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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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BUREAU OF FORESTRY

LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST DISTRICT 2016 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY PLAN

The mission of DCNR Bureau of Forestry is to conserve the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth's forest and to conserve native wild plants. One of the ways the bureau carries out this mission is through the State Forest Resource Management Plan (SFRMP), a document that guides the management of the 2.2 million-acre state forest system. The SFRMP is updated approximately every 5 years and includes an extensive public engagement process.

One of the policies in the bureau's strategic plan (Penn's Woods: Sustaining Our Forests) includes, "Public participation will be an integral part of the management of state forest lands." The purpose of this Management Activity Plan is to communicate to the public about upcoming management activities, projects, and events that will be conducted to implement the SFRMP on Loyalsock State Forest. This document will be revised at the start and middle of each calendar year to provide sufficient time for public review, questions, and feedback. The bureau is committed to considering the views and perspectives of the public and stakeholders and strives to accommodate public interests in planning management activities and decision making. We encourage comments or questions regarding planned or proposed activities be directed to the state forest district conducting the activity.

For questions, comments, or more information about this plan, please contact:

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RECREATION

- **Old Loggers Path Trailhead Development**: this project is a continuation of recent improvements to the camping facilities in the ghost town of Masten, McNett Township, Lycoming County. Work planned for 2016 is the installation of a ventilated concrete sealed vault latrine to replace the temporary rental latrine. This project is pending funding and may not be possible for 2016.

- **Old Loggers Path Improvements**: this project involves the ongoing replacement of carved letter, wooden signage along entry points to the Old Loggers Path and the expansion/improvement of small parking areas at points where the trail crosses public use roads.

- **Kiosks**: this project involves the placement of informational kiosks at the Krimm Road Snowmobile and Old Loggers Path Trailhead parking lot in McNett Township, Lycoming County, and the Flook's Nook parking lot on Rock Run Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County.

- **Rock Run Parking Lots**: this project includes the levelling and stabilization of parking areas along Rock Run Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Parking areas will be slightly expanded as terrain permits and will be stabilized with Driving Surface Aggregate in order to reduce erosion and sedimentation.

- **Robwood Parking Lot**: this project includes the creation of a new PennDoT approved entrance and stabilization of an existing parking area along Rt 220 in Monroe Township, Bradford County. In addition to the parking improvements, informational signage will be installed.

Organized Events:

May 1: Youth Fishing Derby (Loyalsock Creek Men's Club): a one day youth fishing derby on Little Bear Creek. Approximately 80 participants. Derby will also be followed by a 4-week youth and handicapped restriction along the lower section of Little Bear Creek.

May 21: Worlds End Ultra Marathons (Iron Forged Runners, LLC): a trail run consisting of both a 50K and 100K event on the Loyalsock State Forest, beginning and ending at Worlds End State Park. This is a semi-professional event. There is a maximum of 150 participant for each event.

June: Smith's Knob Scramble (Mid Penn Trailblazers): a 9-mile trail run beginning at Camp Conley. Approximately 75 participants.
Equestrian Charity Ride (4-H Trail Trotters): a 25-mile equestrian ride on the Bridle Trail. Approximately 25 participants.

Marked and sold, potentially active

- These projects include the harvesting of timber sales that have been sold and contracted. Activities will include the felling, skidding, and bucking of trees and hauling logs from State Forest land to sawmills. Specific timing of harvesting operations is dependent upon the individual operator and various restrictions emplaced by the district.
    - 60-acre sale (20-2012BC12) near Ellenton Ridge Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
    - 92-acre sale (20-2013BC01) near Camels Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Shelterwood Treatment
    - 109-acre sale (20-2013BC06) near Butternut Grove Road in Gamble Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
    - 78-acre sale (20-2014BC01) near Little Bear Road in Plunkett's Creek Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
    - 128-acre sale (20-2014BC05) near Big Hollow Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County, 60 acres of Overstory Removal and 68 acres of Shelterwood Treatment
    - 49-acre sale (20-2014BC09) near John Merrill ext. Road in Cascade Twp., Lycoming County, Shelterwood Treatment
    - 8-acre sale (20-2015D01) near Rock Run Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County, Salvage Treatment-Storm damage
    - 156-acre sale (20-2015BC03) near Coal Mine Road in Shrewsberry Twp, Sullivan County, Ash Salvage Treatment
    - 34-acre sale (20-2015BC02) near Dunwoody Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County, Overstory removal
    - 73-acre sale (20-2014BC08) near McCarty Road in Shrewsberry Twp, Sullivan County, Overstory Removal
    - 82-acre sale (20-2015BC01) near Big Hollow Road in Hillsgrove Twp, Sullivan County, Salvage Shelterwood

