Fred Woods Trailhead Directions

Moderate Difficulty (Distance and some rocks – 125 feet elevation gain)

35 – 45 min drive from cabin driveway to trailhead 4 hr / 4.0 mile loop hike
Elk State Forest Public Use Map available at:
Bureau of Forestry, Elk State Forest
P.O Box 327
Emporium, PA 15834
814 486-3353

...Directions to Trailhead

Choose either of the directions below based on winter road conditions:

...via Castle Garden/Mason Hill Rd (which is not recommended in winter as there's no winter maintenance after the first ¼ mile of Castle Garden/Mason Hill Rd and it is edged by many unguarded steep drop offs):

Turn right out of the parking lot onto SR 555 E. Castle Garden Rd. will bear off to your right at 19.2 miles. You need to continue for another .5 m and at 19.7 m turn left onto Mason Hill/Castle Garden Rd. It will be signed for Mason Hill Rd only. Go ~ 1.2 m to 20.9 m and bear left continuing on Mason Hill/Castle Garden Rd. Lookout Rd. will bear right. If you've got a spare moment, the panoramic view from up there is spectacular...the village of Driftwood, the Sinnamahoning Valley and the Allegheny Mountains are spread at your feet! At 23.4 miles you'll find the small parking lot on your right and the trailhead on your left.

...via Houston Hill Rd:

Turn right out of the parking lot onto SR 555 E. At 13.0 miles turn left onto Houston Hill Rd. Go 1.4 m and at 14.4 m turn right onto Mason Hill Rd. (unsigned). Go 1.8 m and at 16.2 m bear right onto Sheddy Rd. (unsigned). Go .2 m and at 16.4 m keep right onto T349 - Mason Hill/Castle Garden Rd. (unsigned). Go 2.3 m and at 18.7 m you'll find the small parking lot on your left and the trailhead on your right.