about three miles of nature trails through 80 acres of woods. A picnic pavilion is available. Large groups may reserve the pavilion.
- 3 Round Top Park**
1717 Round Top Rd, Athens, PA 18810
Round Top Road (T317) • Athens Township
570-888-2323 • athleteship.org/roundtopparks.php
Consisting of 575 acres, the largest park in Athens Township has a playground, horseshoe pits, volleyball court, fishing pond, hiking trails, off road vehicle trail and a model airplane field. Several pavilions (reservations required), with grills, water and electric service are on-site. The park has one of the best overlooks in PA.

- 4 Mt. Pisgah County Park & State Park**
28 Entrance Road, Troy, PA 16947
On Wallace Road (Rt. 1019), two miles north of U.S. Rt. 6
County Park - 570-265-1790
bradfordcountypa.org/County-Parks
600 acres of land with beautiful vistas and abundant wildlife. Open from dawn to dusk, the park features hiking trails, two pavilions, restrooms, and many picnic areas. No camping.
State Park - 570-297-2734
dcm.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/MountPisgahStatePark/Pages/default.aspx
1,302-acre park is along Mill Creek, at the base of Mt. Pisgah, elevation 2,260 feet. Stephen Foster Lake, a 75-acre lake, provides swimming pool, restrooms, boat launch (PFBC registered and electric/non-powered only), dock, and boat rental. No camping.
- 5 Alapron Park & Troy Fair**
430 Gate 1 Lane, Troy, PA 16947
570-297-3648 • alapronpark.com
A recreational park for walking, biking, fishing, tennis, basketball, and horse riding that features year-round camping sites with full hook-ups. The park is also home to the Troy Fair, Endless Mountains Maple Festival, Brew & Wine Festival and many sporting events. Open year-round to rentals for weddings, banquets, and many other events.
- 5 Alapron Park Walkway**
Junction of Firehouse Lane and U.S. Rt. 6, Troy PA 16947
GPS: 41.790814, -76.776226 • 570-423-2307
facebook.com/hetnyhmsclub
The Alapron Park Walkway is a path that leads from the Town of Troy to Alapron Park. It was built in the 1970s by the Troy Lions Club to allow a safe walking passage to the Troy Community Pool and Troy Skateland, and to attend the many programs presented in Alapron Park. The Troy Lions Club continues to maintain the walkway and provide safe lighting.

- 6 Tioga State Forest**
West of Rt. 14, and south of U.S. Rt. 6
The Tioga State Forest derives its name from the Seneca phrase "meeting of two rivers," likely referring to the confluence of Mara Creek and Pine Creek at Ansonia. The forest covers 161,890 acres in Bradford and Tioga counties. The forest hosts the spectacular Pine Creek Gorge, also known as the "Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania." Tioga State Forest features awe-inspiring views, prolific wildlife populations, and miles of clean, cool streams, such as Cedar Run and Pine Creek.
- 6 Lamb's Hill Picnic Area**
Off of Lamb's Park Road • GPS: 41.69029, -76.86680
Also known as Lamb's Park or Lamb's Lookout, it's located in the Tioga State Forest high on Armenia Mountain in western Bradford County. The spectacular view is to the east, and on a clear day one can see Elk Mountain, which is 60 miles away in Susquehanna County. There are picnic tables where visitors can sit and enjoy the view. The area is named for the Lamb family, who were some of the earliest settlers in the region.
- 7 Sunfish Pond County Park**
1050 Sunfish Pond Road, Canton, PA 17724
Mountain Road • LeRoy Township • 570-364-5900
bradfordcountypa.org/County-Parks
Located on top of Barclay Mountain, the 70-acre park contains a 30-acre pond stocked with trout. Boating allowed: electric motors and non-powered only. Camping allowed: RV sites with electric only, tent sites, showers, restroom facilities and a camp store. Call for camping reservations.
- 8 Larnard-Hornbrook Park**
1241 Hornbrook Road, Towanda, PA 18848
Rt. 1045, North Towanda, PA • 607-742-9930
bradfordcountypa.org/County-Parks
A playground, ball field, volleyball net, 40 RV sites with water and electric hook-ups, showers and a tent camping and a boat launch area are hosted on 30 acres.
- 9 Tommy Fairchild River Walk**
The Tommy Fairchild River Walk is over a mile long trail that runs along the majestic Susquehanna River in downtown Towanda, county seat of Bradford County. The trail is an easy walk that connects pedestrians to the entire Towanda Borough business district, including the Roger Madison Gateway Park, the Bradford County Veterans Memorial Park and to the Veterans Memorial Bridge. There are ten covered shelters with picnic tables, numerous benches to sit, relax and enjoy the beautiful view.



10 Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency
1 Washington Street, Suite B • Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-8687 • visitbradfordcounty.com
Located in the historic Weigh Station, the Tourism Agency is the source for information in Bradford County including fairs, festivals, museums, historic sites, wineries and breweries, restaurants, camping, lodging, parks and outdoor recreation. Stop in and "Experience Bradford County!"

11 Bradford County Conservation District
200 Lake Road, Suite E, Towanda, PA 18848
GPS: 41.772778, -76.399672 (Wyoxo)
570-485-3144 • bcddcpa.com
The Conservation District was established in 1956 to work with communities to conserve their natural resources, including consultation, funding opportunities, and educational programs. The mission of the conservation district is to "Lead, Educate, and Empower" people to manage resources wisely.

11 Wilbur Beers Family Nature Area
GPS: 41.781858, -76.400867 • 570-485-3144 • bcddcpa.com
This is an 18-acre wetland that was donated by the Wilbur Beers family to the Bradford County Conservation District for environmental education. This area offers wildlife, a wide variety of plant species, and emergent, palustrine and forested wetlands. Open year round, not maintained in the winter.

12 Cook's Pond County Park
134 Cook's Pond Lane, Rome, PA 18857
bradfordcountypa.org/County-Parks
This 40-acre pond nestled in Orwell Township is a noted freshwater fishery with a diverse fish population and is part of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission's trout stocking schedule. The park was acquired through a donation in 2016 from the Cook's Pond Association and currently consists of a small parking area and a boat launch (electric motors only). Plans in the future are to add restrooms, picnic facilities, walking trails and an ADA-accessible kayak launch.

13 Marie Antoinette Overlook
72 Marie Antoinette Drive (off of U.S. Rt. 6), Wyalusing, PA 18853
A French Azilum informational sign is located at this overlook. From above the Susquehanna River view the spot where in 1793 a town of 1600 acres was designed for refugees from the French Revolution to live. From about 1793 until 1803 there were about 50 structures and a small group of loyalists to the French monarchy living and working at French Azilum. The stone wall and circular stone kiosks were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, and restored in 2009 with the help of French Azilum, Inc., and PennDOT, DCNR, and the Endless Mountains Heritage Region.

14 Wyalusing Rocks Overlook
40321 U.S. Rt. 6, Wyalusing, PA 18853
GPS: 41.69216, -76.27282
Wyalusing Rocks, also known as Prayer Rocks, has been known for as long as we have documented history. It was an important site in Native American cultures as a high point overlooking the stunning horseshoe bend in the Susquehanna River and a signaling point that could be seen for miles. The Wyalusing Rocks marked the intersection of the Warriors Path that led north to Binghamton, NY, and south to the Carolinas, and the Wyalusing Path that led south to Shamokin.



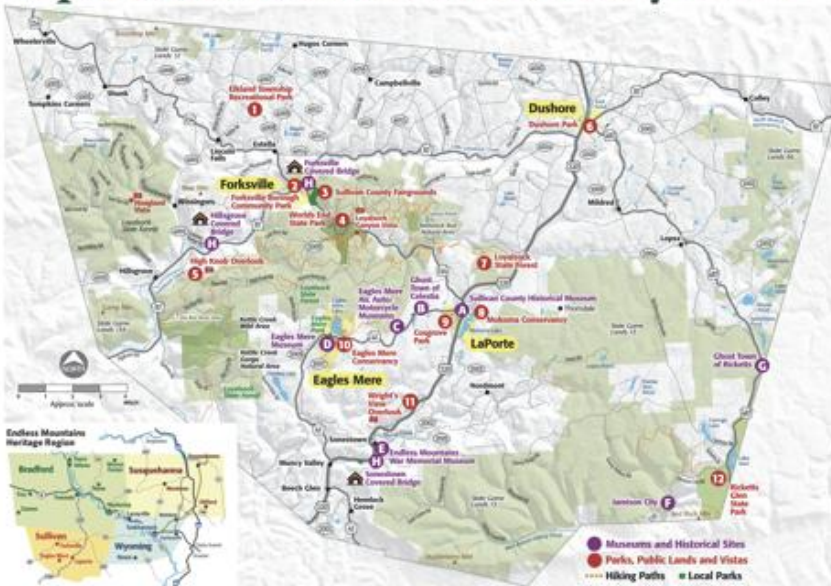
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
602 Main Street, Suite 7, Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-1528 • emheritage.org



Copyright 2023 EMHR
Design: DDI Design
Tunkhannock, PA • ddi@ddi.com

Sullivan County

Experience Northeastern Pennsylvania



Museums and Historical Sites

1 The Sullivan County Historical Society's Museum

438 Mayford Street, Laporte, PA 16826
570-946-5020 • scshistory.org
A complex of four buildings houses the history of Sullivan County preserving the past, through the present, for the future for visitors and researchers alike. The Main Building includes an 1880 portion with its own history and research materials. The Barn and Shed display artifacts of an outdoor nature. The Baldwin House (1852) is the first home erected on Lot #1 in the newly formed (1847) Sullivan County west of Laporte. Summer hours are posted on the website, and appointments can be made throughout the year.

2 Ghost Town of Celatella

GPS: 41.42297, -76.52448 • 1.5 miles west of Laporte on Rt. 42
Peter Armstrong established a divine "commune" community here to await the Second Coming of Christ in 1850. The town was laid out with the intent of eventually building a tabernacle, but there were never more than a few buildings. To emphasize his secular separation, Armstrong donated four square miles to God. The Lord did not pay the taxes, Armstrong's son bought the property at his sale. By the time of Armstrong's death in 1867, the momentum for this settlement had waned and it returned to wilderness. Visitors can walk the main street with brochures (provided on site) to envision what was there.

3 Eagles Mere Air & Auto/Motorcycle Museum

The museums are located just outside the town of Eagles Mere. Please check the websites for current hours of operation.
eaglesmeremuseum.com
eaglesmeremotorcyclemuseum.com

4 Eagles Mere Museum

288 Eagles Mere Ave., Eagles Mere, PA 17731
570-525-3705 • eaglesmeremuseum.com
Engage in Eagles Mere history at the museum, including glass making, a Chautauque, early resort hotels, and a narrow-gauge railroad. The town of Eagles Mere is part of the National Register of Historic Places.

5 Endless Mountains War Memorial Museum

103 Main Street, Sonestown, PA 17758
Turn off U.S. Rt. 220 at town sign • 570-482-2610
facebook.com/EndlessMountainsWarMemorialMuseum
Visit one of the largest collections of military memorabilia in the state. This tremendous gathering of military artifacts aims to educate our youth and honor our heritage by remembering all who served to protect the freedom we cherish. Artifacts from the American Revolutionary War through the present day, with an emphasis placed on World War II, including the home front.

6 Jamison City

GPS: 41.30294, -76.20670 • Historical Sign
In 1888 the Bloomsburg & Sullivan Railroad was run to the foot of North Mountain to tap the lumber wilderness of the area. A tannery was built in 1889 and the Fiding Creek Lumber Co. was claiming to cut 100,000 board feet a day. Additionally, a wagon wheel hub and sawer factory were built. The tannery became the property of the Elk Creek Tanning Company in 1915. With the depletion of lumber and the diminished need for leather and harnesses, all operations ceased by 1925. Only the smokstack and a tanning building are left to witness the heyday of a once-thriving community.

7 Ghost Town of Ricketts

GPS: 41.36284, -76.27984 • Historical Sign Information
Ricketts is located 4.2 miles north of the Lake Jean entrance to Ricketts Glen State Park on Rt. 487.
Now a ghost town, Ricketts (1890-1933) was a major lumber-mill company town of over 800 residents. It was named for Civil War Col. Robert Bruce Ricketts (1839-1918) of Wilkes-Barre who owned the land. Treder and Samuel Lumber leased the land in 1890 to timber and produce sawdust products. The town boomed after the Bowman's Creek Branch of the Lehigh Valley Railroad (1887-1963) was finally completed through this region in 1893.

8 Sullivan County Covered Bridges

Designed by Sader Rogers and built in 1850, these three Burr Arch Truss covered bridges were constructed by landowners who often had a gristmill nearby.
Sonestown Covered Bridge - GPS: 41.345420, -76.552007
Forkville Covered Bridge - GPS: 41.488418, -76.509959
Hiltgrove Covered Bridge - GPS: 41.460832, -76.670797

Parks, Public Lands and Vistas

1 Elkland Township Recreational Park

909 1426, Forkville, PA 16816 • 570-924-2986
A municipal park featuring a soccer field, baseball field, playground including a swing set with handicapped accessibility and beautiful scenery. Pets are prohibited on park grounds.

2 Forkville Borough Community Park

Main Street, Forkville, PA 16816 • 570-924-2214
One acre park with a basketball court, picnic, picnic tables, barbeque pits, swing set, sand box/digger, slide combo monkey bar and the spring rocking set.

3 Sullivan County Fairgrounds

4430 Rt. 154, Forkville, PA 16816
(570) 924-3205 • sullivancountyfair.com
The Sullivan County Agricultural Society began in 1952, with the present location becoming permanent in 1981. The grounds are utilized for wedding receptions, memorial services, gatherings, family reunions and fundraisers. The Fair is held Labor Day weekend with exhibits, rides, concession stands and competitive entries displayed, plus horse and pony pulls, tractor pulls and a demolition derby.

4 World's End State Park

GPS: 41.47415, -76.58277
82 Cabin Bridge Road, Forkville, PA 16816
570-924-3287 • dow.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/WorldsEndStatePark/Pages/default.aspx
The park's 780 acres are surrounded by the 114,000-acre Loysock State Forest. Geologic forces shaped the landscape of this state park, creating the Loysock Creek gorge, rugged terrain, and spectacular vistas. Recreational opportunities, including camping, hiking, backpacking, trail running, wildlife photography, picnicking, and swimming, are waiting for you in this pristine environment.

5 Loysock Canyon Vista at World's End State Park

GPS: 41.462420, -76.514913
The highest point in World's End State Park, at an elevation of 1750 feet, is the Loysock Canyon Vista. From this vantage point can be seen the serpentine shape of the creek as it carves its way through steep mountainous terrain. Adjacent to the Vista is the Rock Garden, where visitors can explore a labyrinth of huge boulders.

6 High Knob Overlook

Loysock State Forest - GPS: 41.44387, -76.67844
The road to High Knob Overlook was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps circa 1935 for good reason: from this vista you can see over 25 miles in multiple directions, looking over a vast expanse of remote forest lands in Sullivan, Lycoming and Bradford counties. It is a favorite place to view a spectacular sunset. Also as one of the darkest places in Pennsylvania, it is a popular area to view the night skies.

7 Dushore Borough Park

U.S. Rt. 220, Dushore, PA 16814 • 570-928-6030
The park has basketball and tennis courts, swings, a picnic area, and a baseball field.

8 Loysock State Forest

U.S. Rt. 220, Dushore, PA 16814 • 570-946-4049
dow.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/Loysock/Pages/default.aspx
Loysock State Forest is named for Loysock Creek, a scenic headwater stream that winds its way through the heart of the forest's 114,819 acres. The forest spans the Northern Tier's "Endless Mountains" and features flaring tall foliage and cascading waterfalls. Outdoor recreation opportunities include hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, canoeing and night seeing.



8 Mokoma Conservancy

Lake Road, Laporte, PA 16826 • mokomacconservancy.org
Established in 2001 by a group of forward-thinking and concerned residents of Sullivan County, the Mokoma Conservancy set on its first goal: the preservation of key watershed areas of the Lake Mokoma and Laporte areas. Located on Lake Road roughly 8/10 of a mile from U.S. Rt. 220, this 244-acre forested property features hiking trails and wildlife and is open to the public from dawn to dusk. Camping, campfires and motorized vehicles are prohibited. No swimming or restrooms.

9 Congrove Park

Corner of Cherry and Maple Streets, Laporte, PA • 570-946-5048
A quiet community park that offers plenty of open space, a playground, basketball court and a seasonal ice-skating rink.

10 Eagles Mere Conservancy

GPS: 41.460290, -76.524414 • Located off Rt. 42, near the Outlet Pond • 570-525-3725 • eaglesmeremuseum.com
This property's 373+ acres features wooded mountain slopes with 3 miles of hazed trails connecting with other Eagles Mere trails laid out nearly 100 years ago. The Conservancy has a full-time naturalist and supports a variety of nature-oriented activities, including children's programs, evening lectures, and organized hikes. The headquarters is the Conservancy Cabin beside the Outlet Pond just off Rt. 42. This cabin, dating to 1784 or earlier, was saved from demolition and reconstructed on Conservancy property to serve as an Education Center. The lands and programs are open to the public free of charge.

11 Wright's View Overlook

024 U.S. Rt. 220, Munty Valley, PA 17758
GPS: 41.37793, -76.50505
Named in honor of former Pennsylvania Secretary of Highways P.D. Wright, this overlook along Old Route 220 boasts beautiful views of the mountains surrounding Munty Valley and portions of State Game Lands No. 15.

12 Ricketts Glen State Park

935 Rt. 487, Benton, PA 17804 • 570-477-5675
dow.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/RickettsGlenStatePark
One of the most scenic areas in Pennsylvania, this large state park is comprised of 13,189 acres in Sullivan, Luzerne and Columbia counties and also harbors the Glens Natural Area, a National Natural Landmark. Like the falls Trail System and explore the Glens, which boasts a series of wild, free-flowing waterfalls, each cascading through rock-strewn cliffs in this ancient hillside. The 94-foot Gannauga Falls is the highest of 22 named waterfalls. Old growth timber and diverse wildlife add to the beauty.



