

# **WEISER 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 Weiser 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

- Haldeman Tract – Equestrian Camping Area – In 2015 the district maintenance staff started the construction of this camping area off of White Oak Road. The project is 50% complete, once funding is obtain in 2016 the project will be completed.
- Susquehanna River Islands identification and inventory. This project is planned to identify all those Susquehanna River Islands that are Commonwealth owned, inventory each, (GPS, tag and determine size and if a campsite is viable) and deal with any structures or debris that exist on each island. In essence treat the islands the same as any state forest would be treated. Understanding that the islands have been considered “no one’s land” for years. We had two interns mark state owned islands this summer they started at the fiber dam in Sunbury and made their way south to just north of Millersburg.

### 2016 Organized events

**April** – Girl Scout walk\run  
Orienteering Race

**June** – Adventure Race

**July** – Competitive Horse Trail Ride

**August** – 50 Rattling Mile MTB Race  
-Hellbender 5k\Half Marathon

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Marked and Sold, Potentially Active:
  - Natalie Sale 149 total acres, (123 acres shelter-wood, 22 acres selection and 4 acres road) – Roaring Creek Tract. Timber harvesting was completed in 2015 but log landings and haul roads need to be seeded in spring of 2016. Roaring Creek Tract. Sale is to expire on September 2, 2016, so they are retiring sale week of August 29.
  - Deep Hollow Sale 45 acre overstory removal planned for the Haldeman Tract off of Deep Hollow Trail. This sale will treat forest stands with adequate oak regeneration. Harvesting of trees has been completed, forester is meeting with contractor week of August 22 to talk about sale retirement needs.
  - Splitwood II Removal Sale 80 acre overstory removal is planned for the Taylorsville Tract off of Helfenstein Road. This stand’s regeneration was encouraged with the implementation of a shelterwood in 2009. Regeneration is now abundant. Contractor is currently operating, one block is completed and is working on second block.
- Marked But Not Yet Sold:
  - West Deerview Sale 142 acres of salvage-overstory removal planned for the Jefferson Tract off of West Deerview Road. This sale will treat forest stands impacted by gypsy



moth and other native defoliators. At the conclusion of the sale the log landing will be a parking area.

Contracted moved into sale in August completed block one, moved on to block 7 and has excavating contractor building haul road.

- Proposed (not marked yet):
  - Greenland Tract – two sales are planned totaling 712 acres. The objective of these sales is to remove non-native tree species from the forest stands and promote scrub oak and pitch pine ecosystem which is lacking in Pennsylvania. 251 acre sale (Green Acres) was marked and sold this past July. Contracts have been sent to contractor for signatures.
  - Timber sales are planned on the Port Clinton Tract. One sale will be a salvage-overstory removal in stands impacted by gypsy moth and native defoliators.
  - Salvage-overstory removal sales will be planned for on the Second Mountain Tract in forest stands impacted by gypsy moth over the past several years.
  - A timber sale was marked to remove trees for a planned building at the Haldeman tract and incorporated a salvage sale with it. It totaled 12.5 acres.

**RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

- Plan drafting for Penn Forest Tract early succession Golden Winged Warbler habitat project.
- Plan drafting for the Greenland Tact early succession habitat restoration inter-agency project. Green Acres sale is part of this project
- Plan drafting for Ruffed Grouse Habitat on the Taylorsville Tract.
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**ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- Haldeman Tract – resurface 3.2 miles of Lykens Road utilizing Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) fall 2015 and 0.3 miles of White Oak Road. Completed.
- Second Mountain Tract – resurface 0.7 miles of South Ridge Road using 2A aggregate, summer 2015. Completed.
- Haldeman Tract – resurface 1 mile of White Oak Road utilizing DSA, Summer/Fall 2016
- Greenland Tract - Install 37 culvert pipes on 1.8 miles of Radar Hill Road. Completed.  
Resurface 1.8 miles of Radar Hill Road utilizing Diving Surface Aggregate(DSA) Summer/Fall 2017.

**PRESCRIBED FIRE**

- Wolf Pond Grass prescribed fire is a ten acre field on the Haldeman Tract. This fire will remove thick cool season grasses and prepare the site to plant native warm season grass. Completed. Looking to possible conduct a second burn on this site to remove cool season grasses and then have it planted with native warm season grasses. Will be reaching out to NWTF to assist in this project since this field was originally created with their assistance.
- Savanna One prescribed fire is an eighty acre woods fire on the Greenland Tract. The objective of this fire is to promote scrub oak and pitch pine ecosystem lacking within the states forest.

Completed. The fire burnt well the first time meeting some of our objectives. We believe a second burn may be needed in 2017 to reduce more of the duff layer, since the day of burn humidity was a little higher than we liked so it didn't burn like we hoped for.

## **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 Specialist from the District Insect and Disease, (I.&D.) coordinator to ground truth 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.
- Gypsy moth monitoring and spray program will take place in the district again this year. The district has proposed spraying 9,500 acres of state forest land in 2016 on the following tracts: Roaring Creek, Taylorsville, Second Mountain, Jefferson and Haldeman. Had a successful spray program in the district. Have not seen many signs of gypsy moth defoliation in the district and are not planning to spray acres in 2017.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be monitored throughout the district. Staff has monitored ash trees treated in 2015 and it seems to be mixed reviews. Some have declined, some stayed the same and some improved. We will keep monitoring them.
- District staff will continue with monitoring and treating non-native invasive species throughout the district. Focus will be on areas planned for timber sales and other earth disturbances.

## **NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT**

- Presently there are no natural gas and or oil development activities taking place within the Weiser State Forest. There is one pipeline project to take place on the Penn Forest Tract. PennEast Pipeline will be going through the Penn Forest Tract in Carbon County. This pipeline will deliver natural gas from northern Pennsylvania to New Jersey.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- State Forest Environmental Review (SFER) will be conducted during the winter of 2015/2016 to precede the water line replacement of Aqua PA's main water line feeding their plant from the reservoirs on the Roaring Creek Tract. SFER has been completed.
- Replace Bears Head and Mauch Chunk Fire Towers. Scheduled for 2017.
- Replaced roofs on two pavilions at McWilliams Picnic Area on the Roaring Creek Tract. Completed Summer 2016.
- Repainted Restrooms and repaired walking paths in Rowland and Minnichs Hit Picnic Areas with assistance from PA Outdoor Corps Crew. Completed Summer 2016.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**



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## **BUREAU OF FORESTRY**

- October 2016 we anticipate providing the public with the opportunity to drive through our Roaring Creek tract. During this “open house” we take comments, questions and concerns from the public and respond to them.

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

- 2015 Weiser Forest District completed treatment on Ash trees against the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Approximately 150 trees were treated on three forest tracts, Roaring Creek, Haldeman and Jakey Hollow. The trees will be monitored over the next several years and treated again in three years.
- Dismantling of Keffer's Fire Tower. The tower will be restored and re-erected on the Roaring Creek Tract in the near future as an observation tower overlooking the Brush Valley.
- Installed 2 restroom facilities on Roaring Creek Trail in the Roaring Creek Tract.

### **RESEARCH**

- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary will be conducting research on “Conserving Pennsylvania’s common raptors year-round –Broad-wing hawk habitat use, range and movement ecology during nesting. April to August at our Port Clinton Tract.