Marked but not yet sold

- These projects include the potential harvesting of timber sales that should be sold and contracted in the early part of the calendar year and may be active this calendar year. Activities will include the felling, skidding, and bucking of trees and hauling logs from State Forest land to sawmills. Specific timing of harvesting operations is dependent upon the individual operator and various restrictions emplaced by the district.
    - 126 acre sale (20-2015BC05) near Bear Wallow and Camels Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County, Ash Salvage/Shelterwood Treatment

- 211 acre sale (20-2014BC03) near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Shelterwood Treatment

Proposed (not marked yet)

- **Planned Timber Sales:** these projects include the analysis, volume determination, marketing and contracting of timber sales that have been approved for implementation. It also includes those planned timber sales that are being analyzed and for which an official timber sale proposal will be generated and submitted this calendar year. Additional timber sales that have not yet gone through the initial planning and analysis are not included.

  - 58 acre sale (20-2015BC04) near Mead Road in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County, Salvage/Selection Treatment
  - 124 acre sale (20-2015BC06) near Big Hollow Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelterwood Treatment
  - 144 acre sale (20-2015BC07) near John Merrill Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelterwood Treatment

Other timber projects:

- **Ash Salvage along Rock Run Road:** this project is a continuing effort and includes the removal of small diameter white ash trees located in the McIntyre Wild Area along Rock Run Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Fuelwood permits to be sold via FMT-15 permits will be marked to remove trees in danger of falling on roadway after they succumb to emerald ash borer. Analysis plots were taken and an official proposal requesting a waiver to cut trees in the Wild Area was approved by the State Forester. Permits will be marked and sold until the majority of the hazard trees are removed.

Regeneration projects

- **Dismantle of woven wire deer exclosures:** these projects involve the removal of woven wire fencing, posts and gates after the successful establishment of regenerating forest tree species.
  - 48-acre fence near Ketchum Run in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
  - 17-acre fence near Ketchum Run in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
  - 6-acre fence near Round Top in Lewis Twp, Lycoming County
  - 97-acre fence near Cold Run Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
  - 50-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
  - 74-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
  - 15-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
  - 37-acre fence near Winner Knob in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
  - 11-acre fence near Camels Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County

- 40-acre fence near Coal Mine Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
- 29-acre fence near Coal Mine Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
- 42-acre fence near Slab Run Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
- 39-acre fence near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
- 52-acre fence near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
- 25-acre fence near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
- 59-acre fence near John Merrill Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County
- 27-acre fence near Brunnerdale Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
- 26-acre fence near McCarty Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
- 43-acre fence near Upper Camels Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County

- **Installation of woven wire deer exclosures:** these projects include the installation of a woven wire deer fence, posts and gates to protect newly established tree regeneration.
  - 92-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
  - 31-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
  - 33-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
  - 54-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
  - 43-acre fence near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
  - 63-acre fence near Devil's Elbow Haul Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
  - 76-acre fence near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
  - 82-acre fence near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
  - 39-acre fence near Brunnerdale Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County

- **Tree Planting:** these projects involve contracted or district tree plantings of native forest tree species in order to supplement natural tree regeneration and to improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity:
  - 18-acres near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
  - 38-acre fence near Brunnerdale Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
  - 41-acres near Mill Creek Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County

