

SUSQUEHANNOCK 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 Susquehannock 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:

Christian Nicholas, Susquehannock District Forester
Susquehannock State Forest
3150 East Second Street, Coudersport, PA 16915
814-274-3600
District Email: fd15@pa.gov

RECREATION

- **Hammersley Trail System** – finish surveying of trails, trail clearing and maintenance, trail marking and new trail signage. Development of a new brochure focusing on the trail system and recreation in the Hammersley Wild Area.
- **God’s Country Shared Use Trail** – clearing, mowing, and/or trail marking of trails. Installation of kiosk panel at 12 mile Horse Camping Area.
- **Denton Hill Ski Trail** – clearing and maintenance and trail marking of 29 miles of trail.
- **ATV Trail** – placing of approximately 500 tons of stone on the trail along the Caption Shelton pipeline. Grading and trail maintenance. Replacement of 3 large culverts on the West Branch of Pine Creek near Maple Hollow. Replacing trail head sign boards with two sided kiosks at the Rte. 44, Sunken Branch, Lyman Run, and Rock Run trailheads.
- **Snowmobile Trails** – brushing and maintenance. Placing of approximately 500 tons of stone on the trail along the Captain Shelton pipeline. Grooming of 250 miles of trail.
- **Susquehannock Trail System** – work cooperatively with STS Trail Club to ensure the successful maintenance of the trail system as they have for the last 40 plus years.
- **Gated Roads Open for Deer Season** – This program allows hunters better access to DMAP areas and inaccessible areas. The program helps the BOF to get more antlerless deer harvested in areas where we are seeing higher deer impacts to forest regeneration. The following roads are being opened for the 2016 deer seasons:

ATV/Snow Tr Sunken Br to Splash Dam	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
ATV/Snowmobile Trail D15_1	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
ATV/Snowmobile Trail D15_2	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
ATV/Snowmobile Trail D15_3	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Alabama Trail	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Dingman Forest Rd	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	12/5/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Jerles Rd	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Keating Summit Haul Road	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Link Haul Rd	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	



BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Parking Lot Road	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Pine Hill Haul	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Schoolhouse East	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Schoolhouse West	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Shaky Fawn	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Snowmobile Trail	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Stony Run Haul	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Unnamed D15 1	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	12/5/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Unnamed D15 2	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Unnamed D15 3	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Unnamed D15 4	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
West Darian	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	
Wingnut Haul	10/17/2015 - 10/24/2015	11/30/2015 - 12/12/2015	

2016 Organized Events:

February, Dice Run (Southern Potter Snowmobile Club)

May, Annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour (Susquehannock State Forest)

August, Midnight Madness Mountain Bike Race (Ole Bull State Park & Tioga County Ridge Riders Bicycle Club)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

• **Marked and Sold, Potentially Active:**

- Snow Angels: 233 acres. Sunken Branch. Shelterwood and overstory removal.
- Shrew Haven: 100 acres. Pine Hill. Shelterwood and overstory removal.
- Ayeres Hill Removal: 146 acres. Big Moores. Clearcut.



