

# Pinchot State Forest

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## 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 Pinchot 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

- Coordinate the transfer of 15 miles of the Delaware and Lehigh RTT from ASTA to Bureau of Forestry
- Install new signage to reflect district name change (550 signs ordered)
- Complete 2016 snowmobile trail improvement project (Stone Tower Trail apply aggregate, and install culverts on Golf Course Trail)
- Coordinate the demolition work at Moon Lake Recreation Area
- Develop 10 rustic campsites at Moon Lake
- Construct the Crystal Lake parking area
- Evaluate Montage Tract for recreation opportunities
- Locate portions of Pinchot Trail off Bear Lake Rd. (SR 2016) and Tannery Rd.
- Install all new signage on the Pinchot Trail
- Update Pinchot Trail hiking map
- Designate Moon Lake State Forest Recreation Area
- Designate Seven Tubs State Forest Recreation Area
- Sponsor Penn DOT TAP grant for the D&L trail Middleburg Road Crossing
- Blaze and evaluate Seven Tubs Audubon Trail and Seven Tubs Trail for improvement work
- Map mountain biking trails system at Moon Lake State Forest Recreation Area

### Organized Events

- SAA with Wyoming Valley Radio Flyers Club to continue to use the facility at Moon Lake For a 10 year period, through 2026.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- No specific timber sale locations or treatments are planned for 2016.
- Evaluate forest regeneration in all deer exclosures
- Evaluate State Forest Lands for silviculture projects
- Deer Park Lumber Company holds timber reservation rights until 2028 on approximately 25,000 acres of state forest land in the Pinchot District. These lands were the former Theta Corporation properties acquired by DCNR from 2005 – 2015
- Deer Park Lumber has provided notification that timber harvesting is scheduled in 2016 on lands near Moon Lake, Ore Mine Road, and Ash Gap

## **RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

- Avondale wetland mitigation project in partnership with Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Harvey's Creek tract
- Planning for grassland habitat at Moon Lake, Avondale, and Mocanaqua

## **ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- Complete annual road surface and drainage projects on Renfer, Pond Creek, and Dip State Forest Roads
- Replace Seven Tubs bridge #1 over Laurel Run

## **PRESCRIBED FIRE**

- No prescribed fires are planned in 2016

## **INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT**

- Emerald ash borer treatments on sites identified in District Ash Management plan
- Complete hemlock wooly adelgid treatment of approximately 1,000 inches of eastern hemlocks at the Thornhurst Picnic Area, Thornhurst Tract
- Treat knotweed at the Rush Brook Tract as part of the PPL NE Pocono project mitigation
- Identify and mitigate invasive plants in the PPL NE Pocono right of way corridor
- Complete 2016 insect and disease monitoring, aerial survey flights, and reporting
- Complete GM spray program on 946 acres of state forest lands
- Evaluate condition of eastern hemlocks located in Seven Tubs

## **NATURAL GAS, OIL AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

- There is no oil or natural gas development on the Pinchot State Forest

- 100 acre Avondale Mine reclamation project in partnership with Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Harvey's Creek Tract

## **TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS**

- Penn East gas pipeline, new construction crossing the Deep Hollow tract
- PPL line Rebuild and bridge replacement in the Deep Hollow tract

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- Establish and dedicate the Pinchot State Forest
- Complete the District Resource Management Plan for the Pinchot State Forest
- Coordinate the development of the Moon Lake Recreation Area Project
- Complete the Transfer Agreement with ASTA for the of D & L Trail transfer
- Complete the mapping, typing and inventory of 39,000 acres of State Forest lands
- District Office addition scheduled for bid and to start construction in 2016.
- Coordinate the removal of Olyphant #1 Dam
- Coordinate the removal of gas and diesel tanks at Crystal Lake Tract
- Evaluate AML sites for tree planting
- Boundary line brushing, tagging, painting (focus on Harvey's Creek Tract)
- Revise and print Pinchot State Forest Public Use Map
- Coordinate with Susquehanna Coal Company coal lease access road on right-of-way through Mocanaqua tract.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Conduct one public meeting for public input concerning the management of state forest lands
- Ceremony to dedicate the renaming of the state forest to the Pinchot State Forest
- Partnership with County and local tourism bureaus to place SFL information on web sites

## **RESEARCH**

- No current major research projects.
- State Forest Research Agreement: mapping of Mocanaqua Mine Pool
- State Forest Research Agreement: peat land bird surveys
- State Forest Research Agreement: Lehigh River watershed monitoring
- State Forest Research Agreement: fungus in salamanders

## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

- Renamed Lackawanna State Forest to Pinchot State Forest.
- Closed on acquisitions at Mocanaqua (3,183ac), Deep Hollow (862ac), Montage (7,683ac), Moon Lake and Missing Link (1,210ac) and Seven Tubs (540ac).
- Updated Public Use Map on the internet site
- Completed maintenance of Pinchot Trail
- Participated in Forest Stewardship Council Review and Certification
- Treated 123 White Ash trees to protect them from Emerald Ash Borer
- Constructed upper parking lot and improved lower parking lot at Mizdail Road.
- Complete Pittston Rd surface project with 3,400 tons DSA and replaced 26 culverts
- Complete tannery Rd surface project with 1814 tons DSA