

Moshannon State Forest

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 Moshannon 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

- **Quehanna Shared-Use Horse Trail Development** -Construction of a number of segments of shared-use trails to add to existing loops near the Yellow Snake Camping Area near Piper and the Quehanna Highway. This is a continuation of work started last year. Permits are ready. The project includes two ford crossings, one through Twelve Mile Run and the other through Upper Three Runs Rd. A new public-use map for this trail is also being developed and distributed this season.
- **Quehanna Hiking Trail Re-route Medix Run Area** - A severe storm in 2015 washed away an abutment and the footbridge on the Quehanna Trail across Medix Run. A permanent re-route is proposed for that segment of trail. The re-route will utilize the vehicle bridge near the intersection of Little Medix Road and Medix Grade Road and involve opening approximately 1-mile of new sidehill trail paralleling Medix Grade Rd. Also the district trail from the Little Medix bridge to Saunders will be designated to the Quehanna Hiking Trail.
- **Quehanna Hiking Trail south of Wallace Mine Rd.** Reroute ¼ mile of trail this summer to avoid areas flooded recently by an active beaver dam.
- **Quehanna Hiking Trail at Mix Run.** Make repairs to storm damaged bridge and repair one abutment by installing new gabion baskets.
- **Quehanna Hiking Trail Corporation Dam Bridge Replacement.** The Quehanna State Forest Hiking Trail is an 80-mile looped trail system through many remote areas in the northern part of the Moshannon State Forest and the southern part of the Elk State Forest. Several years ago, heavy spring snow melts severely undercut abutments on a 72-foot footbridge across the Mosquito Creek just west of Gifford Run in the Frenchville area. The crossing is currently accomplished by fording which can be difficult during periods of high flow. There are no suitable alternate routes nearby for crossing the stream. A new location for the bridge is being proposed ¼ mile upstream. Designs and permitting are currently being considered for replacement of the bridge.
- **Quehanna Hiking Trail and the Allegheny Front Trail Vistas.** On the Quehanna Trail, clear two overgrown vistas, one at Little Medix Point and one on Chestnut Ridge. The Allegheny Front Trail is a loop trail system in the southern division of the forest surrounding the Black Moshannon State Park. Regular maintenance of numerous vistas needs completed. 4 vistas are to be cleared on the Underwood section of the trail. Work will include brushing out viewing areas, tree trimming and felling of trees overgrowing existing vistas.
- **CPL Snowmobile Trail re-route from Stone Run Road to Laurel Run Road.** The CPL Trail is currently closed because of a washed out bridge and the wetlands surrounding Laurel Run. The re-route will bypass Laurel Run while adding an important link to the snowmobile trail system. This re-route will likely be a multiple year project entering the 2016 season.
- **Link the SGL 90 Snowmobile Trail to Stone Run Road.** This project has been a few years in the making. Oil and Gas activity on Stone Run Road and on SGL 90 made this project low priority in the past. However, with the reduction of truck traffic and other considerations,



the link between Stone Run Road and SGL 90 is now feasible.

- **Caledonia Pike from Medix Grade to Wallace Mine Rd.** Requested joint use for snowmobiles in the winter time through Goshen Township for 2016. With approval of the township we plan to adopt maintenance of an additional 1.74 miles of road.
- **New Snowmobiling Equipment at the Dague Division.** The Dague Division will be purchasing a new snowmobile trail groomer to replace a twenty-plus year-old groomer. The new groomer will be much more reliable and parts are readily available for repairs. The division is also getting a replacement utility snowmobile to replace a worn-out snowmobile. The new snowmobile is a powerful, wide-track, utility model capable of pulling an enclosed snowbalance sled for the transport of injured/rescued people from remote areas in the winter.
- **Shaggers Inn Dam and Beaver Run Dam.** Secure permitting to drain and breach both dams to replace corroded spill pipes. The dams will then be rebuilt and work will be done to restore fish habitat at both dams at the conclusion of the project.
- **Rockton Mountain Trail System Maintenance**-Brush out and re-blaze the Rockton Mountain Trail System. This trail system is located along Rte. 322 between Clearfield and Dubois. It is a district trail used as by cross-country skiers in the winter and hikers and mountain bikers in the summer. The trail traverses through areas with thick mountain laurel and huckleberry. The vegetation needs brushed back and the trail blazes repainted. Additional sign posts will be installed where necessary. A stolen bridge will be replaced

2016 Organized Events

January

- Black Moshannon Snowmobile Club – Poker Run
- Winter Klondike – Chief Logan Council, Boy Scouts of America

