

## State Forest - DuPont State Forest

**Driving Directions** from Asheville: I-26 E to NC 280 S (Exit 40). Take 280 to US 64 junction. Go east on 64 to Crab Creek Rd., then right. Right again onto Dupont Rd. to Hooker Falls parking lot on right before bridge.

### **Hiking directions.**

From the Hooker Falls Parking lot follow trail to footbridge over Little River and up to Triple Falls. You can go down the steps to be nearer the falls, or you can go up to the overlook of the falls. Continue up to the left towards High Falls. When the trail veers right, stay left on the flat trail along the river to see High Falls from the base. Return to intersection and continue up to the lookout point of High Falls. Enjoy a snack at the picnic area at the overlook. You may continue up the path to the bridge that is over High Falls and see if you can spot Mt. Pisgah in the distance. Return to parking lot the same way. After crossing the footbridge, turn left to head towards Hooker Falls. It will be on the left. Go down a short hill to enjoy being by the water. Return to parking lot when done.

### History/ Information

**DuPont State Recreational Forest**, commonly known as **DuPont Forest**, is a 10,473-acre state forest, located in Henderson and Transylvania counties of North Carolina. The name originates from the DuPont film chemical factory that once stood on the grounds.

The forest was used to shoot scenes from the 1992 film *The Last of the Mohicans* as well as the 2012 box office hit *The Hunger Games*.

Nearly 83 miles of multi-use trails and roads thread through the forest. The forest is widely used for many recreational activities, including mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, swimming (where permitted), wading, and kayaking.

High Falls is a 150-foot waterfall in the middle of DuPont's 10,000-acre nature preserve.

Triple Falls is a unique three-tier waterfall that you can get up close to and picnic and take great photos.

Hooker Falls is a wide 12-foot waterfall cascading down into a swimming hole.

More info:

There is much history on how the state acquired this land. The 10,300 acre DuPont State Recreational Forest (DSRF) was acquired in three major phases, spanning from 1995 to 2000. The 7600-acre forest was purchased by the State of North Carolina in 1996 and 1997 after DuPont sold its industrial operation and surrounding land holdings. The 2700 acres surrounding the industrial facility was sold to Sterling Diagnostic Imaging in 1996. The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit organization, negotiated an agreement between DuPont and North Carolina officials which facilitated the public purchase. DuPont transferred all excess property to the Conservation Fund under favorable terms (a combination of land donation and land sale). The State later purchased most of these lands from the Conservation Fund for approximately \$2.2 million. Local environmental groups were instrumental in bringing these three parties together in 1995. Funding for the State Forest was granted by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Trust Fund; about 1750 acres of the property is registered as having special ecological significance ... read more here: <http://www.dupontforest.com/about/history-of-the-dupont-state-forest/>