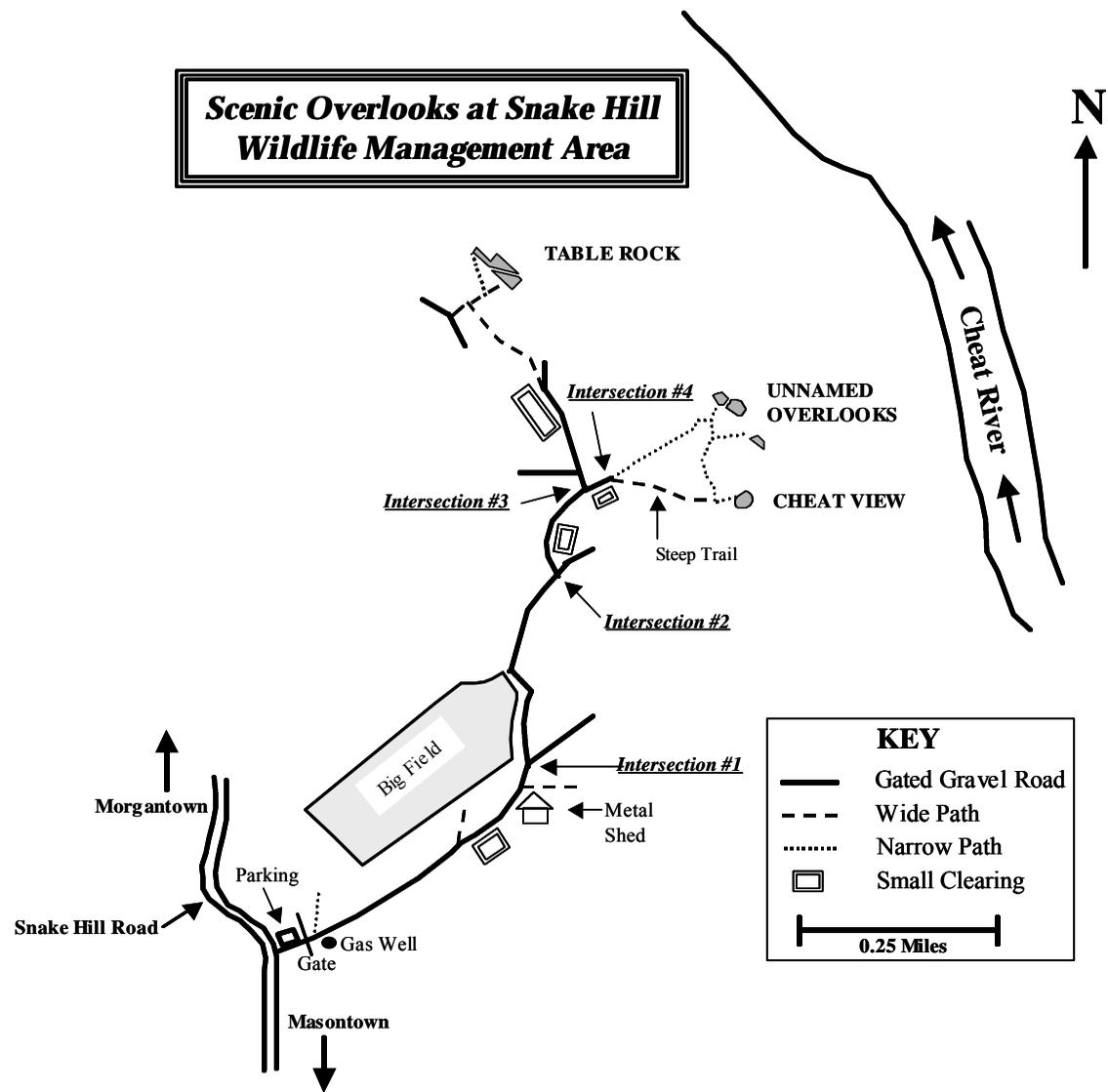


Scenic Overlooks at Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area



KEY

- Gated Gravel Road
- - - Wide Path
- Narrow Path
- Small Clearing

0.25 Miles

The 2,000 acre landscape of Snake Hill WMA is comprised of flat and rolling table land of forests and fields, the rocky rim of the Cheat River gorge, and the steep, 1,200' deep southern side of the Cheat Canyon before it turns into Cheat Lake. Snake Hill's canyon rim and wall are visible from the Coopers Rock State Forest Overlook. Many wildlife species, both game and non-game, reside there. Unlike nearby Coopers Rock State Forest, there are no facilities, telephones, signs, trail blazes or personnel at the Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area. Please plan accordingly.

Be aware of all hunting seasons when visiting Snake Hill WMA, especially the peak of hunting season around Thanksgiving – this is your responsibility. Information: <http://www.wvdnr.gov>, (304) 825-6787. Consider wearing safety orange during autumn, even if you are not hunting.