- Hustlin: 78 acres. SR 44. Overstory Removal.
- Dark Sky III: 35 acres. Cherry Springs. Overstory removal and two-age cut.
- T.C.B.: 88 acres. Horton Run. Shelterwood.
- Bad Mojo: 55 acres. Shepard Road. Shelterwood.
- Devil Dog: 82 acres. Pine Island. Shelterwood.
- Twins: 71 acres. Schoolhouse. Overstory removal.
- Slingshot: 147 acres. Junction Road. Shelterwood.
- Windy Ridge: 100 acres. Fire Tower. Shelterwood.
- Little Blue Ribbon: 11 acres. East Fork Road. Salvage.
- Bergstresser: 68 acres. Hungry Hollow. Shelterwood and salvage.
- Cheetin: 61 acres. Portage Road. Overstory Removal.
- Ramblin Redneck: 221 acres. Windfall Road. Overstory removal and shelterwood.
- Tread Lightly: 69 acres. Portage Road. Overstory removal and shelterwood.
- Nit Picking: 147 acres. Big Fill. Shelterwood.
- Down with the Si: 203 acres. McConnell Road. Shelterwood and select tree harvest.
- Buffalo Switch: 68 acres. Ridge Road. Clearcut and two-age buffer management.
- Mahon Run Removal: 41 acres. Mahon Run. Overstory removal.
- Juggernaut: 107 acres. Gas Well. Shelterwood.
- Ruh Roh: 38 acres. Randall Road. Shelterwood.
- And Other Things: 52 acres. Prouty Road. Overstory removal.
- Soaked: 50 acres. Nelson Run. Overstory removal.
- White Line: 105 acres. Lyman Run. Overstory removal and shelterwood.
- Stare It Out: 69 acres. Hog Back. Overstory removal.
- **Marked But Not Sold:** The following are timber sales that are currently planned for 2016. There will be more and we will update the list as we have the information.
 - 220 acre shelterwood near Rock Run Road and Losey Trail
 - 150 acre shelterwood off of 12 Mile Road and Wildcat Trail
 - 86 acre shelterwood off of the Rauch Road
 - 113 acre shelterwood off of the McConnell Road
 - 158 acre shelterwood off of the Thompson Road
 - 77 acre shelterwood off the Rock Ridge Road
 - 85 acre shelterwood and 95 acres of ash salvage off of the Portage Road
 - 70 acre shelterwood and 12 acres of clear cut off of the Gardeau Road
 - 117 acres of shelterwood and 10 acres of clear cut off of the 11 Mile Road
- **Proposed:** The following areas are being examined for potential treatment.
 - 414 acres near Losey Run
 - 87 acres near Bear Run Ridge – Germania
 - 186 acres near Schoolhouse West
 - 84 acres near Thompson Road



- 180 acres near Portage
 - 167 acres near Bear Run Ridge – Germania
 - 127 acres near Eleven Mile Road
 - 106 acres near Schoolhouse West
 - 55 acres near Sunken Branch
 - 61 acres near Nelson Run
 - 24 near Bark Shanty
-
- The following herbicide projects to control competing vegetation (Beech Brush, Striped Maple, and Fern) that is inhibiting desirable forest regeneration from becoming established are planned for 2016. Herbicides to be used are Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust):
 - 139 acres off of Nelson Run Road
 - 62 acres off of the Shepard Road
 - 21 acres off of Thompson Hollow Road
 - 83 acres off of Ellis Hollow haul road
 - 69 acres off of Rte. 44 near Dyer Road
 - 102 acres off of Nelson Hollow Road
 - 26 acres off of Wild Boy Road
 - 67 acres off of the Robinson Road
 - 47 acres off of Rte. 144 and Indian Run haul road
 - 54 acres off of the Ridge Road
 - 96 acres off of the McConnell Road
 - 46 acres off of the Gas Well Road
 - 28 acres off of the East Fork Road
 - 65 acres off of the 12 Mile Road
 - 157 acres off of the Black Diamond Road
 - 6 acres off of the Billy Lewis Road
 - 22 acres off of the Shepard Road

 - The following projects to cut tall striped maple and beech brush that are inhibiting desirable forest regeneration from becoming established are planned:
 - 37 acres off of the East Fork Road and Alabama Trail
 - 57 acres off of Rock Run Road

 - The following projects to treat tall striped maple and beech brush that are inhibiting desirable forest regeneration with Triclopyr (Garlon 4) herbicide are planned:
 - 35 acres off of Rock Run and Ridge Road
 - 121 acres off Rte. 827 and Odin Hoxie haul road
 - 30 acres off Rte. 44 near Cherry Springs Fire Tower

