

DELAWARE 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 Delaware 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

- Lily Pond—Additional hiking trails and trail connections are planned for development and establishment. These trails will increase hiking opportunities north of Milford and establish links between the Lily Pond, Buckhorn, and Milford Experimental Forest areas. Due to reductions in staff, these projects will not be completed in 2016. They will remain on our project list for 2017.
- Parking areas and access points—Improvements to multiple parking areas will consist of minor grading work, addition of stone over existing base, and placement of rocks to help delineate parking areas.
- All major parking areas will have new kiosks installed to help inform and direct the visiting public. The majority of our parking areas have received the new kiosks.
- New State Forest Rules and Regulations posters will be installed at access points and parking areas throughout the District.
- Forest leased campsites (cabins) will receive their standard inspections, or on request, by staff.
- Trail improvement projects are planned for the Standing Stone snowmobile trail and the Burnt Mills ATV trail. Further details are provided below in the “Road and Bridge Projects” section.
- Pecks Pond will again receive two aquatic herbicide treatments to treat the prolific growth of aquatic vegetation. This is the second year of such a treatment aimed at improving the recreational activities on the Pond. The goal of this ten acre treatment area is to provide boaters more clear paths of navigation through/over dense growths of aquatic vegetation. The first application in June 2016 had a positive impact, reducing vegetation. The second application is planned for the end of August.

Organized Events

- None planned

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- Tanglewood Fences: 19-2013-BC02: 180 acres. Fences and adjacent stands in that area will be harvested in 2016. This timber sale will be an overstory removal with multiple goals. The primary goals are to regenerate these stands and pre-salvage harvest the ash prior to it succumbing to the emerald ash borer. Extensive access road work will be done for this sale due to the steepness of the haul road. All road improvements are complete. Loggers anticipate starting to harvest in early fall.
- Middle Brook Salvage: 19-2012-BC04: 185 acres. Hay Road Salvage: 19-2012-BC05: 99 acres. In 2007, 2008, and 2009 extensive Gypsy Moth defoliation occurred in the Pine Flats area leading to hundreds of acres of oak mortality. Several timber sales were laid out along Hay Road. Contractors have harvested the dead oak to salvage the material and regenerate the stand.
- Irishman Road: 19-2015-BC01: 52 acres. Deer fence is slated to have an overstory removal timber sale in 2016. Operators will re-enter a previous shelterwood harvest to remove the overstory. Oak regeneration has grown to high densities leading to a successful establishment of a new stand in the fence. Harvest is complete and successful.
- Alice’s Wonderland: 19-2014-BC01: 40 acres. Deer fence along Route 6 is slated to have the overstory removed in 2016. This fence had a previous shelterwood conducted in an effort to



provide more sunlight to the forest floor and establish a bountiful acorn crop for new seedling production. Harvest is complete and successful.

- Hamlet Salvage: 19-2014-BC03: 148 acres. Timber harvesting operations, which began in 2014, will continue along 16 Mile Run Road. These harvests are salvage overstory removals where adequate desirable regeneration of oak, hickory, and maple is established. These timber sales are a result of Gypsy Moth damage. Harvest is still active.
- Raspberry Run: 19-2014-BC03: 79 acres. Timber sale is on schedule to be harvested in 2016. It is an overstory removal and is located off of the Bushkill Road.
- Ludleyville Salvage: 19-2015-BC03: 111 acres. Scheduled to be harvested in 2016. It is a salvage overstory removal and is located off of the Beaver Run road. It should be the last of the Gypsy Moth salvage sales in the area.

Marked but not yet sold

- Big Hill deer fence, a 60 acre area that was previously harvested, will be re-entered to remove the overstory. The fence is located near the Blooming Grove parking area off Route 402. This harvest will begin near the end of August.
- Overstory removal timber sales, totaling sixty acres, will occur in and around the Millbrook fences to regenerate these stands. The snowmobile trail and drive-in hunter access on Millbrook Trail and Sawmill Road will be closed for the 2016-17 winter season while the timber sale is being harvested. This harvest will begin in the fall/winter of 2016.

