

**SECTION 18: PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE 287 TO US ROUTE 6  
MORRIS/ANTRIM TO ROUTE US 6  
TIOGA STATE FOREST, PRIVATE LAND  
Web Update, August 2011 <http://www.hike-mst.org>**

Section 18 begins along PA 287, just west of Antrim and north of Morris, and ends along US 6.

Features include several waterfalls, the ghost town of Landrus, and the opportunity to see wildlife while passing through relatively open areas on private land. Section 18 opened north to the end of State Forest in 2007 and 2011, and south to Mudge Road in 2009. As of this writing an unblazed gap remains.

**Caution!** This section is underlain by the gas-rich Marcellus Shale formation. Interruptions in the footpath are possible due to increasing gas production activity. Please check the trail conditions on <http://www.hike-mst.org> before you hike.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

MST climbs a privately owned mountain on road, trail, and track, and then traverses restored mine land and commercial timberland abounding in wildlife on a narrow, rough, sometimes rocky route closed during the high hunting seasons. Entering State Forest, MST soon descends the remote valley of Nickel Run, an Exceptional Value Wild Trout stream. A short side trail descends to a waterfall on Nickel Run and campsites with swimming holes. MST slabs down a bouldery mountainside to Landrus, an old coal mining village with many intriguing foundations. The path ascends Babb Creek through remote forest, changing sides of the main stream in the middle of a roadless gap to view two waterfalls on tributaries. Leaving State Forest, MST heads north to Hills Creek State Park on the other side of the rural farming community of Charleston Township.

**PENNSYLVANIA ROUTE 287 to US ROUTE 6 (Antrim/Landrus) Detailed Description**

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
0.00	NB: Walk uphill on SR 3009 towards Antrim. Watch for heavy truck traffic slowly climbing the mountainside with you.	
	"Blossburg Coal" historical marker beside PA 287, summarizing the story of the coal fields you passed and will pass again. Parking on wide shoulder on east side nearby. 14 km north to Wellsboro with outfitter, other shops, restaurants, hospital, and post office.	
	SB: Turn left and cross PA 287.	38.48
0.92	NB: Turn left and enter private commercial timberland, climbing steeply. NOTE posted restrictions, including total closure on the dates October 1-January 15 inclusive to protect the several hunting clubs that pay to lease this commercial forest. No camping, stay on trail. During the closure period, NB hikers can head uphill (unblazed) on SR 3009, turn left at the stone church (still SR 3009) and rejoin MST at km 7.02.	
	Duncan/Morris Township line. Antrim is uphill on SR 3009. No store or post office. Turn right at the stone church to the Duncan Tavern.	
	SB: Turn right and descend SR 3009, watching for heavy truck traffic sharing the mountain with you.	37.56
1.34	NB: Turn left onto haul road built upon railroad bed, in 1872 the Corning, Cowanesque, and Antrim RR, later New York Central.	
	The paved road visible uphill here is a truck haul road to the Antrim landfill. Private land still closed Oct 1-Jan 15.	
	SB: Turn right and descend sharply.	37.14
2.07	NB: Turn right on trail at a log landing.	
	SB: Turn left on lower railroad bed.	36.41

