

# TIADAGHTON 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 Tiadaghton 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 Projects

- **Tomb Flats Campground** - This project will include the continuation of the treatment of mile-a-minute adjacent to the campsite. Additionally, a gate will be installed to close off the trail near the restroom, paralleling the Pine Creek Rail Trail. A new kiosk will be ordered for campground/fishing information.
- **Trailhead Improvements** - Three new kiosks will be placed at major trailheads. One kiosk will be placed at the Black Forest trailhead and the other at the Golden Eagle trailhead. A third kiosk will be installed at Ross Run for the Bob Webber Trail. A new bulletin board will be placed at the Haneyville Snowmobile Parking Lot to provide information and maps to snowmobilers.
- **Black Walnut Bottom** – A new kiosk will be ordered, and time permitting, will be installed to provide information to the public.
- **Pine Creek Rail Trail** - Gate posts will be painted throughout the summer season along the rail trail. Older sections of the trail surface will be raked and rerolled in the spring. New signs will be installed throughout the length of the trail to replace the blue and white information signs. Furthermore, access signs along the creek will be repainted.
- **Haneyville ATV Trail** - Sections of the trail that are eroded will be resurfaced using shale, and drainage will be improved by maintaining headwalls, culverts, and tail ditches.
- **Pine Creek Rail Trail Invasive Species Plan** – Foresters will begin the systematic eradication of invasive species along the Pine Creek Rail Trail utilizing newly established compartments and guidelines.
- **Establish Campsites along Black Forest Trail near Slate Run** – This former campsite has been abandoned, and due to the tornado of 2011, this area has numerous dead trees, some standing and numerous downed trees. This site will be cleaned up, dead trees will be bucked, campsites established and numbered.



## Recreation Events

- **KTA Public Hikes** – Keystone Trails Association (KTA) in conjunction with Tiadaghton staff will lead a series of public hikes on May 13-15.
- **Eastern States 100** – On August 13, the Eastern States 100 will be held at Little Pine State Park. This elite foot race will utilize about 70 miles of hiking trails in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- **Call of the Wilds Mountain Marathon** - On August 13, the Call of the Wilds Mountain Marathon will be held at Little Pine State Park. This ultra-marathon course features about 25 miles of hiking trails in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- **Pine Creek Challenge** – In September, the 100 mile and 100 kilometer ultra-marathon race will be held on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.
- **Mile Run Challenge** - This annual half-marathon is held in the southern portion of the Tiadaghton State Forest and the northern portion of the Bald Eagle State Forest each spring.
- **YMCA Ride for the Y** – The annual Ride for the Y will be held on the Pine Creek Rail Trail in late September and feature approximate 29 miles of the trail.
- **Hyner Hang Gliding Club** – The Hyner Hang Gliding Club launches from the vista at Augenbaugh Gap several times per year.
- **Jersey Shore Lions Club Family Fun Walk/Run** – In April the Lions Club of Jersey Shore will host a 5k run/walk on the Pine Creek Rail Trail starting in Jersey Shore.
- **Durty Dabbers Enduro** – In June the Durty Dabbers host an endure-style motorcycle event that incorporates state forest roads in multiple forest districts. In the Tiadaghton State Forest, the Dabbers used roads solely in the southern portion of the district.
- **Slate Run Ramble** – In late spring and early autumn a public hike is led on trails near the village of Slate Run. The route may include portions of the Black Forest Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, Dragon’s Back, Quarry Mountain, Half-Dome, or other trails in the vicinity. The length of the course varies for each hike, but is typically 9-12 miles.
- **Iron Cross** – This year an organized bicycle event was held starting in Williamsport and extended into the southern part of the Tiadaghton State Forest



and the northern part of Bald Eagle State Forest. The event featured mostly gravel roads with the exception of two shared use trails.

