

# CORNPLANTER STATE FOREST DISTRICT

## 2020 ACTIVITY PLAN (MID-YEAR UPDATE - 7/29/2020)

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 The Cornplanter 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

- **Pennsylvania Outdoor Crew (POC)** – Adult crew will assist with invasive plant species control throughout the District
- **Ingraham Tract Trail System Improvements** – Install new trail signs and conduct stabilization/clearing work on the trail system
- **Anders Run Trail System Improvements** – Replace wooden steps, stabilize elevated walkways and improve trail system

### Organized Events

- 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Northwestern PA Landowner's Conference – Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup> – Edinboro

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

### Marked and sold, potentially active

#### Marked but not yet sold

- **Marfink Sale** – This 72-acre sale, located in the eastern section of the Hunter Run tract near McCaferdy Run, received an herbicide treatment in 2016 to substantially reduce the number of undesirable stems competing with hardwood seedlings. This stand is scheduled to receive a first stage shelterwood harvest to remove small pole-sized and genetically inferior trees to allow more sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor to promote growth of the new seedlings. The second stage of the shelterwood harvest will remove the remaining inferior quality trees and to allow more sunlight to reach the growing seedlings
- **Townville Tract** – An approximately 25-acre sale has been marked in this area. An herbicide treatment was conducted in the summer of 2019 to reduce dense fern competition. Primarily focusing on the hardwood-oak portion of the stand, the sale will involve removal of the inferior quality trees while promoting adequate desirable regeneration. The stand requires treatment due to the advanced age of the overstory trees which are beginning to show signs of decline

### Proposed (not marked yet)

- None at this time

### Regeneration projects

- There are no regeneration projects planned for 2020 on Cornplanter State Forest

## RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- The District will participate in DMAP to help reduce the deer herd at the Hunter Run tract

## ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- There are no road and bridge projects planned for 2020 on the Cornplanter State Forest

## PRESCRIBED FIRE

- There are no prescribed fire activities planned for 2020 on the Cornplanter State Forest

## INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- **Treatment of Ash Trees** – Ash trees on state forest lands throughout the District were treated with approved chemicals and methods to provide resistance against the destructive emerald ash borer
- **Treatment of Dense Infestation of Invasive Plants Species by POC** – During the summer, an adult POC crew will treat Japanese barberry, multi-flora rose and other invasives on state forest lands
- **Spot treatment of Invasive Plant Species** – During late summer/early fall the District will conduct herbicide spot treatments for non-native, invasive plant species on state forest lands. Common species treated include: multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, phragmites and Japanese knotweed. Primarily glyphosate-based herbicides will be utilized for these spot treatments
- **Treatment of Hemlock Trees** – Hemlock trees that may potentially be affected by the destructive hemlock wooly adelgid, especially in the Ander's Run Natural Area and at the Ingraham tracts may be treated with either direct injection methods or soil drenching

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

- **OGM Monitoring** – Continue to monitor new oil and gas activity on severed rights tracts of the Cornplanter State Forest and minimize surface disturbance where possible

- **Legacy Oil Well Plugging, Infrastructure Removal and Surface Rehabilitation** – The District will continue to monitor well plugging efforts by Devonian Resources to minimize the effects of legacy oil wells and associated infrastructure throughout the northcentral portion of the Hunter Run Tract.
- No shale/stone pits or coal/hard mineral projects are planned for 2020 on the Cornplanter State Forest

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

- There are no tower or right-of-way projects planned for 2020 on the Cornplanter State Forest

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Plans for public engagement in 2020 are still being developed, please check the District webpage or call the District Office for updated information

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- The District transitioned to the new P25 radio system in February 2020

## **RESEARCH**

- The U.S.F.S. Northeast Research Station is engaged in a fern and herbicide study on the Cornplanter State Forest to determine the effects of broadcast herbicide application for fern control on oak and other desirable seedlings. This is part of a multi-district study being led by Todd Ristau
- The District is cooperating with MOTUS to track migratory species to better understand their movements and habits

## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

- **Ash Tree Treatments** – District staff treated approximately 22 trees on State Forest lands with approved chemicals to prevent mortality due to the emerald ash borer insect
- With the help of the 2019 POC, trail enhancements were made at the Hunter Run Tract including upgrades to the Tionesta forest fire tower cabin. Trail system upgrades included

adding gravel to problematic areas, constructing “turnpike” trail stabilization systems and constructing water bars

- Administered herbicide treatment at Townville Ingraham tract to reduce dense ferns in a timber sale treatment area
- Participated in the annual Bureau of Forestry FSC/SFI audit where two of the District’s timber sales were reviewed for compliance
- Coordinated with PA sign trust to request the installation of two TOD signs directing travelers to State Forest lands
- District State Forest Resource Plan was finalized in spring of 2019