Minimize campfire impacts
Use:
• Leave no trace for camping and day use. For more information about a shared mission. Help care for the land, water and cultural resource.
• Avoid using fireworks or fireworks. They can cause forest fires and damage to the environment.
• Avoid creating air pollution. Smoking is not allowed near campfire areas.
• Keep campfire areas free of debris to prevent accidental fires.
• Keep a fire ring or use a fire ring that is provided.
For your safety and enjoyment:
• Always wear a life jacket.
• Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
• Know fishing and boating regulations.
• Be prepared for river hazards.
• Carry proper equipment.

Pennsylvania Boating Regulations
A U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) is required for each person on board. In addition, one throwable device (a personal flotation device with a strong buoyant float) is required for each person in the case of an emergency. This device must be able to keep a person afloat for at least 20 minutes.

From November 1 through April 30, boats must carry life jackets on board for each person on board, regardless of age, that are not required to be worn. Life jackets must be available for children under 12 years old and young children (under 21) that are too short to be in a seat belt. Life jackets must be carried on board for each adult and child on the boat.

All boats must show running lights between sunset and sunrise. All boats are required to carry a sound-producing device, usually a horn, bell, whistle or similar device. This device must be audible for at least 100 yards in all directions.

Points of Interest
Emet Bike Trail is constructed on a narrow-gauge railway, transitioning into a rail-trail. Take the trail through the forest of French Creek and into the Allegheny River at Franklin. Emet Bike Trail parking is located at the intersection of Route 322 and the railroad. The trail is 4.6 miles long and takes you through the Allegheny National Forest.

Wilson Shute Bridge: Approx. 2.3 miles south of Meadville, turn right on Wilson Shute Road, then left into the parking lot just before the bridge.

Visitor Opportunities
Outfitters, guides, accommodations and recreational opportunities are available throughout the region. Local communities promote the area as a destination for outdoor recreation, particularly fishing, hunting, and boating. The French Creek is a popular destination for fly fishing, and the area surrounding the creek is home to a variety of wildlife, including bald eagles.

The French Creek watershed covers approximately 1,270 square miles, providing a habitat for many types of wildlife and birds, as well as over 80 species of fish and 27 species of freshwater mussel. The French Creek watershed is considered a priority area for conservation due to the presence of rare and endangered species. The French Creek is also home to Pennsylvania’s largest salmon run, which draws anglers from across the state.

The Creek Town program is a unique collaborative partnership between local municipalities and the French Creek Valley Conservancy that seeks to create positive, sustainable economic growth around the incredible value of French Creek. Along French Creek, these towns host many valuable community traditions that hold great history and importance to the region.

Cochranstown: Situated at the confluence of Little Sugar Creek and French Creek, Cochranstown is said to have been settled as early as 1785 when the first house was built by John Adams. Cochranstown is a borough of Crawford County and was officially created on April 5, 1855. Today’s borough is made up of the original land grants of John Cochran and Thomas Cochran, for whom the village is named. The Great Western Railway opened a market place for the village at Cochranstown. Since its creation, Cochranstown has had four names. The village was named after the community which now numbers 1,148 people. Activities include full time French Creek. Utica: Nested on the banks of French Creek is the Borough of Utica. The Borough is bordered completely by French Creek, and has both camps and day use access to the largest of the French Creek Watershed. Although small, (population is less than 200), the community is very family-friendly and holds a boat tournament each year in June.

The French Creek is a proposed Great Charter, used by the French Creek and Allegheny River. The Great Charter is a large, important waterway.

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