May

- Moshannon Valley Y.M.C.A. –5k/10k Run-Walk

June

- Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre (C.A.S.T.) - Tour de Parks Bike Ride

July

- Allegheny Front Trail Run
- High Country Arts and Crafts Festival

August

- Moshannon Valley Y.M.C.A. – Mountain Bike Race
- Penn State ORION – Student Orientation

September

- Clearfield Arts Studio Theatre (C.A.S.T.) - Fall Bike Ride

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Many of the current timber harvests in the Moshannon State Forest are related to efforts to salvage dead trees and regenerate a new forest from past gypsy moth infestations within the Black Moshannon area. This area of the forest is located in northern Centre County. During a period of three years in 2007, 2008 and 2009, more than 20,000 acres of trees died as a result of repeated heavy defoliations by this exotic pest. Many of these salvage harvests require supplemental plantings to replace trees that died. Harvesting is occurring in the areas of the forest listed below. These harvests include mostly shelterwood and overstory removal treatments. Shelterwoods are designed to encourage the growth of new tree seedlings in the forest to replace ones that died or have become mature and will be harvested. Overstory removals harvest the main canopy to release established tree seedlings to grow in the full sunlight and develop into the next forest stand. Most harvests listed below fall into one of these two categories.

Below is a list of timber sales that are already contracted and will potentially be active in the Moshannon State Forest in 2016:

Marked and sold, potentially active

<u>Harvest Location – nearest road and forest division</u>	<u>Acreage (A) / Type of Harvest</u>	<u>Harvest Name/Contract #</u>	<u>Forester</u>
Off Huckleberry Rd-Black Moshannon Division	562A Salvage/ Shelterwood	Sawdust Salvage 09-2013BC04	Mohney
Near Rattlesnake Pike-Black Moshannon Division	208A Salvage/ Shelterwood	Rock Run Salvage 09-2015BC07	Kucharcik
Off Strawband Beaver – Black Moshannon Division	124A Two-Age Removal/ Salvage Shelterwood	Strawpond Removal Salvage 09-2014BC10	Kucharcik
Off Casanova Rd. – Black Moshannon Division	500A Salvage Shelterwood	Harlem Salvage 09-2013BC09	Jovenitti
Off Claymine Road-Black Moshannon Division	166A Salvage / Two-Age Removal	Clay Mine Removal 092013BC15	Kucharcik
Off Hannah Furnace-Black Moshannon Division	341A Salvage / Shelterwood	Pitch Pine Island Salvage 09-2014BC01	Kucharcik
Off Tram Road-Black Moshannon Division	661A Overstory Removal / Salvage Shelterwood	Journey's End Salvage 09-2013BC08	Kucharcik
Off Shirks Road- Black Moshannon Division	302A Two-Age Removal	Triangle Removal 09-2014BC02	Kucharcik
Off Beaver Road – Black Moshannon Division	112A Two-age Removal	Beaver Meadow Trail Removal 09-2014BC09	Kucharcik
Off Meyers Run Rd. – Black Moshannon Division	658A Salvage Shelterwood	Hunters Rocks Salvage 09-2014BC06	Kucharcik
Off Cassanova Road- Black Moshannon Division	500A Salvage Shelterwood	Harlem Salvage 09-2013_C09	Jovenitti

Off Cassanova Road- Black Moshannon Division	330A Salvage Shelterwood	Black Bear 09-2012BC04	Johnson
Off Hanna Furnace Rd. – Black Moshannon Division	350A Salvage Shelterwood	Mazda Tribute 09-2014BC08	Jovenitti
Off Bennet Rd. – Dague Division	38A Overstory Removal	Bennett Road 09-2012BC09	Johnson
Off Laurel Run Road-Dague Division	80A Overstory Removal / Two-Age Removal	Laurel Run Removal 09-2013BC02	Mohney
Off Evans Road-Dague Division	49A Shelterwood	Evans Road 09-2012BC08	Johnson

As of the beginning of 2016, the following harvests are presently being proposed and/or marked and prepared for bidding:

