

WEISER 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 Weiser 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

- Implementation of a CCPP grant awarded to the district. With this grant the district will install\construct seven hiking\biking\horse bridges on Roaring Creek and Haldeman tracts, comfort stations on Roaring Creek and Penn Forest tracts, water bottle fill stations on Roaring Creek tract and a bike maintenance station on Roaring Creek tract. This work will take place over the next two years.
 - District is planning to start installation of the bridges on the Haldeman and Roaring Creek tracts.
 - Installation of water bottle fill station at Resource Management Center in Aristes.

Organized Events

- Roaring Creek Tract
 - Girl Scout Walk/run – April, Canceled due to Covid-19
 - Cross Country Meet – September
 - Foot Race, 5k/Half Marathon – August 28, 2020
- Haldeman Tract
 - Rattling Creek Foot Race – April, Due to Covid-19 rescheduled for August 15, 2020
 - Rattling Creek MTB Race – April, Due to Covid-19 rescheduled for August 16, 2020

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Proposed (not marked yet)

- Currently no sales have been officially proposed but the district is planning the following.
 - Roaring Creek Tract – planning to treat approximately 100 acres along Roaring Creek Trail. A portion of the proposed sale had a deer fence erected in 2007 and an herbicide treatment for fern in 2017.
 - Jefferson Tract – 167 acres of salvage overstory has been proposed and approved.
 - Port Clinton Tract – planning to treat approximately 300 acres along Slusser Road and Pinnacle Trail. This sale is treating forest stands impacted by gypsy moth and native defoliators. Proposal will be sent for approval by mid-August.

Regeneration projects

- Roaring Creek Tract – A deer fence is being planned for dismantling along Roaring Creek Trail approximately one mile east of the Route 54 parking area. Completed
- Roaring Creek Tract - The district is also planning on having 21 acres treated with herbicide to control fern which is impeding regeneration. This is part of the timber harvest in this area as well. The treatment area is located on the south side of the Roaring Creek Trail. Treatment will take place Between August and September

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Greenland Tract
 - Early Successional Habitat – proposing to conduct early successional habitat work on 100+ acres. A non-commercial treatment on a poor-quality site. Due to Covid-19 this treatment has been put on hold.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Roaring Creek Tract
 - Box culvert replacement is planned for summer 2020 approximately 2.5 miles east of S.R. 54 on Roaring Creek Trail.
- Greenland
 - 1165 tons 2A stone on 0.4 mile road on south end of Radar Road.
 - 2A stone from the intersection of Berry Mountain Road proceeding South to the State Forest boundary line was completed on June 18, 2020.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Penn Forest Tract
 - A 160 acres burn located along Penn Forest Trail, Powerline Trail and Reabold Trail will be treated to promote pitch pine and scrub oak growth. This will be conducted between October and February, 2020/21, (fall fire).
- Roaring Creek Tract
 - A 112 acre burn located along Black Road Trail, Big Mountain Trail to “New Trail.” This prescribed fire will treat a poor-quality site to promote pitch pine/scrub oak growth and to enhance the area for early successional wildlife such as golden winged and prairie warblers and ruffed grouse.
- Greenland Tract

- Savanna One prescribed fire is an eighty-acre prescribed fire. The objective of this fire is to promote the scrub oak/pitch pine ecosystem lacking within the states forest and enhance the area for early successional wildlife such as golden winged and prairie warblers and ruffed grouse.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Insect and disease monitoring and reporting will continue in 2020 and will focus on the priority list provided by the Division of Forest Health. Report forms will be forwarded to Forest Health Specialist from the District Insect and Disease, (I.&D.) Coordinator to ground truth and possible control efforts for reported insect and disease problems. Aerial survey flight(s) will be conducted in late June/early July to detect possible problem areas as well.
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) will be monitored throughout the district. District staff will be re-treating effected white ash trees this year in the following tracts: Roaring Creek, Jakey Hollow Natural Area and Haldeman. Ash trees were treated and those treated are looking healthy.
- District staff will continue with monitoring and treating non-native invasive species throughout the district. Focus will be on areas planned for timber sales and other earth disturbances.
- District staff will be monitoring for spotted lantern fly within the forest tracts. Several counties within the district are in a aquarantine area to help prevent the spread of the invasive insect.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Presently there are no natural gas and or oil development activities taking place within the Weiser State Forest. There is one pipeline project to take place on the Penn Forest Tract. PennEast Pipeline will be going through the Penn Forest Tract in Carbon County. This pipeline will deliver natural gas from northern Pennsylvania to New Jersey.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Roaring Creek Tract
 - Aqua Pennsylvania will be replacing a watermain from there pump station located near the southwestern shore of Kline's Reservoir to a water storage tank located just north of the town of Aristes.
- Taylorsville Tract
 - PPL will be widening it's right of way to add in an additional transmission line. The project started on September 3, 2019. Pole replacement has been completed, working on restoration of disturbed areas by planting native plants.