- **Herbicide Application (Ground Spray):** these projects include the application of glyphosate and sulfometuron methyl herbicides in order to control native and invasive plant species that are inhibiting the growth of forest tree species.
  - 45-acre block near Hillsgrove Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County
  - 11-acre block near Hillsgrove Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County
  - 25-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
  - 36-acre block near Slab Run Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
  - 46-acre block near Mill Creek Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
  - 56-acre block near Mill Creek Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
  - 20-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
  - 17-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
  - 23-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County

- 21-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
- 5-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
- 106-acre block near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
- 17-acre block near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Twp, Lycoming County
- 51-acre block near Bodines Mountain Road in McIntyre Twp, Lycoming County
- 16-acre block near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Twp, Lycoming County
- 104-acre block near Ellenton Ridge Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
- 37-acre block near Krimm Road in McIntyre Twp, Lycoming County

- **Vegetation Mowing:** these projects involve the mechanical removal of woody interfering vegetation species in order to improve conditions to grow desirable tree species.
  - 60-acre block near Mead Road in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
  - 80-acre block near Bear Trap Haul Road in McIntyre Twp, Lycoming County
  - 49-acre block near Bear Trap Haul Road in McIntyre Twp, Lycoming County

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Grays Run Stream Habitat:** this project involves the installation of mudsills and log vane deflectors to protect fragile stream banks and to add valuable fish habitat to Grays Run in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. In addition, the project will provide protection to a nearby leased forest campsite. This project is dependent upon permitting and funding.
- **Little Bear Creek Stream Habitat:** this project involves the installation and repair of existing of water jacks and log vane deflectors to protect fragile stream banks and to add valuable fish habitat to Little Bear Creek in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County. This project is completed each year by a cooperative between the Loyalsock State Forest District, The Loyalsock Creek Men's Club and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.
- **Food Plot Management:** this project includes the plowing, seeding, fertilizing and liming of existing food plots throughout the forest district. Work is being conducted through a grant from the National Wild Turkey Federation and a cooperative effort with the PA Game Commission.
- **QDMA Food Plots:** this project includes the replanting of existing food plots throughout the forest district. Planting includes annual crops of deer forage and is completed through a cooperative effort with the Quality Deer Management Association.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- **Rock Run Road over Loyalsock Creek:** this project involves the rehabilitation of the historic iron through-truss bridge in Laporte and Forks Townships, Sullivan County. Work involving repairs to abutments, replacement of wooden deck and the painting trusses has been completed. The remaining work, which was discovered during the 2015 rehabilitation, includes reinforcement to major structural members and anchor pins that are badly deteriorated.

- **Pleasant Stream Road over Long Run:** this project involves the replacement of a concrete deck short span bridge in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Work involves removal of existing abutments and deck and the installation of an open bottom arch culvert. Culvert will be wider than existing bridge to improve safety and drainage of road bed. Project is dependent upon funding and contracting.
- **Pleasant Stream Road over Bear Run:** this project involves the replacement of a narrow steel I-beam timber deck short-span bridge in McNett Township, Lycoming County. Work involves removal of the existing structure with abutments and the installation of an open-bottom arch culvert. The new culvert will allow for widening the road and improved safety. Project is dependent upon funding, design and contracting.
- **Pleasant Stream Road over Pleasant Stream:** this project involves the replacement of a narrow solid-slab concrete deck short-span bridge in Fox Township, Sullivan County. Work involves removal of the existing structure with abutments and the installation of an open-bottom arch culvert. The new culvert will allow for widening the road and improved safety. Project is dependent upon funding, design and contracting.
- **Cascade Road over Unnamed Tributary to East Branch Wallis Run:** this project involves the replacement of a deteriorated steel arch culvert in Cascade Township, Lycoming County. Culvert will be lengthened to allow for safer passage of vehicles through the curve in the roadway. Project is dependent upon funding, design and permitting.
- **Little Bear Road over Bryan Hay Run:** this project involves the replacement of an arch steel culvert in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County. Project is dependent upon funding, design and contracting.
- **Little Bear Road over Sand Spring Run:** this project involves the replacement of a concrete slab short span bridge in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County and is dependent upon funding, design and contracting.
- **Loyalsock Road over High Rock Run:** this project involves the replacement of a deteriorated steel arch culvert in Forks Township, Sullivan County.
- **Shanerburg Road over East Branch Double Run:** this project involves the replacement of a deteriorated steel arch culvert in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County.
- **Pleasant Stream Road Repairs:** this work includes the replacement of existing culverts, improvement of drainage, stabilization of ditches and addition of paver-placed Driving Surface Aggregate on a 6-mile portion of Pleasant Stream Road in McIntyre and McNett Townships, Lycoming County.
- **Rock Run Road Resurfacing:** this project involves placing Driving Surface Aggregate on one mile of road in Forks Township, Sullivan County.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- **Red Ridge Rx Fire:** this project includes a prescribed fire in a mature oak forest. The 100-acre block of forest is in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County on Red Ridge. It is part of a 200-acre research study proposed by the United States Forest Service and will aid in determining the effects of wildfire on rattlesnake populations, snake habitat as well as provide optimum site conditions for the establishment of oak tree species and the reduction

