

# WILLIAM PENN STATE FOREST DISTRICT

## 2020 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 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:

Stephen Wacker, District Forester  
William Penn State Forest  
845 Park Rd, Elverson, PA 19520  
(610)582-9660  
Fd17@pa.gov

## RECREATION

- Wertz Tract
  - Install kiosks on Sportsman and Huntzinger Road
  - Submit a State Forest Environmental Review for Recreation Improvements
    - Begin development of a trail system
    - Plan out a Picnic area
- Honey Brook Tract
  - Plan a future trail system using the existing networks.

### **Organized Events**

- Open house for new tract in Honey Brook. Date TBD
- Cleanup on Little Tinicum Island with DeLoitte- Canceled or postponed due to Covid-19

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### **Marked and sold, potentially active**

- Fingers Crossed sale on Gibraltar Hill. Cutting began 11/2019.

### **Marked but not yet sold**

### **Proposed (not marked yet)**

- Thinning harvest on the new parcel on the Wertz tract. This will promote hard mast species and tulip poplar, focusing on black birch for removal. This will be primarily a low-grade timber harvest.

### **Regeneration projects**

- Pre-Emergent spray projects on the Wertz tract. Hain Mill sale area and Texter Mountain Road will be treated to target stilt grass and mile-a-minute.
- Invasive spray treatment on the proposed timber sale area adjacent to Texter Mountain Road.
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## RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Manual removal of invasive plants will occur on the Wertz tract with the goal of protecting sensitive plants.

## **ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- An access road stream crossing is in the design phase for Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary. This will allow us to perform habitat work that improves the serpentine ecosystem.
- Upgrade the administrative access road on Buck Hollow
- Continue to improve the access road at Gibraltar. Minor changes are needed to the new culvert pipes. The timbersale will also be improving the gated road that is used as one of the trails.
- Install 1 gate on Texter Mountain Road access of the Wertz tract.

## **PRESCRIBED FIRE**

- There are no prescribed fires planned for 2020.

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

- Implement round 3, phase 1 of the district ash management plan. Approximately 110 trees will be treated on the Zimmerman and Johnson Natural Areas.
- Monitor Spotted Lantern Fly on all Berks County Tracts
- Treat stilt grass at Goat Hill and Wertz
- Focus on Paulownia, Ailanthus, and Angelica tree treatments on Wertz, Gibraltar Hill, and Buck Hollow Tracts.

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

- No activity to report

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

- No Activity to report

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Public meeting for new lands in Honey Brook. Dates TBD

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **New Acquisitions planned in 2020**

- 101 Acre Seidel Hill Acquisition (Robeson Township, Berks County)
- 19 acres along Maryland Border added to Goat Hill (West Nottingham Twp, Berks County)
- 56-acre addition to Wertz (Heidelberg Twp, Berks County)

### **Habitat Projects**

- Potentially use the PA Outdoor Corps to install a fence at Honey Brook which will be used for an elm seed orchard. (Canceled due to Covid-19. This project will be re-evaluated in 2021)

## **RESEARCH**

- Research is ongoing involving nodding trillium, glade spurge, and elderberry on various tracts.

## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

- Over 125 acres of invasive plants were treated on several tracts.
- Acquisitions:
  - Goat Hill- 120 Acres
  - Wertz- 51 Acres