Marked but not yet sold

<u>Harvest Location – nearest road and forest division</u>	<u>Acreage (A) / Type of Harvest</u>	<u>Harvest Name</u>	<u>Forester</u>
Off Benner Run Rd. – Black Moshannon Division	576A Salvage Shelterwood	Benner Run 9-2015BC12	Miller
Off Casanova Rd. – Black Moshannon Division	504A Salvage Shelterwood	Turkey Trot 9-2015_C04	Wilson
Off Quehanna Hwy. Piper – Quehanna Division	114A Shelterwood	Mark’s Run 9-2012BC07	Wilson
Off Grant Trail Rd. – Quehanna Division	153A Overstory Removal / Shelterwood	Grant Trail 9-2015BC05	Jovenitti
Near Mt. Pleasant Valley Rd. – Dague Division	55A Overstory Removal	Lamb Hollow 9-2013BC10	Johnson
Off Scoffield Rd. – Dague Division	213A Shelterwood	Scoffield Mountain 9-2015BC06	Jovenitti

Additional harvests will be proposed in 2016. Inventory and landscape exam work has not yet been fully completed for identifying and prioritizing each of the areas to be proposed for harvesting over the next year. Areas will be selected for harvesting based upon assessments of stand health, habitat needs, forest maturity, whether natural seedlings are available to quickly replace harvested trees, and other goals detailed in the State Forest Resource Management Plan.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Black Moshannon Tree Plantings** – Approximately 1000-acres of forest which have been impacted by gypsy moth mortality will be planted with a variety of seedlings, mainly conifers. These plantings will not only aid in an effort to increase diversity of tree species amongst the forest, but it will also provide additional wildlife habitat opportunities.

- **Quehanna Wildlife Projects** - An effort has been made both past and present by the Game Commission to maintain about 225-acres of grass and clover food plots on the Moshannon State Forest for wildlife habitat in the Quehanna Area. The Moshannon District maintains about 30-acres. The Game Commission will also cut 25-acres of aspen this winter in the Chipper Rd. area for deer browse and portions are to maintain grouse habitat. The district will do a 7-acre aspen browse cut this winter in the Wilson Swith area. The district will also be cutting an additional 14-acres of aspen browse in the Sanders Rd. area near the Caledonia Pike. These areas provide additional habitat for many species such as elk, deer, turkeys, etc.
- **Apple Orchard Establishment in 2 new locations** - Two separate 1½ to 2-acre apple orchards will be established to enhance wildlife habitat and visibility. The one will be planted above the lake at Shaggers Inn Dam and the other at a yet to be selected site probably in the Quehanna Area. Two wildlife enclosure fences will be built to protect apple saplings until the trees are well established and then the fences will be removed.
- **Deer Fence Removals** - Moshannon State Forest is currently on a trend of removing many deer fence enclosures. More than half of the 120 fences that were present 7 years ago have been removed based on changing habitat and harvesting conditions. An additional 2 fences will be removed this year.
- **Mud Run Warm Season Grasses** - Another cooperative effort with the Pennsylvania Game Commission that established a 14-acre warm season grass planting in the Penfield area. This project will focus on rehabilitating some of the previously strip mined areas while providing a different type of habitat that will help species such as elk, deer, turkey, rabbits, songbirds and others. The grass is established but access road improvements will be done and lime spread.
- **Tyler Run Strip Mine Reclamation - Hollywood** - The area is north of Hollywood near Five Points. This project is in the planning stage. It is a cooperative project with the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation designed to remediate high walls and re-establish more natural contours and vegetation. This project will be in the planning and design phases in 2016 with actual work being completed in succeeding years.
- **Aspen Direct Seeding** - An aspen direct seeding project of a few acres is being proposed in 2016. A site has not yet been finalized but will likely be in the Quehanna area. Aspen is very beneficial to many species of wildlife including deer, elk, grouse and others. The planting will attempt to take a marginally productive site and revegetate it for wildlife using a relatively simple and low-cost technique of direct seeding.
- **Stream Buffering - Quehanna Area** - A half century of acid precipitation has depleted the buffering capacity of many soils on the Moshannon State Forest and led to the acidification and death of many streams and fisheries in the Moshannon State Forest. In partnership with the Mosquito Creek Sportsmen's Club and the Department of Environmental Protection, the headwaters of the Mosquito Creek in the Quehanna area are being treated to improve stream buffering and fisheries. A vertical flow wetland and a limestone road surfacing project to improve buffering capacities of headwaters were just completed in Lost Run area in past years. Additional road surface treatment is proposed for 2016 and additional wetlands projects may be proposed as funding is secured.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Summer 2016 – **Ames Rd. Bridge Replacement – Quehanna Division** - Contracted replacement of the bridge on Ames Road over Deer Creek. The Bridge was re-opened to traffic in November of 2015 and final staining and cosmetic work will be completed this year. This will not affect traffic though.
- Summer 2016 – **Lower Dubec Rd. Culvert Replacement-Dague Division** - Large in-house culvert replacement on Lower Dubec Road on the head of the Left Branch of Moose Creek. Culvert purchased and just awaiting permitting. Permit submitted.
- Summer 2016 – **Deserter Run Road Access Improvements – Quehanna Division** – This project will involve improving road surface and drainage and installation of additional gates to allow better seasonal fishing access to a portion of Gifford Run from the Caledonia Pike.
- Fall 2016 – **Tram Rd. Culvert Replacement-Black Moshannon Division** - Large in-house culvert replacement on Tram Road on the headwaters of Benner Run. Active timber harvesting in the area may delay this project until 2017. Design and permitting should be completed this year.
- Fall 2016 – **Clay Mine Rd. Culvert Replacement-Black Moshannon Division** - Large in-house culvert replacement on Clay Mine Road at Corbin Run. Pending design and permitting.
- Spring 2016 – **Tyler Road DSA-Dague Division** -DSA placement on Tyler Road covering approximately 1.86 miles from McGeorge Rd. west past Laurel Run Rd. to near the next pipeline.
- Spring 2016 – **Wallace Mines Rd.-Quehanna Division** -DSA placement on the entire length of Wallace Mines Road covering approximately 2.76 mile.
- Spring 2016 – **Hanna Furnace Rd South – Black Moshannon Division** -DSA placement on Hanna Rd Road south of Rte. 504 covering approximately 1.65 mile.
- Spring 2016 – **Tyler Rd. at Abbott Hollow-Dague Division** – 60” Culvert to replace a collapsing and partially plugged culvert. Emergency replacement permit is being coordinated with Darryl Smeal, DEP to re-open the road by early summer. Permanent replacement box culvert is in design for 2017.
- Summer 2016 – **Lost Run Rd. Bridge – Quehanna Division** – Lost Run Bridge abutment stone being repointed over Mosquito Creek and rip rap being added.
- 2016 / 2017 – **Medix Grade Bridge – Quehanna Division** – Bridge replacement over Medix Run below Jack Dent Rd. has been designed and is being prepared for bid in early 2016. Construction should be in late-2016 or 2017.
- 2016 / 2017 – **Medix Grade and Wilson Switch – Quehanna Division** – Bridge/culvert replacements has been designed. Should be bid early 2016. Construction should be in late-2016 or 2017.

