

PINCHOT 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 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

- Standardize interpretive information displayed at all State Forest kiosk locations
- Moon Lake Recreation Area
 - Complete re-location of Moon Lake Mt. Bike and shared use trail system
 - Install trail marking and signage for Moon Lake Mt. Bike and shared use trail system
 - Develop and Design 3 wayside panels
 - Continue working with Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society on bird boxes
 - Complete design and specifications for Boat Launch and parking area
 - Complete design and specifications for Moon Lake outlet and
 - Complete design and specifications for 2 CXT latrine units
- Seven Tubs Recreation Area
 - Continuation of Rehabilitation of Seven Tubs Trail, a PA Outdoor Corps project
 - Finalize design for creation of interpretive kiosk panel (leave no trace) and interpretive wayside panel (Seven Tubs history)
 - Work with partners to hold cleanup day, request Leave No Trace organization presence **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
 - Complete design for CXT Latrine unit
 - Secure High Occupancy permit for road entrance with Rt.115
 - Complete and open new bridge across Laurel Run
- Mocanaqua Loop Trail
 - Designate and blaze trail location around main loop trail **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
 - Finalize and install new kiosk information including waysides

- Pinchot Hiking Trail
 - Install new trail information signage
 - Continue brushing of trails with help of volunteer groups **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- D&L Trail, Black Diamond Section
 - Finalize a cooperative agreement with D&L National Heritage Corridor and Anthracite Scenic Trail Association to coordinate completion of the Black Diamond Trail section of the D&L Trail.
 - Finalize cooperative agreement of commitment with North Branch Land Trust for 6 miles of completed trail.
 - Completion of highway/railroad crossing on Middleburg Road
- Snowmobile Trail System:
 - Complete stream crossing design at Red Pine Plantation Trail funded by PRT Grant
- Improve Parking Areas
 - Mocanaqua Loop Trail
 - Wanamie East and West access to Shared use area
 - Mulholland Drive access to south side of Penobscot Ridge
 - Pine Run Road access for Joe Palooka Trail
 - Black Diamond Trailhead access to D&L Trail
- State Forest Signs: Install signage on newly acquired properties
 - Finish state forest information signs in Luzerne County portion of state forest,
 - replace 12 small signs due to vandalism and install 6 small signs
 - Montage Tract, 4 large signs and approximately 4 small signs
 - Finish State Forest information signs in Lackawanna County portion of Pinchot SF approximately 30 signs
 - Install 4 Interpretive Panels at Resource Management Center
 - Install 9 Fire Danger Signs at key locations for public across the district

- Install 1 kiosk poster and/or wayside panel at Joe Palooka
- Organized Events
 - Keystone Trails Association Trail Care weekend **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
 - Special Activities Agreement with Wyoming Valley Radio Flyers Club to use the model airplane facility at Moon Lake Recreation Area, through 2026
 - Nanticoke Conservation Club youth fishing day event on Harvey's Creek **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Establish fifteen 1-cord Firewood Lots available to the public
- Deer Park Lumber holds timber reservation rights until 2028 on approximately 25,000 acres of state forest land in the Pinchot State Forest. These lands were the former Theta Corporation lands. Deer Park is actively harvesting timber on these lands. District staff will periodically inspect the sites.

Proposed 2020 Deer Park Lumber timber operations:

High Bridge Road, Spring Brook Twp. Lackawanna County

Rt. 118, Harvey's Creek Lehman Twp., Luzerne County

Lee Road, Conyngham Twp., Luzerne County

Trojan Road, Lehman Twp., Luzerne County

- **Marked and sold, potentially active**
 - 11-2019BC 01 sold
- **Marked but not yet sold**
- **Proposed (not marked yet)**
 - 11BC01-2018 Timber sale – Carvoth Sale, Thornhurst Tract, Pittston Rd., Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna County
 - 11BC01-2020 Timber sale – Deer Fence Sale, Thornhurst Tract, Tannery Rd., Thornhurst Twp. Lackawanna Co.

