

# Tiadaghton State Forest

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## 2021 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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.

The SFRMP is implemented at the local level by district-specific resource management plans that aim to balance many uses and values of the forest, while maintaining ecosystem health and the wild character of the forest.

The purpose of this Management Activities document is to communicate to the public about upcoming management activities, projects and events that will be conducted to implement the SFRMP on Tiadaghton State Forest. For questions, comments or more information about this plan, please contact:

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## RECREATION 2021

### A. Recreation Projects

- **Lower Pine Trail** – The PA outdoor Corps will help complete a trail that encircles the district office and will be used for interpretive walks for the district's Environmental Educator. As well as recreation purposes.
- **Pine Creek Rail Trail Resurfacing** – We will be continuing with Phase 4 of resurfacing the existing AASHTO #10 trail surface with Trail Surface Aggregate (TSA) formulated by Penn State's Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads. TSA

provides a more sustainable running surface and reduces the constant rill erosion issues noticed with the AASHTO #10 product. The trail section from Jersey Mills, south nearly to Ramsey Village will receive TSA aggregate and will be rolled in by DCNR staff. Hopefully this work will be completed in May of 2021 but could happen anytime in the summer depending on the timeliness of the bidding process.

- **DEP General Permits for Bridges in Gamble Run** - A series of bridges would improve trails in Gamble Run. Two frequently used trails, the PA Mid State Trail and the Gamble Run Trail, need bridges. Permitting will be a collaborative project with the PA DEP to construct timber bridges in the future.
- **Replace Bridge over Little Morris Run on the Black Forest Trail** - The existing bridge over Little Morris Run, a cable and plank bridge, is rotting and one end of the bridge is secured to a white pine tree that has died in the past year. A new bridge will be constructed that meets the preapproved engineering specifications for foot travel only bridges.
- **Rebuild Bridge over Dam Run on the Mid State Trail** - The existing bridge over Dam Run, a foot travel only bridge, is rotting. A new bridge will be constructed with the assistance of the Mid State Trail Association that meets the preapproved engineering specifications for foot travel only bridges.
- **Ski Trail Maps** – New ski trail maps will be made for the district’s designated ski trails. These maps will either be completed by the recreation forester, or with the assistance of the cartography section.
- **State Forest Trail Tread Surface Rehabilitation** – The PA Outdoor Corps will be used to rehabilitate eroded trails surfaces and repair switchbacks, water diversion features, and address other trail concerns as needed on the Golden Eagle and Black Forest Trails.
- **Vista Work** – numerous vistas along district roads and trails will be cleared to improve recreational viewing and for field observation during wildfires.

## **B. Trail Work**

- **Haneyville ATV Trail** – Multiple sections of the ATV trail will be rehabilitated with 4-minus aggregate to prevent further erosion and sedimentation problems. This work will require regrading portions of the trail and applying aggregate to prevent further deepening of mud holes. Additional work will include adding/repairing culvert pipes and headwalls where needed. Ditch maintenance

will likely be completed at that time. Additional work on the trail will include adding reassurance blazes, Class I and Class II signs, and clearing the trail at least three times of down trees on the trail corridors.

- **Black Forest Trail** – The 42-mile loop will be cleared at least twice during the year. Additional work will be conducted by volunteers and DCNR personnel to clear encroaching vegetation and to rehabilitate eroded tread surfaces. KTA will be working on the trail May 15-17 under the supervision of the recreation forester. Portions of the trail will be reblazed. Substantial work is needed to repair trail that was completely eroded due to heavy rains in the summer of 2018.
- **Golden Eagle Trail** – The 9.2-mile trail will be cleared at least three times throughout the year. Additional work will also include maintaining vistas and replacing trail signs. KTA will be working on the trail June 20 under the supervision of the recreation forester. Portions of the trail will be reblazed. A significant amount of tread surface will be repaired by increasing the width and slope of the tread surface.
- **Bob Webber Trail** – This trail will be cleared of trees multiple times. Huckleberry and mountain laurel will be mowed back near the top of the trail.
- **Mid-State Trail**- Every summer the Mid-State Trail Association spends one weekend improving the trail. Additional work will involve digging-out areas where the trail has eroded, and the tread surface is now non-existent. Sections of the trail will be mowed with a DR Mower or brushed back with weed whackers from Game Lands 75 to Big Springs Road, and from Sand Spring Road to Mohn Mill Road.
- **Sentiero Di Shay Ski Trail**- DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately 13 miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance. Bridges will be constructed where culvert pipes have washed out along historic railroad grades.
- **Francis Kennedy Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately six miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance. The tread surface will be dug on portions of the eastern portion of the loop.
- **Pine Bog Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately two miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **George Will Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately six miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.