of undesirable forest growth. Completion of the project will be dependent upon the burning index, fire weather and site conditions during the springtime burning window.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- **Tract 100:** Seneca Resources will be applying prodiamine, a pre-emergent herbicide, in order to provide continued control of two populations of mile-a-minute weed. The populations are located in Lewis Township, Lycoming County near the Hagerman Run Compression Station and along Kinney Ridge Road.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Tract 100:** Seneca Resources will continue on-going gas development in the Grays Run area, McIntyre and Lewis Townships, Lycoming County. No additional major construction, drilling or hydraulic fracturing is anticipated, however, various small projects on existing well pads and pipelines can be expected. Various locations along established pipeline corridors and a reclaimed well pad will be planted with tree and shrub species.
- **Tract 551:** Anadarko Petroleum has proposed the construction of Pad A along the Bodine Mountain Extension Road, in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County, and the relocation of a portion of said road to reduce impacts to timber rattlesnake habitat. Also proposed is a pipeline corridor from the Bodine Mountain Compression Station (operated by Seneca Resources) along Bodine Mountain Road to the proposed Pad A location. It is no known whether or not this work will occur.

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- No work is anticipated

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- No special projects are anticipated

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Facebook page:** this is on ongoing project to keep forest visitors informed of happenings on the Loyalsock State Forest. Facebook page will be monitored on a daily basis and the district staff will update the page with worthy information at a minimum of once per week.

- **Loyalsock Vista:** this is a district newsletter compiling articles from staff on recreation, forest management and forest fire protection. It is sent annually via email and postal mail to Forest Fire Wardens, forest campsite lessees, retirees, and a variety of other contacts.
- **Green Career Day:** this project involves introducing middle school students in Sullivan, Bradford and Tioga school districts to a variety of outdoor career fields. Project is dependent upon funding and school participation and is generally held in mid to late September.
- **Sullivan County Elementary Youth Field Day:** this project involves teaching elementary school children about conservation and is held in Laporte in late May.
- **Sullivan County Fair:** this project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fair in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.
- **Sullivan County Fall Festival:** this project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fairgrounds in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.
- **Sullivan County Flaming Foliage Festival:** this project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fairgrounds in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.