- **Princeton Outdoor Action** – Each year Princeton University brings large groups of freshmen students on a backpacking trip on the Black Forest Trail-roughly 150 students attend each September.
- **AYSO 5K** – A local youth soccer league will host a 5k run on the Pine Creek Rail Trail

### **Trail Work**

- **Sentiero Di Shay Ski Trail**- DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately 13 miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Francis Kennedy Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately six miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Pine Bog Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately two miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **George Will Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately six miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Ruth Will Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Baldwin Point Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Pitch Pine Loop Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Bear Claw Ski Trail** - DCNR maintenance staff will mow and clear approximately four miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Mid State Trail**- Every August the Mid State Trail Association spends one weekend improving the trail. Additional work will involve digging-out areas where the trail has eroded and the tread surface is now non-existent.



- **Middle Hill Trail** – DCNR staff will re-establish the Middle Hill Trail by clearing trees and brush along the corridor and by digging-out areas that have washed-out.
- **Bull Run Quarry/Log Slide Loop**-A portion of trail will be constructed to connect two existing trails at one of the district’s outstanding vistas (Bull Run Spur 1), creating a scenic loop trail from the Tiadaghton Resource Management Center.
- **Black Forest Trail** – The 42 mile loop will be cleared at least twice during the year. Additional work will be conducted by volunteers and DCNR personnel to clear encroaching vegetation.
- **Golden Eagle Trail** – The 9.2 mile trail will be cleared at least three times throughout the year. Additional work will also include maintaining vistas and replacing trail signs. Overgrown portions of the trail will be cleared at the head of Bonnell and Wolf Run.
- **Bob Webber Trail** – This trail will be cleared of trees multiple times. Huckleberry and mountain laurel will be mowed back near the top of the trail.
- **Quarry Mountain/Dragon’s Back Trail** – This trail will be cleared from PA414 to the Golden Eagle Trail. A new trail sign will be placed where it intersects the Golden Eagle Trail.
- **Haneyville ATV Trail** - DCNR will maintain head walls, culverts and ditches along this 18 mile trail. The staff will also re-grade portions of the trail to improve the tread surface.
- **Tiadaghton Trail Maintenance** – DCNR maintenance staff and volunteers will clear approximately 15 miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Naval Run Trail** - This 5 mile trail will be cleared, and portions of the trail will need to be brushed back.
- **Coudersport Pike Trail** – The snowmobile Trail/shared use trail will be mowed by the Jersey Mills and Waterville Maintenance Division to remove woody vegetation and thick grass growing the trail.
- **Gleason Trail** – The Gleason Trail will be cleared of downed trees.
- **Old Wagon Road** – This trail will be cleared and mowed by volunteers and DCNR staff.



- **Presto (formerly Pesto Trail)** – This will be cleared of trees and weed whacked by volunteers to its intersection with the Mid State Trail.
- **Panther Run Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns, parts of it will be weed whacked, and trees were pruned back along its corridor.
- **Algerine Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns and weed whacked by DCNR and volunteers. Trail blazes will be painted yellow.
- **Cut Off Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns and DCNR staff will cut back encroaching huckleberry, mountain laurel, black birch, etc.
- **Plantation Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns from route 44 to the Haneyville ATV Trail.
- **Jack Martin Trail** – This trail will be cleared from route 414 to the Haneyville ATV Trail. The bottom will be weed whacked where tall grass and other herbaceous plants grow tall and obscure the view of PA414.
- **Brown's Run Trail** – This trail will be cleared of trees from PA44 down to PA414.
- **Ott Fork Trail** – The Ott Fork Trail will be cleared of downed trees and trees will be pruned back along its corridor.
- **Pine Hollow Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns and mowed from Middle Hill Road to the Ott Fork Trail.
- **Pine/Riffle Trail** – These trails will be cleared of downed trees. A new sign will be placed where Riffle Run intersects with the Pine Trail.
- **Half Dome** – This extremely steep trail will be cleared of downed trees.
- **Camp Ridge Trail** – This trail will be re-established/cleared following logging over the winter months.
- **Callahan Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns. A new sign will be placed where it intersects with the Pine Trail.