CAUTION IS REQUIRED AT THE OVERLOOKS. The overlooks have sharp drop-offs and some have gaps that may pose a danger to people or dogs. Surfaces are irregular and none of the overlooks have railings. Rocks are slippery when wet or icy. Watch for rattlesnakes, who love hot, dry, sunny rocks. The overlooks are over a mile from the parking lot and you are completely responsible for your own safety. **PLEASE BE CAREFUL.**



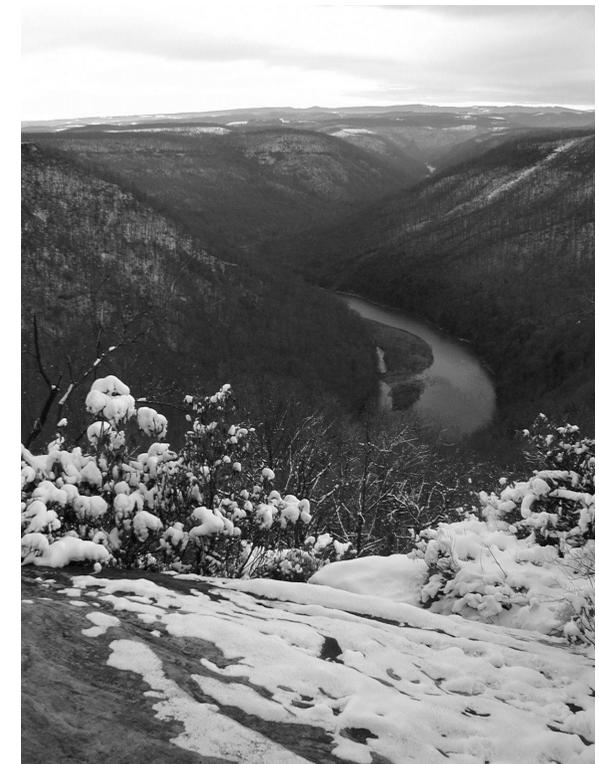
The Coopers Rock Foundation

The Coopers Rock Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, charitable organization structured to accept donations on behalf of Coopers Rock State Forest and Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area. The Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area was acquired as WV public land in November 1996, thanks in part to 7 years of continuous, dedicated effort by the Coopers Rock Foundation

CRF works on public lands acquisition, trailwork, habitat restoration, educational workshops and newsletters, advocates for these lands to the managing state agencies and elected officials, and funds facilities improvements and purchases maintenance equipment for management personnel. CRF was founded in 1989.

Coopers Rock Foundation
P.O. Box 505
Morgantown, WV 26507
www.coopersrock.org

A Guide to Overlooks in the Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area



The Snake Hill Wildlife Management Area, located in Monongalia County, West Virginia, is across the Cheat River Gorge from Coopers Rock State Forest. This area was acquired as public land by the state of West Virginia in 1996. These directions will guide you from I-68 or Rt. 7 to the Snake Hill WMA, and to four overlooks, including Cheat View and Table Rock.

Finding Snake Hill WMA

From I-68, Cheat Lake Exit (Exit 10)

Head north 1/10 of a mile to a 3-way intersection (there is a convenience store on your left).

Turn left onto 857.

Drive 1.8 miles, crossing the old Cheat Lake Bridge en route, to Tyrone Road, on your left.

Go left on Tyrone Road and drive 1.6 miles to Snake Hill Road, on your left.

Turn left onto Snake Hill Road

Drive 3.1 miles up the winding road to the easternmost, and largest official WMA parking lot, the "Cheat View parking lot", on your left. If you begin to see residences re-appear on the left, you have gone too far.

From I-68, Sabraton Exit (Exit 4)

Drive east on Rt. 7 for 2.2 miles to Tyrone Road, by the Pioneer Rocks Tavern, on the left.

Turn left on Tyrone Road and drive 2.7 miles to Snake Hill Road, on the right.

Turn right onto Snake Hill Road

Drive 3.1 miles up the winding road to the easternmost, and largest official WMA parking lot, the "Cheat View parking lot", on your left. If you begin to see residences re-appear on the left, you have gone too far.

From the Route 7/Rohr Road Intersection

To find this intersection, look for the triangle on the west side of Masontown

Follow Rohr Road for about 5 miles to the correct parking lot. The name of Rohr Road changes to Snake Hill Road as you cross over from Preston County to Monongalia County – the road is the same. After 5 miles, look for a Snake Hill WMA sign on the right, just before the "Cheat View parking lot" on the right. If you reach another parking lot on the right, with an information kiosk, you have gone about ½ mile too far.

These directions begin from this parking lot and will not work if you park elsewhere.

To the Overlooks

Please follow these directions carefully. There is a network of old dirt roads in the Snake Hill WMA and it is easy to make a wrong turn.

This information is *not* a comprehensive guide to the entire Snake Hill WMA area — the rest of the area is yours to explore. As you go to the overlooks, we recommend that you turn around and look at each intersection so you will recognize it on your return.

Walking times between intersections are approximate. The round trip from the parking lot to the overlooks featured here is approximately 3 miles.