- The following tree planting projects to enhance species diversity, wildlife habitat and supplement established desirable regeneration are planned:
 - 75 acres, 10000 white pine, off of 12 Mile Road and Wildcat haul road
 - 122 acres, 5000 white pine and 5000 red oak, off of the Shepard Road
 - 34 acres, 2000 Red Oak, off of Rte. 44 near Dyer Road
 - 32 acres, 15000 white pine and 7100 White Spruce, off of Rte 44 near Cherry Springs
 - 112 acres, 32000 white pine, 7100 Black Cherry, 8000 tulip poplar, and 2700 sugar maple, off of Rte 6 and Big Fill haul road
 - 35 acres, 16000 white pine, off of the Card Creek Road
 - 60 acres, 8000 white pine and 1000 tulip poplar, off of the Rock Ridge Road
 - 75 acres, 5000 white pine, 5000 black cherry, 2000 red oak, and 7000 tulip poplar, off of the Sunken Branch Road
 - 10 acres, 5000 white pine and 1000 black cherry, off of Reed Run Road
 - 47 acres, 10000 white pine, off of Nelson Run Road
 - 30 acres, 5000 white pine, off of Horton Run Road
 - 30 acres, 20000 white pine, off of the Portage Road
 - 30 acres, 10000 white pine, off of the Randall Road
 - 50 acres, 10000 white pine, off of Nelson Run Road
 - 77 acres, 8000 white pine and 2000 tulip poplar, off of Rock Ridge Road
- The following deer fence installations to protect desirable forest regeneration from browsing by white tailed deer are planned:
 - Installation of 12 new electric deer exclosures
- The following deer fence removals are planned:
 - Removal of 15 electric deer fences
- Timber sale harvesting activity can be hard to predict with contracts lasting for up to 3 years. Contact the District Office at fd15@pa.gov or 814-274-3600 for information on active sales.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Food Plot Program** – Cooperative efforts between the forest district and PGC Food & Cover Crew complete 135 acres of food plot management in 2014 across the district. 2016 plans will be decided in February 2016.
- **NWTF, Cross Fork Sportsmen Club, Safari International, KECA, Black Forest Conservation Club** – continue to partner with these organizations to work on habitat projects
- **Aspen cuts** – several small wildlife aspen cuts will be completed by the PGC and district staff during winter of 2016

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- McConnell Road, install culverts, build up section of road, and place gravel on about .5 mile of road.
- Sunken Branch Road, install culverts and place gravel on about 1 mile of road
- Summer / Fall 2016 – Large culvert replacement on Lebo Run Road at Big Springs Branch
- Summer / Fall 2016 – Large culvert replacement on the ATV / Snowmobile trail near Maple Hollow
- Grade, clean culvert headwalls and tail ditches on 168 miles of state forest roads

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- No prescribed fires are planned on the district for 2016.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- Insect and disease monitoring and reporting will continue in 2016 and will focus on the priority list provided by the Division of Forest Pest Management (FPM). Report forms will be forwarded to FPM Area Specialist from the District I&D coordinator for ground truthing and possible control efforts for reported insect and disease problems. Aerial survey flight(s) will be conducted in late June/early July to detect possible problem areas as well.
- Continue to monitor for the presence of EAB and continue to initiate ash salvage shelterwoods in stands that are heavily stocked with ash
- Continued treatment for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Dutlinger Natural Area. Goal is to treat approximately 400 more trees in the old growth area.
- Mile-a-minute treatment will continue in the Pine Island, Elk Lick, and Portage areas.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- Presently there are no new natural gas, oil, or pipeline development activities taking place within the Susquehannock State Forest.
- Current maintenance and operation of existing gas wells with occur in the following areas: Greenlick Storage Field, Wharton Storage Field, Pine Hill/McConnell Shallow and Marcellus wells, Reed Run Shallow and Marcellus wells, and Tract 001 Marcellus wells.
- Work cooperatively with JKLM Energy who has the Billy Lewis Road bonded for hauling in relation to drilling on private land adjacent to state forest land

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour held Sunday after Spring Gobbler Season opens each year. The main objectives of the tour are as follows: To observe and discuss some of the on the ground challenges involved in both sustainable forest and wildlife management, to examine some of the habitat improvements that we are seeing with the current deer management plan, to foster a better relationship with those who use the Susquehannock State Forest and to exchange information that can be taken home and utilized.

Details for the 2016 Tour can be gotten by contacting the district office in early April at fd15@pa.gov or 814-274-3600.

