

Rothrock 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 Rothrock 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

- **Musser Gap Trail Development** - This project involves the development of the Musser Gap Recreational Trail: trail system access and trail connections. The trailhead is located along SR 45 just a few miles east of the village of Pine Grove Mills and about one mile outside the borough limits of State College. The majority of the project involves the improvement and maintenance of existing road and trail corridors. Another essential part of the project is the building of a hiking trail that connects to the Mid-State Trail and other local trails throughout the Rothrock State Forest. The project includes the enhancement of the trail system and loop opportunities within the Musser Gap Tract as well as the establishment of three vistas. Parts of the project have been completed, including vista improvements. The majority of trail improvements such as blazing, brush cutting, and installation of trail signage, and installation of two stream crossings have been completed. Much of the trail work has been completed by local volunteers and recreation clubs. District maintenance staff completed the fjord stream crossings and set the beams for the footbridge. The remainder of the footbridge will be installed early this spring by the district resource staff.
UPDATE: This trail project was completed in late June 2016. The final trail surface was placed and rolled. The new footbridge was completed and all trail clearing and tree blazing has been finished. A recreation guide to the Musser Gap Area is available on our website and at our office. The district would like to thank all of the volunteers that have contributed countless hundreds of hours on this project along with the assistance of the district staff!
- **Croyle Run Trail** – Due to significant erosion issues associated with the current Croyle Run Trail, this trail will be rerouted and appropriate grade will be implemented in the new trail. This reroute will be built using a mini-excavator and be a cooperative effort between DCNR staff and volunteers. Update: Work on this project is scheduled to begin in late August and completed sometime in September.
- **New Laurel Run Trail** – This trail was rerouted in 2011 due to severe erosion issues. In the fall of 2016, with the use of a mini-excavator, DCNR staff as well as volunteers intend to bench-cut most of this new trail and incorporate Best Management Practices into the trail design.
- **Tussey Mountain Trail** – The entrance to this trail from Bear Meadows Road will be relocated due to sustainability issues and safety. Update: This project has final approval to move forward.
- **Standing Stone Trail (SST)** – Trail work will continue on the SST along Stone Mountain south of Greenwood Furnace State Park. This involves general trail maintenance and the relocation of several short sections of trail due to severe rockiness. This project is currently ongoing.
- **Brush Ridge Road Trail System** – This ‘old’ trail system, west of Greenwood Furnace State Park, will be further assessed. The complex of trails was constructed in the nineties as a network of cross country ski trails. The character of the trail system does not lend itself to such use. Over the years,

the trail system has been subject to heavy equestrian use. Again, some sections of trail are not suitable for equestrian use. This project is currently ongoing.

- **Trough Creek Division Trail System** – Trail signs will be installed at the existing trails located throughout the Trough Creek Division. A map of this trail system will be posted on our website and hard copies are available to the public at our district office. The signs are slated to be installed in the spring of 2016. The trail signs have been installed.
- **GW Spur Trail** – Several sections of this trail will have improvements and relocations. These improvements are being conducted by Standing Stone Trail Club (SSTC) and will enhance both trail sustainability and aesthetics. The project should be completed by summer or fall 2016. This trail project has been completed.
- **Viantown Spur Trail** – This trail is part of the Brush Ridge Trail System. With the addition of this trail, the series of existing trails will have improved connectivity and loop opportunities as well as better sustainability. This project will be part of the DCNR Conservation Volunteer Day. This project has final approval to move forward.
- **Jack’s Mountain Primitive Campsites** – Primitive backpacking campsites are slated to be established on the Rothrock State Forest along the Standing Stone Trail north of the “1,000 Steps”. These campsites will be maintained by the SSTC. This project has final approval to move forward.
- **Standing Stone Trail (SST) “Throne Room”** – A section of the SST located on Jack’s Mountain is proposed to be relocated in order to mitigate trail erosion and sustainability issues. Further trail assessment will be conducted in 2016.
- **Bear Meadows Loop Trail** – This trail will be assessed for necessary trail improvements in 2016. The improvements would enhance user safety and enjoyment as well as trail sustainability. A primary goal will be to improve the trail tread to get users feet out of the often wet trail conditions.