- **Ruth Will Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Baldwin Point Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Pitch Pine Loop Ski Trail** - DCNR staff will mow and clear approximately three miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Bear Claw Ski Trail** - DCNR maintenance staff will mow and clear approximately four miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance. This trail needs reblazed, especially along Sand Springs Rd.
- **Broken Tip Ski Trail** - DCNR maintenance staff will mow and clear approximately three and a half miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance. Reblaze trail.
- **Switchback/Tower Trail** – this trail connecting Skyline Drive to the Broken Tip Trail should be blazed for shared use.
- **Middle Hill Trail** – Trail will be cleared of down trees and blazed for shared use.
- **Bull Run Quarry/Log Slide Loop**-A portion of trail will be constructed to connect two existing trails at one of the district's outstanding vistas (Bull Run Spur 1), creating a scenic loop trail from the Tiadaghton Resource Management Center.
- **Quarry Mountain/Dragon's Back Trail** – This trail will be cleared from PA414 to the Golden Eagle Trail. A new trail sign will be placed where it intersects the Golden Eagle Trail.
- **Naval Run Trail** - This five-mile trail will be cleared of down trees, and portions of the trail will need to be brushed back.
- **Coudersport Pike Trail** – The snowmobile Trail/shared use trail will be mowed by the Jersey Mills and Waterville Maintenance Division to remove woody vegetation and thick grass growing the trail.
- **Gleason Trail** – The Gleason Trail will be cleared of downed trees.
- **Old Wagon Road** – This trail will be cleared and mowed by volunteers and DCNR staff.

- **Pesto Trail**– This will be cleared of trees and weed whacked by volunteers to its intersection with the Mid State Trail.
- **Panther Run Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns, parts of it will be weed whacked, and trees were pruned back along its corridor.
- **Algerine Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns and weed whacked by DCNR and volunteers. Trail blazes will be painted yellow.
- **Cut Off Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns and DCNR staff will cut back encroaching huckleberry, mountain laurel, black birch, etc.
- **Plantation Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns from route 44 to the Haneyville ATV Trail.
- **Jack Martin Trail** – This trail will be cleared from route 414 to the Haneyville ATV Trail. The bottom will be weed whacked where tall grass and other herbaceous plants grow tall and obscure the view of PA414.
- **Brown’s Run Trail** – This trail will be cleared of trees from PA44 down to PA414.
- **Ott Fork Trail** – The Ott Fork Trail will be cleared of downed trees and trees will be pruned back along its corridor.
- **Pine Hollow Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns and mowed from Middle Hill Road to the Ott Fork Trail.
- **Pine/Riffle Trail** – These trails will be cleared of downed trees. A new sign will be placed where Riffle Run intersects with the Pine Trail.
- **Half Dome** – This extremely steep trail will be cleared of downed trees.
- **Camp Ridge Trail** – This trail will be re-established/cleared following logging over the winter months.
- **Callahan Trail** – This trail will be cleared of blowdowns. A new sign will be placed where it intersects with the Pine Trail.
- **Houselander Trail** –A large portion of the trail will be designated as shared use and will be cleared by volunteers and DCNR staff.