- 2016 / 2017 – **Harley Dean Rd. Culvert – Dague Division** – Culvert replacement to a box culvert north of Woodward Dam Rd. has been designed. Should be bid early 2016. Construction should be in late-2016 or 2017.
- 2016/2017 – **Crystal Springs – Dague Division** – Large diameter culvert replacement is in the design and permitting phase. Construction should be in late-2016 or 2017.
- 2016/2017 – **Blackwell and Gordon Rd. Culverts – Dague Division** – Large diameter culvert replacements are in the design and permitting phase. Construction should be in late-2016 or 2017.
- 2016 – **Evans Fire Road Retirement –Dague Division** – The eastern half of this public use road is proposed for closure retirement due to poor location, the lack of use and the inability to maintain this road adequately.
- 2016 – **Hoover Nelson Road Retirement – Dague Division** – Retire and close the middle section of this public use road that is mostly severely eroded. Keep either end gated but open to hunters and other users who park here to access State Forest lands.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- **Billotte Rd. Prescribed Fire –Quehanna Division** - This is a 57-acre burn planned for April/May of 2016 weather permitting. The area had been treated with an overstory removal previously and has good regeneration but the oak is of poor form and less fire tolerant species are crowding out the young stand of oak seedlings. The fire will benefit the fire tolerant oak seedlings that will resprout and grow vigorously post-fire. Oaks have many outstanding values for wildlife habitat and grow into a valuable timber tree in time.
- **Bear Wallow Prescribed Fire –Quehanna Division** This is a 139-acre burn planned for April/May of 2016 weather permitting. The area had been treated with an overstory removal previously and red maple, birch and sassafras are overtopping and crowding the oak regeneration in many areas. The fire will benefit the fire tolerant oak seedlings that will resprout and grow vigorously post-fire. Oaks have many outstanding values for wildlife habitat and grow into a valuable timber tree in time.
- **Rattlesnake Trail Prescribed Fire – Dague Division** - This is a 44-acre burn planned for April/May of 2016 weather permitting. The area had been treated with a shelterwood previously and maple and birch are dominating saplings are dominating over oak seedlings. The fire will benefit the fire tolerant oak seedlings that will resprout and grow vigorously post-fire. Oaks have many outstanding values for wildlife habitat and grow into a valuable timber tree in time.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- Insecticide treatments to combat emerald ash borer will be conducted on various sites