Proposed (not yet marked)

- The following locations contain sites that require further investigation to determine if a timber sale would be necessary to meet our sustainable management and allocation goals and could be proposed for next year: Luke Road, Highline Road, Old Greentown Road, Five Mile Meadow Road, Flat Ridge Road, Snow Hill Road, Pine Flats Fireline Trail.

Regeneration projects

- White Deer Lake fence, a 23 acre deer enclosure, will have all black birch trees cut out by a contract hand felling crew. This will provide more sunlight to the forest floor and hopefully give the small oak seedlings a better chance at growing. This project was completed successfully.
- Tanglewood West, Royer, Sno-runner, Maple Run North, Maple Run Demo, Ivan Swamp small, and Bear Wallow (Tree Tower) deer enclosure fences are proposed for teardown in 2016. The reason for the removal is that adequate regeneration has developed from a combination of natural regeneration and planting of the sites. The majority of desirable seedlings are above the deer browse height, allowing for the teardowns. These removals should occur late summer/fall of 2016.
- Painter Swamp and Tom's Record fence are also slated to be taken down in 2016. A high density of desirable seedlings, mainly oak, have been established and have grown above deer browsing height, allowing these fences to be removed. These removals should occur late summer/fall of 2016.
- Vegetation Impact Protocol Plots (VIP plots) will be completed on State Forest Land to assess deer browsing impact on regeneration and native plants. All VIP plots for 2016 have been completed.

Fuelwood/Firewood Cutting

- During 2016, the public will be able to buy fuelwood permits to cut wood along Song Dog Road, Bartleson Road, Beaver Dam Road, and along a network of roads located west of State Route 402 centering on Highline Road.
- Other locations are currently available throughout the District. Interested parties should contact the District Office for a current listing of fuelwood cutting areas and to purchase a permit.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Tree planting will take place along Song Dog Road in Greene Township and near Blue Heron Road in Porter Township to supplement natural regeneration of past and future timber sales. A total of 26,500 white pine, red spruce, and white spruce will be planted at these locations. The conifers will provide winter thermal cover and escape cover for wildlife.
- Middle Branch Salvage along the Hay Road off Pine Flats will also be planted. The planting will consist of 6,300 Norway spruce and 8,700 white spruce along the skid trails.
- Delaware State Forest will continue to partner with Indiana University of Pennsylvania in an ongoing effort to create Golden Winged Warbler Habitat at sites located along Pine Flats Rd. and Highline Rd.. These habitat projects are beneficial to warblers and a host of other game and non-game species.
- Special wildlife management areas are being created on some of DSF's non commercial forest land. The goal is to harvest approximately 66 acres every year for a period of about 20 years, leaving all of these stands in various successional stages. The stands will be laid out in a checkerboard type pattern, which has proven most useful to the Golden Winged Warbler for habitat. These stands should end up being cut again about every 20 years, so they remain in a stage of succession that favors the Golden Winged Warbler.
- A wildlife habitat project will be created at the old William Penn site along Snow Hill Road. Warm season grasses will be planted in the three acre opening. This project was completed in the spring of 2016 and included the installation of gates to protect the site from vandalism and/or destruction.
- Nesting boxes for various wildlife species will be installed throughout the district to help promote such species as wood ducks, bats, and bluebirds.
- Staff will continue to promote and enhance the image of the forest and district. One particular task is addressing illegal forest dumping. Staff will investigate and prosecute illegal forest dumpers when applicable. We will continue to remove and clear dump sites when found. Staff are partnering with the Pennsylvania Environmental Council on a major cleanup in Pike County, near Route 739. The dumping site should be clean by fall 2016.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Culvert Replacement with Bridge structure on Bald Hill Road. Construction Summer 2016. Forest leased campsite owners beyond this construction site will be notified in advance, since temporary road closures will occur. Bald Hill Road is now closed until further notice. Updates and advisories are posted on the Delaware Forest website.
- Flat Ridge Road will receive approximately 9,500 ton of driving surface aggregate (DSA) stone as a road improvement project in 2016. This project is out for bid with an anticipated completion date in October.