RESEARCH

- **Rattlesnake Study:** this project includes a shelterwood cut, prescribed fire, overstory removal cut and a control block on 200 acres of mature oak forest. The United States Forest Service is assisting with the research and hope to gain more insight on the effects of the various silvicultural treatments on the populations and growth of timber rattlesnakes. The project will take place on Red Ridge in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County.
- **Unassessed Waters:** this project involves the aquatic sampling and brook trout habitat assessments on previously unassessed waters in the state forest. The study will also assess the ability of brook trout and macro-invertebrates to respond to flood damaged waterways. The research is being conducted by Susquehanna University and occurs throughout eastern Lycoming and southwestern Sullivan Counties.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** this research project involves the assessment of a variety of native herbaceous forest plants as well as waterways within the state forest. Research area includes the Kettle Creek basin in Sullivan County.
- **Marcellus Gas Monitoring Team:** these research and monitoring studies include a variety of areas within the Loyalsock State Forest to include the Pleasant Stream and Rock Run areas. Research will assess base line conditions for a variety of aspects including roads, streams and water quality, mammals, birds, insects and invasive plant species.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

GENERAL:

- Expanded historical displays of information and artifacts at Resource Management Center

MAINTENANCE:

- Replaced and added culverts, cleaned and stabilized ditches and tailgate spread Driving Surface Aggregate on portions of Pleasant Stream Road.
- Installed entering/leaving state forest signs along public roadways
- Painted/repaired/replaced State Forest signs east and west of Rt. 87
- Replaced/installed missing signs Districtwide
- Painted state forest boundaries in Rock Run, Mill Creek, and Grays Run blocks
- Through an Agility Agreement with PennDoT, asphalt paved 2.5 miles of High Knob and Dry Run roads.
- Replaced culverts, reclaimed asphalt, and paver-placed Driving Surface Aggregate on one-mile Dry Run Road in Hillsgrove Township, Sullivan County
- Brushed several miles of State Forest roads

FOREST MANAGEMENT & HABITAT MANAGEMENT:

- The district marked and prepared for sale 1,039 acres of timber sales. Of these timber sales, 546 acres were sold and contracted in 2015 with an additional 493 acres advertised for sale that should have contracts executed in early 2016. The district silviculture staff also proposed another 323 acres of treatments that are in the process of being marked for sale. Of the timber sales sold in 2015, there were 245 acres of overstory removal harvests, 288 acres of initial shelterwood sequence cuts, 11 acres of salvage only and 2 acres in haul road and landings.
- Implemented Ash Management Plan for District and treated 119 trees with systemic pesticide injections
- Mowed approximately 3 acres of invasive shrub species along Wallis Run and planted over 200 trees and shrubs. Installed bluebird and bat boxes throughout the area.
- Performed VIP plot measurements on 20% of plots in district in order to assess impacts of browsing by white-tailed deer
- Re-planted food plots for white-tailed deer at Nettle Ridge through cooperation with Quality Deer Management Association

RECREATION:

- Completed the expansion of the Bridle Trail Camping Area with 8 new sites and adjacent tie posts along 700 feet of new road.
- Began the establishment of additional numbered and designated campsites throughout district
- Installed informational kiosks and signage at the Masten Camping Area
- Developed paper informational panels for professional presentation of a variety of district information to be posted in locking panels of kiosks

- Constructed the 1.9 mile Rough Hill Trail as a new hiking opportunity that includes two new scenic vistas
- Opened over .75 miles of roads to handicapped hunters for access to Nettle Ridge food plots

PUBLIC CONTACT/LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Performed surveillance via patrol and cameras at Camp Conley and Old Barbours Road to address the off-roading situation, leading to a number of citations
- Cooperated with PA Game Commission on a number of hunting violations leading to citations
- Performed at least 15 recorded significant assists to forest visitors
- Recorded 83 incident reports in 2015 regarding incidents such as fatalities, motor vehicle accidents, burglary, illegal ATV activity, etc.

SAFETY:

- Conducted daily safety chats by all work crews giving all staff members responsibility in leading the safety chats
- Conducted Chain Saw Safety training for District staff and 52 PennDoT District 3 employees

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS:

- Constructed a new water jack and made major repairs to an existing water jack on Little Bear Creek with the PA Fish & Boat Commission and Loyalsock Creek Men's Club

MINERALS:

- Completed one well pad retirement on Tract 100 with Seneca Resources
- Initiated plan for tree plantings and habitat structure for retired well pad