Endless Mountains Heritage Region
602 Main Street, Suite 7, Towanda, PA 16848
570-295-1528 • emheritage.org

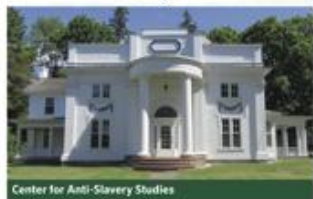
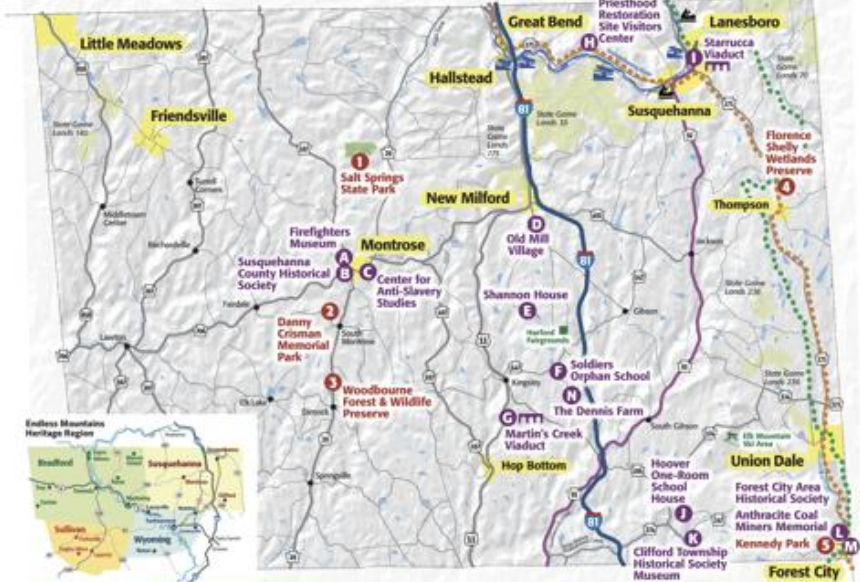


Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
202 South Tunkipe Street, Dushore, PA 16814
372-202-0233 • sullivancountychamber.com

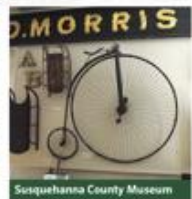


Susquehanna County

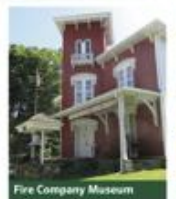
Experience Northeastern Pennsylvania



Center for Anti-Slavery Studies



Susquehanna County Museum



Fire Company Museum



Priesthood Restoration Site

Museums & Historical Sites

- A Firefighters Museum**
72 Monument Street, Montrose, PA 18801 • 570-278-2870
An extensive collection of apparatus and fire history, as well as other local artifacts is maintained in the first floor of the house situated on the fire company. Exhibits are open to the public on July 4, during the Blueberry Festival in August, and United Fire Company's open house in October. Group tours can also be arranged in advance.
- B Susquehanna County Historical Society & Museum**
18 Monument Street, Montrose, PA 18801 • 570-278-1622
susquehannacounty.org
Located in the 1907 building that once was shared with the Susquehanna County Free Library, the Susquehanna County Historical Society is open Monday through Thursday. The museum is free to the public, and guided tours can be arranged. The Genealogical Research Department is accessible at a fee.
- C Center for Anti-Slavery Studies**
205 Church Street, Montrose, PA 18801 • 570-278-3799
cas-montrose.org
Dedicated to historic research, preservation, and public programming promoting an understanding of the anti-slavery movement as it transpired in Susquehanna County. Displays document and bring to life the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad. Open by appointment only.
- D Old Mill Village Museum**
3715 State Road #48, New Milford, PA 18824 • 570-434-3355
oldmillvillage.org
The site is comprised of buildings of historical and local interest that were moved there to depict a typical 1800s town. Stone walls, a dam and foundations of John Bellamy's 1820s mill on Myfert Creek still remain. Museum exhibits are open during special events such as the Spring Farm Festival, and Fall Festival and Pumpkinfest Celebration.

- E Shannon House**
151 Tingley Lake Road, Harford, PA 18823 • 570-434-9056
Owned by the Harford Historical Society, the 1830s house remained in the Shannon family for more than 100 years and was never modernized. The Historical Society began restoration of the structure in 1975 and opens the house for special occasions or by appointment. It has been refurnished with period pieces.
- F Soldiers Orphan School**
2238 Orphan School Road, Harford, PA 18823 • 570-434-9256
Managed by the Harford Historical Society, the school began in 1850. The state purchased the building in 1865 and renovated it to provide food, clothing, and education for children of soldiers who had died during the Civil War.
- G Martins Creek Viaduct**
State Route 11 - Lackawanna Trail, Kingsley, PA 18820
Completed in 1914, the 1,600-foot long bridge stands 150-feet high and crosses Martins Creek and Route 11. This bridge was built as a cutoff to shorten the rail route between Clarks Summit and Hallstead. It was granted by soldiers during World War I.
- H Priesthood Restoration Site Visitors Center**
27832 State Route 171, Oakland Township, PA 18847
570-335-9580 • info.org/locations/priesthood-restoration-site
Site features monuments, reconstructed homes, and more designed to tell the story of the early 1800s events relative to the origins of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The visitors center houses artwork, artifacts, hands-on activities, and a video depicting the life of Joseph and Emma Smith.
- I Starrucca Viaduct**
Deport Street, Lanesboro, PA 18847
The stone arch bridge that spans Starrucca Creek opened in 1848 and was the most expensive railroad bridge built at that time. Spanning approximately 100 feet high, the bridge has seventeen 50-foot spans composed of Pennsylvania bluestone. It was built as part of efforts by the Erie Railroad to reach the shipping lanes of Lake Erie.

- J Hoover One-Room School House**
2236 SR 204, Clifford, PA 18470 • cliffordpa.com
Open the third Sunday of each month, May to October, the 1880s schoolhouse contains many artifacts that were in use when the school closed in 1941, including original desks, the pot-bellied stove, blackboard, and a water creek with dipper and tin cup.
- K Clifford Township Historical Society Museum**
119 Century Road, Clifford, PA 18470 • cliffordpa.com
Artifacts and displays range from a 300-year-old dugged canoe recovered from a nearby marsh to a reproduction of a local blacksmith's shop. The canoe is part of an enclosed panoramic exhibit depicting the lives of Native Americans in the region prior to the arrival of European settlers.
- L Forest City Area Historical Society Museum & Concert Hall**
631 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421 • 570-765-1800
forestcityareahistoricalsociety.org
In addition to housing a variety of artifacts and photos relevant to the history of Forest City, Broadside, Richmondale, and Vandling, the Museum and Concert Hall also serves as a venue for movies and live events featuring musicians, comedians and poets.
- M Anthracite Coal Miners Memorial**
331 Main Street, Forest City, PA 18421
The large panoramic semi-circular bronze tablets is unique to Forest City. The collage honors both the miners and their families and includes images of churches, coal breakers and faces of local people depicting the ethnic diversity of coal miners.
- N The Dennis Farm**
7789 Creek Road, Kingsley, PA 18826 • 570-845-4253
thedennisfarm.org • National Register of Historic Places
In 1793, the family of Prince Perkins, a free African American from Connecticut, settled the 153-acre farm, which remains under the ownership of Perkins' Seneca family descendants at the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust. The farm has wellstone walls, circa-1800 farmhouse and barn foundations and the Prince Perkins archeological site. The Perkins-Dennis Cemetery includes family members born in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Shannon House

Starrucca Viaduct

Map Key

- Museums & Historical Sites
- Parks & Preserves
- Boat Launches
- PFBC: PA Fish & Boat Commission - Permit needed
- Kayak/Canoe Launch

Parks & Recreation

- 1 Salt Springs State Park**
2925 Salt Springs Road, Montrose, PA 18801 • 570-967-7275
endlessmountainsspringpark.org
405 acres of towering centuries-old hemlock trees, a rocky gorge, three waterfalls, and just over 15 miles of trails are highlights of the state park, which is bordered to the south by another 437 acres of publicly accessible land owned by Friends of Salt Springs Park. The restored Wheaton House has a gift shop and displays.
- 2 Danny Crisman Memorial Park**
Ridge Road, South Montrose, PA 18843
The park was started in 2002 by Delores Crisman in honor of her son who perished in the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center, NYC terrorist attacks. The park features memorials with all the names of those who perished and also honors 343 FDNY firefighters, killed on September 11th.
- 3 Woodbourne Forest & Wildlife Preserve**
8565 State Route 29, Montrose, PA 18801
717-232-6001 • natara.org
Totaling 648 acres, the preserve boasts 200 acres of old-growth Pennsylvania forestland and is a favorite destination of birders. More than 160 bird species have been recorded there, including 90 verified to nest there. Open year round from dawn to dusk for nature-loved activities. Call in advance for guided tours.
- 4 Florence Shelly Wetlands Preserve**
18455 PA 171, Susquehanna, PA 18847
570-727-2362 • natara.org
The 400-acre preserve is composed of fields, woodlands, a stream, and a glacial pond surrounded by a floating log. The park is known by naturalists for an abundance of biologically diverse habitat, including birds and plants not commonly found at this latitude. Trail maps are available at the enclosed trail head off Stack Road.
- 5 Kennedy Park & Disc Golf Course**
Route 247, Forest City, PA 18421 • 570-765-3326
The community park features a picnic area, ball fields, pond for fishing and boating, and popular disc golf course. The last eight holes feature lights, heavily wooded fairways. The last four holes are more open with some moderate elevation changes. Disc golf tournaments are sponsored by the Forest City Disc Golf Association.

Scenic Byways & Trails

- DBH Rail Trail (Walking, Biking & Cross Country Skiing)**
Commerce Drive at Rt. 247, Forest City, PA 18421
openairtrails.org
Stretching 38 miles from Simpson to the New York border near Susquehanna, the Forest City 30-mile stretch of the DBH Rail Trail is improved for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross country skiing. The main trail head with parking, picnic tables and informational signage is located off Rt. 247 and Commerce Blvd.
- Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail**
Endless Mountains Heritage Region • endlessheritage.org
602 Main Street, Suite 7, Towanda, PA 18848 • 570-265-1528
A 90-mile National Recreation & Historic Trail, NY border to Sunbury, that passes scenic farms and historic towns.
- Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway (Highway)**
Route 92 from Route 6 in Tunkhannock to Lanesboro, 37 miles
• **Blue Route L** - Segment of 225-mile trail from the NY state line to Chester, PA.



Endless Mountains Heritage Region
602 Main Street, Suite 7, Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-1528 • endlessheritage.org



Copyright 2022 EMHR

Wyoming County



Experience Northeastern Pennsylvania



Little Rocky Glen Preserve



Classroom at the Wyoming County Historical Society, Museum and Genealogical Library



Bald eagles at Howland Preserve

Museums and Historical Sites

- A Oldest House**
Laceyville Area Historical Society
297 Main Street, Laceyville, PA 16823
570-869-1679 - oldest-house.com
Believed to have been built about 1786, the house is thought to be one of the oldest frame houses in the surrounding four counties. First owned by the James Smith family, it remained a private dwelling until purchased by the Laceyville Area Historical Society in 1976.
- B Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau**
5405 U.S. Rt. 6, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 • 570-836-5431
endlessmountains.org
The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau is located on PA Scenic Route U.S. Rt. 6, just west of Tunkhannock. It is the tourism promotion agency for Sullivan, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. Stop by for information on the beautiful Endless Mountains Region.
- C Wyoming County Historical Society, Museum and Genealogical Library**
11 E. Harrison Street (corner of North Bridge Street), Tunkhannock, PA 18657 • 570-836-5303 • pawhis.org
Housed in the 1854 Sand Hill School, the society's research materials include newspapers, genealogies, county burial records, and census records of Wyoming County and surrounding counties from 1790 to 1940. The Museum includes a re-created schoolroom and exhibits of local Native American, military, transportation, and social history.
- D Wyoming County Cultural Center/ Dietrich Theater**
60 E. Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
570-836-1022 - dietrichtheater.com
This historic Art Deco movie theater and culture center is open 365 days a year and features first-run mainstream movies, seasonal foreign and independent film festivals, art classes, exhibits, concerts and presentations for all ages. Also home to the Wyoming County history murals, located on the exterior walls of the building.
- E Historic Tunkhannock Walking Tour**
Tour route starts at the Dietrich Theater
60 E. Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Self-guided mobile phone audio tour is available at dietrichtheater.com/tour or pick up a brochure at the Dietrich Theater or the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau. The tour features forty structures, showcasing the rich history of Tunkhannock. The walking tour is 2 miles long and takes approximately one and a half hours.

- F Tunkhannock (Creek) Viaduct/ Nicholson Bridge**
The largest steel-reinforced concrete railroad bridge in the world, it spans Tunkhannock Creek in Nicholson, and is often called the Nicholson Bridge. Completed in 1915 after three years' work, the bridge is 2,375 feet long and 240 feet high. Still in regular use, it can be viewed from U.S. Rt. 11 and Rt. 92 (the Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway).
- G Nicholson Heritage Association**
Founded in 1989, the non-profit Association is dedicated to the historic preservation of Nicholson and the surrounding region of Wyoming County and the Endless Mountains. The Association owns the Nicholson Tourism Center.
- H Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic DLW Railroad Station**
21 Lackawanna Trail (U.S. Rt. 11), Nicholson, PA 18446
nicholsonheritage.org
The Center is housed in a restored 1849 railroad station originally built by the Liggett's Gap Railroad, a predecessor of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western (DLW) Railroad. It was the first station on the line from Scranton to Great Bend, and became the center of the community. After the Clarks Summit-Halstead Cut-off was finished in 1915, the station handled freight only; passengers used a new concrete station on the hill near the newly completed Viaduct.
- I Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway**
One of 21 state-designated Byways in Pennsylvania, this 37.3-mile route follows Rt. 92 from its junction with U.S. Rt. 6 east of Tunkhannock north to Rt. 1009 in Susquehanna County. It offers views of the area's natural and man-made beauty, from spectacular fall foliage to the Tunkhannock Viaduct in Nicholson and the Starrucca Viaduct in Lansboro.



Susquehanna River paddling

Parks, Trails and River Access

- J Explore Wyoming County's Parks & Trails Brochure & Map**
Learn about and visit the beautiful places to hike, bike, camp, picnic, hunt, fish, kayak and explore in Wyoming County. A map and recreation brochure are available at dietrichtheater.com/wegparks/ using a mobile phone or pick up a brochure at the Dietrich Theater or the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau.
- K Vosburg Neck State Park**
State Vosburg Road, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
pa.gov/vosburg-neck-state-park, 570-392-6437
GPS 41.55003, -76.00969
The 669-acre Vosburg Neck State Park is on the Susquehanna River, on the Vosburg Neck. Features include a picnic area at the river, carry-in canoe/kayak launch, and hiking trails (ATVs, motor bikes, and horses prohibited).
- L Miller Mountain - Pinchot State Forest**
pa.gov/pinchot-state-forest
GPS 41.508402, -75.966262
Miller Mountain is 2,200 feet at its highest point with sweeping vistas. This 2500-acre tract provides unique opportunities for primitive camping, hiking, and hunting.
- M Seneca Trail Park**
GPS: 41.491443, -75.9893864
Hours: 9 am - 8 pm • 570-836-3725 • eastonpa.com
Located along Rt. 29, South of Tunkhannock at Bowman's Creek. Fishing, picnic areas and restrooms. Pets must be kept on leashes. Swimming is prohibited.
- N Seneca Bike Trail**
1 Smith Lane, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
A 6-mile walking and cycling trail that uses several segments of Eaton Township paved roads and portions of Rt. 29. The trail passes picturesque sections of Bowman's Creek and through Eatonville. The trail's southern end is at Jenks Road at the Eaton/Monroe Township border and the northern end is at Tunkhannock in Tunkhannock.
- O Tunkhannock Riverside Park**
1128 River Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657 (Just off Rt. 29 South)
On River Street, upstream from the Rt. 29 bridge, the park has benches and picnic tables, playground equipment, a rental pavilion, a river map sign, and a trailer boat launch.
- P Iroquois Trail**
51 Sunnyside Road, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
A smooth gravel 1.8-mile trail for hiking and biking located east of Tunkhannock. The trail begins at the Tunkhannock ballpark off Sunnyside Road, parking available.

- Q Lazybrook Park**
2 Lazybrook, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
Located along Tunkhannock Creek on U.S. Rt. 6 east of Tunkhannock, the park has picnic tables, rental pavilions (contact Tunkhannock Twp., 570-836-3924), sports fields, a disc golf course, playgrounds (partially handicapped accessible), and a handicapped-accessible fishing area.
- R Little Rocky Glen Preserve**
Located south of U.S. Rt. 6, along Lithia Valley Road (Rt. 202), Factoryville, PA 18419 • 570-945-6995
countrysideconservancy.org
A 26-acre property containing a spectacular sandstone gorge on the South Branch of the Tunkhannock Creek. Steep hemlock-clad slopes rise to either side of the gorge. Trails wind around the creek and to the cliffs overlooking the glen, and down to a field with a picnic pavilion next to the creek. Open to the public dawn to dusk, April to November. Swimming and rock climbing are strictly prohibited. Parking very limited.
- S Christy Mathewson Park**
1075 Thompson Road, Factoryville, PA 18419
Hours: 7 am - 7 pm • 570-945-7484
factoryville.org/community/christy-mathewson-park
Located behind the Lackawanna Trail Elementary Center, the park features a baseball field, walking trail, basketball courts, seasonal concession stands, bathroom facilities, and a picnic pavilion. Park in the school parking lot and walk across the pedestrian bridge. To rent the park for an event, call 570-945-7484.
- T Keystone College/Woodlands Campus Trails**
One College Green, La Plume, PA 18440
570-945-8555 • keystone.edu/woodlands
The 170-acre Woodlands Campus complex at Keystone College contains roughly seven miles of hiking trails. The trails are open seven days a week from dawn until dusk. Informational signs are along the trail system. Reserved for foot traffic only. Bikes, ATVs and horses are strictly prohibited.
- U Trolley Trail - Countryside Conservancy**
570-945-6995 • countrysideconservancy.org/trolley-trail
A section of the Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail runs through the Keystone College Campus, with two parking areas. One is near the baseball field and one at the top of the road beyond the athletic field. The trail is a non-motorized community trail which follows the abandoned right-of-way of the former Northern Electric Trolley. The original trolley ran from 1908 to 1932 from Scranton, up through the Abingtons and to Lake Winola and points north of Nicholson. Currently over five miles of trail are completed and open to the public between Clarks Summit and Factoryville. Maps available on-line.
- V Bicycle PA Route Y**
pahighways.com/other/bicycleya.html
Route Y runs from the Ohio border at Pymatuning Lake in Crawford County east to the New York border at the Delaware River in Lackawanna, Pike County. The bike route roughly follows U.S. Rt. 6.