- We staff our public contact trailer at the following events each year: Cross Fork Outdoor Show, Cross Fork Snake Hunt, Bark Peeler's Convention, and Cherry Springs Woodsmen Show.
- Questions or comments can be asked or made at any time by emailing the Susquehannock State Forest at fd15@pa.gov or calling 814-274-3600.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Marked and sold 2445 acres of timber. These timber sales generated almost \$9 million dollars
- Administered the contracts and harvesting of over 30 timber sales
- Completed administration of contract for the herbicide application of Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) on 1441 acres to control competing vegetation consisting of beech brush, striped maple, and fern
- Completed administration of contract for herbicide application of Triclopyr (Garlon 4) on 69 acres to control tall striped maple and beech brush
- Erected 9 new electric deer exclosures and tore down 18 electric deer exclosures, maintained the existing deer exclosures, that total is 79 fences
- Completed the following road maintenance projects:
 - Drainage improvement / gravel placement on McConnell Road approximately 1.2 miles – location just south of Long Hollow
 - Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) on Wild Boy Road – Starting at the end of the township section of the road covering 0.7 mile to new gravel that was placed in 2014.
 - Improve Drainage / Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) placement 0.5 mile – location Sunken Branch Road 2.3 miles east of the Billy Lewis Road
 - ATV /Snowmobile Trail – gravel placement on approximately 0.7 mile with 1000 tons 2A stone

- Graded, cleaned culverts and headwalls on 168 miles of state forest road
- Held our annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour Had our Public Contact Trailer staffed at the following events answering questions and providing brochures, maps, and other information: Cross Fork Outdoor Show, Cross Fork Snake Hunt, Bark Peelers and Woodsmen Show
- Updated the God's Country Trail Brochure
- Completed revisions to the Denton Hill Ski Trail brochure
- Made and installed "you are here" markers on the God's Country Shared Use Trail
- Cleared and marked trails
- Held Arbor Day activities in 10 school districts (5 in Potter County and 5 in McKean County)
- Treated Hemlock trees within the Dutlinger Natural Area against Hemlock Wooley Adelgid
- Opened 58.6 miles of gated haul roads for early muzzleloader and rifle deer season
- Completed planting and maintenance on 135 acres of food plots in cooperation with the PA Game Commission Potter County Food & Cover Crew
- Did numerous programs for groups at the PA Lumber Museum

RESEARCH

- Researchers from Penn State University are conducting a multi-year project called the Deer-Forest Study on the Rothrock, Bald Eagle, and Susquehannock State Forests. This study looks at better understanding the role of deer in context of the many challenges that PA forests face including invasive species, insect outbreaks, soil acidity, tree diseases, and even deer themselves. The goal of this study is to help forest and wildlife managers better manage deer and the forests. This is a cooperative project with researchers from PSU, US Geologic Survey, PA Game Commission, and DCNR Bureau of Forestry. This study area is approximately 69 square miles in size and is in the northern part of the Susquehannock State Forest from Cherry Springs north to US Rte. 6.
- Researchers from the US Forest Service in Irvine are performing a study with the following objectives: The disconnect between deer densities and their concomitant browse impact has led us to ask whether incorporating information on the heterogeneity in vegetation and land use patches across the landscape (e.g., abundance and distribution of high-quality forage) will clarify the relationship between ungulate density and their impact on vegetation. Specifically, we propose to (1) evaluate the relationship between deer densities and browse-impact on vegetation and (2) determine the degree to which forest landscape heterogeneity influences foraging behavior and, in turn, browse impact. Millington et al. (2010) asserted that elucidating the relationship among herbivore distribution, foraging impact, and forest landscape structure was critical to "ensure the ecological and economic sustainability" of forest ecosystems.

- Researchers from the US Forest Service in Irvine are performing research looking at the effectiveness of different Surfactants used when applying herbicides with a broadcast sprayer. They hope to determine the most effective way to control competing vegetation consisting of striped maple, beech brush, and fern.
- Researchers from the US Forest Service in Irvine are performing research looking at the effectiveness of different application rates of Oust herbicide in controlling competing vegetation specifically fern and grasses.
- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is performing research that involves monitoring stream conditions on two tributaries of Pine Creek and one tributary of the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning. They are monitoring turbidity, PH, temperature, and other measures that have the potential to be impacted by Marcellus gas activity.
- The US Forest Service in Irvine and DCNR Bureau of Forestry continue to monitor lime plots that were established in the mid 1980's as part of a study into Sugar Maple decline.