throughout the state forest. This treatment involves an “IV” injection of pesticide into ash trees to protect individual trees. Emerald Ash Borers are a devastating non-native pest that is invading Pennsylvania and will kill nearly all untreated ash trees. An additional 70 to 100 Ash trees may be treated. The trees we treat will act as a seed source if a viable broad scale control is someday found for Emerald Ash Borers. The trees must be retreated once every three years.

- Monitoring for Gypsy moth defoliation will be completed with ground surveys in May and aerial surveys before they leaf back out in late June. Gypsy moth egg mass counts will be completed in July and August in any candidate areas for treatment in May of 2017.
- Monitoring for the introduction of invasive plants and treatment of various sites in the state forest will continue in 2016. Much of this monitoring and treatment involves disturbed areas related to gas development. A small grant will be utilized to control phragmites and spotted knapweed at an old road construction site across from the district office this summer. This area is being utilized by PennDOT for reconstruction of state route 153 to Penfield and it should prevent the further spread of invasive plants from this site into the forest and community.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

No new leases have been proposed at this time on the Moshannon State Forest and companies have been slow to develop existing leases and subsurface rights beneath public lands where the Commonwealth only owns surface rights. Poor market conditions have reduced gas development recently. The Shawville power plant, a large, coal-fired power plant is in the final stages of conversion to natural gas this year and will utilize gas from local fields soon. The first Utica well in this area is planned for development at a site off Ames Rd. this year. Due to poor prices, some gas companies have withdrawn almost entirely from state forest land here this past year and turned back leases. The Moshannon State Forest has large tracts where the subsurface rights are not owned or controlled by the Commonwealth. Any new gas activity in addition to new drilling sites and roads, usually involves new pipelines and powerlines. Some general activities are noted below, but plans are far from definite for any company in 2016 at this time.

- EQT will continue to develop both leased tracts and severed rights tracts in the Penfield area. EQT is also in the production phase, doing road maintenance and hauling flowback water from producing wells. EQT has partially restored the Turkey Pad off Weis Grade Rd. to original contours. The pad has been reduced in size from 6 acres to 1.3 acres. They have plans to plant red pine on many restored areas to provide cover for wildlife. Hundreds of tons of stone have been removed from the development site and were made available to the forest district by EQT for road work in the district. At another site along the Quehanna Highway EQT is replacing dilapidated compressor buildings and installing a visual screen of white spruce along the highway. No further finalized plans have been presented to the district for 2016 activities.
- ECA is in the production phase and will continue doing road maintenance and flowback water hauling. They will continue to conduct pipeline repairs on their pipeline near Knobs Rd., Ames Rd. and Caledonia Pike. A Utica well may be developed this year near Ames Rd. No further plans have been presented to the district for other 2016 activities.
- EOG continues in the production phase in the Four-Mile Rd./McGeorge Rd. area and will continue grading and plowing roads in this area. Flowback water hauling continues.

- Anadarko in the Black Moshannon area is not in the production phase and plans to restore a pad site along Hanna Furnace Rd. in 2016. They plan to remove hundreds of tons of stone which will be available to the district for road maintenance. The site will be restored to contours and planted for wildlife habitat.
- Ceritas Pipeline is abandoning its right-of-way development plans along the Caledonia Pike on state forest lands and will plant an opening cleared for a metering station with apple trees and grasses to benefit wildlife in 2016.
- Flatirons is no longer active in the district in 2016, having given up their lease in 2015.
- Neither Exco, NCL, Range Resources, Dominion Pipeline, National Fuel Pipeline, Seneca Resources, or Enterprise Products have presented significant new plans for 2016 activities yet.