Copyright 2021 EMHR
Design: DOH Design
Tunkhannock, PA • dohdesign.com

Appendix H – Endless Mountains Resource Inventory

Resource Name	Category (C=Cultural & Living Traditions) (E=Educational & Interpretive) (H=Historical) (N=Natural) (R=Recreational)	Themes	Address	City	County	Owner/Manager	Description	National Register, NHL, or NNL	Date of Designation	National Resource	State Resource or Designation	Open to the Public?
Alapron Park and Troy Fair	C/R	Cultivating History	Junction of routes 6 and 14	Troy	Bradford	Troy Fair	The park, home to the Troy Fair, features walking, biking, fishing, tennis, basketball, horseback riding, and camping.				#NAME?	Y
Alapron Park Walkway	C/R	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	Junction of Firehouse Lane and U.S. Rt. 6.	Troy	Bradford	Troy Borough / Alapron Community Park Association	The walkway between Troy and Alapron Park was built by the Lions Club in the 1970s to provide safe access to the park.					Y
Anthracite Coal Miners Memorial	E	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	331 Main Street	Forest City	Susquehanna	Forest City Area Rotary Club	The memorial is a panoramic semi-circular bronze tableau that honors miners and their families. It features coal breakers, churches, and highlights ethnic diversity.					Y
Athens Historic District (Tioga Point Historic District)	H	Cultivating History / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Elm and Locust Streets, Main Street, Susquehanna and Chemung Rivers	Athens	Bradford	Various	The national historic district includes 97 contributing buildings and one contributing site, with buildings dating between 1801 and 1935.	NRHP	June 18, 2004			Y
Bennie's Nursery	C	Cultivating History	614 State Route 92 South	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Private	Nursery and Christmas tree farm in service for nearly a century.					Y
Bicycle PA Route L	C/E/H/N/R	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Susquehanna, Wyoming	Various	A segment of the biking trail that runs 225 miles from the New York state line to Chester, extending beyond the Endless Mountains Heritage Region.				Bicycle PA Route	Y
Bicycle PA Route Y	R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Wyoming	Various	Route Y roughly follows U.S. Rt. 6, passing through the heritage area on its run from the Ohio border across the state to the New York border.				Bicycle PA Route	Y

Bradford County Courthouse	H	Transportation and Transformation	301 Main Street	Towanda	Bradford	Bradford County	The 1898 sandstone courthouse of Classical Revival and Renaissance Revival styles features an octagonal dome. The site has an 1848 annex and a 1905 monument to soldiers.	NRHP	January 6, 1987				Y
Bradford County Historical Society and Museum	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Old Jail House, 109 Pine Street	Towanda	Bradford	Bradford County Historical Society	The historic Old Jail House, built in 1871, houses two floors of exhibits and a genealogical and research library.						Y
Bridge in Nicholson Township	H	Transportation and Transformation	Legislative Route 65021	Nicholson Township	Wyoming	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / PennDOT	The Corrugated Metal Company built this lenticular truss bridge over Tunkhannock Creek in 1876. It is 110 feet long.	NRHP	June 22, 1988				Y
Brown Hill Farms	C	Cultivating History	405 East Avery Station Road	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Private	Three season farm with flowers and pumpkins.						Y
Carlin Farm / 4 Seasons Farm Market	C	Cultivating History	3064 State Route 3005	Meshoppen	Susquehanna	Private	Century farm with beef, vegetables, and a variety of agricultural products from other local farms, including honey, maple syrup, milk, and eggs.						Y
Celestia	E/H/N/R	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	State Route 42	Laporte	Sullivan	Sullivan County Historical Society	Millenials established a divine community in the 1850s. Ruins remain of the town abandoned by the 1870s.						Y
Christy Mathewson Park	R	Tipping Point	18-19 Thompson Road	Factoryville	Wyoming	Factoryville Borough	The community park features athletic facilities, a picnic pavilion, and a walking trail.						Y
Clemenuel Ricketts Mansion	H/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Ricketts Drive	Colley Township	Sullivan	Ganoga Lake Association	Built as a hunting lodge in the 1850s, the property served as a tavern, post office, and hotel in the 19th century, and summer home and clubhouse in later years.	NRHP	June 9, 1983				N
Clifford Children's Garden and Park	C/E/H/N/R	Cultivating History	119 Cemetery Street	Clifford	Susquehanna	Clifford Township Historical Society	Community park on a historic farm property with walking, cross-country skiing, biking, athletic facilities, and an educational play area.						Y
Clifford Township Historical Society Museum	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	119 Cemetery Street	Clifford	Susquehanna	Clifford Township Historical Society	The museum interprets local history, including a Native American dugout canoe and a reproduction of a 19th century blacksmith's shop.						Y

Cook's Pond County Park	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	136 Cook's Pond Lane	Rome	Bradford	Bradford County	The 40-acre pond is a freshwater fishery and is stocked with trout. It includes a boat launch for electric motors.						Y
Cosgrove Park	R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Corner of Cherry and Maple Streets	Laporte	Sullivan	Laporte Burough	A community park with open space, a basketball court, a playground, and a seasonal ice-skating rink.						Y
D&H Rail Trail	E/H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Susquehanna, Wyoming	Northeast Pennsylvania Rail-Trail Council	The trail runs 38 miles from Simpson to the New York border. The trail is for walking, biking, and cross-country skiing, extending beyond the Endless Mountains Heritage Region.						Y
Danny Crisman Memorial Park	C/R	Transportation and Transformation	Ridge Road	South Montrose	Susquehanna	Private	The park was started in 2002 in honor of a victim of the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. The park features a memorial of all who perished in the event.						Y
Davis Crossing Preserve	N/R	Tipping Point / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Erhardt Road	Overfield Township	Wyoming	Countryside Conservancy	A nature preserve featuring hiking and wildlife.						Y
Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Clarks Summit to Hallstead Cutoff	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County to Hallstead, Susquehanna County	Clarks Summit to Hallstead	Susquehanna	Canadian Pacific Railway	Also known as the Nicholson Cutoff; the DL&W route constructed between 1912 and 1915 to reduce distance and the need for pusher engines; NRHP eligible.						N
Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Station	E/H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	21 Lackawanna Trail (U.S. Route 11)	Nicholson	Wyoming	Nicholson Heritage Association	1849 depot built by Liggett's Gap Railroad, it was the first station on the line between Scranton and Great Bend. The DL&W Railroad Station houses the Nicholson Tourism Center.						Y
Diahoga Trail	N/R	Tipping Point / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Athens Bridge (Susquehanna Street) to Hayden Street	Athens to Sayre	Bradford	Various	1.56 mile trail connection Athens to Sayre, including multiple access points and segments in Sayre Riverfront Park.						Y
Dietrich Theater/Wyoming County Cultural Center	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation	60 Tioga Street	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Wyoming County Cultural Center	A historic Art Deco movie theater and cultural center that offers movies, film festivals, art classes, exhibits, concerts, and presentations. History murals adorn the exterior.						Y

Dimock Camp Meeting	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation	46 Dimock Campground	Dimock	Wyoming	Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church	The camp traces its roots to 1875, when Methodist Episcopal congregations created a permanent campmeeting ground for spiritual revival and evangelization. It remains active.						Y
Dushore Borough Park	R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	U.S. Rt. 200	Dushore	Sullivan	Dushore Borough	The municipal park has athletic amenities and a playground.						Y
Eagles Mere Air, Auto, and Motorcycle Museum	E	Transportation and Transformation	100 Merrit Field Road	Laporte Township	Sullivan	Private	Museum triad located at Merrit Airfield with collections of vintage airplanes, cars, and motorcycles, many of which are operational.						Y
Eagles Mere Conservancy	E/H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Conservancy Cabin		Sullivan	Eagles Mere Conservancy	The 337-acre property with wooden mountain slopes has 3 miles of trails that connect to other area trails and a 1734 cabin that serves as an Education Center.						Y
Eagles Mere Historic District	H	Transportation and Transformation		Eagles Mere	Sullivan	Various	Eagles Mere is an early resort community that developed out of a Chataqua in the late 19th century. The district contains more than 230 contributing buildings and structures.	NRHP	June 28, 1996, boundary increased on September 18, 2013				Y
Eagles Mere Museum	E/H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	288 Eagles Mere Avenue	Eagles Mere	Sullivan	Eagles Mere Borough	Museum and visitor center sharing history of resort era, Chataqua, glassmaking, and the railroad located in historic general store, a contributing structure in the Eagles Mere Historic District.						Y
Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church	C/H	Transportation and Transformation	23 Pennsylvania Avenue	Eagles Mere	Sullivan	Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church	This Presbyterian church in the heart of Eagles Mere, built in 1887 of stone and wood, is the oldest church in the community.						Y
Elkland Township Recreational Park	R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	909 T426	Forksville	Sullivan	Elkland Township	A municipal park with athletic amenities and an accessible playground.						Y
Ellen and Charles F. Welles House	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	Wyalusing - New Albany Road	Wyalusing	Bradford	Private	Also known as "The Old Red House" and "Grovedale Farm," the 1822 home is a transitional Greek Revival structure with an 1894 Queen Anne addition and contributing outbuildings.	NRHP	May 20, 1999				N

Endless Gravel PA	C/E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Bradford, Susquehanna, Sullivan, Wyoming	EMHR	Endless Gravel PA includes the Endless Mountains 430 and the shorter 250 and 115 loops, developed through regional collaboration to connect cyclists with scenic routes and historic downtowns across the heritage area.						Y
Endless Mountains Trail	H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation	Rte. 706	Montrose	Susquehanna	Northeast Pennsylvania Rail-Trail Council	A 10-mile rail trail for hiking, cycling, cross country skiing, and horseback riding. One of the first rail-trails in the nation.						Y
Endless Mountains War Memorial Museum	E	Revolutionary Change / Transportation and Transformation	103 Main Street	Sonestown	Sullivan	Endless Mountains War Memorial Museum	The museum features a collection of military memorabilia from the American Revolution to the present.						Y
Erie Railroad Station	H	Transportation and Transformation		Susquehanna	Susquehanna	Private	The depot, built by the Erie Railway in 1863, was a 3-story Gothic Revival structure with a hotel for 200 people. It was converted to offices and quarters for railroad personnel in 1903.	NRHP	June 19, 1972				Y
Florence Shelly Wetlands Preserve	C/N/R	The Tipping Point / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	18465 PA 171	Susquehanna	Susquehanna	The Nature Conservancy	A 400-acre preserve has a biologically diverse habitat unusual for this latitude with fields, woodlands, a stream, a bog, plants, trails, and wildlife. Deer hunting allowed.						Y
Forest City Area Historical Society Museum and Concert Hall	C/E/H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	631 Main Street	Forest City	Susquehanna	Forest City Area Historical Society	A performance venue and museum, the building features concerts, movies, and other entertainment, and also houses a variety of historic artifacts and images.						Y
Forksville Borough Community Park	R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Main Street	Forksville	Sullivan	Forksville Borough	One-acre park with a basketball court, playground, and pavilion.						Y
Forksville Covered Bridge	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	53 Bridge Street, over Loyalsock Creek	Forksville	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / PennDOT	One of three Burr Arch Truss covered bridges designed by Sadler Rogers and built in 1850 to serve nearby gristmills.	NRHP	July 24, 1980				Y
French Azilum Historic Site	E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History	469 Queens Road	Towanda	Bradford	French Azilum, Inc.	This site of a 1793-1803 colony for French Revolution refugees contains archaeological remains of over 50 structures and the 1836 LaPorte House.						Y
Grassy Ridge Farms	C	Cultivating History	19 Lutes Corner Road	Monroe Township	Wyoming	Private	Family farm market offering a wide variety of local produce.						Y
Hails Family Farms	C	Cultivating History	47 Mattichak Road	Lopez	Sullivan	Private	Family farm with organic produce and meats for sale at farm stands in Lopez and Laporte.						Y

Henningstead Organic Farm	C/E	Cultivating History	1249 Creek Road	Mehoopany	Wyoming	Private	The farm has been in the Henning family since 1847. The farm offers tours, special events, u-pick berries, honey, maple syrup, rhubarb, and artisanal farmstead cheese.						Y
Heritage Village and Farm Museum	C/E/H	Cultivating History	231 Gate 2 Lane, Rt. 14	Troy	Bradford	Bradford County Historical Association	The museum houses an extensive collection of rare farm tools and artifacts reflecting 200 years of agricultural heritage. The village has an 1822 inn and many other historic structures.						Y
High Horizons Farm	C/N/R	Cultivating History	201 Robinson Lane	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Private	Historic farm property with opportunities for visitors to pick blueberries. Also offers recreational hike.						Y
High Knob Overlook	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Loyalsock State Forest	Hillsgrove	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The road to the overlook in Loyalsock State Forest was constructed by the CCC in 1935. Vistas in multiple directions and dark skies attract visitors.					State Forest (site within)	Y
Hillsgrove Covered Bridge	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	52-388 Covered Bridge Road, over Loyalsock Creek	Hillsgrove	Sullivan	Sullivan County	One of three Burr Arch Truss covered bridges designed by Sadler Rogers and built in 1850 to serve nearby gristmills and later served as a lumber raft site.	NRHP	July 2, 1973				Y
Home Textile Tool Museum	C/E	Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History	1819 Orwell Hill Road	Rome	Bradford	Home Textile Tool Museum	The museum is dedicated to understanding textile production in 19th century rural homes. The museum features a collection of spinning wheels and looms and offers workshops.						Y
Hoover One-Room School House	E/H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	2236 SR 2014	Clifford	Susquehanna	Clifford Township Historical Society	The school house, in use from the 1860s to 1941, has original furniture and artifacts. It is opened to the public seasonally.						Y
Howard Elmer Park and Bandstand	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation	W Packer Avenue	Sayre	Bradford	Sayre Borough	The park was established in the the late 1870s in the heart of Sayre. It features an 1885 bandstand in the center, as well as monuments to veterans and firefighters.						Y

Ira Reynolds Riverfront Park	C/E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Transportation and Transformation	132 Exchange Street	Susquehanna	Susquehanna	Susquehanna Borough	Once part of the history Erie Railyard, the 14-acre greenspace along the river features lighted walking trails, the Russel Clapper Model Train display with 150 cars.						Y
Iroquois Trail	N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change	51 Sunnyside Road	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Susquehanna Greenway Partnership	The smooth gravel trail for hiking and biking runs 1.8 miles begins at the Tunkhannock ballpark.						Y
Jamison City	E/H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Jamison City Road	Davidson	Sullivan	Private	A smokestack and tanning building remain from the lumber boomtown that thrived from 1888 to 1925.						Y
Kennedy Park	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Route 247	Forest City	Susquehanna	Forest City Borough	The community park features athletic and picnic areas, fishing and boating, and a disc golf course.						Y
Keystone Theater	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	601 Main Street	Towanda	Bradford	Bradford County Regional Arts Council	Built in 1886 as Hale's Opera House, the theater was restored in 1988 by the Bradford County Regional Arts Council. It features live performances, movies, and community events.						Y
Knapp's Covered Bridge	H	Transportation and Transformation	2204 Covered Bridge Road	Towanda	Bradford		The 1853 Burr Arch Truss covered bridge over Brown's Creek is 95 feet long.	NRHP	July 24, 1980				Y
Laceyville's Oldest House	E/H	Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	297 Main Street	Laceyville	Wyoming	Laceyville Area Historical Society	Believed to have been built around 1786, the house is thought to be one of the oldest frame houses in the four-county region. Built by James Smith, it was a private dwelling until 1976.						Y
Lamb's Lookout	C/N/R	Cultivating History / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Tioga State Forest	Canton	Bradford	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	Located in Tioga State Forest on Armenia Mountain, the view east encompasses Elk Mountain. It is named for an early family in the region.					State Forest (site within)	Y
Laquin	C/E/H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation		Laquin	Bradford	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / Game Commission	Former lumber town established in 1902 and mostly abandoned when timber played out. Also the site of a 1930s CCC camp.					State Game Lands (site within)	Y
Lamard-Hornbrook County Park	R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	1241 Hornbrook Road	Towanda	Bradford	Bradford County	This 30-acre park has athletic facilities, camping, and a boat launch.						Y

Lazybrook Park	N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change	2 Lazybrook	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Tunkhannock Township	The park along Tunkhannock Creek features a playground, picnic areas, pavilions, athletic amenities, playgrounds (partially accessible) and an accessible fishing area.						Y
LeRoy Heritage Museum	E/H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	257 Mill Street	LeRoy	Bradford	LeRoy Heritage Museum, Inc.	Exhibits and artifacts reflect mining on Barclay mountain, boomtowns lumbering, agriculture, Civilian Conservation Corps, and Laquin. The museum is in an 1876 Grange hall.						Y
Little Rocky Glen Preserve	N/R	Tipping Point	South of Rt. 6 on Lithia Valley Road	Factoryville	Wyoming	Countryside Conservancy	A 26-acre property with a sandstone gorge and hemlock groves on the South Branch of Tunkhannock Creek. The preserve has a picnic pavilion and trails.						Y
Loyalsock Canyon Vista	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	World's End State Park	Forksville	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The highest point in Worlds End State Park.					State Park (site within)	Y
Loyalsock State Forest	C/N/R	Tipping Point / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	6735 U.S. Rt. 220	Dushore	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The 114,819-acre forest spans the Northern Tier's Endless Mountains and offers a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities.					State Forest	Y
Loyalsock Trail	E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Loyalsock State Forest	Williamsport	Sullivan	Loyalsock State Forest / Alpine Club of Williamsport	A 59-mile hiking trail that follows a Native American trail, as well as old rail beds. The trail extends beyond the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. The Alpine Club of Williamsport offers trail care hikes and other outings.						Y
Manley-Bohlayer Farm	C/E/H	Cultivating History	141 East Cannon Road	Canton	Bradford	Private	A farm (ca. 1860) and village with a working blacksmith shop, cider press, school, community hall, and museum. The site hosts the Pennsylvania Apple and Cheese Festival.						Y
Marie Antionette Overlook	E/H/N	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	72 Marie Antoinette Drive	Wyalusing	Bradford	French Azilum, Inc.	The CCC built the overlook in the 1930s, a viewing area for the Susquehanna River and the French Azilum site.						Y
Martins Creek Viaduct	H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	State Route 11, Lackawanna Trail	Kingsley	Susquehanna	Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad	Completed in 1914, the 1,600 foot bridge stands 150 feet high and crosses Martins Creek and Route 11. A scenic overlook is on Zicks Hill Road in Kingsley.						N