Organized events

2016:

August

August 15-19, ORION PSU Backpacking/Camping

August 18, Toura Tech Touring Motorcycle Ride

September

MTB50 Practice Run – WDSP to Alan Seeger

TMB50 Practice Run – AS to Kettle (T7)

TMB50 Practice Run – T7 to Penn Roosevelt SP

September 10-11, Hardcore Mudd Run – Tussey Area

September 23-24, PSU 4-H Competitive Horse Ride PR (Andrea Kocher)

TMB50 Practice Run – PR SP to Colyer Lake
TMB50 Practice Run -Colyer Lake to Bear Meadows
TMB50 Practice Run – Bear Meadows to Wampler to Tussey Mtn.

October

October 30, TMB50 Tussey MountainBack 50 UltraMarathon

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

Long Mountain Trail (1st-stage shelterwood): A shelterwood treatment will be implemented to a 102 acre forested stand adjacent to the Long Mountain Trail. The objective is to remove primarily smaller, low quality trees commercially. This harvest area has been marked and tallied and sold to a local timber harvesting operation. Harvesting may begin as soon as this winter depending on the buyer. The site will be monitored for the next few years to assess the need for future regeneration projects such as deer fencing and/or competitive vegetation control. The timber harvest is currently inactive.

- Coopers Gap Road (overstory removal): a 165-acre overstory removal harvest has been marked and sold by competitive bid within the chestnut spring's landscape. The area includes two deer fence enclosures along with adjacent forested stands that were previously salvaged due to gypsy moth infestations. These forested stands are currently stocked with acceptable levels of desirable regeneration in the understory while the overstory canopy continues to decline. Harvesting operations are likely to begin later in 2016. The timber harvest is currently inactive.
- Laurel Run Road (1st-stage Shelterwood): A shelterwood treatment adjacent to deer fences along Laurel Run road has been marked and sold. Harvesting operations are expected to begin late fall to early winter 2016.
- Little Shingletown Road (1st-stage shelterwood): This sale was sold in early 2014 and is comprised of 121-acre forested stands in the Big Flat Landscape. The area will be treated with a 1st-stage shelterwood harvest in an effort to increase desirable regeneration by removing low quality trees commercially. The operator has not currently begun operations on the site but it could become active at any time this year. The timber harvest is currently inactive.
- Barrville Road (overstory removal and two-age): This sale was sold in 2014 and comprises 40-acres of the Barville landscape. The area will be treated with an overstory removal treatment in the multiple use stands and a two-age removal harvest in the road buffer stands. The sale is currently active with timber harvesting operations and will likely be so until completion of the sale sometime in mid-spring to early summer 2016. The timber harvest in has been complete and final grading and seeding will begin fall 2016.

- **Bear Meadows Road (Overstory Removal):** This sale was sold in 2013 and has been active each winter since then. The area has been treated with an overstory removal harvest on 142 acres within the little flat landscape. The operator has nearly completed all harvesting operation and is expected to finish up E&S activities in early spring 2016, thereby closing out the sale process. The timber harvest has been complete and final grading and seeding will begin spring 2017.
- **Treaster Kettle Road (Overstory Removal, Two-age):** This sale was sold in 2014 and comprises 53-acres of the bear meadows landscape. The area will be treated with an overstory removal treatment in the multiple use stands and a two-age removal harvest in the road buffer stands. The operator has nearly completed all harvesting operation and is expected to finish up E&S activities in early spring 2016, thereby closing out the sale process. The timber harvest has been complete and final grading and seeding will begin spring 2017.
- **Bailey Gap road (overstory removal):** This sale was sold in 2015 and comprises 54-acres of the Flat Road Landscape and has been treated with an overstory removal harvest. The operator has nearly completed all harvesting operation and is expected to finish up E&S activities in early spring 2016, thereby closing out the sale process. The timber harvest has been complete and final grading and seeding will begin fall 2016.