- **Houselander Trail** – This trail was abandoned years ago. Equestrian and mountain bike users are interested in re-establishing the trail. A large portion of the trail will be designated as shared use and will be cleared by volunteers and DCNR staff.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### Marked and sold, potentially active

- **Majority Rules (12-2014BC01)** – This area, near Second Gap, received a shelterwood treatment, and deer exclosure fences around 2007. As a result of those treatments, desirable regeneration conditions have arisen. The decision to remove the overstory of these areas, was made after regeneration plots were collected and ran through SILVAH. This computer program by the USFS provides us with guidelines that help in the decision-making process for stand management. Total harvest area is 80 acres.
- **Lebo Road** – Shelterwood Treatment – A competing vegetation treatment (mechanical mowing of mountain laurel) was applied to the stand, as well as a soil scarification, and one deer exclosure. We are planning to apply a shelterwood treatment, to take advantage of the thinned shrub layer, and the favorable acorn crop this year. Total treatment area will be around 250 acres.
- **Engine 309 sale along Sand Spring rd** – Conducted a Compartment Exam early 2014 - 294 acres Two Age Treatment, poorer site 2 (MAH22C) – to release the existing oak regeneration, future oak and other desirable stump sprouts while reserving all conifers, larger trees with current and future dens. This will be the first and only treatment in this area, due to the low deer population and larger one time treatment this will overwhelm the deer's efforts to browse the desirable species.
- **Kyle's Ridge II sale** – 193 acres of mostly overstory removal has been marked along the Big Springs Road.
- **Charred Tine Can Sale** - 209 acre sale off of Beulah Land road. Sale was partially shelterwood and partially overstory removal of an area that had been cut with a shelterwood treatment in the past along with being fenced and then burned to kill birch.

**Proposed (not marked yet)**

- **Shaw Mountain Rd.** Approx. 200 acres of poorer site class 2 and portions of a site 3 stand. Has adequate regeneration in places. Treatments will be two age removal and the potential of over story removal blocks.
- **Farewell Timber beast** – This sale is in the process of being marked along the Old Mountain Rd. This 175 acre sale will be primarily over story removal. Previous site projects were, mowing, planting and fence installations.
- *Other sales could potentially begin in 2016, but forecasting that activity at this time is difficult due to a variety of reasons that may inhibit them coming to fruition. We will periodically update this document throughout the year to better inform our constituents to the Tiadaghton State Forest.*

**Regeneration projects**

- Deer Fence Dismantle Projects – The district removed 15 deer fences over the last year and a half. Currently there are 17 more that are slated to be dismantles over 2016 across the district.
- Tree Planting – Gann Run, Under planting a Hemlock site with White Spruce.  
-Kelly Trail fences will be under planted with Oaks and conifers to supplement the natural regeneration on site.
- Crop Tree Project – Bear Paw – Area along Sand Spring Road will have a 45-acre crop tree management project to remove undesirable stems to promote the more dominant pole size stems.
- Francis Camp Rd fence will be planted with White Pine to increase diversity.
- A striped maple basal spray project in the Heavy Breather timbersale near Limbaugh Road. We burned 54 acres last year in two fences on Tin Can Road.

## RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

### 2016 Projected

- A National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) Superfund request has again been made to cover the costs of our 2016 food plot farming needs. We currently have 60 designated food plots or herbaceous openings covering approximately 115 acres in 3 counties. The largest being the Breining Tract in Watson Township, Lycoming County which covers 34 acres broken into 23 separate plots.
- Wildlife mowing at the Breining Tract will hopefully be conducted this year. The mowing was delayed due to trouble finding a contractor.
- NWTF funds were also requested to purchase more herbicide to continue the invasive control work around food plots.
- The district discussed reforesting barren or stunted areas (e.g. near Narrow Gauge, Browns Run roads) by planting early successional species such as bigtooth aspen, quaking aspen, and black locust. Currently fenced areas would be given first priority, so as to best ensure seedling survival.

## ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Spring 2016 – Prep. Slate Run Rd. for Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA). Starting at intersection of Slate Run Rd. and Francis Rd. to Rte. 44. This will include culvert replacement and adding aggregate to the road to establish ditch line.
- Summer 2016 – Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) placement on Slate Run Road. Starting at intersection of Slate Run Rd and Francis Rd. to Rte. 44. Approximately 3 miles.
- Summer 2016 – Liquid fuels project. Tailgate and spread 2A on Gottshall Rd. to add to road base to establish ditch line. Approximately 1 mile.
- Summer 2016 – In-house culvert replacement on Big Springs Road. Hill section to Dutch Hollow Rd. Approximately 2 miles.
- Summer 2016 – Bridge Replacement – Cove Rd over Cove Run, Gottshall Rd over Robbins Run, and Lower Pine Bottom Rd over Lower Pine Bottom.

## PRESCRIBED FIRE

### 2016 Projected

- Heavy Breather South RX is a 37 acre prescribed fire along Limbaugh Road. The prescribed fire is going to be conducted to promote oak regeneration and reduce striped maple competition.
- The Big Trail Wildlife RX is a 362 acre prescribed fire along Big Trail Road. The fire is broken into 3 separate units so that we don't have to commit to burning the entire area in one day. The entire unit is comprised of a dry oak heath forest. The understory is almost entirely thick mountain laurel and huckleberry/blueberry. We want to burn this area to create a more patchy, mosaic landscape and promote more herbaceous and desirable woody species. The entire area is non-commercial.
- We will again burn the Bonnell Flats RX this year. We will again treat approximately 26 acres with fire to promote native grasses and wildflowers and further eliminate invasive species. This will also serve as our spring training session to get our staff ready for the spring fire season.
- By the end of 2016 we hope to have 1 person working on an Prescribed Fire Burn Boss 2 task book and an additional person signed off as a fully qualified firing boss. We also hope to begin to have new people start working on other various RX task books to increase our district capabilities.

## INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- 2016 We plan to conduct additional stem treatments for Hemlock Wooley Adelgin in the Bark Cabin Natural Area as well as treatment areas in the area of Upper and Lower Pine Bottem drainages near the Tiadaghton State Forest district office.
- Japanese Knotweed treatments on and near the Old Coudersport Pike and nearby tower sites will continue or, depending on 2015 treatment success, be considered complete.
- Aggressive treatment of Mile-A-Minute will begin along the rail trail corridor north of Slate Run, near Black Walnut Bottom and Tomb Flats camping areas, McKees road area, and along the rail trail corridor north of Jersey Mills.
- Aggressive treatment of Mile-A-Minute and Ailanthus will continue at the Fluffy and the Goat timbersale (Twp Fourth Gap Area).
- Aggressive treatment of Ailanthus will continue in the Second Gap and Mile Run Areas (focusing on past and current timbersales in those areas).
- Mile-A-Minute biocontrol (beetle) releases will take place, if possible, at known heavy infestations. One opportunity exists just north of the Ross Run access area or at any newly discovered MAM infestations in the district's South Block.