Methodist Episcopal Church of Burlington	H	Cultivating History	US 6 and Township Road 357	Burlington	Bradford	The Methodist Conference	The "Old Burlington Church" was built in 1822. The two-story church is surrounded by a contributing cemetery.	NRHP	January 4, 1990				Y
Mokoma Conservancy	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Lake Road	Laporte	Sullivan	Makoma Foundation & Conservancy	A 244-acre forested property to protect one of the region's key watershed areas. The wilderness area features hiking and wildlife.						Y
Montrose Historic District	H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Wyalusing, Owego, Spruce and Chenango Streets; Lake Avenue; High and Turrell Streets; Grow Avenue; and Jessup Street	Montrose	Susquehanna	Various	The district encompasses 386 contributing building and two contributing sites in the central business district and surrounding residential areas. Buildings date from 1812 to 1935.	NRHP	June 8, 2011				Y
Mount Pisgah County and State Park	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	28 Entrance Road	Troy	Bradford	Bradford County / PA DCNR	This 600-acre county parcel has vistas, wildlife, hiking trails, two pavilions, and the 1,302-acre state parcel along Mill Creek and Stephen Foster Lake has fishing, a boat launch and swimming pool.				County and State Park		Y
Mountain Sprigs Farm	C/R	Cultivating History	205 Stark Road	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Private	Lavendar farm that offers u-pick, lavender products, and walks on the farm.						Y
Nicholson Bridge/ Tunhannock Creek Viaduct	H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	US 11	Nicholson	Wyoming	Norfolk Southern Railway	The largest steel-reinforced concrete railroad bridge in the world, the bridge spans Tunhannock Creek. Completed in 1915, the bridge is 2,375 feet long and 240 feet high.	NRHP	April 11, 1977				N
Nicosia Cheese Factory	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	Main Street	Nicholson	Wyoming	Nicholson Borough	Historic creamery where farmers brought milk to be made into cheese, then shipped to urban centers in the northeast.						N
Nordahl Park	C/E	Transportation and Transformation	16 Oak Street	Nicholson	Wyoming	Nicholson Borough	Community park in Nicholson, within view of the Tunkhannock viaduct.						Y
Northern Electric Trolley Station - Hop Bottom	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	9 State Rte 2096	Hop Bottom	Wyoming	Private	Passenger and power station for the electric trolley system that ran from Scranton, through Nicholson, to Hop Bottom, ending at Tiffany Junction near Montrose.						N

Northern Electric Trolley Station - Nicholson	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	State Street	Nicholson	Wyoming	Nicholson Borough	Trolley station built after the original ormed in 1926. The trolley carried passengers, freight, and agricultural products.							N
Noxen School	E/H	Transportation and Transformation	School Street	Noxen Township	Wyoming	Noxen Historical Community Association	The school was built in 1897, with an addition built in 1922. A grade school, then high school, today the building holds a community center and library.	NRHP	May 24, 2006					Y
Old Mill Village Museum	E/H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	5774 State Road 848	New Milford	Susquehanna	Old Village Mill Association	The foundation, dam, and stone walls of a 1820s mill on Mylert Creek form the heart of a collection of historical buildings moved to the site to depict a typical 1800s town.							Y
Old White Mill	H	Cultivating History	Near Welles Street	Meshoppen	Wyoming	Private	The historic grist mill, also known as Sterling Mill and Pinnock Mill, was built in 1852. The five and 1/2 story structure, stone foundation, and original milling equipment survive.	NRHP	September 11, 1975					N
P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation	969 Main Street	Rome	Bradford	P.P. Bliss Gospel Songwriters Museum	The 1860s historic home of Phillip Paul Bliss, who composed more than 300 sacred works, contains the Gospel Songwriters Museum and historic instruments.	NRHP	April 24, 1986					Y
PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor	C/E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Bradford, Wyoming	PA Route 6 Heritage Alliance	A state heritage area, PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor passes through the Bradford and Wyoming Counties.					PA Heritage Area		Y
Priesthood Restoration Site	C/E/H	Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	27832 State Route 171	Oakland Township	Susquehanna	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	Joseph and Emma Smith lived here from 1827 to 1830. Events associated with the translation of the Book of Mormon and the restoration of the priesthood occurred here.							Y
Protection of the Flag Monument	E/H	Revolutionary Change	715 South Main Street	Athens	Bradford	Bradford County	The Classical Revival monument features an adult soldier and a young drummer boy in Revolutionary War clothing, both protecting the flag.	NRHP	June 8, 2001					Y
Rialto Theater	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	141 Main Street	Canton	Bradford	Bradford County Regional Arts Council	Built in 1912 as the 308-Crawford Theater, the Rialto was purchased by the Bradford Regional Arts Council in 1994 and shows movies.							Y

Ricketts	C/E/H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Route 487	Ricketts	Sullivan and Wyoming	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / Game Commission	Ricketts (1890-1913) was a lumber-mill company town that once had over 800 residents.				State Game Lands (site within)	Y
Ricketts Glen State Park	E/H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	695 Rt. 487	Benton	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The 13,189-acre park spans three counties and includes NNL Glens Natural Area. The park features waterfalls, old growth timber, wildlife, and hiking.				State Park	Y
Riverside Cemetery	E/H/N	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	133 William Street	Towanda	Bradford	Towanda Borough	Early 19th century cemetery along the Susquehanna River that contains veterans' graves from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. It is the oldest publicly accessible cemetery in Bradford County and is no longer active.					Y
Round Top Park	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	1717 Round Top Road	Athens	Bradford	Athens Township	This 575-acre park has hiking and ATV trails, a model airplane field, a fishing pond, and other recreational amenities.					Y
Salt Springs State Park	H/N/R	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	2305 Salt Springs Road	Montrose	Susquehanna	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The 405-acre park has old growth hemlock trees, 15 miles of trails, and the historic Wheaton House. It is bordered by a 437-acre parcel owned by Friends of Salt Springs.				State Park	Y
Satterlee Creek Environmental Center	C/E/N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	2817 Cotton Hollow Road	Athens	Bradford	Bradford County Conservation District	The 80-acre environmental center provides the opportunity for interaction with nature, including three miles of trails.					Y
Sayre Historical Society and Museum	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	103 South Lehigh Avenue	Sayre	Bradford	Sayre Historical Society	Located in a Queen Anne Victorian structure, formerly the Lehigh Valley Railroad Passenger Station, the museum preserves artifacts, documents, and photos of Sayre					Y
Sayre Riverfront Park	N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change	110 West Packer Avenue	Sayre	Bradford	Borough of Sayre	The park provides a boat launch on the Susquehanna River, Diahoga Trail access, athletic fields, and a picnic pavilion.					Y
Sayre Theater	C/E/H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	205 South Elmer Avenue	Sayre	Bradford	Bradford County Regional Arts Council	The Sayre Opera House, built in 1914, is a contemporary arts center featuring live performances, art programs, and movies.					Y

Seneca Bike Trail	N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change	1 Smith Lane	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Wyoming County	A 6-mile walking and cycling trail that uses segments of Eaton Township paved roads and Rt. 29. The trail runs from Jenks Road to Riverside Park, passing Bowman's Creek.						Y
Seneca Trail Park	N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change	1517 Hunter Highway	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Wyoming County	The park on Bowman's Creek features fishing and picnic areas.						Y
Shannon House	E/H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	151 Tingley Road	Harford	Susquehanna	Harford Historical Society	This 1830s house was home to the Shannon family for more than a century. The Harford Historical Society restored it in 1975, opening it for special tours.						Y
Silver Lake Bank	E/H	Transportation and Transformation	395 Church Steet	Montrose	Susquehanna	Center for Anti-Slavery Studies	The historic bank property was the home of the Center for Anti-Slavery Studies, currently closed. The center was dedicated to research and programming on abolition and the Underground Railroad.	NRHP	December 18, 1978				N
Soldiers Orphan School	H	Transportation and Transformation	2338 Orphan School Road	Harford	Susquehanna	Harford Historical Society	Begun as the Franklin Academy in 1836, the school became Harford University in 1850. It was used by the state for soldiers' children orphaned during the Civil War.						Y
Sonestown Covered Bridge	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	Champion Hill Road, over Muncy Creek	Sonestown	Sullivan	Davidson Township	One of three Burr Arch Truss covered bridges designed by Sadler Rogers and built in 1850 to serve nearby gristmills.	NRHP	July 24, 1980				Y
Starrucca Viaduct	H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Depot Street	Lanesboro	Susquehanna	Norfolk Southern Railway	The stone arch bridge that spans Starrucca Creek opened in 1848, the most expensive railroad bridge at that time. The 100-foot high structure has 17 Pennsylvania bluestone spans.	NRHP	October 29, 1975				Y
Stoll Natural Resource Center	E/N	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	200 Lake Road	Towanda	Bradford	Bradford County Conservation District	Environmental education center and headquarters for the Bradford County Conservation District.						Y
Sullivan County Courthouse	H	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Main and Muncy Streets	Laporte	Sullivan	Sullivan County	A Romaneque Revival courthouse designed by Wagner and Reitmeyer of Williamsport and built in 1894 by Lawrence Brothers Builders.	NRHP	December 15, 1978				Y

Tioga Point Museum, Spalding Memorial Library	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Transportation and Transformation	724 South Main Street	Athens	Bradford	Tioga Point Museum	The 1890s building, listed in the National Register and part of the Athens Historic District, houses collections related to Native Americans, the American Revolution, and the Civil War.	NRHP	February 18, 2000				Y
Tioga State Forest	N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	1 Nessmuk Lane	Wellsboro	Bradford	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	A portion of the state forest is in the heritage area. The forest includes Pine Creek Gorge, vistas, wildlife, and miles of streams.					State Forest	Y
Tommy Fairchild River Walk	C/N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	227 Old Route 6	Towanda	Bradford	Borough of Towanda	A mile-long trail along the Susquehanna River in Towanda, connecting three community parks.						Y
Towanda Historic District	H	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	Elizabeth, Fourth, and Kingsbury Streets and the Susquehanna River	Towanda	Bradford	Various	The district has 440 contributing buildings and one contributing site in the central business district and surrounding residential areas. The period of significance is 1830-1900.	NRHP	May 7, 1992				Y
Trolley Trail	H/N/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Wyoming	Countryside Conservancy	The 5-mile non-motorized trail (with planned extension) follows the former Northern Electric Electric Street Trolley line, which ran between Scranton, Lake Winola, and Montrose.						Y
Trostle's Dairy and Poultry Farm	C	Cultivating History	10054 Enllenton Mountain Road	Shunk	Sullivan	Private	Self-serve farm stand with seasonal produce, flowers, meats, and cheese.						Y
Troy Historical Society	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	59 Fenner Avenue	Troy	Bradford	Troy Historical Society	The museum records the history of Troy and Bradford County in the former Van Dyne Oil Company building. Area history collections and artifacts are on display and available for research.						Y
Troy Public High School	H	Transportation and Transformation	250 High Street	Troy	Bradford	Bradford County School District	The Colonial Revival building was completed in 1924 and enlarged with additional wings in 1936, 1939, and 1954.	NRHP	February 20, 2002				Y
Troy Sale Barn	E/H	Cultivating History	50 Ballard Street	Troy	Bradford	Troy Sale Barn Operating Corporation	Built in early 1920s as a livestock pavilion, the facility serves as a community hall, arena, and rental venue.						Y
Tunkhannock Farmer's Market	C	Cultivating History	4 Village Lane	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Private	Summer market, June to October, held at Crekside Gardens.						Y

Tunkhannock Historic District	H	Cultivating History	Tioga, Pine and Harrison Streets and Wyoming Avenue	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Various	The district encompasses 225 contributing buildings built between 1841 and 1954 located in the central business district and surrounding residential areas.	NRHP	July 27, 2005				Y
Tunkhannock Riverside Park	N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change	1128 River Street	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Tunkhannock Borough	A community park featuring a playground, picnic area, pavilion, and a boat launch.						Y
Tuscarora Township Historical Society	E	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	2298 Underhill Road, Suite #1	Laceyville	Bradford	Tuscarora Township Historical Society	The museum features exhibits, family histories, photos, early maps, organizational records, and newspapers that tell the story of area communities.						Y
Universalist Meeting House of Sheshequin	H	Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation	Sheshequin Road	Sheshequin	Bradford	Unitarian Universalist Church of Athens and Sheshequin	The historic church was built in 1827 and is surrounded by a cemetery that predates the building by 30 years.	NRHP	September 18, 2013				Y
Van Dyne Civic Building	H	Transportation and Transformation	64 Elmira Street	Troy	Bradford	Private	Also known as "The Court House," the 1894 building served as the courthouse for the western portion of Bradford county and later a civic center, post office, and library.	NRHP	January 21, 1974				N
Viaduct Valley Way Scenic Byway	C/E/H/N/R	Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Various	Various	Susquehanna, Wyoming	Nicholson Heritage Association, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / PennDOT	One of 21 state-designated byways, the driving trail runs 37 miles on Route 92 from Route 6 in Tunkhannock to Lanesboro.					Pennsylvania Byway	Y
Viva Villa Farm	C	Cultivating History	637 Mattes Road	Friendsville	Susquehanna		Family farm with Icelandic sheep, Lamancha dairy goats, and a variety of milk and maple products.						Y
Vosburg Neck State Park	C/E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	546 Vosburg Road	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The 669-acre property along the Susquehanna River is adjacent to Camp Lackawanna on the Vosburg Neck. The property has a canoe/kayak launch and hiking trails, and permits hunting.					State Park	Y
Warren Center Sinclair Gas Station	E	Transportation and Transformation	30 School House Road	Warren Center	Bradford	Warren Township	The Sinclair station is a reproduction of Warren Center's early 20th century gas station. The sites hosts the Annual Cruise-in fundraiser featuring antique cars.						Y

Whistle Pig Pumpkin Patch	C	Cultivating History	3369 SR 29 South	Noxen	Wyoming		The u-pick farm began as a dairy farm in the 1870s. Today it grows berries and vegetables and produces maple syrup. The farm offers campfire experiences and a wooded picnic area, as well as a corn maze in the fall.								Y
Wilbur Beers Family Nature Area	E/N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Lake Road	Towanda	Bradford	Bradford County Conservation District	This 18-acre wetland area is used for environmental education. It features wildlife and a variety of plants in the emergent, palustrine, and forested wetlands.								Y
Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Preserve	N/R	The Tipping Point / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	8566 State Route 29	Montrose	Susquehanna	The Nature Conservancy	The preserve features 200 acres of old-growth forest (largest tract in the state) on the 648-acre landscape. Trails and 90 bird species are features in the year-round site.								Y
Woodlands Campus Trails, Keystone College	E/N/R	Tipping Point	1 College Green	La Plume	Wyoming	Keystone College	The 170-acre Woodlands Campus of Keystone College has seven miles of hiking trails with interpretive signs and offers environmental education programming.								Y
Worlds End State Park	E/N/R	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	82 Cabin Bridge Road	Forksville	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania / DCNR	The 780-acre park containing the Loyalsock Creek gorge and other geologic features lies within the Loyalsock State Forest.						State Park		Y
Worlds End State Park Family Cabin District	H/R	Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	World's End State Park	Forksville	Sullivan	Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Between 1933 and 1941, the CCC build amenities at the park. An 18.4-acre district includes 19 cabins and 3 latrines with native stones and timber.	NRHP	May 18, 1987						Y
Wright's View Overlook	N	Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Old U.S. Route 220	Muncy Valley	Sullivan	Private	The overlook along Old Route 220 features views of the mountains around Muncy Valley and portions of State Game Lands No. 13.								Y
Wyalusing Borough Historic District	H	Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	Wyalusing Creek and the Township of Wyalusing	Wyalusing	Bradford	Various	The heart of Wyalusing has contributing buildings from 1825 to 1925, including civic and commercial buildings.	NRHP	September 15, 2003						Y
Wyalusing Rocks Overlook	C/E/H/N/R	Tipping Point / Transportation and Transformation	40321 U.S. Rt. 6	Wyalusing	Bradford		Also known as Prayer Rocks, the site overlooks the Susquehanna River. It was important to Native American cultures and marked the intersection of the interstate Warriors Path and Wyalusing Path.								Y

Wyalusing Valley Museum	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	25 Main Street	Wyalusing	Bradford	Wyalusing Valley Museum Association	The museum's collection includes historic photos, Native American artifacts, military uniforms and artifacts, and artifacts from daily life of Wyalusing residents.						Y
Wyoming County Co-Operative Farmers Market	C	Cultivating History	3444 US-6	Tunkhannock	Wyoming		Cooperative farmers market that is open from July through Thanksgiving.						Y
Wyoming County Historical Society Museum and Genealogical Library	E/H	Tipping Point / Revolutionary Change / Cultivating History / Transportation and Transformation / Boom, Bust, and Rebirth	11 E. Harrison Street	Tunkhannock	Wyoming	Wyoming County Historical Society	Housed in the 1854 Sand Hill School, the society holds newspapers, burial records, and census records for research and a range of exhibits related to the area's history.						Y
Yarns Cider Mill	C/E/H	Cultivating History	2520 State Route 2014	Clifford Township	Susquehanna	Clifford Historical Society	Cider mill dating to the 19th century located on a historic farm property. The mill contains the original 1894 Boomer and Boschert screw press, which has been restored to function.						Y

APPENDIX I – RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

- Honorable Lisa Baker, Senator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Honorable Gene Yaw, Senator, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania House of Representatives
- Honorable Jonathan Fritz, Representative, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Honorable Joseph Hamm, Representative, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Honorable Clint Owlett, Representative, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- Honorable Tina Pickett, Representative, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
- DCNR Bureau of Forestry

County Government

- Bradford County Commission
- Sullivan County Commission
- Susquehanna County Commission
- Wyoming County Commission

Local Government

- Nicholson Borough
- Oakland Borough
- Sayre Borough
- Susquehanna Depot Borough
- Tunkhannock Borough
- Susquehanna County Planning Department
- Wyoming County Planning Department
- Bradford County Conservation District

National Park Service

- Steamtown National Historic Site

Arts, Civic, and Cultural Organizations

- Dietrich Theater
- Waverly Community House

Community and Economic Development Organizations

- Laporte Enhancement Committee
- Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development
- Progress Authority
- Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce

Environment and Recreation Organizations

- Countryside Conservancy
- Friends of Salt Springs State Park
- Loyalsock Foundation
- Penn State Extension
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Rail Trail Council of NEPA
- Trout Unlimited Lackawanna Valley Chapter

History, Historic Preservation, and Humanities Organizations

- Bradford County Historical Society
- Brooklyn Historical Society
- Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust
- French Azilum Historical Site
- Heritage Village & Farm Museum
- Metcalf Mansion – Jon & Denise Ebersole
- Nicholson Heritage Association
- Sullivan County Historical Society
- Susquehanna County Historical Society
- Wyalusing Valley Museum
- Wyoming County Historical Society

Religious Community

- Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church

Tourism Agencies and Businesses

- Bradford County Tourism and Promotion Agency
- Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
- Susquehanna County Promotion and Tourism Agency

173 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
SENATE BOX 203020
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3020
(717) 787-7428
FAX (717) 787-9242

22 DALLAS SHOPPING CENTER
DALLAS, PA 18612
(570) 675-3931
FAX (570) 674-5037

2512 ROUTE 6, SUITE 3
HAWLEY, PA 18428
(570) 226-8960
FAX (570) 226-5964

50 NORTH WALNUT STREET, SUITE 105
NANTICOKE, PA 18634
(570) 740-2432
FAX (570) 740-2438



COMMITTEES

JUDICIARY, CHAIR
BANKING & INSURANCE, VICE CHAIR
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
LABOR & INDUSTRY
VETERANS AFFAIRS &
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

LBAKER@PASEN.GOV
SENATORBAKER.COM

Senate of Pennsylvania

SENATOR

LISA BAKER
20TH DISTRICT

October 27, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
PO Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Dear Mr. Chamberlin:

I am writing to support the application of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) for congressional designation as a National Heritage Region.