- **Torbert Trail** - This trail will be cleared of blowdowns. Approximately one and a half miles of this trail will be mowed near Okome Rd.
- **Tiadaghton Trail** – DCNR maintenance staff and volunteers will mow, weed whack, and clear approximately 10 miles of this trail corridor as routine maintenance.
- **Shared Use Trail on Chestnut Ridge** – A section of shared use trail along Chestnut Ridge that was abandoned will be re-established by cutting brush and reblazing the trail.
- **Stone Cutter Trail** – The section of the Stone Cutter Trail will be re-established in Bonnell Run. This work will be assigned to the PA Outdoor Corps of the Jersey Shore Outdoor Club if possible.
- **Sam Carson Trail** – This trail is badly overgrown and the sign at the trailhead was stolen. A new sign for the trail will be made and brush will be cut back to re-establish the trail.
- **Gas Line Trail** – this trail off Naval Run Rd is badly overgrown with sweet birch. The birch will be pulled or cut to re-establish the trail corridor.
- **English Flat Trail** – This abandoned trail will be re-established off Sinking Springs Rd and new signs will mark the trailhead.
- **Little Morris Trail** – The Little Morris Trail will be mowed during cold weather months to improve this section of shared use trail.
- **Dugan Log Trail** – This trail will be blazed to assist users traversing the log roads in this area.
- **Catamount and Turkey Vulture Trails** – These trails will be cleared of down trees multiple times throughout the year.
- **Central Mountains Shared Use Trail** – This trail system needs cleared of trees, needs brush cut back, and trees need to be reblazed. Signs also need replaced for some of the individual trails.
- **T-Squared Trail** – this trail gets mowed and cleared of trees from the Benson Rd to the Black Forest Trail each summer.

### **C. Recreation Events**

- **Eastern States 100** – On August 14-15, the Eastern States 100 will be held at Little Pine State Park. This elite foot race will utilize about 70 miles of hiking trails in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- **Black Forest Ultramarathon** - This October, a 100-kilometer race will be had on the Black Forest Trail and T-Squared Trail.
- **Call of the Wilds Mountain Marathon** – In October, the Call of the Wilds 25/50K will be held at Little Pine State Park. This course features about 45 miles of hiking trails in the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- **Slate Run 25K** - On June 5, this trail running event will feature approximate 15 miles of the Black Forest and connecting trails.
- **Mile Run Challenge** - This annual half-marathon is held in the southern portion of the Tiadaghton State Forest and the northern portion of the Bald Eagle State Forest each spring.
- **Tiadaghton Trail Challenge** – This event will be held in November and consists of two simultaneous trail running events, a 10K and a half marathon. The trails for the event are almost entirely on Huntley Mountain.
- **YMCA Ride for the Y** – The annual Ride for the Y will be held on the Pine Creek Rail Trail in late September and feature approximate 29 miles of the trail.
- **Keystone Gravel** – This cyclocross bicycle event is held in mid-September and utilizes about 60 miles of trails and roads in the district.
- **Keystone Off-Road** - This mountain bike event is planned for May and features nearly 50 miles of trail and dirt roads in the district.
- **Hyner Hang Gliding Club** – The Hyner Hang Gliding Club launches from the vista at Auganbaugh Gap several times per year.
- **Jersey Shore Lions Club Family Fun Walk/Run** – In April the Lions Club of Jersey Shore will host a 5k run/walk on the Pine Creek Rail Trail starting in Jersey Shore.

- **Durty Dabbers Enduro** – In June the Durty Dabbers host an endure-style motorcycle event that incorporates state forest roads in multiple forest districts. In the Tiadaghton State Forest, the Dabbers used roads solely in the southern portion of the district.
- **Slate Run Ramble** – In late spring and early autumn a public hike is led on trails near the village of Slate Run. The route may include portions of the Black Forest Trail, Golden Eagle Trail, Dragon’s Back, Quarry Mountain, Half-Dome, or other trails in the vicinity. The length of the course varies for each hike but is typically 9-12 miles.
- **Iron Cross** – This year an organized bicycle event was held starting in South Williamsport and extended into the southern part of the Tiadaghton State Forest and the northern part of Bald Eagle State Forest. The event featured mostly gravel roads except for two shared use trails.
- **Princeton Outdoor Action** – Each year Princeton University brings large groups of freshmen students on a backpacking trip on the Black Forest Trail-roughly 150 students attend each September.
- **AYSO 5K** – A local youth soccer league will host a 5k run on the Pine Creek Rail Trail

