

Fred Woods Trail

About 1 mile directly north of the village of Mix Run is a series of weathered sandstone outcrops which have weathered in such a way that deep, narrow hallways now exist between large blocks of the stone. These “hallways” have been formed and expanded by the repeated action of freezing and thawing. The chiseled inscriptions on the walls of the sandstone are evidence that this place has served as a place of wonder for centuries. This place is not only special for this impressive **unique geologic feature**, which is the only one of its type listed in the two volumes of the *Outstanding Scenic and Geologic Features of Pennsylvania* (Geyer & Bolles 1979, 1987), but also serves as critical habitat to a moth species of concern. Known simply as “a Noctuid moth”, little is known about the life history of *Lemmeria digitalis*.

Threats and Stresses:

During recent surveys of this site, no active threats were noted, however, the site is situated within Elk State Forest, and timbering of the area could alter the habitat in the future. Additionally, the site could be compromised by forest fragmentation, decreases in air and water quality, and elevated light and noise levels associated with shale gas development.

Conservation Recommendations:

Being that the site is on Elk State Forest land, the conservation of the unique features found at the site will depend on sound forestry practices which keep the needs of these elements in mind. Other non-forestry related development or infrastructure will require careful planning to avoid complications with the species of concern, and the unique geologic feature found at this site to be sure that natural character and value to biodiversity conservation is not affected.



Rocky Gleason (PNHP)

These impressive slot canyons, resembling outdoor hallways, are found along “Fred Woods Trail” in Gibson Township. Chiseled inscriptions in the walls of the outcrops indicate the esteem this unique place has had to its visitors for many years.