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- No tower or right of way projects planned in 2016.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Wopsononock Tract – Black Moshannon Division** – This 577-acre parcel in southwestern Clearfield County above Tyrone was acquired in late-December 2015. The tract is located in a north facing cove with a small pond, two large springs, crystal clear small streams, dense rhododendron thickets and a large and very beautiful forest with abundant wildlife. The site was a former scout camp and the scouts continue to have an active interest in helping to care for the lands. They maintain two cabins there and numerous hiking trails. There is a public parking lot for day-use access. Initial activities in 2016 will involve meeting with scout leaders, the water authority and community members with active interests in the property and developing a plan to best manage and utilize the tract for the public. Some initial activities will focus on any hazard assessments, signage, dam maintenance, boundary maintenance, and public contact work with community members.
- **Reconstruction of District Fire Towers** – Fire towers play a critical role in the early detection and suppression of forest fires on both public and private lands across the Moshannon Forest District. The District has 4 principal towers; Rockton, Knobs, Rattlesnake and Sandy Ridge. Some were constructed more than 80 years ago. The towers will be replaced with new structures which will stand safe and sound for many decades to come. This project is in the engineering and permitting phase and should be bid in the spring of 2016. Construction may be in the Fall 2016 or 2017.
- **Construction of a New Fire Tower** – Portions of western Clearfield County are underserved by our present fire tower system. Recently the Game Commission acquired a 45,000 acre tract in the Black Hills region above Curwensville. A tower is proposed on that property on a high ridge atop the eastern continental divide to better serve western Clearfield County.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The public is welcome to call or email the Moshannon State Forest for further information on any activities within the forest. Also, below is a list of some of the organizations that are most engaged presently with activities and projects on the Moshannon State Forest. Belonging to one of these organizations is an excellent way for the public to become more engaged with the forest.

- The **National Wild Turkey Federations, Local Chapters** are engaged in habitat projects for wild turkeys, which benefit deer, elk, bear and many other small game species in the district.
- The **Mosquito Creek Sportsmen's Association** completes stream and wildlife habitat projects with the district.
- The **Sinnemahonning Sportsmen's Club** is engaged in wildlife habitat projects in the district.
- The **Ruffed Grouse Society** is also engaged in wildlife habitat projects in the district.
- The **Clearwater Conservancy** has completed water conservation projects in the district.
- The **Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Unlimited**, P.O. Box 851, Dubois, PA builds and maintains stream improvements in the district.
- The **Hilltop Howlers Snowmobile Club** grooms trails and participates with the forest district in a number of snowmobile related projects each year in the northern part of the district.
- The **Black Moshannon Snowmobile Club** grooms trails and participates with the forest district in a number of snowmobile related projects each year in the southern part of the district.
- The **Keystone Trails Association** organizes volunteer projects with the district on the Quehanna Trail and cross-connector trails.
- The **Pennsylvania Equine Council** is an umbrella organization for projects and equine activities on the district.
- The **Boy Scouts of America** are engaged in trail and other projects in the district.
- The **DCNR Conservation Volunteer** program allows individual volunteers to propose and/or complete various projects from planting trees to scouting trails on the forest district.
- The **Four-Mile Camp Association** holds an annual meeting that district staff attends to discuss issues and receive comments.
- The **Pennsylvania Camp Lessees Association** is a statewide organization of State Forest Camp Lessees that occasionally communicates issues to the district of interest to camp owners.
- The **Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania** is an organization that conducts environmental and safety training for loggers on State Forest lands with the forest district.

- The **Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden Program** is involved with fire suppression, prescribed burns, prevention programs and fire preparedness on the forest district.
- The **Moshannon Firefighters Association** is involved with fire suppression, prescribed burns, prevention programs and fire preparedness on the forest district.
- The **Northeast Moshannon Firefighters Association** is involved with fire suppression, prescribed burns, prevention programs and fire preparedness on the forest district.

RESEARCH

- The United States Forest Service (USFS) will continue data collection on a site off Hoover Nelson Road to study the effects of herbicide on mountain laurel.
- The USFS will continue data collection on sites at Tyler Road and Kaylor Camp to study oak regeneration.
- The USFS will continue data collection on sites off Harley Dean Road and High Knob to study herbicide surfactants for tall striped maple treatments.
- The USFS will continue data collection on sites off Wallace Mines Road and Caledonia pike for “Oust” herbicide impact on oak seedlings.
- This year Penn State University (PSU) will compile and summarize forest visitor use monitoring survey data collected across the district in 2015. This study seeks to characterize and quantify the various types of users who recreate on the Moshannon State Forest. It involved traffic counts and face to face interviews of hundreds of forest visitors at all times of the day, every day, for a year.
- PSU is expected to present some results this year from a 2015 study in the district to document any gas development impacts on timber rattlesnake populations.
- PSU-Dubois is expected to present results from a study last year on the effects of fencing and deer populations on forest development. The study is unique because it was started more than 50-years ago and was recently resurveyed in 2015. The difference between fenced and unfenced areas is extreme and very obvious even 50-years later.