Marked but not yet sold

- **PA Furnace Fence (Overstory Removal, Two-Age, and Group Selection):** 49 acres of forested stands along PA Furnace Road within the Nelson Landscape will be treated with a combination of three harvest treatments. The overstory removal and two-age treatment will be within a deer enclosure fence where desired regeneration is abundant throughout. The group selection treatment is located along the road buffer and targets areas of abundant regeneration. This timber sale is currently out for the competitive bidding process.
- **Leading Ridge Drivable Trail (Overstory Removal and 1st – Stage Shelterwood):** Approximately 160 acres of forested stands within the Leading Ridge Landscape will be treated with two regeneration treatments; a 1st –stage shelterwood harvest to begin the regeneration process in areas that have little to no desirable regeneration established and an overstory removal harvest treatment in areas that have extensive regeneration. The stands themselves have suffered a number of blowdown events and are succumbing to other forest pests and mortality. This area has been marked will be put out for competitive bid in 2016. This timber sale will go out for competitive bid the summer of 2016.
- **Turkey Hill Road (Overstory Removal):** A 45-acre overstory removal harvest has been marked within the three existing deer enclosure fences along turkey hill road in the turkey hill landscape. This is the final harvest treatment of the regeneration sequence of the site following the success of two past harvests of a 1st-stage and a 2nd-stage shelterwood treatment. The timber harvest has been complete and final grading and seeding will begin fall 2016.

- **Krise Valley Road (Overstory Removal):** An overstory removal is marked along Krise Valley Road, in the Krise valley landscape and will be offered for competitive bid later in 2016. The vast majority of the overstory removal treatment will occur in an existing deer enclosure fence. This area was previously a 1st-stage shelterwood harvest which has successfully produced desirable regeneration in abundance. The 25-acre area will have harvesting operations potentially beginning as early as fall 2016. This timber sale will go out for competitive bid the summer of 2016.

Proposed (not marked yet)

- **Tram Road (Overstory Removal and 1st-Stage Shelterwood):** A fenced area of 38 acres, within the Camp Barree landscape, was a shelterwood cut that has sufficient regeneration to warrant treatment of invasive species in preparation of an overstory removal harvest. Additional surrounding forest stands are being looked at to begin the regeneration process by incorporating shelterwood treatment of 40 acres, along with the overstory removal in the deer fence enclosure. This sale area has been marked and will be go put out for competitive bid in summer 2016.
- **Rudy Ridge (1st-stage Shelterwood, Overstory Removal, and Group Selection):** A 150-acre timber sale is planned in the area of Laurel Run Road, within the Rudy Ridge Landscape, which will incorporate primarily 1st-stage shelterwood and group selection treatments along with a component of overstory removal harvest in an area with extensive advanced regeneration. The goal will be to begin the process of successfully regenerating multiple forested stands, particularly stands with a large component of dying Eastern hemlock. Survey Work is continuing in this area and marking will take place in mid-year 2016. Additional work will be completed to control invasive species and competing vegetation later in the growing season.
- **Locke Valley /Sollers Lane (Overstory Removal):** An overstory removal harvest is planned in the, Shade mountain D5 landscape, for an existing Deer fence enclosure that was treated with a prescribed burn in 2011. The area has extensive desirable regeneration present within the deer fence and also within an adjacent stand that is suffering from overstory trees that continue to succumb to various forest ailments. Marking will begin in late winter and early spring of 2016 with the bid process to follow. This sale area has been marked and will be go put out for competitive bid in summer 2016.
- **Crowfield /Boal Gap roads (Overstory removal, 1st- stage shelterwood, Two-age):** A 100-150 acre harvest area is planned for the Boal Gap landscape as part of a long term wildlife habitat improvement project to promote early successional habitat in lower quality forested sites. This area will focus on sites that have existing desirable regeneration and also work to improve regeneration in areas that are currently lacking. A part of the project goal will be to increase shrub species

presence such as scrub oak along with increasing the conifer component of the forested stands. This treatment area also includes a few existing deer exclosures that will be treated as well. Continued surveying and layout work will progress into marking of the site and lead to the competitive bidding process. Work on this project will continue in this sale area during 2016.