## RECREATION 2020

### A. Recreation Projects Completed

- **Avis Boat Launch** – In 2020, the forest district completed the environmental permits needed and constructed a new boat launch. The name was changed to Phelp’s Mills Boat Launch.
- **Eiger Hiking Loop** – The PA Outdoor Corps, with assistance from and under the supervision of the recreation forester, completed the Eiger Trail which forms a hiking loop near the district office.
- **Electric Vehicle Charging Station** – An electric vehicle charging station was created at the southern terminus of the Pine Creek Rail Trail in Jersey Shore for the general public.
- **Camp Kline Kiosk** - A new interpretive panel was installed along the Pine Creek Rail Trail to inform the public and passersby of the historic Boy Scout camp adjacent to the highly used bicycle trail.



- **Pine Creek Rail Trail Bridge Deck Washing** - The Jersey Mills maintenance staff power washed all bridge decks along the Pine Creek Rail Trail to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians when the decks are wet.
- **Removal of Culvert Pipes and Construct Bridges over Ott Fork on the Ott Fork Trail** - A cooperative project with Trout Unlimited (TU) on Ott Fork removed three old culverts on the Ott Fork Trail.
- **Trail Work** – Nearly all mowable sections of ski trails were mowed prior to winter. Many miles of trail were cleared of down trees, and brush was cut back and/or mowed on tens of miles of trails. The majority of this work was completed by Bureau of Forestry staff and individual Conservation Volunteers.

## **TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

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

- **Farewell Timber beast** – This sale is sold and is along the Old Mountain Rd. This 175-acre sale will be primarily over story removal. Previous site projects were, mowing, planting and fence installations. **Completed.**
- **You're My Boy Blue**- 50-acre Shelterwood cut along the Button road. This is a first stage shelterwood cut to promote and existing to help establish new regeneration. Currently being harvested.
- **Middle Hill**- 90 acres of overstory removal inside 2 fences along with 205 acres of shelterwood. **Completed.**
- **Sawyer's Last Stand timbersale** – 128 acres of overstory removal along the Gamble Run and Reynold's Spring roads. Sold. Waiting to be harvested.

- **Burls Burls Burls** – 200-acre overstory removal and shelterwood sale along the Barrens rd. Currently being harvested.
- **Big trail** – 236 acres 2 age overstory removal along Big trail Road currently being harvested.
- **At Last** – 230 acres Overstory removal/shelterwood sale along Wentzel trail and Huntley road. Waiting to be harvested.
- **Dricky Bobby** – 123 acres Overstory removal at the base of white deer ridge. Currently being harvested.
- **New Blood** – 427 acres of overstory removal/shelterwood along Bull Run road and spur one. Sold. Waiting to be harvested.
- **So far so good** – 160 acres of overstory removal inside fences off of Gamle Run rd. Marked, waiting to be sold.
- **Route 44 eyesore** – 268 acres of shelterwood and 2 age removal at the end of Bull Run rd. Sold. Waiting to be harvested.
- **Coming back to life** – 30 acres of overstory removal inside a fence off of Daugherty Rd. Waiting to be bid out.
- **Super Bad** – 59 acres of overstory removal inside a fence at McMurrin Run at of Sand Spring Rd.
- **Zimmerman Rd** – 156 acres sale. Continuation of a previous sale that was fenced. Mostly Overstory removal inside the fences and some additional shelterwood. Sold waiting to be harvested.