- Aggressive treatment of Japanese Stiltgrass will take place at locations of newly discovered and manageable populations. For example, a newly constructed timbersale landing north of Black Forest Village contains a heavy but small and tightly contained infestation. Pre-emergent herbicides will be applied in early spring and their efficacy will be monitored throughout 2016.
- Aggressive treatment of Ailanthus in and surrounding Camp Kline/Ramsey Village area will continue. Late winter scouting of the mountains and drainages surrounding Camp Kline will be conducted with multiple staff and GPS units to locate previously unknown populations of Ailanthus or isolated female Ailanthus.
- The district will closely monitor nearby suspected Ailanthus verticilium wilt sites and will remain open to the use of verticilium wilt as a biocontrol of Ailanthus should it be permitted.
- Strategic treatment of Japanese knotweed will continue throughout the district with a focus on isolated or newly discovered and manageable populations. Focus will be shifted towards new disturbance, areas where fill was dumped/moved, etc.
- New populations and novel invasive species continue to be discovered on the nearly 1,000 acres of disturbance associated with Marcellus shale development. Continued treatment of these invasives, where possible and deemed effective, will continue. The district will continue to rely on the shale gas monitoring crew as an extra set of eyes constantly looking for and reporting these invasive species associated with shale gas development.
- Many invasives are discovered near or on old timbersale landings and haul roads. Old landings and timbersales will be scouted throughout 2016 and any invasive species, especially those found in low and isolated populations, will be eliminated. Invasives near newly planned timbersales will also be strategically targeted (e.g. Autumn Olive located along a state forest road leading towards a newly planned timbersale entrance).
- A newly acquired UTV-mounted sprayer will be used, in cooperation with the shale gas monitoring crew, for the treatment of roadside invasives. By some estimates, roadside invasive shrubs constitute the greatest number of isolated invasive shrubs in the Tiadaghton State Forest. Given the ease of treatment and the possible effectiveness of the treatment (e.g. eliminating the only Morrow's honeysuckle population for 10 square miles), this treatment method will be given priority during mid-summer, when other carefully timed and labor-intensive treatments (e.g. spring pre-emergent treatment or early fall basal spraying of root sprouting species) are not used.



## **NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Industry-driven overdevelopment and overproduction of natural gas has, not surprisingly, depressed the price of natural gas and related commodities. This is especially true in the region, with prices at the Leidy Hub approaching and sometimes dipping below \$1.00/MMBTU. This low price environment has stifled most new or previously planned development on the Tiadaghton State Forest

## **TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS**

- Establishment of potentially a couple new communications towers on private land with ROW access off of the Summit Trail.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- In 2015 we had a district timber management tour with the public. We showed various regeneration and timber projects to the group and engaged the audience in answering any questions that they had for our foresters.
- 2016 we plan to once again do a district management tour for the public. Date tbd.

### **Other Highlights include:**

- Meet and greet opportunities on the weekends.
- Family fishing days on Pine Creek in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.
- Jersey Shore Area Middle School: watershed education field day, compass and map classes, and invasive plants classes.
- Tree ID Trail hikes, kayak trips on Pine Creek and the Susquehanna River, History Hikes on the Log Slide Trail, and group rides on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.
- Fun in the Sun Day at Brandon Park, Williamsport.
- Woolrich Youth Day, Woolrich, PA.
- Jersey Shore YMCA Healthy Living Fair.
- Loyalsockville Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Rail Trail ride.
- Boy Scout and Cub Scout merit badge classes.
- Schick Elementary School (Loyalsock District) Career Day
- Project Learning Tree and PA Songbird presentations.
- Charter School Field days at the Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center.



- Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center presentations for gas infrastructure tours, advisory council meetings, and other state and national groups using the meeting space at the Center.
- Counselor at DCNR's ECO-Camp.

## RESEARCH

- In 2016, a planned USGS groundwater monitoring well will be installed off of Bull Run Road in the Tiadaghton State Forest. This will utilize a currently constructed and unused water withdrawal well originally installed to serve hydraulic fracturing needs at nearby well pads.
- During 2015, Staff of the Tiadaghton State Forest and DCNR BOF's central office, in cooperation with PSU, constructed a mock pad and simulated four separate restoration techniques each with multiple restoration seed mixes. In 2016, monitoring of this site will continue, as will removal of invasive species unique to the site and its past use and not typical for current Marcellus shale pad sites.
- During 2015, the district and BOF central office staff cultivated a relationship with Ernst Seed Company and implemented several pollinator overseeding trials on newly disturbed Marcellus shale gas infrastructure. Monitoring of these areas will continue throughout 2016.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

### Recreation Projects

- **Tomb Flats Campground-** This project included the placement of a double vault toilet adjacent to the Pine Creek Rail Trail for forest visitors. Additionally, Tiadaghton personnel planted approximately 90 balled and burlapped trees in the spring of 2015. The well drilled in September of 2014 does not have potable water. Numerous ash trees were felled, bucked for firewood, and the tops chipped to reduce slash on site.