To all four overlooks

From the Cheat View parking lot, walk past the gate and out the gravel road. You will pass a gas well in a clearing on your right about 100 yards from the gate. You will then pass a grassy wildlife opening on the right, followed by a metal shack, also on the right. Climb a short rise to a 3-way intersection 8 to 10 minutes from the parking lot. This is Intersection #1.

At this first intersection, go left. Briefly climb, continuing along the road as it skirts the right side of a huge field. At the corner of the field, swing right, back into the woods, and reach a second intersection 7-8 minutes after the first. This is Intersection #2.

Turn left at this intersection. You will immediately pass a clearing on your right. You will reach a Y about three minutes later. This is Intersection #3. The trail to Cheat View and two other overlooks is to your right. The trail to your left leads to Table Rock.

To Cheat View and two other overlooks, from Intersection #3

Go right. Stay to the left side of the wildlife opening and in 75 yards (30 seconds), you will reach another Y, Intersection #4.

You are now at the upper apex of a trail triangle, a point to which you will return after you have seen the 3 overlooks below. To the left of this 3-way intersection, there is a large, tall, 2' diameter yellow poplar tree with long vertical scars all the way up the trunk on its east side. There are no other trees as large as this in the vicinity, so it is a useful landmark.

At this fourth intersection, go right. Go gently

downhill, and then steeply downhill for about 250 yards. Near the bottom, the trail flattens out and bends, first to the left, then to the right. Two narrow passages through rhododendrons lead out to the wonderful panorama of Cheat View. The walking time from the fourth intersection is about 3 minutes, and the total walking time from the parking lot is 20-25 minutes.

Hint: To remember how to get from the correct parking area on Snake Hill Road to Cheat View, memorize which way to go at each of the four major intersections — "left, left, right, right".

There are two overlooks downstream of Cheat View (to the left as you face the river). You can find them by following a narrow path through the woods. This path is not as distinct as the trail to Cheat View and may be a little difficult to follow.

About 50 yards back into the woods from Cheat View, at a bend in the main trail, a narrow path enters the forest (to your right as you walk away from the river). This path winds westward through a young forest on flat ground. Walking along the path, you can see rhododendrons growing intermittently along the rocky edge of the gorge to your right, 10 to 50 yards away.

In a couple of minutes, begin looking for two faint paths that strike off to the right of the main path, toward the canyon. They may be marked by rock cairns. They leave the main path within a couple of yards of each other, just before the main path bends left (south) and heads back uphill. These faint paths are each about 50 yards long and lead out to a pair of overlooks with very different views, although very close to each other. The view from the upstream overlook is similar to that of Cheat View, but extends further to the left. From the downstream overlook you can see Coopers Rock Overlook, both bridges across Cheat Lake, the Cheat River just before it enters Cheat Lake, and Buzzard Rocks on the Snake Hill side of the Cheat. This overlook is often mistaken for Table Rock by visitors to Coopers Rock, as it is the only outcrop within the Snake Hill WMA visible from the Coopers Rock Overlook when leaves are on the trees.

After enjoying the views, return to the main path and follow it away from the river and up the hill. The path may be vague in places. Just as it leaves the flat

area and begins to climb uphill, it becomes grassy. It joins an old timbering skid road and a few old waterbars are still visible. Go straight uphill; do not turn off of the grassy path. It rejoins the main trail system at the yellow poplar 'landmark' tree at the top of the ridge. Continue past that point for 75 yards, staying on the right edge of the wildlife clearing until you return to Intersection #3.

To Table Rock, from Intersection #3

If you are coming from the parking lot to Intersection #3, take the left-hand trail. If you are coming from Cheat View and the other two overlooks, you will stay to the right at Intersection #3.

Whichever direction you came from, you will now head north or downstream on a flat grassy road. In fifty yards, there is a trail to the left. Do not take it, but instead continue straight on the trail to a large, 100 yard long wildlife opening. Stay on the right edge of the opening. At the far right (north) corner of the opening, there are two grassy roads, one straight and the other angling to the right. Go straight. In about 100 yards, this trail begins to descend gradually. At the bottom, you will come to a grassy road. Go right and 50 yards later you will reach Table Rock. Walking time is about 10 minutes from Intersection #3 to Table Rock.

If you wish to avoid stepping over the crevices on Table Rock, walk left or downstream as you approach the flat rock, for 25 yards, step over a very narrow gap at the far left side of the rock, and walk out to the main 'table' of the rock from there. The best view is from near the left side of the rock.

To return, retrace your steps to Intersection #3.

Returning to Snake Hill Road from Intersection #3

Head away from the canyon rim. Pass a clearing on your left. Stay right at the 3-way intersection (Intersection #2). At the corner of a huge field, swing left. At the 3-way intersection (Intersection #1) go right. Pass a grey metal shed on the left, a wildlife opening on the left, and a gas well on the left, and arrive back at the gate, the parking lot, and Snake Hill Road.