- Greenwood Tower Area (Overstory Removal, 1st stage shelterwood, two-age): A 150 acre harvest area is planned for the broad mountain landscape as part of a long-term wildlife habitat improvement project to promote early successional habitat in lower quality forested sites. This area will focus on sites that have existing desirable regeneration and also work to improve regeneration in areas that are currently lacking. Part of the project goal will be to increase shrub species presence such as scrub oak along with increasing the conifer component of the forested stands. Continued surveying and layout work will progress into marking of the site and lead to the competitive bidding process. Work on this project will continue in this sale area and marking is expected to take place fall 2016 and continue into the spring of 2017.
- Biedelheimer Road Area (Overstory Removal, 1st Stage Shelterwood): A 100-130 acre harvest area is planned for the Gettis Ridge and Alan Seeger landscapes. A portion of the harvest is taking place within two existing deer exclosure which were burned in 2013 with a prescribed fire to control competing vegetation. The site is now ready for a final overstory removal harvest. Areas surrounding the fenced area will be treated with A 1st Stage Shelterwood harvest to begin the regeneration process for this area of the forest. Continued surveying and layout work will progress into site marking that is anticipated to begin in late fall and finish in spring of 2017. The competitive bidding process will follow.

Regeneration projects

- A regeneration project will be undertaken in the Greenwood Division of the Rothrock State Forest. The first project will be a 149-acre machine mowing project across the Brush Ridge Trail near Spruce Mountain. Gypsy moth induced tree mortality has opened the stand, which has resulted in a dense mountain laurel shrub layer. This shrub layer has kept tree seedlings from developing into saplings and forming the next stand. Mowing the shrub layer will hopefully allow the seedlings to sprout vigorously and gain height growth over the slower growing shrubs. Mowing at the site has begun and is expected to be completed in summer or early fall of 2016.
- In certain areas along Corner Road, Bear Meadows Road, and Roaring Run we plan to herbicide hay-scented fern. This fern can be a major obstacle when trying to establish desirable tree regeneration on many sites and the most effective method to control it is

through the use of a selective herbicide. Once controlled, more sunlight will reach the ground for the benefit of trees seedlings as well as many other herbaceous plants that cannot compete with the high fern levels. This project is anticipated for completion in late August 2016.

- A contracted hand-mowing project is planned along Terrace Mountain Road in Trough Creek. This project will include the removal of smaller (undesirable) trees and shrubs that are impeding sunlight from reaching the ground. Once the trees are removed, more sunlight will reach the ground so that existing regeneration can thrive and new regeneration can be encouraged. The contractor will begin work on this project later this fall 2016.
- A tree planting project has been conducted within two deer fences near Bear Meadows Road. In certain areas which are void of natural regeneration, due to gypsy moth salvage, native tree species have been planted so that the site can regenerate back into a forest.
- A tree planting project has been conducted within in the Trough Creek Division in a recently completed timber harvest. This planting is to supplement some diversity of tree and shrub species into the extensive regeneration already on site.
- A contract broadcast herbicide spray projects will be completed on two sites to control invasive hay-scented fern from impacted regeneration on a 71-acre and 50-acre sites. The first site is within the Bear Meadows Road deer fence enclosure and the second site is within the Roaring Run deer fence enclosure. The contractor will begin work on this project later this fall 2016.
- A contract broadcast herbicide treatment will be completed on a 150-acre site to control invasive barberry, Japanese stiltgrass, and multiflora rose prior to the implementation of a timber harvest in the forested stand near Laurel Run Road. Work will continue on this project and will go put out for competitive bid in summer 2016.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- The Rothrock State Forest has been selected by the Ruffed Grouse Society to receive a generous grant to be used for habitat improvement projects in the south-central region. We are currently in the planning process of where to target this work and what the priorities will be over the next 5-years.
- Two sites have been selected to receive a contract cutting of approximately 20 year old poor species quality previous clearcuts to restart the sites into early successional habitat in an effort to improve ruff grouse habitat on the Rothrock state forest. The first site is off of Colerain road and is 55 acres in size made up of five (approximate) 10 acre blocks in a checker board pattern. The second site is off of turkey hill in an unsuccessfully regenerated site comprised of primarily black birch. The site is 18 acres comprised of three