Established in 1998, the EMHR proudly serves a 2,850-square mile area encompassing Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming counties and plays a vital role in strengthening our region's economy through tourism, heritage preservation, outdoor recreational development, and the management of the Susquehanna River North Branch Water Trail.

The EMHR is a proven regional asset. It is one of only twelve current heritage areas across the Commonwealth, which are designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), and its initiatives have undoubtedly increased the quality of life for area residents and encouraged tourism across the four counties.

I fully support this worthwhile initiative, and I encourage congress' positive consideration of the EMHR's application for designation as a National Heritage Region.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Baker
Senator

**SENATOR
GENE YAW
23RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

382 MAIN CAPITOL
SENATE BOX 203023
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3023
(717) 787-3280
FAX (717) 772-0875

175 PINE STREET, SUITE 106
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
(570) 322-6457
FAX (570) 327-3703
TOLL FREE (800) 443-5772

5 MAIN STREET
WELLSBORO, PA 16901
570-724-5231
FAX: 570-723-5119

www.senatorgeneyaw.com
gyaw@pasen.gov



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES & ENERGY
CHAIR

JUDICIARY, VICE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS

BANKING & INSURANCE

COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC &
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MAJORITY POLICY

RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

THE CENTER FOR RURAL PENNSYLVANIA
CHAIRMAN

October 21, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

RE: National Heritage Area Designation for Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlain:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) designation as a National Heritage Area.

As state senator of the 23rd District of Pennsylvania, the EMHR contains two counties that I represent: Bradford and Sullivan. As someone that champions those that foster economic vitality, job growth, and tourism, I am grateful that EMHR is a dedicated community partner, and one that highlights the power of collaboration and shared vision with other organizations, businesses, and government at all levels.

The EMHR is a treasured area with hundreds of regional resources knit together in a cultural tapestry. This designation would shine a well-deserved spotlight on the extraordinary landmarks, people, and natural riches unique to this area, further inspiring even more people to experience all it has to offer. Further, NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the EMHR special, while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for leadership on this effort. I am happy to offer my support for this designation, and hope for positive results in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gene Yaw".

GENE YAW
SENATOR

GY/dr

JENNIFER O'MARA, MEMBER
165TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
DELAWARE COUNTY
SOUTHEAST DELEGATION, CHAIR

P.O. BOX 202165
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2165
(717) 783-4090
FAX: (717) 772-2284

26 EAST FOURTH STREET
MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19063
(610) 544-9678
FAX: (484) 200-8270



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES
LABOR & INDUSTRY
TRANSPORTATION
EDUCATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

December 11, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

We write in support of the initiative to designate the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area. The Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania are home to marvelous natural beauty, outdoor recreation opportunities, and cultural traditions that have shaped communities for generations. Formal recognition as a National Heritage Area will strengthen the region's ability to share these assets with residents and visitors alike while unlocking critical resources that support long-term economic growth.

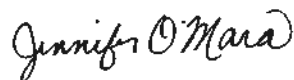
Pennsylvania's heritage regions play a vital role in expanding tourism, preserving outdoor spaces, and promoting local history. Through drawing visitors to our towns, parks, waterways, farms, and vast trail networks, the EMHR already contributes significantly to Pennsylvania's recreation economy. National Heritage Area designation will amplify this economic impact — bringing new visibility, attracting federal grant funding, and creating opportunities for public-private partnerships that local communities cannot access otherwise.

The National Heritage Area model is a proven grassroots approach that enhances regional collaboration, protects private property rights, and relies on voluntary participation. The EMHR demonstrates success in building partnerships across local governments, conservation groups, business leaders, cultural institutions, and residents. By gaining National Heritage Area status, the region will be better positioned to invest in restoration projects, broaden outdoor infrastructure, increase recreational tourism, and support small businesses that work to sustain local economies.

This designation is not simply an honorific — it is an economic development tool. From trail systems and river access points to historic downtowns and heritage sites, the Endless Mountains offer experiences that draw visitors from across the state and beyond. Strengthening these assets helps communities retain young families, grow local entrepreneurship, and promote quality of life. Federal recognition will ensure that these efforts are sustainable and accessible to the many Pennsylvanians who rely on outdoor recreation for livelihood, community connection, and wellbeing.

We are grateful for your leadership and the ongoing work of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. We are proud to lend our support to this important initiative and look forward to the opportunities that National Heritage Area designation will bring to Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



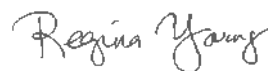
Rep. Jennifer O'Mara
165th Legislative District
Delaware County



Rep. Tina Pickett
110th Legislative District
Bradford & Wyoming Counties



Rep. Mary Jo Daley
148th Legislative District
Montgomery County



Rep. Regina Young
185th Legislative District
Delaware & Philadelphia Counties



Rep. Tarah Probst
189th Legislative District
Monroe & Pike Counties



Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz
129th Legislative District
Berks County



Rep. Jill Cooper
55th Legislative District
Westmoreland County



Rep. Jamie Flick
83rd Legislative District
Lycoming & Union Counties

JONATHAN A. FRITZ, MEMBER
111TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 202111
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2111
PHONE: 717-783-2910
FAX: 717-782-2957

DISTRICT OFFICES
821 MAIN STREET
NEW MILFORD, PA 18834
PHONE: 570-782-2264
FAX: 570-782-2265

32 COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 300
HONESDALE, PA 18431
PHONE: 570-253-5533
FAX: 570-253-8046



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES
FINANCE
GAMING OVERSIGHT
INSURANCE
LIQUOR CONTROL
RULES

WEBSITE: REPFRITZ.COM
EMAIL: JFRITZ@PAHOUSEGOP.COM
FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/REPFRITZ

October 6, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort. I am proud to add my voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan A. Fritz".

Jonathan A. Fritz
State Representative
111th District

JOE HAMM, MEMBER
84TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES:
274 BROAD STREET
MONTGOMERYVILLE, PA 17754
PHONE: 570-546-2084 OR 570-327-2084

TIADAGHTON VALLEY MALL, ROOM 105
701 ALLEGHENY STREET, BOX 4
JERSEY SHORE, PA 17740
PHONE: 570-398-4476
FAX: 570-398-5963

MATTERN BUILDING
7406 STATE ROUTE 487, SUITE 7
MILDRED, PA 18632
PHONE: 570-314-2036



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. BOX 202084
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2084
PHONE: 717-787-5270
FAX: 717-772-9958

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
ENERGY
JUDICIARY
TRANSPORTATION
VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS

CAUCUSES:
AGRICULTURE
BROADBAND
GAS & OIL
PRO LIFE
SECOND AMENDMENT

October 16, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Cain:

I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area. As a State Legislator representing the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, I know how this designation could have an overwhelmingly positive impact on an already vibrant and well-known historical area of our Commonwealth.

Attracting people to visit, stay, and potentially relocate to our communities in the Northern Tier is one of my top priorities as a State Representative. This designation would distinguish the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as the 7th National Heritage Area in Pennsylvania. Our Commonwealth leads the Country in NHA designations, and the Endless Mountains Heritage Region would be a great addition to the world-class NHA offerings in our State.

I deeply value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

These types of improvements and designations attract people to visit and stay in rural Pennsylvania, and I offer my complete support to this effort. Please feel free to share this letter with any government agency, non-profit organization, business, or citizen as you seek community support for the NHA designation. Thank you for your strong leadership with this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe D. Hamm".

Joseph D. Hamm
State Representative
84th District

CLINT D. OWLETT
CAUCUS SECRETARY
68TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

CAPITOL OFFICE
P.O. Box 202068
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2068
Phone: 717-772-5371

Website: RepOwlett.com
Email: cowlett@pahousegop.com
Facebook: facebook.com/RepOwlett
Instagram: /RepOwlett



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

DISTRICT OFFICES
74 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901-1504
Phone: 570-724-1390

121 Canton Street
Troy, PA 16947
Phone: 570-297-3045

October 17, 2025

Mr. Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Dear Mr. Chamberlain:

As the Pennsylvania State Representative for the 68th Legislative District, I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

The 68th Legislative District includes a portion of Bradford County. I appreciate what the EMHR has done to serve the outdoor recreation and historic preservation needs for Bradford County and the other counties which make up this region. We truly live in a region with its own unique rural character and culture and it is important that it be preserved and celebrated.

The NHA aligns with the EMHR's goals and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. I value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. The NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort and thank you for allowing me to express my voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clint Owlett".

Clint Owlett
State Representative
68th Legislative District

TINA PICKETT, MEMBER
110th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

P.O. BOX 202110
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2110
PHONE: 717-783-8238

320 MAIN STREET
TOWANDA, PA 18848
PHONE: 570-265-3124

106 WEST PACKER AVENUE
SAYRE, PA 18840
PHONE: 570-888-9011

133 W. TIOGA STREET, STE. 4
TUNKHANNOCK, PA 18657
PHONE: 570-836-4777



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

REPUBLICAN CHAIR, INSURANCE COMMITTEE
RULES COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

TPICKETT@PAHOUSEGOP.COM

REPPICKETT.COM

10/24/2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

This designation would preserve, restore and enrich the rural communities within the Endless Mountains area, and it compliments ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. I value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. Spreading awareness about our region to attract visitors would be greatly beneficial to our residents and NHA designation will help both residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. I am proud to add my voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina Pickett".

Tina Pickett

PA State Representative

110th Legislative District

Email: tpickett@pahousegop.com

Phone: 570-265-3124



Pennsylvania
**Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources**

Bureau of Forestry

Rachel Carson State Office Building | P.O. Box 8767 | Harrisburg, PA 17105-8767 | Phone: (717) 772-9084 | Fax: (717) 772-9106 | dcnr.pa.gov

October 30, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Bureau of Forestry's mission is to conserve, steward, and enhance Pennsylvania's trees, forests, and native wild plants and connect with the people and communities we serve. We manage 2.2 million acres of public state forest land to provide forest-based recreational opportunities, sustainable forest products, and numerous ecosystem benefits including wildlife habitat, clean water, and clean air for all Pennsylvanians. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. DCNR's Loyalsock State Forest is approximately 115,000 acres, much of which is within or adjacent to the EMHR and provides hundreds of miles of hiking trails as well as ample opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, and natural sightseeing, which are key to the culture of the region. We have a collaborative history with the EMHR aligning outdoor recreation across the region, connecting with communities and local business and providing organized outdoor recreation opportunities for business owners and our constituents.

Designation aligns with our goals to conserve and enhance Pennsylvania's forest resources and connect with the people of Pennsylvania and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seth P. Cassell". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Seth Cassell
State Forester
Bureau of Forestry
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Daryl L. Miller, Chairman
Doug McLinko, Vice Chairman
Zachary R. Gates, Commissioner

Michelle L. Shedden, Chief Clerk
Jonathan Foster, Solicitor



Bradford County Commissioners Office

**A Resolution of the Board of Bradford County Commissioners
Supporting the Designation of the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area
Resolution 2025-26**

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains form a significant, diverse, region in northeastern Pennsylvania and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic, and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains region is distinguished by rural pastoral landscapes shaped by centuries of agriculture and timbering, early Native American and later European settlements, and rolling hills overlooking the Susquehanna River North Branch that meanders through the 2,850 square mile region; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's (EMHR) board of directors and supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, EMHR hired Point Heritage Development Consulting to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources and work with EMHR to develop the Feasibility Study of the Endless Mountains; and,

WHEREAS, the following counties are to be considered as part of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study: Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming; and,

WHEREAS, Bradford County is within the Endless Mountains region has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and recreational resources pertinent to the Feasibility Study; and,


WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc., founded in 1998, has worked tirelessly with the counties, various regional organizations, municipal governments, regional schools, and state agencies to preserve our cultural and historic assets and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in the area, and has the desire and will act as the coordinating entity to pursue a National Heritage Area designation under the National Park Service;


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Bradford County Board of Commissioners supports the findings of the feasibility study and the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area.

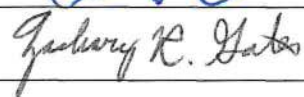
ATTEST:



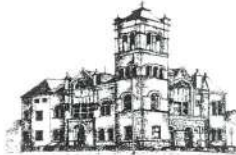
Michelle L. Shedden, Chief Clerk







Bradford County Commissioners



Sullivan County Commissioners

245 Muncy St., P.O. Box 157
Laporte, PA 18626

Phone 570-946-5201 Fax 570-946-4421
commissioners@sullivancountypa.gov
www.sullivancountypa.gov

Darlene Fenton
Chair
Scott D. Myers, Jr.
Vice Chair
Brian Hoffman
Commissioner

Hope Verelst
Chief Clerk
Kenneth R. Levitzky
Solicitor

**A Resolution of the Board of Sullivan County Commissioners
Supporting the Designation of the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area
Resolution No. 2025-9
Date: November 3, 2025**

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains form a national significant, diverse, region in northeastern Pennsylvania and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic, and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains region is distinguished by rural pastoral landscapes shaped by centuries of agriculture and timbering, early Native American and later European settlements, and rolling hills overlooking the Susquehanna River North Branch that meanders through the 2,850 square mile region; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains National Heritage Area Feasibility Study was authorized by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region’s (EMHR) board of directors and supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, EMHR hired Point Heritage Development Consulting to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources and work with EMHR to develop the Feasibility Study of the Endless Mountains; and,

WHEREAS, the following counties are to be considered as part of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study: Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming; and,

WHEREAS, Sullivan County is within the Endless Mountains region has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and recreational resources pertinent to the Feasibility Study; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc., founded in 1998, has worked tirelessly with the counties, various regional organizations, municipal governments, regional schools, and state agencies to preserve our cultural and historic assets and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in the area, and has the desire and will act as the coordinating entity to pursue a National Heritage Area designation under the National Park Service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners supports the findings of the feasibility study and the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area.

SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:


Darlene A. Fenton
Chair


Scott D. Myers Jr.
Vice-Chair


Brian L. Hoffman
Commissioner



**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION 2025-14
**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE ENDLESS
MOUNTAINS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains form a national significant, diverse, region in northeastern Pennsylvania and encompasses a patchwork of cultures and history, as well as spectacular natural, scenic, and recreational resources that reflect a unique contribution to the collective American identity; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains region is distinguished by rural pastoral landscapes shaped by centuries of agriculture and timbering, early Native American and later European settlements, and rolling hills overlooking the Susquehanna River North Branch that meanders through the 2,850 square mile region; and,

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the authority to designate National Heritage Areas that encompasses a region where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape shaped by geography and cultural traditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains National Heritage Region Feasibility Study was authorized by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's (EMHR) board of directors and supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, EMHR hired Point Heritage Development Consulting to evaluate the natural, historic, cultural, educational, and recreational resources and work with EMHR to develop the Feasibility Study of the Endless Mountains; and,

WHEREAS, the following counties are to be considered as part of the National Heritage Area Feasibility Study: Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming; and,

WHEREAS, Susquehanna County is within the Endless Mountains region has a plethora of natural, cultural, historic, agricultural, and recreational resources pertinent to the Feasibility Study; and,

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region, Inc., founded in 1998, has worked tirelessly with the counties, various regional organizations, municipal governments, regional schools, and state agencies to preserve our cultural and historic assets and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in the area, and has the desire and will act as the coordinating entity to pursue a National Heritage Area designation under the National Park Service;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners supports the findings of the feasibility study and the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area.

Adopted this 12th Day of November, 2025, at a duly held public meeting of the Susquehanna County Board of Commissioners.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Alan M. Hall

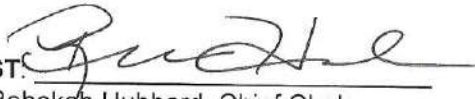


David Darrow



Robert McNamara

ATTEST:



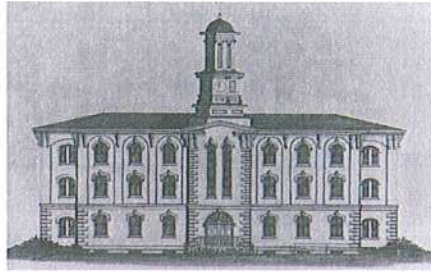
Rebekah Hubbard, Chief Clerk



Richard Wilbur
Chairman

Thomas S. Henry
Vice Chairman

Ernest A. King, Jr.
Commissioner



Amber Franko
Chief Clerk

Anthony P. Litwin, III
Solicitor

Commissioners of Wyoming County
1 Courthouse Square
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
(570) 996-2273
(570) 836-7244

October 21, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

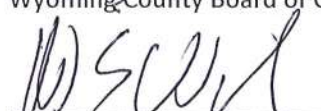
On behalf of the Wyoming County Commissioners, we are writing to express strong support for seeking approval to designate the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Endless Mountains region, encompassing Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, and Wyoming Counties, is a place of extraordinary natural beauty, deep historical roots, and strong community spirit. From the rolling farmlands and forested hills to the Susquehanna River that winds through our towns, this region tells an authentic story of rural Pennsylvania's contributions to the broader American experience.