- **Pine Creek Rail Trail** – This year the major project that took place along the trail was the removal of ash trees that were threatening buildings, campgrounds along the trail, and parking areas for the trail. In addition, the trail was brushed back along our 38 mile corridor.
- **Black Walnut Bottom Campground** – The water well drilled in 2014 yielded poor results, and the well cannot be used. Numerous dead trees, mostly ash, were cut and bucked into firewood for campers. The tops were chipped to reduce slash at the site.
- **Coudersport Pike Snowmobile Trail** –New signs were added at intersections to correspond with the new PA Wilds Snowmobile map. These signs serve to improve orientation for riders.
- **Haneyville ATV Trail** – Limestone aggregate was added to the Button Road, part of the Haneyville ATV Trail, to improve drainage and improve the road surface. In addition, shale was added to other portions of the trail.

## Recreation Events

- **Eastern States 100** – On August 15-16, the second annual Eastern States 100 was held at Little Pine State Park. This elite foot race, which featured runners from 22 states and four countries, utilized about 70 miles of hiking trails in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- **Call of the Wilds Mountain Marathon** - On August 15, the second annual Call of the Wilds Mountain Marathon was held at Little Pine State Park. This ultra-course featured about 25 miles of hiking trails in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- **Pine Creek Challenge** – On September 12-13, the 100 mile and 100 kilometer races were held on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.
- **Mile Run Challenge** - This annual half-marathon is held in the southern portion of the Tiadaghton State Forest and the northern portion of the Bald Eagle State Forest each spring.
- **YMCA Ride for the Y** – The annual Ride for the Y was held on the Pine Creek Rail Trail and featured approximate 29 miles of the trail.

- **Hyner Hang Gliding Club** – The Hyner Hang Gliding Club launches from the vista at Augenbaugh Gap several times per year.
- **Jersey Shore Lions Club Family Fun Walk/Run** – In April the Lions Club of Jersey Shore hosted a 5k run/walk on the Pine Creek Rail Trail starting in Jersey Shore.
- **Durty Dabbers Enduro** – In June the Durty Dabbers host an endure-style motorcycle event that incorporates state forest roads in multiple forest districts. In the Tiadaghton State Forest, the Dabbers use roads solely in the southern portion of the district.
- **Slate Run Ramble** – In late spring and early autumn a public hike is led on trails near the village of Slate Run. The route may include portions of the Black Forest Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, Dragon’s Back, Quarry Mountain, Half-Dome, or other trails in the vicinity. The length of the course varies for each hike, but is typically 9-12 miles.
- **Princeton Outdoor Action** – Each year Princeton University brings large groups of freshmen students on a backpacking trip on the Black Forest Trail-roughly 150 students attend each year.
- **Iron Cross** – This year an organized bicycle event was held starting in Williamsport and extended into the southern part of the Tiadaghton State Forest and the northern part of Bald Eagle State Forest. The event featured mostly gravel roads with the exception of two shared use trails.

## **Trail Work**

- **Haneyville ATV Trail** - DCNR staff performed maintenance work on head walls, culverts and ditches along this 18 mile trail. The staff also had to regrade portions of the trail to improve the tread surface. Vistas along the trail were also cleared. Aggregate was added to the Button Road and to other portions of the trail that were eroded.
- **Mid State Trail Rehabilitation** – The Mid State Trail Association (MSTA) reconstructed portions of the trail in the Tiadaghton State Forest between Little Pine State Park and Ramey Village. The trail paralleling Ramsey Run was also repaired in numerous locations to improve safety for hikers.