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
2.15	NB: Turn right on another rail bed.	
		SB: Turn left on trail alongside field.
2.20	NB: Turn left to follow the upper rail bed.	36.33
	Switchback. Anton Hardt, originally Austrian, laid out the railroad's approach to Antrim in 1870 after he had helped find the coal seams in the area. Switchbacks were fairly common on logging railroads in Pennsylvania's big woods, but uncommon on a regular passenger and freight railroad as this was. Declining coal demand after World War II and a 1946 flood put this railroad out of commission south of Wellsboro.	
		SB: Turn right, or walk backwards down the hill if you must.
2.47	NB:	36.28
	Step over swale in field. Antrim Mining, Inc. strip mined Bloss coal long after other operations had ceased. The field below the trail is the reclaimed former "Backswitch" coal mine. They also strip mined other areas around Antrim and in the Anna S. area. A group of fishermen on Pine Creek, noticing reduced fly hatches, sued Antrim Mining under the Clean Water Act. 120 years of mining around Antrim subsequently ended in 1990. Unlike the old spoil piles from the Anna S., the coal company was required to return this land to the approximate original contour and revegetate it. Continue walking along the old railroad bed.	
		SB: 36.01
3.08	NB:	
	Straight at tee junction of logging roads, continue on the railroad bed.	
		SB: 35.40
3.54	NB: Turn left, climbing gently into a stand of larches. Railroad bed ahead is obliterated by the landfill haul road.	
		SB: Turn right, follow old railroad bed through woods with occasional fields.
3.73	NB: Enter scrubby hardwoods.	34.94
	Pass in front of gate. In the final years of mining at Antrim, its coal was hauled to power stations near Corning. The ash was returned to this mountain and landfilled behind the active strip mine. After mining ceased, Antrim Mining became Phoenix Resources, Inc., rising its construction and demolition waste landfill from the ashes in the former mine.	
		SB: Enter larch plantation.
3.97	NB: Turn left, follow swale briefly then mowed path through fields with occasional groves of trees. Note large beaver pond shortly visible on left. Stay on trail. If you cross to the other side of the knoll, not only are you trespassing in violation of the posted rules for hikers on this private land, but you will also see an active landfill and many trucks entering and leaving a scale house.	34.75
		SB: Turn right, entering woods.
4.60	NB: Enter logged area with occasional wet spots.	34.51
	Cross gated lane, stay on trail, do not follow lane.	
		SB: Follow mowed path through fields with occasional trees. Note large beaver pond shortly visible on right.
5.36	NB:	33.88
	Pass log landing. Follow winding path that tries to skirt wet area. Watch carefully for blazes of MST vs. numerous skid trails in the logged area.	
		SB: 33.12
6.38	NB:	
	Cross lane in front of gate, watch for blazes in 2006 logging area, stay on trail roughly parallel to SR 3009, do not follow lane.	
		SB: 32.10
7.01	NB:	
	Cross western headwater of Rock Run, no mining impacts.	
		SB: 31.47
7.13	NB:	
	Cross SR 3009 and Equitable gas pipeline (2011) directly to the other side and enter woods. No designated parking. Stone monument on east side was a corner of original land warrants. You must strictly follow all posted restrictions, no camping, stay on trail, both sides. Do not follow any other lanes or truck trails that are not marked as MST.	
		SB: NOTE: From this point SB you will be on private land closed to all hikers from October 1 through January 15, inclusive, on a large tract of commercial timberland leased to several hunting clubs. SB hikers during the closure period can turn left (unblazed) on SR 3009 to Antrim, turn right at the stone church (still SR 3009) and rejoin MST at the bottom.
		31.35

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
7.25	NB: Cross old railroad bed. Stay on marked trail, do not follow rail bed here.	
		SB:31.23
7.34	NB: Cross main headwater of Rock Run in rocky area. Follow orange trail, not blue land boundary.	
		SB:31.14
7.61	NB: Cross truck trail and another Rock Run headwater together, and climb stony knoll. Do not follow truck trail in either direction. Stay on orange blazed trail.	
		SB:30.87
8.41	NB: <i>Re-enter State Forest, following blazed path around several wet spots on top of the plateau.</i> Cross truck trail.	
	SB: <i>Pass around a wet spot and closely follow boundary of posted private land. From this point SB you will be on private land for 10 km. You must strictly follow all posted restrictions, no camping, stay on trail. Do not follow any other lanes or truck trails that are not marked as</i>	MST.30.07
8.81	NB: Step over Robinson Steele Run, usually running through this glade, will dry up late in a dry summer.	
	SB: <i>Last possible campsite SB before reaching the "Haunted Vista" in 11 km.</i>	29.67
9.21	NB: Wooded summit, a little rocky.	
		SB:29.27
9.71	NB: <i>Bear right on old logging road.</i>	
	SB: <i>Bear left on trail, climb a short distance, then follow trail around small wet spots on top of the plateau.</i>	28.77
9.94	NB: <i>Continue straight on old path.</i>	
	Tee junction of logging roads. Ignore route traveling back uphill. The headwaters of Nickel Run, an Exceptional Value Wilderness Trout Stream, are downhill to the east.	
	SB: <i>Follow log road straight, gently uphill.</i>	28.54
10.94	NB: <i>Rejoin old log road.</i> Step over stream.	
	SB: <i>Edge right to follow blazed path above and paralleling Nickel Run.</i>	27.54
11.20	NB: <i>Head straight south (yes, that's right) on narrowing old path, shortly passing a weirdly eroded large boulder on the left.</i> Step over perennial Nickel Run, EV and Wild Trout stream, on old log road. Water. Campsite nearby but ATV trespass is problem here.	
	SB: <i>Climb gently through clearing on old log road.</i>	27.28
12.11	NB: Junction of old paths. MST slabs the mountainside downhill NB, uphill SB. Blazed circuit footpath to southwest descends alternately to the top of a 10 m waterfall in Nickel Run (may dry up in a very dry summer), and to the former Arnot & Pine Creek RR (built 1878, abandoned 1952, always a branch of New York State's Erie Railroad leading to Morris, it never reached Pine Creek) beside campsites and swimming holes on perennial Babb Creek. Following the whole side circuit back to here adds 2.57 km to your hike, re-climbing 90 m.	
		SB:26.37
14.25	NB: MST continues straight on old log road. Register. Yellow blazed path downhill fords Babb Creek, 0.38 km to the center of Landrus, a ghost mining town. Dirt parking on seasonal Landrus Road by stone monument. On the other/south side of the road, red blazed Bear Run Trail rises past waterfalls up Bloss Mountain. A grassy flat overflow parking area is a few meters up Bear Run Trail just out of sight of the stone monument.	
		SB:24.23
14.60	NB: Junction of old wagon roads. MST continues straight (NB looks like right). Path uphill leads 0.92 km to old dump pile from Landrus mines. Wet spots are common in this area.	
		SB:23.88
14.93	NB: <i>Turn right to slab downhill.</i>	
		SB:23.55