Since its establishment in 1998, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region has been an exceptional partner to Wyoming County. The EMHR has supported numerous local initiatives that enhance outdoor recreation, preserve historic sites, and promote heritage tourism, strengthening our economy while protecting the character and traditions that define our communities.

Designation as a National Heritage Area would provide well-deserved national recognition and valuable federal support for the EMHR's ongoing work. This status would help sustain and expand the programs that celebrate our history, protect our landscapes, and create new opportunities for education, tourism, and economic growth throughout the region. We are proud to stand with our neighboring counties in strong support of this designation and are urging its approval. The Wyoming County Commissioners have reviewed and wholeheartedly endorse the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's application for National Heritage Area status.

Sincerely,
Wyoming County Board of Commissioners


Richard Wilbur, Chairman


Thomas Henry, Vice Chairman


Ernest King, Commissioner

WYOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
RESOLUTION 2025-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE WYOMING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Supporting the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area and urging Congressional designation of the same.

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains region of northeastern Pennsylvania — including all of Wyoming County — contains an exceptional concentration of historically, culturally, and naturally significant resources that collectively tell the story of the region’s settlement, industry, agriculture, recreation, and cultural traditions; and

WHEREAS, the Endless Mountains Heritage Region includes historic trails, nineteenth-century towns and architecture, working farms, forests, rivers and streams, and important sites of community memory that contribute to regional identity and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, tourism, heritage preservation, recreation, and outdoor recreation are important contributors to Wyoming County’s local economy and quality of life, supporting small businesses, creating jobs, and attracting visitors who spend money at hotels, restaurants, shops, and attractions across the County; and

WHEREAS, designation as a National Heritage Area would provide a cooperative federal recognition and a framework for coordinating local, regional, state, and federal efforts to preserve, interpret, and promote our shared natural and cultural heritage without imposing federal land acquisition or federal control over local land use; and

WHEREAS, a National Heritage Area designation would increase opportunities for heritage tourism, education, historic preservation, cultural programming, and community-based economic development in Wyoming County and the broader region; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming County Board of Commissioners/Council supports collaborative, locally led approaches to heritage management that respect private property and local planning authority while expanding access to technical assistance and voluntary funding tools for preservation and interpretation efforts; and

WHEREAS, coordination among counties, municipalities, nonprofits, businesses, tourism organizations, historical societies, and other stakeholders is essential to successfully promote and sustain the region’s heritage assets for present and future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wyoming County Board of Commissioners/Council hereby:

1. **Endorses and supports** the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area by the United States Congress, are in agreement with the feasibility study and believe it is an accurate depiction of the region’s history.

2. **Urges** the County's Congressional delegation to sponsor or support federal legislation necessary to designate the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area and to pursue any authorizations or appropriations needed to support locally led heritage coordination activities.

Adopted this 21st day of October 2025, by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Wyoming.

WYOMING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

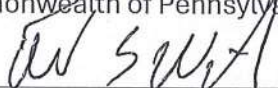
ATTEST:



Chief Clerk

(SEAL)


COUNTY OF WYOMING
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

By: 

Chairman, Board of Commissioners

By: 

Vice Chairman, Board of Commissioners

By: 

Commissioner

NICHOLSON BOROUGH

402 Main Street
P.O. Box 610
Nicholson, PA 18446
Phone: 570-942-6451
Email: nicholsonboro@gmail.com

November 3, 2025

Mr. Cain Chamberlin
Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's Designation as a National Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Borough of Nicholson and the Nicholson Borough Council, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Borough of Nicholson is located in the heart of the Endless Mountains. We have much to offer in terms of outdoor recreation and historic properties. We have received EMHR funding to help us establish a historic walking trail in the Borough. Projects like these promote tourism and economic development, both crucial to Nicholson and the surrounding region. We value our collaborative partnership with EMHR.

A national designation aligns with our goals to promote economic development and attract tourists to Nicholson and complements ongoing local, state, and Federal initiatives. We value the National Heritage Area model collaborative approach, reliance on voluntary participation, and respect for private property rights. A National Heritage Area designation will help our region better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make our region special, while still supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for leading this effort. We stand proud to add our voice of support for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's designation as a National Heritage Area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Bower". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned over a faint, circular official seal of the Borough of Nicholson.

Jessica Bower-Borough Manager

OAKLAND BOROUGH

**380 STATE STREET
PHONE/FAX (570) 853-3214
oaklandborough@gmail.com
www.oaklandborough.com**

October 21, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Oakland Borough, I am writing to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

As a small river town, Oakland Borough operates within a rural and underserved county and region. We work tirelessly with limited resources to provide even the most basic services to our residents. Without the guidance, advocacy, and resources of EMHR, our ability to protect, interpret, and preserve the history of our community would be greatly diminished.

We rely on the Endless Mountains Heritage Region for historical preservation and interpretation, as well as for grant funding and project guidance that help us sustain and celebrate our local heritage. EMHR has been an indispensable partner in ensuring that small municipalities like ours remain connected to the broader narrative of the Susquehanna River and the cultural identity of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Our work is deeply tied to the region's historic towns, waterways, and traditions. The stories of Susquehanna County and the Endless Mountains region are rich and meaningful—but they can only be told, shared, and preserved through the continued funding and recognition of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region.

Designation as a National Heritage Area aligns perfectly with our goals of resource stewardship, community revitalization, and heritage education. It complements ongoing local and state initiatives and supports sustainable economic development by encouraging residents and visitors alike to explore and care for the places that make our region so special.

We value the National Heritage Area model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. EMHR's leadership has already demonstrated the effectiveness of this model on a regional scale, and formal designation will only strengthen their impact.

Thank you for your continued leadership and vision. Oakland Borough is proud to add its voice of strong support for this important designation.

Sincerely,

Brad Krayeski
President of Council



Borough of Sayre

Bradford County, Pennsylvania 18840

October 27, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Borough of Sayre, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

Sayre Borough is the youngest municipality in Bradford County incorporated in 1891, but is the largest in population (5000 plus). We are home to the Guthrie Clinic, a rural regional healthcare system that in Sayre Borough alone has over one million visitors a year. Our town has been involved in revitalization initiatives for the past few years in an effort to make it more attractive to the much-needed talent to sustain our current businesses and industry. We have a very functional library, museum and theatre, all of which are located in the heart of our downtown. We have partnered with EMHR on many of our projects and we are often times a designation on EMHR river paddles and bicycle marathons. EMHR has been a partner with the Sayre Historical Society on a multitude of matching grants that have helped the society which will hit 1,000 visitors from 24 states and four foreign countries this year continue on their mission to tell and preserve the story of Sayre.

Designation aligns with our goals to continue with the revitalization of our downtown and improvements to our five borough parks, including Riverfront Park, our access to the Susquehanna River through our boat launch. Riverfront Park features the Diahoga Trail, a riverside walking path developed with significant involvement from EMHR, this compliments ongoing local, state and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach. Respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

Henry G. Farley
Mayor Borough of Sayre
hfarley@stny.rr.com
570-888-7739

Administration Offices
110 West Packer Avenue
Sayre, Pennsylvania
Office: 570-888-7739
Fax: 570-888-6598

Code Enforcement Agency
110 West Packer Avenue
Sayre, Pennsylvania
Office: 570-888-4410
Fax: 570-888-6598

Fire Department
110 West Packer Avenue
Sayre, Pennsylvania
Office: 570-888-9612
Fax: 570-888-6598

Public Works Department
321 South Thomas Avenue
Sayre, Pennsylvania
Office: 570-888-5131
Fax: 570-888-9305

Police Department
234 South Lehigh Avenue
Sayre, Pennsylvania
Office: 570-888-2233
Fax: 570-888-8005

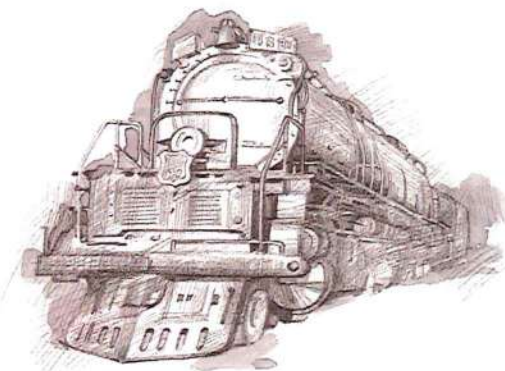
Borough of Susquehanna Depot

83 Erie Boulevard, Suite A

Susquehanna PA 18847

Phone: 570-853-3235 Fax: 570-853-5080

Email: susqboro@gmail.com



November 5, 2025

Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Attn: Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director

RE: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Susquehanna Depot Borough, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

Susquehanna is home to 1,312 residents and is located within the beautiful Endless Mountains, alongside the Susquehanna River. Our town has strived to provide outdoor recreation for our residents, provide healthy activities along the trails and waterway and promote tourism and community revitalization. All of our efforts have been successful, thanks to the support and assistance provided by Endless Mountains Heritage Region.

Designation of the National Heritage Area will further align with the goals to continue providing support and guidance to our borough, along with surrounding communities supported by the Endless Mountain Heritage Region, and complements ongoing local, state and federal initiatives.

We value the National Heritage Area model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. National Heritage Area designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

We are proud to support this designation and thank you for your leadership on this effort.

Sincerely,

William Bremenour
Council President

Tunkhannock Borough
126 Warren Street, Suite 2
Tunkhannock PA 18657



Phone (570)836-1548
Fax (570)836-9006

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountain Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing PA 18853

November 3, 2025

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,


On behalf of the Borough of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County, we are writing to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

Tunkhannock Borough proudly serves as the County Seat of Wyoming County, one of the four jurisdictions comprising the EMHR and its mission to celebrate, preserve, and enhance the unique rural character and culture of the Endless Mountains. As such, our Borough is closely aligned with and supportive of both our county government and the Wyoming County Cultural Center which has directly benefitted from EMHR grant programs, most recently receiving two grants totaling \$10,947 for their annual Tunkhannock River day Celebration and enabling the updating/printing of new Explore Wyoming County Parks and Trails brochures.

Achieving the NHA designation would align closely with our established goals and would complement ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. This designation would help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the endless Mountains special, while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in this matter. We are pleased to add our support for this important initiative.

Sincerely,


Stacy Huber
Mayor
stacyhuber@outlook.com
(570) 760-6019


Benjamin Barziloski
President, Borough Council
bbarazoliski@gmail.com
(570) 881-8344

**SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**



Patti L. Peltz, Director of Planning

Carol Ainey, Deputy Director

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region
Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Susquehanna County Planning and Development, I am pleased to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area. This designation would be an outstanding recognition of the region's rich cultural, historical, and natural resources, as well as a vital step toward ensuring their preservation and interpretation for future generations.

The Endless Mountains region represents a truly unique landscape—one that reflects the heritage of Pennsylvania's rural communities, agricultural traditions, natural beauty, and the enduring character of its people. The efforts of EMHR to highlight these shared assets through planning, education, conservation, and heritage tourism align closely with the goals of the Susquehanna County Comprehensive Plan.

Designation will bring meaningful benefits to the region and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development. It will also help strengthen collaboration among our counties as we work together to protect the history and landscape that define the Endless Mountains.

Susquehanna County Planning fully supports this initiative and appreciates the continued leadership of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region in preserving and promoting the area's distinctive character.

Sincerely,

Patti L. Peltz
Director Susquehanna County Planning,
Agricultural Easement Purchase Program Director

Susquehanna County Courthouse, 31 Lake Avenue, Montrose, PA 18801
(570) 278-5950 Fax (570) 278-5951
E-Mail: susqplan@susqco.com www.susqco.com



Wyoming County Office of Community Planning

Matthew C. Jones, AICP, Director

Meghan Coury, Administrative Assistant

1 Courthouse Square, 3rd Floor, Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Phone: 570-996-2268

WyomingCountyPA.gov/board

Nov. 6, 2025

Endless Mountains Heritage Region
c/o Cain Chamberlin, Exec. Director
P.O. Box 115
76 Main Street
Wyalusing, PA 18853

RE: Supporting the **ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE REGION** of Pennsylvania
to be designated a **NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

This letter is to express support from the Wyoming County Office of Community Planning for your appeal to the U.S. Congress that they act to designate the Endless Mountains Heritage Region of Pennsylvania as a National Heritage Area.

This kind of recognition for our Region at the national level will further elevate its status as the special destination it is— with its strikingly arranged mountains, forests, river valleys; industrial and agricultural heritage; and the shared history of its peoples. Ours is one of the counties comprising the Region along with Bradford, Sullivan, and Susquehanna Counties. Notable features in this County include the Tunkhannock Viaduct, the Susquehanna River, Vosburg Neck State Park, our abundance of small fishing creeks, and vast State Game Lands.

Federal classification will amplify area leaders' efforts at touting the distinct characteristics that make the Endless Mountains unique, such as our local festivals, homespun crafts, produce vendors, and plentiful outdoor recreational opportunities— which in turn will attract more visitors to this picturesque Region so they can experience it for themselves.

This added tourism will inject additional revenues into the Region, and allow us to share its memorable attractions with our fellow Americans and the wider world. This will advance the goals of achieving a higher level of marketing to “promote tourism” and “persuade persons [to] visit the area... [and] patronize... businesses” listed in the **2019-2029 Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan**. The added revenues will also lend to the continued success of our Region's economy, further enabling us to “maintain the scenic attractiveness” of the area— another Plan goal.

This designation will open doors to new grant opportunities as well as unlock recurring federal appropriations the Region can leverage to boost pre-existing collaborative partnerships; conserve the resources that make the Region special; and reach audiences further afield with the story we are trying to tell.

Goals listed in the **2021 Wyoming County Greenways, Trails, and Open Space Plan** such as our desire to “highlight indigenous and historic narratives... create new connections... and promote local recreation and tourism through marketing” will be advanced through our selection.

The National Heritage Area label will also lead to “improve[d] signage/wayfinding [for] amenities and attractions” and “increase [the] use of [these] public amenities—” additional goals listed in the **2024 Wyoming County Mobility Study for Tunkhannock**.

As you know— The Wyoming County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously on Oct. 21, 2025 to pass **Resolution #2025-15** urging the Congress to create this designation and provide annual funding for an “Endless Mountains National Heritage Area” through new federal legislation.

Thank you for spearheading this important work of advocacy for our Region. We join you in seeking this special designation for the Endless Mountains.

Please include this letter in your submissions to the National Park Service and Members of Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M-C Jones AICP". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Matthew C. Jones, AICP
Director of Community Planning
County of Wyoming, Pennsylvania



October 20, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Bradford County Conservation District, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Bradford County Conservation District's mission is to Lead, Educate and Empower People to Manage Resources Wisely, and serves Bradford County and surrounding areas. We work with landowners, schools, municipalities, non-profit groups, etc. to provide education, resources, and collaborative efforts to keep our water clean and our soils stable. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. Our education coordinator has worked with EMHR several times along their paddling floats to offer educational lessons to those participating in the event. In addition, BCCD has been a member of EMHR for several years. We are in full support of their efforts to get the region designated as a National Heritage Area.

Designation aligns with our goals to conserve our natural resources, educate citizens on the importance of them, and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cathy S. Yeakel'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Cathy Yeakel

District Manager

Bradford County Conservation District

cathy.yeakel@pa.nacdnet.net, 570-485-3122, bccdpa.com



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Steamtown National Historic Site
150 S Washington Street
Scranton, PA 18503-2018

21 November 2025

Mr. Cain Chamberlin
Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
PO Box 115
76 Main Street
Wyalusing, PA 18853

RE: Support for Congressional Designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Cain Chamberlin,

On behalf of Steamtown National Historic Site, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's (EMHR) pursuit of congressional designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA). We recognize that such designation follows a formal review process by the National Park Service and ultimately requires an act of Congress. The proposal aligns closely with Steamtown's mission to preserve and interpret the nationally significant story of railroading in the United States, particularly its enduring impact on the communities and landscapes of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Railroading is not merely a Scranton story. It is a regional—and more importantly, a national—story that helped shape the economic development, industrial expansion, and cultural identity of the United States. The Endless Mountains region played a meaningful role in this narrative. Historic rail corridors, such as the Tunkhannock Viaduct, along with the region's depots and rights-of-way, connected rural Pennsylvania to metropolitan markets and supported the movement of anthracite coal, timber, manufactured goods, and agricultural products that fueled the nation's industrial growth.

Designation as a National Heritage Area could enhance the preservation and interpretation of these nationally significant resources by providing a coordinated framework for telling a broader, interconnected American story. It could also promote heritage tourism, expand educational opportunities, and contribute to regional revitalization. Most importantly, NHA designation empowers community-driven partnerships dedicated to conserving and interpreting our shared cultural landscape.

Visitors to Steamtown consistently express a desire to understand how railroading shaped the broader region beyond our park boundaries. A formally designated NHA would enable a unified, collaborative approach—bringing together communities, museums, railroads, cultural sites, and historic landscapes. As the proposed coordinating entity, EMHR has demonstrated exceptional organizational capacity and a sustained commitment to heritage preservation, making it well positioned to lead this effort.

We are proud to support EMHR's request for National Heritage Area designation and look forward to continued collaboration in preserving and sharing this remarkable chapter of our nation's history.

Sincerely,

Jeremy M. Komasz
Superintendent
Steamtown National Historic Site

**Wyoming County Cultural Center
at the Dietrich Theater**

60 E Tloga St. Tunkhannock, PA 18657
PHONE (570) 836-1022
FAX (570) 836-3243
wccc@epix.net
www.dietrichtheater.com



October 17, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

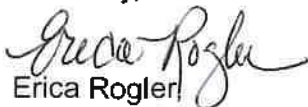
Dear Cain and members of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region board of directors,

On behalf of the Wyoming County Cultural Center, Inc. (Dietrich Theater), I am writing to express our strong endorsement for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area. As a non-profit movie theater and cultural center, the Wyoming County Cultural Center serves over 54,000 children and adults each year in Wyoming County and the surrounding communities of northeastern Pennsylvania. With part of our mission relating to both nature and the humanities, we have partnered with EMHR over the past ten years offering a variety of programming about our region's heritage and vast outdoor recreation opportunities. EMHR has supported important regional events that the Dietrich Theater presents including River Day, heritage presentations, Families in Nature classes, and brochures of the Historic Tunkhannock Walking Tours and the Explore Wyoming County Parks and Trails. Our work gives both residents and visitors an opportunity to learn about and experience our region's rich history and cultural heritage as well as an opportunity to explore the natural wonders and outdoor recreation of the Endless Mountains.

