

William Penn 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 William Penn 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

- The district is growing, through the acquisitions of two tracts of State Forest Land in Berks County. A comprehensive recreation plan will be developed for those tracts this year.
- Design is underway to construct a new parking area located on Sportsman Road and the trail head at the Wertz tract.
- Goat Hill continues to be a destination point for the serpentine area. The Rose Trail received trail improvements and an extension is in the planning stage.

ORGANIZED EVENTS

- Eastern Sportsman Show in Oaks, PA. The forest district staff participate in the event with the Jacobsburg State Park Manager.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- A 39 acre ash salvage sale will be conducted on the Wertz tract. Invasive plants will be mowed and herbicide prior to harvest. This site will be fenced and planted in 2018.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Plans are being developed for the Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary. The goal is to connect the remnant serpentine habitats through. Access issues, competing vegetation, and invasive species need addressed to move forward.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Presently there are no road and bridge projects taking place within the William Penn State Forest.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Working with the Bureau of State Parks, the William Penn Forest District plans to implement prescribed burns in several state parks. These burns began in the spring of 2015 and will continue through the spring of 2020, weather dependent. The state parks that are involved are French Creek, Jacobsburg, Nockamixon, and Marsh Creek. The proposed burn sites in each park are comprised primarily of warm season grasses in open fields. The implementation of these burns provides FD 17 staff with quality hands-on fire training that is difficult to receive elsewhere. The parks benefit by

improving the quality of the grasses while minimizing the impact of non-native invasive plants. Prescribed fire burn plans were written and submitted prior to the start of spring fire season 2015 for French Creek, Nockamixon, and Jacobsburg. A burn plan for Marsh Creek was written later in 2015 calendar year.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- A plan to protect select ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer has been completed, and will be implemented in 2016 on the following tracts: Wertz tract

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Presently there are no new natural gas or oil development activities taking place within William Penn State Forest.

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Presently there are no new right of way projects taking place within William Penn State Forest.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Additional acquisitions in Berks County are in the planning stage.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- A public open house will be hosted in June to focus on the new Gibraltar Hill Tract
- Little Tincum Island clean-up days conducted on the first Friday in June with non-profit and corporate partners. In 2016 the date will be June 3th.
- Participation in local sportsman's shows, including the Philadelphia Outdoor Show and the Lehigh Valley Hunting and Fishing Extravaganza.

RESEARCH

- There is some excellent research and management being conducted on Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens. Forest District staff and the Friends of the State Line Barrens volunteers are working together to perform annual maintenance to maintain public access, control invasive species and conduct biological research.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- 634 Acres of new state forest land acquired.
- 134 Ash trees protected from Emerald Ash Borer
- Facilitated an ash salvage sale on Department of Corrections property in Lancaster County
- Welcomed a Forest Technician, a position new to the district