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
14.98	NB: <i>Pass through large trees growing since the Great War.</i>	
	Former end of trestle crossing Babb Creek for railroad spur to mine loading area. In 1914 the Erie Railroad condemned the trestle as uneconomic to repair, thus the Landrus mine and town.	
	<i>SB: Slab uphill to right.</i>	23.50
15.13	NB:	
	Loading platform. Landrus coal descended an incline from the mountainside mine to here. If you find artifacts here or elsewhere, take only pictures and leave the artifacts here.	
	<i>SB:</i>	23.35
15.35	NB: <i>Slab left following old road briefly then off into woods away from the peat bog the old road has become.</i>	
	North abutment of old Landrus road bridge. If you find trout in the deep hole in Babb Creek here, thank Babb Creek Watershed Association for cleaning up old mine drainage upstream.	
	<i>SB: Level out to parallel creek downstream.</i>	23.13
15.66	NB:	
	Leave this long narrow stone foundation on trail untouched so future hikers can speculate with you as to its origin. Winding path both sides tries to avoid large wet areas by stepping near small ones.	
	<i>SB:</i>	22.82
16.07	NB: <i>Finally rejoin old wagon road as it dries out.</i>	
	<i>SB: Head left away from the large sphagnum bog the old road has become.</i>	22.41
17.06	NB: <i>Slab right/downhill toward sound of rushing water. NOTE: Three unbridged stream crossings on main trail ahead can be treacherous especially with winter ice.</i>	
	Blue blazed high water route (skiable) uphill joins haul road in 0.13 km. Haul road leaves State Forest in 2.25 km, cross private land to SR 2016 2.70 km from MST, opposite south end of South Elk Run Rd, stay on blazed trail when crossing private land.	
	<i>SB: Join old Wellsboro-Landrus road circa 1890.</i>	21.42
17.14	NB: <i>Easiest of the three crossings.</i>	
	Step through Rattlesnake Run, trail slabs up both sides.	
	<i>SB:</i>	21.34
17.21	NB:	
	View at local high point of 2 m falls in Rattlesnake Run (seasonal), descend steeply both sides especially NB. Very treacherous in ice conditions which may last into May.	
	<i>SB:</i>	21.27
17.34	NB:	
	Cross at rock flume in Babb Creek. Rocks are very slippery even in a drought summer.	
	<i>SB:</i>	21.14
17.59	NB: <i>Wet crossing of Sand Run.</i>	
	Top of 9 m high Sand Run Falls. Path compass north (former MST route) parallels east side of Babb Creek to State Forest boundary in 2.39 km.	
	<i>SB: Traverse gorge edge.</i>	20.89
17.63	NB:	
	Point of switchback. Campsite just upstream.	
	<i>SB:</i>	20.85
17.82	NB: <i>Turn left.</i>	
	Unblazed path south, short cut to Landrus Road.	
	<i>SB: Turn right, then bear right again following orange blazes.</i>	20.66
17.98	NB: <i>Turn left.</i>	
	Junction with south outer Sand Run Falls loop.	
	<i>SB: Turn right.</i>	20.51
20.20	NB:	
	Straight at junction with skiable red-blazed cross-connector.	
	<i>SB:</i>	18.29
22.60	NB: <i>Left on driveway.</i>	
	Sand Run Falls ski trailhead. Plowed parking for hikers and skiers. Keep going up driveway if first two spots are full.	
	<i>SB: Right on north Sand Run Falls trail loop at large routed sign.</i>	15.89
22.65	NB: <i>Left on Arnot Road/SR 2016, re-cross Sand Run this time on road bridge.</i>	
	3.5 km east to Arnot, home cooking restaurant in old church. PO (16911) is on 2011 closure list, check first before using.	
	<i>SB: Right on Sand Run Falls trailhead driveway.</i>	15.83

