

CORNPLANTER 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 Cornplanter 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

- **Lashure Interpretive Trail** – Evaluate the effectiveness of the new interpretive trail brochure through feedback received from the public
- **Hunter Run Trail Improvements** – Identified areas will receive various upgrades including erosion control measures such as water bars and geotextile placement along with additions of stone/gravel
- **Motorized Campsite Enhancements** – The District’s motorized campsite at Hunter Run will receive upgrades including a routed sign, a bench and a fire ring
- **Ingraham Tract Trail System Improvements** – The trail system at the Strawbridge Road Ingraham Tract in Crawford County, will receive numerous upgrades including updated trail markings, installation of trail difficulty rankings, reestablishing tree ID markers and installing a small information board in the parking lot

Organized events

- No organized events are planned in 2016 for the Cornplanter Forest District at this time

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- None

Marked but not yet sold

- None

Proposed (not marked yet)

- **Marfink Sale** – This proposed 72 acre sale, located in the eastern section of the Hunter Run tract near McCaferdy Run, will receive a basal stem treatment to substantially reduce the number of undesirable stems competing with hardwood seedlings. After the project is completed the area will receive a first stage shelterwood harvest to remove small pole-sized and genetically inferior trees to allow more sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor to promote growth of the new seedlings. The

second stage of the shelterwood harvest would occur in order to remove the remaining inferior quality trees and to allow more sunlight to reach the growing seedlings.

- **Hunter Run Pine Plantation Treatment Project** – Located near the Hunter Run Maintenance Headquarters, a mixed pine, spruce and larch plantation planted during the 1930s with additional plantings during the 1960s is in need of a thinning to reduce diseased, dying and/or inferior quality trees. A plan has been developed with various treatment options in an effort to promote a healthier stand that is able to sustain itself well into the future.
- **Ingraham Christmas Tree Tract** – Initial scouting and layout activities for a future timber sale near Townville will occur. Primarily focusing on the hardwood-oak portion of the stand, the sale will involve removal of the inferior quality trees while promoting adequate desirable regeneration. The stand is in need of a treatment due to the advanced age of the overstory trees which are beginning to show signs of decline.

Regeneration projects

- **Marfink Basal Stem Treatment Project** – This project will occur in the same area as the proposed Marfink Sale. Sapling-sized trees hindering desirable oak and northern hardwood seedlings will receive individual chemical treatments to ensure adequate growing conditions are created by allowing additional sunlight to reach the seedlings. Most of the trees to be eliminated from the sale are black birch and red maple saplings and pole-sized trees.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Legacy Oil Well Plugging, Infrastructure Removal and Surface Rehabilitation** – The District will continue to monitor well plugging efforts to minimize the effects of legacy oil wells and associated infrastructure throughout the northcentral portion of the Hunter Run Tract
- **Tree Planting at the Large Ingraham Tract** – In order to increase the coniferous cover component in the group selection areas resulting from a previous timber sale, white pine seedlings will be planted within the three group selection openings

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- There are no road and bridge projects planned for 2016 on the Cornplanter State Forest

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- There are no prescribed fire activities planned for 2016 on the Cornplanter State Forest

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- **Treatment of Ash Trees** – Between 30 and 40 ash trees on State Forest lands throughout the District selected by staff members will be treated with approved chemicals and methods to provide resistance against the destructive emerald ash borer
- **Spot treatment of Invasive Plant Species** – During late summer/early fall the District will conduct herbicide spot treatments for non-native, invasive plant species on State Forest lands. Common species treated include: multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, phragmites and Japanese knotweed. Primarily glyphosate-based herbicides will be utilized for these spot treatments
- **Development of a plan for HWA** – Develop a plan and continue to monitor hemlock trees that may potentially be affected by hemlock wooly adelgid, especially in the Ander’s Run Natural Area and at the Ingraham tracts

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- **OGM Monitoring** – Continue to monitor new oil and gas activity on severed rights tracts of the Cornplanter State Forest and minimize surface disturbance where possible.
- No shale/stone pits or coal/hard mineral projects are planned for 2016 on the Cornplanter State Forest

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- There are no tower or right-of-way projects planned for 2016 on the Cornplanter State Forest

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- There are no special projects planned in 2016 for the Cornplanter Forest District at this time.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Plans for public engagement for 2016 are still being developed, please check the District webpage or call the District Office for updated information

RESEARCH

- The U.S.F.S. Northeast Research Station is engaged in a fern and herbicide study on the Cornplanter State Forest to determine the effects of broadcast herbicide application for fern control on oak and other desirable seedlings. This is part of a multi-district study being led by Todd Ristau.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Ash Tree Treatments – District staff treated approximately 46 trees on State Forest lands with approved chemicals in an effort to prevent mortality due to the emerald ash borer insect
- Trail upgrades and enhancements were made at the large Ingraham tract including geotextile and gravel placement, installing wayside panels and parking area improvements
- A contract herbicide crew treated non-native, invasive plant species on approximately 100 acres of State Forest lands using approved herbicides and methods
- The District monitored oil well plugging and related efforts to remove associated infrastructure from State Forest lands
- Improved the various interpretive stations along the Lashure Interpretive Trail and produced a new brochure for the public
- Improved the parking area along Neiltown Road near the cross-country ski trail