**Proposed (not marked yet)**

**Currently 2021 sales are being proposed for the following areas:**

- **Limbaugh** – This proposed 111-acre timber sale is located along Limbaugh Road near the intersection of Parker Road. The stands have yet to be entered and will be receiving a first stage shelterwood.
- **Brandon Tr.** – 225 acres along Brandon trail off of PA Rt 664
- **Little Hatchet Revisited** – 75 acres overstory removal of 3 fences along PA Rt 44 at Dividing Line Trail,

- **Jamison Trail** – 171-acre shelterwood
  - **Falling Springs** – 94 acres Overstory removal along Falling Springs Rd
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- *Other sales could potentially begin in 2021 but forecasting that activity at this time is difficult due to a variety of reasons that may inhibit them coming to fruition. We will periodically update this document throughout the year to better inform our constituents to the Tiadaghton State Forest.*

### **Regeneration projects**

- **Deer Fence Dismantle Projects** – The district is planning 14 fence dismantles for the upcoming year. 2 along the silver springs rd. 3 fences at 2<sup>ND</sup> Gap. 3 fences at Metzger Tr. 3 fences at Hackets Rd. 3 fences along dead end Ramm Rd.
- **Tree Planting** – The district planted 266,000 conifers this coming spring to supplement natural regeneration within completed timbersale areas.

## **RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

### **Wildlife**

#### **2020 Accomplished**

- Mowed all herbaceous openings in the district.
- Replaced herbaceous opening wooden gates.
- Treated areas immediately surrounding herbaceous openings for invasive shrubs with herbicide.

#### **2021 Projected**

- Begin using prescribed fire to maintain herbaceous openings.
- Continue evaluating areas to improve wildlife habitat.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- **Vandyke Rd DSA – Spring - Summer 2021** – Dirt & Gravel road project to finish surfacing the Vandyke Rd with DSA, an effort started years ago. ~4,200 tons of DSA will be delivered and paver placed. DCNR staff will roll the material.
- **Limbaugh Rd Phase 1 – Spring – Summer 2021** - This Dirt & Gravel road project encompasses 4.6 miles of the Limbaugh Rd, from Little Pine State Park to the well pads on the top of the mountain. The road has little to no stone left on it but sits on a decent base of shelf rock as it runs along English Run, a tributary to Little Pine Creek. DCNR staff will be replacing pipes and apply a 4-minus subbase in certain areas to prepare the road to be surfaced with some 2A material in 2021. Will finish surfacing with 2A material in 2022. Road closures can be expected periodically throughout this project, mainly during pipe replacements.
- **Lebo Rd Phase 1 – Summer 2021** - This a small project utilizing Liquid Fuels money, likely 2 phases, to finish a road leading to one of the more popular vistas in the district, especially for snowmobilers. Gas Company built up and fixed all but 1.3 miles of this road leaving the forest user with several miles of nice road leading to 1.3 miles of a bumpy, eroded road to get to the overlook. DCNR staff will be applying some 4-minus sub-base and 2A aggregate to this road to match the condition and quality of the first part of the road. Lebo Rd is a Z1, joint use, public use road, part of the Coudy Pike Snowmobile Trail System.
- **Fall 2021 – Fall 2022 – Bridge Replacement** – Naval Run Rd over Little Slate Run – This bridge replacement is tentatively scheduled to start sometime in 2022. Differing from most other DCNR bridge replacements, this project will feature a temporary road/bridge install during the work to continue to allow access to seasonal and full-time residents along the Naval Run Rd.

## **Prescribed Fire**

### **2020 Accomplished**

- Due to Covid-19, all district prescribed fire implementation was postponed. Staff from the Tiadaghton State Forest did support surrounding districts with equipment and personnel for multiple prescribed fires.

### **2021 Projected**

- Establish a burn plan for all herbaceous openings in the district and begin using prescribed fire as the primary maintenance tool for them.
- Establish a burn plan for vistas in the district and begin using prescribed fire as one of the maintenance tools along with mechanical maintenance and herbicide application. The goal will be to eventually use prescribed fire as the primary maintenance tool once herbaceous plants are established.
- Write burn plans as foresters find areas they wish to burn.