- **Mid State Trail Maintenance** - The MSTA, DCNR employees, and additional volunteers mowed/brushed back approximately 35 miles of trail from Big Springs Road to PA State Game Lands 75.
- **Tiadaghton Trail Maintenance** – DCNR maintenance staff and volunteers mowed, weedwhacked, and cleared approximately 10 miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance. In addition, the section from Huntley Rd to Boone Road was brushed back and reblazed for the first time in decades, completing the trail from Camp Kline to Boone Road.
- **Sentiero Di Shay Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately 13 miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Francis Kennedy Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately six miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Pine Bog Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately two miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **George Will Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately six miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Ruth Will Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Baldwin Point Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Pitch Pine Loop Ski Trail** - DCNR staff mowed and cleared approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Bear Paw Ski Trail** - DCNR maintenance staff mowed and cleared approximately four miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Wolf Path Trail** - DCNR mowed this trail connecting Lower Pine Bottom Road to Middle Hill.



- **Torbert Trail** - DCNR staff mowed, weedwhacked, and cleared approximately two miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Long Path Trail** – DCNR staff and volunteers cleared trees and mowed approximately 1/2 mile of this trail for trail users.
- **Broken Tip Ski Trail** – This 2.5 mile loop was re-established by clearing trees and brush and mowing both sides of the trail.
- **Black Forest Trail** – DCNR staff and volunteers cleared the 42 mile loop of downed trees and mowed/weedwhacked segments that were overgrown. Portions that were mowed included: Algerine Trail junction to Slate Run (volunteers), Manor Fork Rd to Foster Hollow Camp, Foster Hollow Camp toward Lone Pine Vista. The portions that were weedwhacked included: the tornado swath paralleling Slate Run Rd, the tornado swath from Naval Run to the Gas Line Trail, the section from Big Trail road to Hemlock Mountain.
- **Golden Eagle Trail** – DCNR staff cleared this 9.2 mile trail three times of blowdowns throughout the year due to its popularity.
- **Bob Webber Trail** - This trail was cleared twice by DCNR staff and volunteers. The trail register was also replaced in the spring.
- **Quarry Mountain/Dragon's Back Trails** – These trails were cleared by a volunteer this year. The trail connects from the new campground at Tomb Flats to the Golden Eagle Trail.
- **Naval Run Trail** - This 5 mile trail was cleared. The trail is badly overgrown and needs additional work to reopen as a shared use trail. The trail has a few large trees from the 2011 tornado that need to be removed.
- **Coudersport Pike Trail** – The southern portion of this trail was mowed by the Jersey Mills Maintenance Division to remove woody vegetation and thick grass growing on pipeline portions of the trail.



- **Gleason Trail** – The Gleason Trail tread surface was greatly improved with the use of volunteers by re-establishing a bench-cut along the trail from the top of Huntley to where the trail connects to the quarry portion of the trail near the Old Wagon Road Trail.
- **Old Wagon Road** – This trail was cleared and mowed by volunteers and DCNR staff. Japanese barberry is currently a significant problem along the trail.
- **Presto (formerly Pesto Trail)** – This trail was cleared of trees and weed whacked by volunteers to its intersection with the Mid State Trail.
- **Panther Run Trail** – This trail was cleared of blowdowns, parts of it were weed whacked, and trees were pruned back along its corridor.
- **Algerine Trail** – This trail was cleared of blowdowns and weed whacked by DCNR and volunteers.
- **Cut Off Trail** – This trail was cleared of blowdowns, and two days were spent with DCNR staff to cut back encroaching huckleberry, mountain laurel, black birch, etc.
- **Plantation Trail** – This trail was cleared of blowdowns from route 44 to the Haneyville ATV Trail.
- **Jack Martin Trail** – This trail was cleared from route 414 to the Haneyville ATV Trail. The bottom was weed whacked where tall grass and other herbaceous plants were tall.
- **Brown's Run Trail** – This trail was cleared of trees from PA44 down to PA414.
- **Ott Fork Trail** – The Ott Fork Trail was cleared of downed trees and trees were pruned back along its corridor.
- **Pine Hollow Trail** – This trail was cleared of blowdowns and mowed from Middle Hill Road to the Ott Fork Trail.