(approximate) 6-acre blocks, again in a checkerboard pattern.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Summer 2016 – Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) placement completed on Coopers Gap Road – Starting at the Flat Road intersection covering approximately 1.5 miles to the Kettle Road intersection.
- Summer 2016 – DSA placement on Laurel Run Road completed - Starting near camp 5C-089 covering approximately 0.6 miles to camp 5C-297.
- Summer 2016 – Full depth reclamation of pavement completed on Stone Creek Road – Starting near camp 5C-279 covering approximately 1.8 miles to the intersection with old Rte. 322.
- Spring 2016 – 2A limestone placement on Biedelheimer Road completed starting on Bell’s Ridge covering approximately 1.3 miles to the Gettis Ridge Road intersection.
- Spring 2016 – 2A limestone placement completed on Mule Road starting at the Teaberry Road intersection covering approximately 1.3 miles to camp 5C-102.
- Summer 2016 – Large contracted culvert replacement completed on Thick head Mountain Road near the intersection with Treaster Kettle Road.
- Fall 2016– Installation of a large in-house culvert replacement completed on Greenlee Road near camp 5C-021.
- Fall 2016 – Large in-house culvert replacement PSU Watershed Road
- Contracts have been awarded for the replacements of large culverts on Krise Valley, Boal Gap, Spruce Mountain and Conklin Roads. Work expected to begin in late fall 2016 or spring of 2017.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Planning continues for the prescribed fire in the deer exclosures located off of Conklin Road in the Greenwood Division of the Rothrock State Forest continues with fire line preparations to be completed in 2016. The purpose of the fire(s) includes controlling competing vegetation. More specifically, the fire would control red maple seedlings and allow existing

oak seedlings to gain dominance in the stand prior to timber harvesting. The fire would occur early in the growing season, once red maple leaf-out at the earliest being spring of 2017. A Prescribed Burn Plan will be written as time allows in 2016. Fire lines will be constructed later this fall to early winter in preparation for the prescribed burn to take place spring of 2017.

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 Health. Report forms will be forwarded to Forest Health 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.
- The imidacloprid treatment against Hemlock Woolly Adelgid will continue in areas of Alan Seeger, Bear Meadows, and Galbraith Gap. The Bear Meadows project is a multi-year volunteer project. Two years ago, nearly 50 volunteers arrived to treat the hemlocks in the Bear Meadows Area. Treatments of HWA will continue until an effective control agent is developed and implemented. – This project had been temporarily postponed due to issues regarding forest certification and utilizing imidacloprid pesticides on state forest lands. Fortunately, for the last two winters we have experienced cold enough temperatures to effectively kill off large segments of the wooly adelgid populations in the forest.
- Control efforts for invasive plants will continue in 2016. Larger ongoing projects such as mile-a-minute and Japanese knotweed infestations along Kepler Road typically receive treatment in June/July. These control efforts have been effective in controlling the spread of these plants outside of the treatment area. Weevils have been released in Locke Valley in 2010 and 2014 to combat the large mile-a-minute infestation there. These weevil release sites are surveyed three times per year. New infestations of invasive plants will be treated by District personnel in an effort to prevent large scale problems later. On the forefront of the district's monitoring and surveying is for Japanese Angelica Tree, which has been found and treated on one site near Musser Gap Trail. Surveying for this species takes place when the flowing bodies are present on the tree usually late August to October.
- The district is currently working with staff from the Division of Forest Health on a potential Gypsy Moth Spray program for 2016. Aerial surveys and gypsy moth egg mass counts have been completed. Potential spray block locations have been submitted and are under review with our Division of Forest Health. A large gypsy moth suppression spray program occurred

this past May on approximately 40,000 acres of state forest land, state park land, us army corps lands at Raystown, and Pennsylvania game lands.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Presently, there are no natural gas and or oil development activities taking place or immediately planned within the Rothrock State Forest.

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Valley Rural Electric COOP: Communications tower replacement on Jacks Mountain/Butler Knob.
- Texas Eastern: New Anode bed installation has been completed on the gas transmission line in the Trough Creek Division.
- First Energy: Mowing and herbicide application for vegetation control work on high voltage transmission lines.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Currently there are no special project in place or planned for that haven't been covered elsewhere in this document.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Recreation Stakeholders Meeting – (Time TBA) this meeting allows recreational clubs and volunteers to meet DCNR staff as well as each other. Gives opportunity for the recreation community to make suggestions and learn about upcoming projects.
- DCNR Conservation Volunteer Training/Work Day – **September 10, 2016** This involves the opportunity for DCNR volunteers to gather for a day, learn about sustainable trail maintenance, obtain updates on safety aspects of their work and work on a trail project located on the Rothrock State Forest.
- A public tour is planned in the Rothrock in October 2016. Suggested tour topics can be submitted to the District's email account of on our Facebook page. A "leaf peeper" tour is currently being considered.
- **Be sure to check our Facebook Page for the most up to date information related to the**

Rothrock State Forest, activities, and events.