## **Wildfire**

### **2020 Accomplished**

- Reported 47 wildfires in 2020 with the largest being a 16-acre fire that occurred in Mifflin Township on private land.
- Due to Covid-19, prevention programs and activities were suspended.
- Continued upgrade and replacement of PPE and equipment.
- Received two new 150-gallon skid units to replace old, unreliable skid units on both new type-6 engines stationed at Jersey Mills and Rauchtown.
- Placed an order for a new 55-gallon skid unit to be placed on our UTV. The old skid unit will be re-located to Jersey Mills for use on their UTV.
- Supported the federal government by sending 4 people on crews / engines to assist with wildfire suppression.

### **2021 Projected**

- Continue to modernize our equipment and response to wildfires within the district.
- Continue to support other districts by providing equipment and manpower as needed.

- Receive and place into service the new 55-gallon skid unit on the UTV.
- Schedule training as needed / requested when allowed due to the pandemic.
- Continue to support the Wildland Fire Crew by sending employees out of state on wildfires.

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

- Mile-a-minute appears to be increasing exponentially within the floodplain of Pine Creek. Current treatment tools: herbicide, biocontrols, etc. lack the efficacy needed to keep this invasive species in check.
- Significant effort was spent searching for and treating isolated patches and novel infestations of Japanese knotweed, poison hemlock, oriental bittersweet, swallow-wort species, Japanese angelica tree, and glossy buckthorn in 2020 and will continue through 2021.
- Japanese knotweed treatments were completed in 2020 along Upper Pine Bottom Run. Hundreds of small populations exist along this drainage and will be treated until they are eliminated. New populations were discovered in Lower Pine Bottom and along Krape Run, both of which will be treated until they are eliminated in 2021 and beyond.
- Since 2019, attempts were made to eliminate Japanese knotweed from the Little Pine Creek watershed (as the stream has relatively few populations along its banks and tributaries). Cooperation with multiple private landowners may be needed to ensure full elimination of J. knotweed. This cooperative treatment will continue through 2021.
- Aggressive pre-emergent treatment of Mile-A-Minute will continue at the Fluffy and the Goat timbersale (Fourth Gap Area). A native warm season grass was planted (Fall 2017) in the areas to receive pre-emergent treatment with the hopes of having something growing following treatment. This grass germinated well and is growing well. Only small spot treatments and hand removals were needed to eliminate mile-a-minute in the treatment areas.
- Aggressive treatment of Ailanthus will continue in the Second Gap and Mile Run Areas (focusing on past and current timbersales in those areas).
- Verticillium wilt was discovered in stands of Ailanthus across the district starting in the spring of 2017. The spread of the fungus continues to be observed on state forest lands. While lethal, the fungus appears to not spread quickly to nearby and disjointed populations of Ailanthus.

- Strategic treatment of Japanese knotweed will continue throughout the district with a focus on isolated or newly discovered and manageable populations. Focus will be shifted towards new disturbance, areas where fill was dumped/moved, etc.
- New populations and novel invasive species continue to be discovered on the nearly 1,000 acres of disturbance associated with Marcellus shale development. Continued treatment of these invasives, where possible and deemed effective, will continue. The district will continue to rely on the shale gas monitoring crew as an extra set of eyes constantly looking for and reporting these invasive species associated with shale gas development. Many small populations of mile-a-minute were found on natural gas infrastructure. Pre-emergent herbicides and diligent follow up will be needed to ensure these ever-increasing populations of mile-a-minute won't invade the undisturbed forests surrounding the natural gas infrastructure.
- Many invasives are discovered near or on old timbersale landings and haul roads. Old landings and timbersales were scouted during 2020 and any invasive species, especially those found in low and isolated populations, will be eliminated in 2021. Invasives near newly planned timbersales will also be strategically targeted (e.g. Autumn Olive located along a state forest road leading towards a newly planned timbersale entrance).
- Some areas of state forest land around Rocky Ridge and Sand Spring Roads along with Ramsey and Bull Run were sprayed for Gypsy Moth. Due to monetary constraints not all affected areas were able to be treated and we have a moderate defoliation of some areas across the district. Affected areas will be monitored and potentially treated spring of 2022 dependent on funding.

