

**PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #14**  
**Forbes State Forest / Mt. Davis Section**

**COUNTY(IES)** Somerset

**APPROX. SIZE** 581 acres

**OWNERSHIP** Public (State)

**REASON FOR SELECTION**

- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons

**DESCRIPTION**

This site includes Mt. Davis and an array of tributaries of the Casselman River that originate in the highest elevations in the state. The habitat is dominated by deciduous forests, specifically oak mixed with other hardwood species. Uncommon trees that occur here include pitch pine and mountain ash.

**MAMMAL NOTES**

Site mammals include Allegheny woodrats and fishers. However, the IMA designation is based mostly on records of threatened West Virginia water shrews in at least four streams east, west, and north of Mt. Davis. Except for Tubmill Run, localities reported do not allow positive identification of capture sites, but they are likely to be Tumbling Cove Run, McClintock Cove Run, and Town Line Run.

**CONSERVATION NOTES**

There is little human impact at the higher elevations, but increasing likelihood of impacts on water quality with decreasing elevation. Any logging adjacent to streams is likely to cause a decline in water quality (increased siltation, higher water temperatures) that would be detrimental to water shrews.