## **Habitat and Restoration Projects**

- Food plot farming and mowing occurred as usual in 2015. The NWTF Superfund awarded us enough money to cover the costs of all food plot supplies in Lycoming County. Clinton County plots were funded using district funds. Food plot coverage includes mixed clover, wheat, oats, brassica, sunflowers, buckwheat, rape, kale and turnips. Many of our food plots that historically received annual farming are transitioning to clover due to increased prescribed burning by PGC thereby limiting the food and cover crews time to farm.
- Focused herbicide treatment around many food plots. Herbicide use was mostly in the fall. Target species were barberry, multiflora rose, autumn olive, and honeysuckle. Herbicides used were Glyphomate 41 and Pathfinder II.
- Enrolled three units into the DMAP program. Slate Run North, Wolf Run, and Little Pine East were enrolled, focusing hunters into areas showing high deer pressure.

## **Prescribed Fire**

- Bonnell Flats RX was successfully burnt again in 2015. Approximately 26 acres were treated with fire to promote native grasses and wildflowers, as well as to control invasive species.
- Tin Can 2 RX was also conducted in 2015. 27 acres were treated with fire to promote oak regeneration.
- 1 person signed off as a qualified firing boss. 1 person is now working on the firing boss task book.
- District personnel also assisted District 20 on a fall prescribed fire in 2015.

## **Insects, Disease, and Invasive Plant Treatment**

- Fall 2015 we treated 290 Hemlock trees for a total of 3,050" DBH in the Bark Cabin Natural Area.

## **Natural Gas, oil, and other Geologic Resource Development**

- During 2015, a 2.7 mile by 20 ft. wide pipeline was installed to facilitate gas removal from EXCO's Pad 3 on DCNR Tract 727, Big Springs Road
- During 2015, PGE began construction of a natural gas compression station on DCNR Tract 293 to serve both Tracts 293 and 322. The compressor station is located near the intersection of Boone, Okome, and Huntley Roads and utilizes a portion of a previous disturbance/clearing associated with an existing fresh water impoundment.



- During 2015, Anadarko elected to dewater several fresh water impoundments as many filled from natural rainwater. Dewatering took place with the cooperation and monitoring of DEP staff.
- During 2015, attempts were made to encourage natural gas operators to avoid mowing their rights-of-way and vegetated clearings associated with Marcellus infrastructure so as to facilitate development of native warm-season grasses that should have been planed with DCNR's prescribed seed mix.

## **Research**

- During 2015, the USGS investigated the impacts of unconventional oil and gas operations on aquatic ecosystems
- During 2015, the monitoring and assessment of timber rattlesnake populations continued on the district.
- During 2015, a researcher from The University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, conducted research on the impacts of climate change on red pine using known natural populations of red pine on the district.
- During 2015, a researcher from Duke University sampled bryophytes on the Tiadaghton State Forest and was directed to known populations along the Pine Creek Rail Trail north of Slate Run Village.
- During 2015, researchers from PSU, in cooperation with the USGS and the PA Fish and Boat Commission, continued research on small mouth bass populations in the Pine Creek, West Branch Susquehanna and associated watersheds.
- During 2015, researchers from PSU, WVU, Audubon PA, and the Western PA Conservancy all separately conducted forest interior/breeding bird surveys related to Marcellus shale habitat fragmentation impacts.
- During 2015, Thomas Gabrielson, PSU, kindly completed a report of compressor noise measurements on the Tiadaghton State Forest and provided it to DCNR.