A newly acquired UTV-mounted sprayer will continue to be used, in cooperation with the shale gas monitoring crew, for the treatment of roadside invasives. By some estimates, roadside invasive shrubs constitute the greatest number of isolated invasive shrubs in the Tiadaghton State Forest. Given the ease of treatment and the possible effectiveness of the treatment (e.g. eliminating the only Morrow's honeysuckle population for 10 square miles), this treatment method will be given priority during mid-summer, when other carefully timed and labor-intensive treatments (e.g. spring pre-emergent treatment or early fall basal spraying of root sprouting species) are not used. Effective and efficient use of the UTV was hampered in 2019, and future use will transition to placing the UTV-mounted sprayer in the back of pickup trucks.

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

- Industry-driven overdevelopment and overproduction of natural gas has, not surprisingly, depressed the price of natural gas and related commodities. This is especially true in the region, with prices at the Leidy Hub dipping below \$0.50/MMBTU during 2020. This low-price environment has stifled most new or previously planned development on the Tiadaghton State Forest.
- One well pad, located along Limbaugh Road, was completed (fracked) in 2020.
- A major spill occurred in Truman Run, with roughly 4100 gallons of produced leaking into the stream following a truck rollover in late 2018. Monitoring and cleanup work continued in this area through 2020, with reseeding planned for 2021.
- During 2020, both major gas operators on the Tiadaghton State Forest continued to dewater several fresh water impoundments to remove accumulated rainwater from the otherwise unused fresh water impoundments. Dewatering took place with the cooperation and monitoring of DEP staff. The staff of the Tiadaghton State Forest will continue to push for removal and reclamation of unneeded fresh water impoundments.
- During 2020, continued attempts were made to encourage natural gas operators to avoid mowing their rights-of-way and vegetated clearings associated with Marcellus infrastructure to encourage the growth of native warm-season grasses. As this pipeline network is used by snowmobiles, future efforts to mow the snowmobile trail will be limited to areas where woody shrubs would prevent proper grooming and travel on the trail. Otherwise, the warm season grasses will be pushed over by snowfall, snowmobile travel, and the first grooming of the season. Efforts will continue to encourage DCNR staff to not mow for unnecessary reasons.
- The staff of the Tiadaghton State Forest continue to work with natural gas operators to ensure access to state forest for uses other than natural gas development is not inhibited by the presence of natural gas infrastructure, such as pipelines.

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

- Pennsylvania State Police have completed construction of a new tower near Summit Trail.



- Oak wilt was discovered on many oak trees near Waterville in 2020. All of the affected trees were recently trimmed for electric ROW maintenance. The spread of oak wilt will be monitored in 2021, and any reasonable attempts to stop or slow the spread will be undertaken.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Meet and greet opportunities on the weekends.
- Family fishing days on Pine Creek in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.
- Jersey Shore Area Middle School: watershed education field day, compass and map classes, and invasive plants classes.
- Tree ID Trail hikes, kayak trips on Pine Creek and the Susquehanna River, History Hikes on the Log Slide Trail, and group rides on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.
- Fun in the Sun Day at Brandon Park, Williamsport.
- Woolrich Youth Day, Woolrich, PA.
- Jersey Shore YMCA Healthy Living Fair.
- Loyalsockville Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Rail Trail ride.
- Boy Scout and Cub Scout merit badge classes.
- Schick Elementary School (Loyalsock District) Career Day
- Project Learning Tree and PA Songbird presentations.
- Charter School Field days at the TFRMC.
- Tiadaghton Forest Resource Management Center presentations for gas infrastructure tours, advisory council meetings, and other state and national groups using the meeting space at the Center.
- Counselor at DCNR's ECO-Camp.