A National Heritage Area (NHA) designation will align seamlessly with our mission to educate both residents and visitors about the rich heritage and traditions of the Endless Mountains. This designation would also serve as a catalyst for community revitalization by attracting increased tourism, thereby driving sustainable economic growth throughout the region. In addition to its economic benefits, NHA designation complements existing local, state, and federal initiatives. We deeply value the NHA model's collaborative framework, its respect for private property rights, and its emphasis on voluntary participation. Ultimately, this designation will foster a deeper appreciation for the landscapes, stories, and cultural assets that make the Endless Mountains unique.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,


Erica Rogler

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Executive Director Wyoming County Cultural Center
rogler@dietrichtheater.com 570-836-1022 x2 DietrichTheater.com

12/8/2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853



Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Waverly Community House, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Waverly Community House, locally known as the Comm, has served the town of Waverly, Pennsylvania and the surrounding region as a hub of community activity for over 100 years. The Comm offers a wide variety of programs and events such as our Comm Kids children's programs and the Destination Freedom: Underground Railroad Walking Tour. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. Recently we've had the pleasure of working together to help bring the Destination Freedom program, a National Park Service affiliate via the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, to the Endless Mountains and I'm very much looking forward to continuing the amazing progress we have made.

The National Heritage Area designation, overseen by the National Park Service, aligns with the Comm's mission to enhance the lives of individuals and families in the region by fostering educational, recreational and cultural opportunities. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

EJ Murphy
Director of Advancement & Historical Programs
Waverly Community House
ejmurphy@waverlycomm.org | 570-586-8191 | www.waverlycomm.org

December 1, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Laporte Enhancement Committee, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Laporte Enhancement Committee was formed to serve the borough of Laporte and surrounding area. We are focused on building social and economic relations in an effort to maintain a strong sense of community in Laporte. Our work is closely tied to the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. The EMHR continues to provide outdoor recreation and cultural heritage preservation opportunities to our area. They have provided extremely beneficial grant writing workshops, cemetery preservation workshops, and other means of direct preservation. As we continue our work on an interactive historical walk with signage through our small town's historic center, the EMHR has shown tremendous support and provided valuable insight.

National Heritage Designation aligns with our goals to improve the economic and social relations within our community and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

Gavin Brandt Siegfried
LEC Chair
Gavinsieg@hotmail.com
570-337-2666

October 16, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

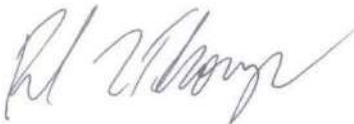
On behalf of the Northern Tier Regional Planning and Development Commission (NTRPDC), I am writing to express our support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

As a Local Development District providing community, economic and workforce development services for Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming counties, our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions.

A National Heritage Area designation aligns with our community development, and outdoor recreation as economic development complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,



Frank L. Thompson
Executive Director



November 4, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of The Progress Authority, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Progress Authority is a Certified Economic Development Organization, serving Bradford and Susquehanna Counties with programs focused on providing enhanced economic opportunities and an improved quality of life within the region. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. The Progress Authority has partnered with the Endless Mountains Heritage Region on a variety of efforts to revitalize our downtown corridors.

The proposed National Designation aligns with our goals to encourage community revitalization as an economic development catalyst that complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,



Matthew Williams
VP of Community & Economic Development
The Progress Authority

Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
202 S Turnpike St,
PO Box 355
Dushore, PA 18614
ph: 272-202-0123



11/6/2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

**Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains
Heritage Region**

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a **National Heritage Area**.

The Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining and promoting economic activity for the betterment of Sullivan County. Through partnerships with local businesses, civic groups, and regional organizations, we strive to strengthen our communities by fostering tourism, supporting small businesses, and promoting the preservation of our county's unique natural and cultural resources. Sullivan County's economy and identity are deeply intertwined with the natural beauty, heritage, and character of the Endless Mountains region.

Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. For many years, the EMHR has been an important partner in advancing community projects that celebrate and protect these assets—ranging from support for outdoor recreation initiatives and heritage tourism to historic preservation and educational programming. These collaborative efforts have helped showcase Sullivan County's scenic landscapes, strengthen local businesses, and deepen appreciation for our shared history and environment.

Designation of the Endless Mountains as a **National Heritage Area** will build upon this foundation of collaboration and amplify the work already underway. It will bring greater visibility and resources to community revitalization, environmental stewardship, and sustainable tourism—initiatives that align perfectly with the Chamber’s mission. The NHA model’s emphasis on voluntary partnerships, respect for local decision-making, and integration of heritage, recreation, and economic development ensures that growth will remain authentic to the people and places it serves.

This designation is not just beneficial—it is intrinsic to sustaining the future of Sullivan County. Our county’s identity is rooted in the natural and cultural heritage that defines the Endless Mountains. Recognizing the EMHR as a National Heritage Area will help preserve that legacy while providing new opportunities for residents, businesses, and visitors alike to engage with and benefit from it.

We wholeheartedly support the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area and look forward to continued partnership in promoting and protecting the region we proudly call home.

Sincerely,
Camelia Peguero
Managing Director
Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce
events@sullivanpachamber.com
sullivancountypachamber.com
ph: 272-202-0123



November 6, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Countryside Conservancy, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

As a nonprofit land trust committed to protecting and connecting greenspace in the Tunkhannock Creek Watershed, we work with the communities and landowners of Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming counties to conserve our priceless resources. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions.

Designating EMHR to an NHA aligns with our goals to conserve more land and increase outdoor recreation opportunities in northeast PA and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

Bill Kern
Executive Director





Friends of Salt Springs Park, Inc.

P.O. Box 541, Montrose, PA 18801
Phone 570 967-7275
www.friendsofsaltsspringspark.org

October 20, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of **The Friends of Salt Springs Park**, I am writing to express our wholehearted support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Friend's mission is to provide opportunities to enjoy healthy outdoor recreation and education while conserving the natural, aesthetic, and historical values of Salt Springs Park. We serve 60,000 visitors annually from the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania, the Southern Tier of New York, and the whole northeast United States by providing hiking, camping, and other eco-tourism offerings such as programs in environmental education, homesteading, archery, and historical displays in our 1800's buildings. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions.

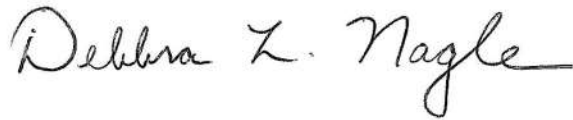
Designation as an NHA aligns with our goals to preserve, protect, and promote the natural and historical features that remain intact within the boundaries of Salt Springs Park. What makes us different is the authenticity of experience at Salt Springs: a place where you can go to *experience* what it was like to settle in the Endless Mountains in the early 1800's. The rustic camping, old orchards, salt spring, and Wheaton homestead offer that experience, thanks to the stewardship efforts of organizations like ours, EMHR, DCNR, and other state and local partners. NHA designation would help us further our goals to educate the public about the fascinating history, geology, ecology and recreational opportunities that exist in

The mission of the Friends of Salt Springs Park is to provide opportunities for enjoying healthy outdoor recreation and to serve as an outdoor classroom for environmental education, while conserving the natural, scenic, aesthetic and historical values of the park.

the Endless Mountains, and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra L. Nagle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Debra L. Nagle

President, The Friends of Salt Springs Park

President@saltspringspark.org | 570.335.2699 | <https://friendsofsaltspringspark.org/>



October 16, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Loyalsock Foundation and The Summit: Center for Wellness, I am writing to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

Loyalsock Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building The Summit: Center for Wellness, a multi-generational regional wellness and community center with facilities for health, fitness, education, and outdoor recreation located in Laporte, Sullivan County. We are deeply invested in the Endless Mountains region, as we work to create a center that not only improves the health and well-being of the community, but also honors and celebrates the rich heritage of the area. The design of The Summit's main facility reflects this connection, resembling a circular saw to pay homage to the logging and lumbering history of Sullivan County.

As we have moved through our phased project, EMHR has played a key role in supporting the development of outdoor recreation opportunities at The Summit. We are proud recipients of two EMHR Partnership Mini-Grants, which have funded interpretive and wayfaring signage for the Summit Loop trail and an ADA pathway - resources that will help visitors better understand the area's landscape, history, and natural beauty.

Designation of EMHR as a National Heritage Area aligns closely with our goals of education, community revitalization, and outdoor recreation. This designation will strengthen collaborative efforts to protect natural and cultural resources while expanding opportunities for residents and visitors to engage with and care for the region. It will also deepen public understanding and appreciation of the places that make the Endless Mountains unique and historically significant.

We are proud to add our voice in support of this important effort and look forward to continuing our partnership with EMHR to celebrate, protect, and share the story of the Endless Mountains.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Blondy".

Mary Blondy
Founder and President
Loyalsock Foundation
maryblondy@loyalsockfoundation.org
www.loyalsockfoundation.org



PennState Extension

November 17, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Penn State Extension, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward program is a volunteer based environmental stewardship group, serving the Endless Mountains with environmental education and conservation project management. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. Since 2022, EMHR's partnership and support have been instrumental in the successful establishment and growth of our program. The NHA designation would benefit the growth of our organization, the quality of environmental programming in the Endless Mountains region, and of course the amount of outdoor recreation offerings as well.

Designation aligns with our goals to strengthen local capacity for management and protection of watersheds, streams, and rivers and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Leaidicker
MWS Coordinator
Penn State Extension

jxl6817@psu.edu 570-666-2009 tinyurl.com/suscomws



pennsylvania environmental council

December 2, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the EMHR

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), I am writing to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

PEC works to protect and restore Pennsylvania's natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education, and advocacy. We believe deeply in the value of partnerships with the private sector, government agencies, communities, and individuals to improve quality of life for all Pennsylvanians. As the Statewide Water Trail Manager, the staffing entity for the Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers, and the External Lead for the Pocono Forests and Waters Conservation Landscape, PEC frequently collaborates with EMHR on programs and projects that advance shared goals.

Our work is closely connected to the region's diverse communities, working and recreational landscapes, waterways, and heritage. Over many years, EMHR's leadership as a state heritage area has strengthened regional conservation, recreation, and community revitalization efforts. PEC's northeast office, in particular, partners regularly with EMHR on initiatives that support environmental stewardship and sustainable outdoor recreation.

National Heritage Area designation for the Endless Mountains would build on this successful model. It would enhance the region's ability to help residents and visitors understand, appreciate, and care for the landscapes and communities that make the area unique. This designation aligns strongly with PEC's mission and would support both quality of life and sustainable economic development throughout the region.

PEC is pleased to offer our full support for EMHR's designation as a National Heritage Area and looks forward to continued collaboration in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Janet L. Sweeney, VP



Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania

PO Box 32 Union Dale, PA 18470 • 570-679-9300

www.neparailtrails.org nepatrails@gmail.com

Executive Officers

Jim O'Pecko

President

Deb
McNamara

Vice President

Arnold
Gordon

Vice President

Elliot Ross

Secretary

Fred Garm

Treasurer

Board of Directors

Gary Bates
Kathy Bertolino
Richard Chesi
Fred Garm
Arnold Gordon
Fran Graytock
Ron Harting
Bernie McGurl
Deb McNamara
Tom Murphy
Jim O'Pecko
Dan Pregnar
Dana Rockwell
Paula Roe-Prior
Elliot Ross
Robert Taylor
Jane Varcoe

Staff

Lynn M. Conrad

Executive Director

Cindy Klenk

Program Manager

Ann Brunori

Administrative Assistant

Loren Kopp

Trail Manager

October 22, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc. (RTC), I am writing to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a **National Heritage Area**.

The RTC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing former railbeds into recreational trails for all to enjoy. We preserve and interpret the history of the rail lines that once carried anthracite coal from the Forest City and Carbondale areas and gave rise to many of the towns along the way. Our trails not only provide opportunities for outdoor recreation but also serve as corridors of historical and cultural discovery, drawing an ever-growing number of heritage tourists to the region.

Through our programming—recreational, environmental, and historical—we maintain strong connections with the region's historic towns, recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. We have benefited greatly from EMHR's support in developing more than 20 interpretive signs along the historic railbed, helping trail users better appreciate the area's industrial and cultural heritage.

National Heritage Area designation aligns with our mission of community revitalization and outdoor recreation and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. Such a designation will further enhance residents' and visitors' understanding, enjoyment, and stewardship of the landscapes and communities that make the Endless Mountains truly special—while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.



Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania

PO Box 32 Union Dale, PA 18470 • 570-679-9300

www.neparailtrails.org nepatrails@gmail.com

Executive Officers

Jim O'Pecko

President

Deb
McNamara

Vice President

Arnold
Gordon

Vice President

Elliot Ross

Secretary

Fred Garm

Treasurer

Board of Directors

Gary Bates
Kathy Bertolino
Richard Chesi
Fred Garm
Arnold Gordon
Fran Graytock
Ron Harting
Bernie McGurl
Deb McNamara
Tom Murphy
Jim O'Pecko
Dan Pregnar
Dana Rockwell
Paula Roe-Prior
Elliot Ross
Robert Taylor
Jane Varcoe

Staff

Lynn M. Conrad

Executive Director

Cindy Klenk

Program Manager

Ann Brunori

Administrative Assistant

Loren Kopp

Trail Manager

Thank you for your leadership in advancing this important effort. The Rail-Trail Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania is proud to add its voice in strong support.

Sincerely,

Lynn M. Conrad

Executive Director, Rail-Trail Council



November 4, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin:

On behalf of Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter # 414, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter # 414 is 1 out of 49 chapters in Pennsylvania locally representing Trout Unlimited, Inc, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and protect coldwater streams for the benefit of aquatic life and future generations. Our chapters service area begins in the Endless Mountains along the North branch of the Susquehanna and its tributaries and spans to the confluence of the Susquehanna River and the Lackawanna River in West Pittston, PA.

Our work of restoring streams and protecting coldwater fisheries is closely tied to the region's historic land use, recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. This designation will align with our organization's mission and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for

the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development. We care deeply about the heritage and natural resources of this region and support EMHR's proposed national heritage designation because we see it as adding another funding source and tool to protect the waters, habitat, and natural resources we work every day to protect.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Nidoh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nidoh".

Greg Nidoh

Chapter President & Treasurer

Lackawanna Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter #414

570-489-1650

<https://www.lackawannavalleytu.com>

Supporting Board Members:

Jamie Kresge, VP

Emily Baldauff, Secretary

Carl Mozeleski

David Lewis

John Kearney

Terry Kresge



109 Pine Street, Towanda, PA 18848

570-265-2240

www.bradfordhistory.org

November 10, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

RE: SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION FOR THE ENDLESS MOUNTAINS HERITAGE REGION

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Bradford County Historical Society (BCHS), I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Bradford County Historical Society is recognized by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Bradford County Commissioners as the official historical society for Bradford County, Pennsylvania. The mission of the Bradford County Historical Society is to record and preserve the history of Bradford County; to interpret the effect of world events on the county; to make the record available to the public; and to stimulate the interest of local people in the history of the county. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions. EMHR has been a valuable partner of BCHS over the years, providing funding for tourism promotion maps/guides, collections preservation, and historic building preservation projects, as well as promoting collaboration among heritage sites and museums in the region.

Designation aligns with our goals to preserve our unique history and the connections of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, with national history. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew T. Carl".

Matthew T. Carl
Executive Director

570-265-7652 | executivedirector@bradfordhistory.org

Brooklyn Historical Society
PO Box 58 Maple Street
Brooklyn, PA 18813

December 25, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115, Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Brooklyn Pennsylvania Historical Society (BHS), I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Brooklyn Historical Society has served since 1987 to preserve and celebrate the heritage and history of Brooklyn Township and the surrounding area, including Hop Bottom Borough, Village of Kingsley, and Lathrop Township. The Brooklyn Historical Society activities include maintaining genealogical archives for research and supporting fellow historic entities with funds and in-kind support.

Our work is closely tied to the region's historic sites, including the Martins Creek Viaduct and the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust. Our genealogical lineage includes the national renowned artist George Catlin, and industrialist and philanthropist Asa Packer. Our collaboration with the Endless Mountains Heritage (EMHR) Region over many years includes membership, and several EMHR grants that help highlight our history and heritage for visitors.

Designation as a National Heritage Area will further align with our goals to maintain genealogical archives for research, and support fellow historic entities with funds and in-kind support. The BHS efforts with Steamtown National Historic Site, the Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust, the Susquehanna County Interfaith, and the Susquehanna County Promotion and Tourism Agency complement ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,



RICHARD ZICK

President Emeritus, Brooklyn Historical Society

Mrz1938@gmail.com

570-575-6832

<https://Brooklynpahistoricalsociety.net>



November 7, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O.Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin:

On behalf of The Dennis Farm Charitable Land Trust (DFCLT), I'm writing to express our strong, enthusiastic support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

As you know, the Dennis Farm, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, designated as a site of national significance. Our organization, a non-profit 501 (c)(3), was established in 2001, for the historic preservation and natural conservation of the 200+ year-old, 153-acre site. The Dennis Farm is unique, having been settled by Free African Americans who came to the region from Connecticut in 1793, purchased land and bequeathed the land to their descendants. The Farm has remained in the stewardship of the same family for more than two centuries. Among the Farm's historic features, is the family cemetery where documented veterans of the American Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War are resting. The site is open for tours, we have educational partnerships with various colleges and universities, and we host an annual Symposium and an annual Forum.

We have worked closely with EMHR since we were founded. Indeed, EMHR enabled us to secure funding for a feasibility study that helped launch DFCLT. Since then, we have received mini-grants from EMHR to make improvement on the site, such as the restoration of the spring house and a split-rail fence around the foundation of the original house. In addition, EMHR supports our educational programs with nearby Keystone College. The Dennis Farm has attracted visitors from as far away as South Africa, Europe and South America, and US states from Hawaii to New York. We are one of many EMHR heritage sites that

highlight the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways and cultural traditions.

A National Heritage Area designation would align with our goals to share the history of the Dennis Farm and continue to develop it as an educational and cultural resource open to the public. The NHA designation would complement ongoing local, state and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model of collaboration, respect for property rights and reliance on voluntary participation. An NHA designation will help residents and visitors to better understand and care for the places that make the beautiful Endless Mountains special, while supporting quality of life and economic development.

Thank you for your leadership in applying for the NHA designation, which will benefit all of us. It is our pleasure to add our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Denise Dennis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and last name "Dennis" being more prominent.