- Second Mountain Tract
 - PPL is conducting maintenance and replacement of utility poles. Pole replacement has been completed.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- January 23-26, 2019 district personnel will staffed a booth and answer questions at the Bloomsburg Early Bird Expo at the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds, Bloomsburg, PA.
- March 14, 2020, Dauphin County Woodland Owners Association will be having their annual woodland owner's conference. Due to Covid-19 this event has been canceled
- September 25 – October 3, 2020 district personnel will staff a booth and answer questions at the annual Bloomsburg Fair, Bloomsburg, PA. Due to Covid-19 this event has been canceled
- October 25, 2020 we are providing the public with the opportunity to drive through our Roaring Creek tract. During this "open house" we take comments, questions and concerns from the public and respond to them. TENTATIVE

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- The remediation and removal of the Natalie Culm Bank and construction of a State Forest administrative access road and public parking area immediately north of Natalie, Pennsylvania is ongoing.
- Planning and site preparation is underway for the Keffer's Fire Tower restoration, relocation/re-erection. Exact location to be determined, however it will be somewhere on the south rim of the Roaring Creek Tract, near the Weiser Resource Management Center.
- Continuation of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Milton Hersey School and Weiser State Forest, Bureau of Forestry to expand the Governors Youth Initiative by controlling invasive species and encouraging native grasses at Milton Hersey School.

RESEARCH

- Oregon University. Earth Scope Magneto Telluric Transportable Array site on White Oak Road at the Haldeman Tract for ongoing monitoring of plate tectonic.
- Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetological and Conservation. Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey

- Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Evaluate species richness, pollinator abundance, and floral selection within young forest patches.
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Arboviral Surveillance Network.
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Tree-ring analysis to determine effectiveness and duration of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatments on Eastern hemlocks
- Bloomsburg University of PA conducted field study of the burrows of the common crayfish

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Haldeman Tract
 - Equestrian Camping Area – In 2015 Weiser maintenance staff began construction of this camping area along White Oak Road. The project was completed spring 2019.
 - Removed two deer exclosures off Lykens Road, 84 acres total
 - Killer B's, 86 acres salvage/shelterwood/overstory removal. Sale is located on the Haldeman tract in Dauphin County, along White Oak Road. This sale is treating forest stands impacted by gypsy moth and native defoliators. Sale is completed, working on retiring landings and skid trails. Completed Fall 2019
 - Wolf Pond Road and White Oak Road-District was funded to resurface 0.7 miles of Wolf Pond and 0.7 miles of White Oak Road with Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA). This project was completed early summer 2019.
- Roaring Creek Tract
 - "Pidpenky Sale", 274 acres of salvage/overstory removal/two-age. 142 acres two-age salvage, 133 acres overstory removal. Sale is located on Roaring Creek Trail off State Route 54, Mount Carmel Township, Northumberland County. This sale will treat forest stands impacted by gypsy moth. Sale is completed and closed out.
 - District replaced ("the Blue Bridge") at McWilliams Trail over the South Branch of Roaring creek with a modern concrete structure and stone façade. New bridge will provide heavy hauling access to the north side of the Roaring Creek Tract.
 - Added 1.5 miles of mountain bike/hike trails north of Kline's Reservoir using Conservation Volunteers, in Columbia County.
 - Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), site preparation and planting on 8.6 acres of abandoned mine land (AML), Northumberland County. Planting help from Conservation Volunteers.
 - Aqua Pennsylvania replaced 4 miles of raw water feed between McWilliams Reservoir, west to S.R. 54.
- Port Clinton Tract
 - "The First," 275 acres salvage/overstory removal/shelterwood. Sale located on the Port

Clinton Tract in Schuylkill and Berks Counties. This sale treated forest stands impacted by gypsy moths and native defoliators. Harvesting was completed in fall of 2019.

- Jefferson Tract
 - Acquisition of 69 acres indentured land between State Game lands 110 and Weiser Forest's Jefferson Tract.