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 25-40 square miles in size and is in the north-eastern most part of the Rothrock State Forest. 2016 is the third year of this research project.
- Researchers from Penn State University are conducting a “Shale Hills Study” in which they are looking at water flow. The two sites that have activity are along Harry’s Valley Rd on Tussey Mtn. and near the Jo Hayes Vista on Tussey Mtn. 2016 is the third year of this research project.
- Researchers from Penn State University are conducting research on prescribed fire effects as they relate to timber rattlesnakes, vernal pools, and Indiana bats. This research will be conducted on any number of sites at and near planned prescribed burns in the district. This is a cooperative research project with PSU, PA Fish and Boat, and Bureau of Forestry. 2016 is the second year of this research project.
- Researchers from Penn State University are conducting research on the success of oak regeneration 10-years after the harvest. This research is part of state-wide research project that looks at all forest districts that complete oak forest type regeneration harvests.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Regeneration project of herbicide cut/stump treatment along Kepler road at the Rt. 26 end that focused on treating competing vegetation was completed in November 2015.
- Contract herbicide project within the Brady Road deer enclosure was completed in September 2015 for 38 acres.
- An invasive species spray project was completed by a contractor on the new Hale Tract land acquisition to control the many invasive species on site prior to additional forest

rehabilitation work.

- **General Trail Maintenance and Enhancements:** Every year, numerous miles of trails are maintained and improved throughout the Rothrock State Forest. This work ranges from brush cutting, blazing, signage, trail tread improvements, dead tree removal, relocations, etc. This work is completed by staff, volunteers, and recreation clubs such as Nittany Mountain Biking Association, Friends of Coopers Gap, Standing Stone Trail Club, Mid State Trail Association, Ridge and Valley Outing Club, and several others.
- **Sand Hole Ridge Trail:** Part of the Coopers Gap Trail System, this trail relocation was completed and designed for long-term sustainability. This project was proposed and built by volunteers of Friend of Coopers Gap.
- **Schall's Gap Trail:** This foot-traffic only trail was re-established and improved by Boy Scout Troop 375. It connects Penn State's Rock Springs to the Rothrock State Forest.
- **The Rothrock State Forest Public Use Map** has been revised and updated to be more user-friendly and detailed. This new version should be available by summer 2016.
- **Two sections of the Mid State Trail** located on the Rothrock State Forest have been successfully relocated to improve trail sustainability and visitor safety.
- **Many outreach and educational programs** were completed within Centre and Huntingdon Counties by District Staff. These include the Huntingdon Fair, Ag Progress Days, the Grange Fair, several ATV Safety Programs, Tree City USA and Arbor Day programs.
- **Over 25 private landowner site visits** were conducted in Centre County to recon properties to determine feasibility of implementing habitat improvements for the Cerulean Warbler and the Golden-Winged Warbler.
- **Prescribed fire in and around the Underwood Trail deer fence exclosures** was successfully completed on 110 acres. The goal of this prescribed fire was to control competing vegetation, including mtn. laurel, black birch, and red maple while releasing established and competitive sized oak regeneration. The fire was done with the assistance of US. Fish and Wildlife Service Fire personnel as part of the Stafford ACT Response agreement between numerous state and federal agencies.
- **A Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden's 100th Year Celebration** was conducted at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds to honor the work and dedication of the all of the

contributions that the volunteers of this organization have completed in the last 100 years.

- Many Forest Fire Prevention and other educational programs were completed by our Forest Fire Specialist Supervisor across our service area. Support of Staff and the District's Forest Fire Wardens (volunteers) are critical to this programming.
- Under the Department's Mutual Aid Agreement with the US Forest Service, three staff members provided wildfire suppression assistance to the state of Alaska and California, our Forest Fire Specialist Supervisor assisted the states of California and Montana as a critical member of the Northern Rockies Type I Incident Management Team.
- 30 Acres of forestland have been added to the Rothrock State Forest.