- Proposed for 2016-Laurel Run Road will receive almost 6,800 tons of DSA stone improving 3.5 miles of roadway.
- Proposed for 2016-Buckhorn Fire Tower Road will receive 1,000 tons of AASHTO #1 stone covering 3,000 feet.
- Two culvert crossing on Five Mile Meadow Road will be replaced with open bottom concrete box culverts in 2016.
- Proposed for the end of 2016-Over 2,100 feet of the Standing Stone Trail will be improved with a base of AASHTO #1 and #2 and a top dressing of 2RC. This is a snowmobile trail improvement project.
- Proposed for the end of 2016-4,000 feet of the Burnt Mills ATV trail will be improved with 1,300 tons of 2RC stone. This is an ATV trail improvement project.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- The Delaware State Forest is currently planning for two prescribed fires in the spring of 2016. The locations are in established deer exclosures off of Whittaker and Ivan Swamp roads. The goals of both fires are to control competing vegetation allowing oak seedlings to grow. Both of these locations are post timber harvesting. Both prescribed fires were completed with success. The sites are responding well and our staff will continue to monitor the progress.
- Plots have been established at Whittaker road. The treatment area is approximately 50 acres. The goal of this fire is to control competing vegetation, primarily black birch. This should allow oak regeneration to be released. A prescribed burn plan is currently being written. A target of spring of 2016 has been set if weather conditions permit.
- The treatment area at Ivan Swamp Road is approximately 69 acres. The goal of this fire is to control competing vegetation, primarily black birch which should allow oak regeneration to be released. A target of spring of 2016 has been set if weather conditions permit.
- Additional goals of training employees and cooperators in both fire management and suppression skills and fuel reduction can be accomplished during these treatments.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- 100 ash trees will be chemically treated with a trunk injection chemical. The majority of these trees are on Tanglewood Mountain. This is an attempt to save some genetically superior Ash trees that would otherwise succumb to the emerald ash borer, a non-native forest pest. These treatments were successfully completed.
- Gypsy moth defoliation levels are on the rise again on the Delaware State Forest. A total of 9 blocks consisting of 5,250 acres will be sprayed with Bt this spring. The GM spray program was completed successfully.
- Hemlock woolly adelgid treatments will continue to occur on the DSF through 2016 if funding is received. The exact number of trees and treatment areas will depend on the amount of funding received for this project.
- Staff will continue to monitor for invasive plants and insects across our state forest land and the invasive species will be treated appropriately. In 2016, areas of specific concern are the recently-altered fourteen miles of PPL Susquehanna-Roseland project powerline, as well as, several other electric and gas line projects. Mile-a-minute and emerald ash borer are two key invasive species for which the staff will be on the lookout.

- Approximately one acre of wisteria will continue to be chemically treated until it is controlled. Wisteria is an exotic, invasive vine that causes significant damage to the native trees and forest ecology. The wisteria treatment site is located along Old Route 402 near Peck's Pond.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Columbia Gas company treated with herbicide approximately 6 acres of phragmites, an invasive plant, in Panther Swamp, Bruce Lake Natural Area. This treatment was part of wetland mitigation from the Columbia Gas pipeline reconstruction project. Contractors and staff plan to re-evaluate the area in the spring of 2016.