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
22.87	NB: Turn right then immediately left to stay on signed MST.	
	Junction with red blazed Upper Sand Run Trail. Off road multi-use route easterly to Boone Run trail descending to Blossburg US 15 exit, 11 km past horse muck and gas wells.	
	SB: Edge left on Arnot Road/SR 2016, cross Sand Run on road bridge.	15.61
23.18	NB:	
	Straight across gravel Fisher Road. Limited shoulder parking but Sand Run Falls trailhead is much better.	
	SB:	15.30
23.78	NB: Last stream on State Forest in PA.	
	Cross Dyke Creek, small branch of Sand Run (homes upstream, filter). Possible campsite.	
	SB:	14.71
24.17	NB: Unblazed. Left on gravel Tokarz Road, quickly right on Arnot Road/SR 2016.	
	North end of continuous blazed MST at State Forest boundary. NO parking here! Check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">http://www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates.	
	SB: Right into woods, descend.	14.32
24.88	NB: Right on Haverly Hill Rd. Up and over Maple Hill.	
	Unblazed road junction.	
	SB: Left on Arnot Rd/SR 2016, then left again at next intersection above very tight curve, onto Tokarz Rd.	13.60
27.59	NB: Turn left on Hickory Ridge Rd.	
	Unblazed junction of narrow gravel roads. Check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">http://www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates.	
	SB: Right on Haverly Hill Rd, climb steeply up and over Maple Hill.	10.89
29.29	NB: Bear/curve right onto South Elk Run Rd.	
	Unblazed, no sign. Narrower seasonal portion of South Elk Run Rd extends 2 km to the Arnot Rd bridge over Babb Creek where blue blazed high water route begins at gate.	
	SB: Bear/curve left at wye onto Hickory Ridge Rd.	9.19
30.84	NB:	
	Straight at junction of Scheer Road, unblazed gravel road all sides. Cross Elk Run just north.	
	SB:	7.64
31.69	NB:	
	Straight at junction of Jackson Road, unblazed gravel road all sides. Cross Elk Run on road nearby.	
	SB:	6.79
32.44	NB: Turn right on paved Cherry Flats Road.	
	Cross minor branch of Elk Run on unblazed road.	
	SB: Turn left on gravel South Elk Run Road.	6.04
32.69	NB: Turn left on gravel Miller Hill Road.	
	Unblazed.	
	SB: Turn right on paved Cherry Flats Road.	5.79
34.18	NB:	
	Cross minor branch of North Elk Run on road, farm runoff.	
	SB:	4.30

NorthBound km	Features/Directions	SouthBound km
34.59	NB: Turn right on Johnson Hill Road. All unblazed gravel roads.	
	SB: Turn left on Miller Hill Road.	3.89
35.14	NB: Turn left on Mudge Road. Watch out for nasty neighbor. All unblazed gravel roads.	
	SB: Turn right on Johnson Hill Road.	3.34
35.89	NB: Left onto farm lane. Closed Oct 15-Dec 15 for hunting, use Mudge Rd as alternate. South end of blazed route from NY border and beyond for now. Check <a href="http://www.hike-mst.org">http://www.hike-mst.org</a> for updates.	
	SB: Right onto dirt Mudge Rd. Watch out for nasty neighbor.	2.59
36.42	NB: Last free site until one day north of NY border. Wimbrough Campsite. Register. Backpack camping for point to point hikers is permitted beside stream for one night only courtesy of the family. CLOSED during the high hunting seasons, Oct 15-Dec 15.	
	SB:	2.06
37.35	NB: Left back onto Mudge Rd.	
	SB: Right onto dirt farm lane, quickly left in trees along stream. Closed Oct 15-Dec 15 for hunting, stay on Mudge Rd during this time.	1.13
37.59	NB: Straight along hedgerow, bear left in woods to cross North Elk Run. High water: Follow roads around to west. Cross PA Route 660. NO parking.	
	SB: Straight onto dirt Mudge Rd.	0.89
38.06	NB: Cross Rice Rd, stay to east side of hedgerow, shortly cross stream (yes, both ways)	
	SB:	0.42
38.48	NB: US Route 6. End of section. Private land, stay on trail. Parking in the dirt overflow lot of River of Life church, mile marker 228.5, north side of road, west side of stream, EXCEPT SUNDAYS. 12.5 km west to Wellsboro with outfitter, shops, restaurants, hospital, and post office.	
	SB:	0.00