M. Denise Dennis, Chair & CEO

The French Azilum
469 Queens Road
Towanda, PA 18848
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 24, Wysox, PA 18854
TheFrenchAzilum.com



**French Azilum, Inc.
Board of Directors**

William Blevins (2027)
President
106 Deer Run Lane
Towanda, PA 18848
570-721-3888

Tom Henson, (2025)
Vice President
475 Wesauking Drive
Towanda PA 18848
570-265-2339

Deborah deBilly dit Courville
(2027)
Treasurer
637 Doolittle Hill Road
Laceyville, PA 18623
570-996-7534
debcourville@gmail.com

Alison Sims, Secretary (2027)
37 Watts Street
Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-8806; 607-425-8858

Penni Eldredge-Martin (2025)
138 Wesauking Drive
Towanda, PA 18848
570-265-6406; 570-637-2399
peldredgemartin@icloud.com

Marnie Gerhart (2025)
3355 Glen Road
Wysox, PA 18854
570-265-8871

Dominique Vitoux (2025)
PO Box 399
Lake Winola, PA 18625
570-378-3454
dvitoux1951@frontier.com

Todd Carr (2027)
44 Parsonage
Towanda, PA 18848
570-637-3742
taskart@gmail.com

Rachelle M. Thibault-Finan (2027)
250 Kane Road
New Albany, PA 18833
570-928-9055
rmtf@epix.net

Jared Palmer (2027)
2420 Marshville Road
Towanda, PA 18848
570-485-9401
Palmer@jadeacres.com

10/23/25

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of French Azilum, Inc, I wish to encourage the designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

French Azilum was formed to promote and preserve the remaining site of the French refugee village of Azilum, which was in existence from 1793-1803. Volunteers maintain and operate the grounds and buildings for the education, enjoyment and enlightenment of the public. We conduct tours and events which help to tell the story of Azilum and put it in the greater context of history.

Located on an isolated meander of the Susquehanna River, this site was selected by the French settlers for its isolation, River access, already under cultivation and had abundant resources.

As an all-volunteer organization with limited financial resources, you, as Executive Director of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region was able to pull numerous officials together at French Azilum. They confirmed your observation that the French Azilum Riverfront would be a wonderful location for a River Access Project. You advised our volunteer grants writer on project fundraising, and, within the coming months, French Azilum will become a most wonderful place for River travelers to stop, camp and learn about the Historic Site.

The Endless Mountains Heritage Region, as a multi-county leader, have developed a wonderful vision to us. If the region becomes a National Heritage Area the goals of French Azilum education, enjoyment and enlightenment of he public likely will be achieved.

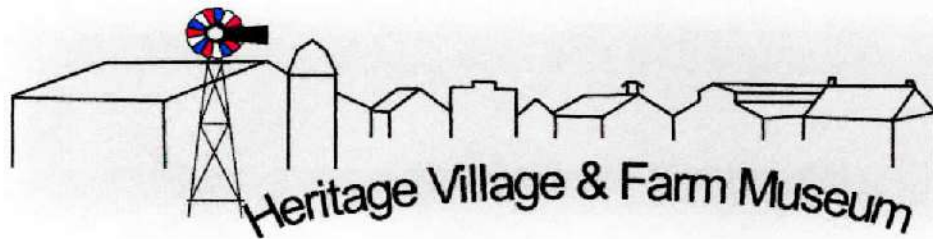
French Azilum volunteers, through over 3000 hours of effort, have made major improvements and maintained the Historic Site in the past 3 years. Funders, including EMHR have helped us paint and air condition the LaPorte House; bring power to the Wagon and Scale Houses; and improve the water system and supply, and established a strong, free WiFi signal for visitor's educational use.

NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places, such as French Azilum, that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William Blevins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

William Blevins, President
French Azilum, Inc.



Mailing-PO Box 265 Troy PA 16947 / Physical- 231 Gate #2 Lane, Alparon Park, Troy PA 570-297-3410

<https://theheritagevillage.org> contact us: heritagevillage231@gmail.com

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115, Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of Bradford County Heritage Association, I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area. We manage The Heritage Village and Farm Museum preserving our region's agricultural heritage.

The Bradford County Heritage Association, serving western Bradford County with programs in education, stewardship, promoting tourism, and preservation. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions.

Designation aligns with our goals to continue to follow our mission to preserve and educate and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

Deborah Lutz VP Bradford County Heritage Association

10/18/2025

Jon & Denise Ebersole, Owners

[The Metcalf Mansion/The White House on Warren/The River Retreat](#)

7 Meadowood Drive

Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director

Endless Mountains Heritage Region

P. O. Box 115

Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

As community members, local history lovers, and investors in historic properties in the area, we would like to express our strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

Preserving the history, promoting our local heritage, and encouraging a love of our community are major priorities for us personally and professionally. Personally, we live within the Tunkhannock community and absolutely love the rich cultural heritage and history here in northeast Pennsylvania. Professionally, we've invested in multiple properties across Wyoming and Susquehanna counties because we love the area and wanted to find creative ways to connect with our community, save historic properties, and positively promote our area. Additionally, we draw positive attention and promote our area through the marketing of our short-term rental properties including The White House on Warren (71 Warren St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657) and The River Retreat (83 Echo Beach Rd., Tunkhannock, PA 18657) where we host guests from all around the country and all around the world. Finally, we're currently working on the restoration of a local historic landmark, The Metcalf Mansion (50 W. Harrison St., Tunkhannock, PA 18657) with the intent to offer community and special events, short-term rentals, and continue to promote a love for our local history, heritage, and community. Just The Metcalf Mansion alone has a following of almost 22,000 people on social media, many of whom are in awe of our beautiful area, history, heritage, and community.

With this in mind, we hope this letter provides additional support for the importance of protecting, preserving, and promoting the history, culture, and heritage here in our area through this national designation. As a graduate from the local school district, I (Denise) was educated very well and was prepared to succeed yet somehow missed out on learning about our area's local history and culture. Now that I've moved back to my hometown, I am "all in" on studying our history and have actively tried to encourage others of all ages, to do the same.

Please feel free to reach out if there is any additional support or information we can offer to support this wonderful opportunity for our area. We care deeply about our community, the region, our natural resources, our heritage, and the wonderful people who live here.

Warmly,

Jon & Denise Ebersole

7 Meadowood Dr.,

Tunkhannock, PA 18657

Jon: Jon@medicaremadness.com; 717-798-1603

Denise: debersole@liberty.edu; 570-575-8189



21 Lackawanna Trail
PO Box 496
Nicholson, PA 18446

October 20, 2025

Mr. Cain Chamberlin
Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P.O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's Designation as a National Heritage Area

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Nicholson Heritage Association (NHA), I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

NHA is dedicated to the historic preservation of Nicholson, PA, and the surrounding region. Our renovated 1849 railroad station, the Nicholson Tourism Center at the Historic DL&W Railroad Station, hosts educational presentations and our historic displays provide a window into Nicholson's, and the region's, past. We have applied for and received numerous EMHR grants to help us with the renovation of the railroad station, including a feasibility study, signage, and banners. These projects promote tourism and economic development, both crucial to Nicholson and the surrounding region. NHA values our partnership with EMHR.

A national designation aligns with our goals to attract tourists and educate them about Nicholson and the region's past and complements ongoing local, state, and Federal initiatives. We value the National Heritage Area model collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. A National Heritage Area designation will help our residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special, while still supporting the quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for taking the initiative to lead this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support for the National Heritage Area designation of the Endless Mountains Heritage Region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Gritman' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Gritman
Chair



October 27, 2025

To: Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18863
Attn: Cain Chamberlin
RE: Support for National Heritage Area Designation
For Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR)

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

As keepers of the history of Sullivan County, Pennsylvania, the Sullivan County Historical Society (SCHS) treasures this bold move to designate the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's area of our four counties. The study itself has encompassed all phases of the evaluation of all these county areas with precise detail. Although Sullivan County is not adjoined to the Susquehanna River, our own waterways and multiply tributaries contribute to the lower branch of the river and thus comply with the usage of the water flow.

With the Mission Statement of 'to celebrate, preserve, and enhance the unique rural character and culture of the Endless Mountains', it has behooved each county to already strive to accomplish that mission. Working with the EMHR to promote ourselves, preserve the history of our counties and welcome visitors to stay to enjoy what we have to offer is the goal. We've worked with EMHR for 20+ years with involvement in it, along with DCNR, for projects promoting our history. From historic signage to public talks, every small or large way to educate the public and also inform them as to our capabilities to assist them in research. To this end, we've conducted talks throughout Sullivan County or contributed to events (such as the America 250 celebration) and highlighted talks on various subjects from within Sullivan County. Therefore, the education, tourism and preservation from SCHS has lent to a major upswing of attendance in various venues. This has also been enhanced by the Museum's web site, Facebook and weekly articles in the only local newspaper, thus adding to the amount of visitation concerning Sullivan County. The off shoot from these various sources of visitation has increased awareness, overnight stays, recreation and repeat people not only to the Museum but also throughout Sullivan County.

Another plus for an increase of visitors is the now nine year project of putting out a four fold yearly brochure, History Quest, with 10-12 questions that take folks around Sullivan County to discover the answers.

So in conclusion, the SCHS is very much in favor of the EMHR application for becoming a National Heritage Area Designation. This would not only benefit the counties involved but also enhance from surrounding counties, throughout Pennsylvania and the nation.

Many thanks for the leadership to qualify our very rural area to be competitive in a growing market of awareness.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melanie Norton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Melanie Norton, pres., SCHS

Susquehanna County Historical Society
18 Monument St.
Montrose, PA 18801

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Susquehanna County Historical Society (SCHS), I am writing to express support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

The SCHS was founded in 1890. Its Vision Statement is to enrich the community by serving as stewards of the county's history. Its declaration of purpose is being committed to preserving and promoting Susquehanna County's history by actively collecting, safeguarding, and ensuring public access to the county's artifacts and stories, and by empowering the community to understand local legacy and their own familial roots.

We work diligently with other organizations to tell the story of the people and the land of Susquehanna County. We have been pleased to partner with the EMHR as a state heritage area. Through their grants and educational opportunities, this Society has grown to better provide better safeguarding of our valuable historic resources.

The Society feels that this organization and the public it serves- county residents, researchers and visitors- will benefit greatly by the institution of this NHA because its goals very closely match our own. NHA designation will help this public better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special and help create a valuable quality of life and concern of our irreplaceable environment.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Yuscavage

Bonnie Yuscavage
Curator, Susquehanna County Historical Society
bonnie.yuscavage@susqcohistoc.org



Wyalusing Valley Museum Association

PO Box 301, Wyalusing, PA 18853-0301

570-746-3979 • www.wyalusingmuseum.com • wyalusingmuseum@gmail.com

November 4, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Wyalusing Valley Museum Association, we strongly support designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Wyalusing Valley Museum Association is a local history museum located in Wyalusing, PA. We cover the history of eight townships in the southeastern corner of Bradford County and two in the northwestern corner of Wyoming County which make up the Wyalusing Area School District. Our mission is to preserve the history of our region and educate the community and visitors about it through exhibits and programs. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, waterways, and cultural traditions. We have been past recipients of grant funds from the EMHR, which have helped us preserve the 1870s Lodge Hall in our care and develop our exhibits. We have also collaborated on and benefitted from two of the EMHR's Heritage Paddle programs.

Designation aligns with our goals to share the stories of the human experience in this place over time and complements ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. The NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation fits well with the character of this region. NHA designation will help residents and visitors value the places that make the Endless Mountains special and balance the enjoyment and protection of those places with sustainable economic growth and quality of life.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

Morgan T. Clinton
Curator, Wyalusing Valley Museum



Wyoming County Historical Society

P.O. Box 309

Tunkhannock, PA 18657

1-570-836-5303

14 October 2025

Endless Mountains Heritage Region
Cain Chamberlain, Executive Director
76 Main St.
Wyalusing PA 18853

Dear Mr. Chamberlain,

Please consider this a letter of support from the Wyoming County Historical Society and its board of trustees for the Endless Mountains NHA Feasibility Study currently in draft form. Our society shares a long and distinguished history in working with the Endless Mountains Heritage Region and its important work in preserving our local history and funding worthwhile projects so vital to our regions continued development. This worthwhile plan can only continue the important work of the heritage region.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mark'.

Mark T. Mitchell, President



Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church

PO Box 283
Eagles Mere, PA 17731

October 17, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Cain,

I write as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church. I would like to express my personal and, on behalf of the Church, strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

Our small, 140 year old Church, operates seasonally with guest preachers each Sunday from mid-June through Labor Day weekend. A Board of Trustees manages the affairs and the building and meets twice a year. We are the only Presbyterian Church in Sullivan County, PA. We provide worship services with special music each Sunday during the season. Our weekly offering collection covers the annual cost of the facility, honorariums for the preachers and the musicians, maintenance for the facility, and significant donations to charitable caused in the county. We are a significant resource for worship, meeting space, and fellowship for this historic seasonal resort community (156 year round residents and 2500 plus summer residents). Eagles Mere is a National Historic District and we are proud to be considered a Contributing Factor with an historic 136 year old building and significant cultural assets.

In 2025, we felt we needed to restore some original windows (wood frames with wavy clear glass) and applied for and received a mini-grant administered by the Endless Mountains Heritage Region. The Church had never applied for a grant before and the EMHR staff were very helpful throughout the process. We received approval for a grant and the windows have been removed to the restorer's workshop are currently being repaired/restored and will be returned in mid-November.

The competence and caring of the staff during the application and approval process was impressive. These skills, applied to a National Heritage Area can be a significant complement to ongoing local, state, and federal initiatives. We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help Eagles Mere and area residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

David R. Carson
Treasurer
Eagles Mere Presbyterian Church

dcarson@comcast.com
570 525 3630



October 20, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency (BCTPA), I am writing to express strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The BCTPA has been a partner with EMHR since our establishment in 2015 and considers them to be an invaluable partner in the promotion of our heritage and outdoor assets here in Bradford County and the surrounding region. Through these partnerships, BCTPA and EMHR have worked closely in establishing a number of successful programs and events including the 430 mile "Endless Gravel" bike route, the "Farm to You" local agri-tourism guide, 2023 Adventure Kayak Series, 2024 Greenways and Trails Summit, and more that contributes significantly to increasing tourism, heritage preservation and outdoor recreation development.

Designation aligns with our goals to showcase all there is to see and do in Bradford County from fairs and festivals, museums and historic villages, wineries and breweries, and significant outdoor recreation opportunities both on land and water. Our work is closely tied to the region's historic towns, working and recreational lands, waterways, and cultural traditions.

We value the NHA model's collaborative approach, respect for private property rights, and reliance on voluntary participation. NHA designation will help residents and visitors

better understand, enjoy, and care for the places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn Cummings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robyn Cummings
Executive Director
Bradford County Tourism Promotion Agency
570-265-8687
bctourism@bradfordcountypa.gov
www.visitbradfordcountypa.org



5405 SR 6
Tunkhannock, PA 18657
(570) 836-5431
endlessmountains.org

October 17, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
P. O. Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

On behalf of the Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau and as a lifelong resident of Wyoming County, I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Endless Mountains Heritage Region (EMHR) as a National Heritage Area.

The Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau is the official destination marketing organization for Sullivan and Wyoming counties. Since 1962, we have served the region by promoting local attractions and events. We work closely with the EMHR to promote their efforts, create publications such as the Endless Mountains Outdoor Recreation Guide and Farm to You Guide, and plan initiatives like Endless Gravel. They are a vital partner as we work to enhance the visitor experience.

Designation aligns with our goals to elevate the Endless Mountains brand and raise nationwide awareness about our region. Tourists love our region for its historic towns, outdoor recreation opportunities, agritourism destinations, and rich culture. NHA designation will help residents and visitors better understand, enjoy, and care for these places that make the Endless Mountains special while supporting quality of life and sustainable economic development.

Thank you for your leadership on this effort. We are proud to add our voice of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Jill Robinson
Deputy Director, Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau
jill@endlessmountains.org
570-836-5431



#VisitSusqCo
**SUSQUEHANNA
COUNTY**
PROMOTION & TOURISM AGENCY

visitsusqco.com  

MAIL TO: PO BOX 218 | MONTROSE, PA 18801
OFFICE: 31 LAKE AVE | MONTROSE, PA 18801
570.767.4151 | tourism@visitsusqco.com

November 5, 2025

Cain Chamberlin, Exec. Director
Endless Mountains Heritage Region
PO Box 115
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Re: Support for National Heritage Area Designation for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region

Dear Mr. Chamberlin,

The Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency (SCPTA) offers our unequivocal support for the Endless Mountains Heritage Region's (EMHR) pursuit of National Heritage Area (NHA) designation. This recognition is a critical next step that will exponentially strengthen our shared mission to preserve the region's distinctive character while fostering sustainable economic growth.

The SCPTA is committed to celebrating and protecting Susquehanna County's rich cultural heritage. Our promotional efforts highlight our historic treasures, from the iconic 19th-century architecture of Montrose and the nationally significant historic Dennis Farm site, to the engineering marvels like the Starrucca Viaduct, recognizing these sites as primary drivers of visitor interest. Our strong partnership with the EMHR has been invaluable in this mission, helping us to interpret the region's story—a narrative defined by its role in early American industry, agriculture, and transportation.

Equally central to the SCPTA #VisitSusqCo brand is outdoor recreation. Susquehanna County is home to world-class assets, including the D&H Rail-Trail, the pristine slopes of Elk Mountain, and the scenic beauty of the Susquehanna River's North Branch. The EMHR's comprehensive approach to conservation and trail development directly aligns with our goal of promoting responsible outdoor tourism. By working together, we ensure that our natural landscapes—the very backdrop for these recreational experiences—are protected and maintained for both residents and visitors, guaranteeing a high-quality experience that encourages longer stays.

A National Heritage Area designation will fundamentally align with and amplify our tourism initiatives by providing the regional visibility, brand authority, and access to federal technical assistance that only the National Park Service can offer. This elevated status will allow #VisitSusqCo to attract a new segment of heritage travelers, leading to increased visitor spending in our local businesses, restaurants, and accommodations, thereby enhancing economic resilience across Susquehanna County. Moreover, the NHA's focus on preserving open space, investing in community resources, and promoting educational programming directly contributes to an improved quality of life for our residents, fostering a sense of community pride and stewardship that makes our county an even more desirable place to live, work, and visit.

We firmly believe that the Endless Mountains region is nationally significant and that the EMHR is the ideal managing entity. We look forward to continuing our partnership as we move toward achieving this transformative designation.

Sincerely,

Staci Wilson, Executive Director, Susquehanna County Promotion & Tourism Agency