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- PPL Electric Utilities Corp. Susquehanna- Roseland Project (500 KV) across approximately 14 miles of ROW on Delaware Forest. PPL is in the restoration phase of project with an anticipated closeout date in the summer of 2016.
- The Big Pocono and High Knob fire towers are within a group of fire towers from across the Commonwealth that are proposed to be replaced with new fire towers. The Division of Forest Fire Protection is coordinating this project. It is anticipated that the project will go out to bid in 2016.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Pecks Pond Dam reconstruction—Project is anticipated to occur in 2017. The planning process is ongoing, including public input. It is anticipated that the project will go out for construction bid at the end of October 2016. Drawdown of the lake will commence at the beginning of September 2016. This project continues to progress on schedule.
- Construct new Resource Management Center with Storage Building—Proposed site is near the intersection of Route 402 and Bushkill Falls Road. It is anticipated that the project will go out for construction bid in May of 2016. Construction is expected to begin in 2016. This project is not progressing on schedule and is delayed 8-12 months.
- Demolish District Office Sewage Treatment Plant and hook up to Pocono Township Sewer Authority in 2016.
- Camp Rock Hill Demolition Project—Funding has not been secured, but is anticipated in 2016 or 2017. This project will be aimed at removing hazardous structures and returning the site to a natural state.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Pecks Pond projects—Opportunities for public involvement and comment will continue.
- Volunteering opportunities for trail maintenance are anticipated in 2016.
- Comments, questions, and concerns pertaining to any and all district activities may be directed to our District Office at 570-895-4000 or via email at FD19@pa.gov

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Delaware State Forest (DSF) introduced 500 mile-a-minute (MAM) weevils at a location near Laurel Run Road where MAM has been discovered during the last decade. The weevils were introduced to control the growth and spread of MAM in this area.
- DSF constructed 29 designated motorized campsites throughout the Delaware Forest. These sites include a stone/gravel base, picnic table, fire ring, and location identification post. Requests to reserve a site may be submitted online or by calling the District Office at 570-895-4000.
- DSF hand cut 50 acres of interfering vegetation consisting of black birch, hop hornbeam, striped maple and beech brush in the Old Greentown Road fence and the Bartleson Road fence to release the sugar maple, red maple, oak, and black cherry seedlings.
- The Bureau of Forestry released two species of parasitoid insects at Tanglewood that may develop over time into biological control agents for emerald ash borer.
- DSF Chemically treated one hundred ash trees by trunk injection to kill emerald ash borer. The majority of these trees were on Tanglewood Mountain. This is an attempt to save some genetically superior Ash trees that would otherwise succumb to the emerald ash borer – a non-native forest pest.
- DSF planted 62,000 trees throughout the district mainly for wildlife habitat improvement, species diversification, and acorn production.
- DSF treated 112 acres of forest at Tanglewood Mountain with herbicide to control striped maple, birch, beech brush, and fern to allow desirable vegetation to become established.
- DSF treated wisteria and Japanese knotweed near Peck's Pond with herbicide to control these destructive exotic invasive species.
- DSF administered the improvement of fourteen miles of state forest roads through road use agreements on the PPL Susquehanna-Roseland project and the Spring Roberts Trail project.
- Road/Trail Improvement: Cross Over Trail-replacement of two 36 inch culverts.
- Road/Trail Improvement: Raspberry Run Road-received 892 tons of DSA.
- Road/Trail Improvement: Craft Farm & Rifle Range Roads-received 3,000 tons of DSA.
- Road/Trail Improvement: Burnt Mills ATV Trail-received 1,470 tons of AASHTO #1.
- Road/Trail Improvement: Standing Stone Trail-received 1,154 tons of 2RC.
- District staff cleaned up and removed trash from countless minor occurrences and seven major occurrences of illegal forest dumping.

RESEARCH

- Research teams from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania continue to monitor Golden Winged Warbler and American Woodcock habitat and nesting success throughout the Delaware State Forest.
- Periodic research requests are received from educational institutions.
- In a joint research effort, Widener University and Susquehanna University will perform the following research project: "Developing a Hydrologic Model and Quantifying the Physical



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BUREAU OF FORESTRY

Characteristics of Pecks Pond using Geographic Information System Technology and Ground Penetrating Radar Technology”.

- East Stroudsburg University will perform the following research project: “Delaware River Watershed Stream Monitoring—Large-scale cellulose decomposition experiment”.
- Hawk Mountain Sanctuary will continue research via their “Broad-Winged Hawk Project”.
- Pike County Conservation District-Water quality monitoring associated with the Tennessee Gas Pipeline reconstruction/restoration at Craft Brook near Lily Pond.