Regeneration projects:

Both fence removals completed Spring 2020

- County line fence removal – Bear Lake Rd., Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna Co.
- Tannery fence removal – Tannery Rd., Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst twp., Lackawanna Co.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Develop grassland habitat management plan for the open fields at Avondale and Moon Lake in cooperation with the Division of Conservation Science and Ecological Services staff
- Install meadow habitat at Moon Lake in partnership with Division of Conservation Science and Ecological Services staff and Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Ten Mile Run bridge crossing, planned construction for April 2020 - Completed
- Moon Lake RA bridge crossings, on Marina Drive and on White Deer Way - Under design
- Road Reclamation Phase II at Moon Lake Recreation Area to be completed by 06/30/2020 - in progress
- Work with Turnpike Commission on administrative access road from turnpike onto Crystal Lake Tract

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- None planned on the Pinchot State Forest for 2020.

FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS:

- Develop an Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for invasive plants for the Pinchot State Forest
- Emerald ash borer treatments on sites identified in district ash management plan. Completed
- Hemlock wooly adelgid treatment of hemlocks at the Manny Gordon Recreation Area and Seven Tubs Recreation Area **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
- 2020 insect and disease monitoring and reporting with ground and aerial survey flights scheduled for mid-summer **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
- Identify and mitigate Ailanthus on state forest in partnership with USDA

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- There is no active oil or natural gas development on the Pinchot State Forest
- There is no active coal mining on the Pinchot State Forest
- The state forest road called Coal lease road on the Mocanaqua Tract is a deeded joint right of way with Susquehanna Coal Company to access 330-acre coal lease lands owned by Earth Conservancy.
- OSM 40(2138)106.1; stormwater management project on the Avondale Tract under design and management of DEP, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Review of proposed Penn East Pipe Line Project, Deep Hollow Tract, Plains Twp., Luzerne County
- Transco regional access project across the Deep Hollow Tract, Plains Twp., Luzerne County

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Ongoing partnerships with local media, including television and newspapers, to inform the public about state forest lands and the Bureau of Forestry.
- Guided hikes for PA Hiking Week and Walk in Penn's Woods **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Meet with PA Parks & Forest Foundation to evaluate opportunity for a Friend's of Pinchot State Forest group **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Participation in fairs, Envirothon, and career days, etc. – listed under Rural and Community Forestry on p. 8. **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**

DISTRICT PROGRAM AREAS

Wildfire management and Suppression:

- Primary objective of wildfire suppression is to provide for public and firefighter safety, protection of life and property, and protection of cultural and natural resources.
- Suppress, Investigate, and Report all wildfires within the district

- Conduct 2 S-130 Trainings and 1 S-131 Training
- Conduct Annual Fire Warden Training **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Complete electrical hookup at 3 new fire tower sites **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Assist cooperating states and federal government with wildfire suppression
- Assist Volunteer Fire Companies with Federal Excess and Department of Defense Equipment

State Forest operations

- State Forest Land clean ups: **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
 - Avondale Tract
 - Springbrook area of the Thornhurst tract
 - Moosic Mountains
- Dam Maintenance
 - Olyphant # 3
 - Turtle Creek
 - Edgerton
 - Pine Run
- Monitor High Hazard Dams during periods of flood warnings and major storm events per approved Emergency Action Plan
 - Laurel Run D40-023
 - Pine creek D40-020
- Develop a state forest boundary line establishment and maintenance plan
 - Complete Boundary line and mark around Mocanaqua Tract
 - Resolve boundary line disputes:
 - Freytown Tract line
 - Spall property line

- Arrowhead adjacent property owner common line
- Moon Lake additional parcel included in state forest

Forest Planning

- Complete the mapping, forest cover typing, and inventory of State Forest acquisitions:
 - 407 Acre Laurel Run Tract, Laurel Run Luzerne County
 - 19.6 acre Upper Delaware tract, Manchester Twp. Wayne County
 - 61 acre Rush Brook tract, Carbondale Twp. Lackawanna county
 - 76 acre Balish addition, Rushbrook Twp. Lackawanna county
 - 108 acre Popple Tract Plains Twp., Luzerne County
- Complete a State Forest Compartment Exams on compartments 2,3,4 and 5

Rural and Community Forestry

- Complete District Rural and Community Forestry plan
- The Service Foresters will work with their respective landowner groups and conduct workshops and field tours in their counties **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Provide technical forestry assistance to private forest landowners and the public
- Promote and assist communities involved with TreeVitalize and Tree City USA **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Pocono Forest and Waters Conservation Landscape partners will be contacted to secure grants and distribute funding for Riparian Forest Buffer planting projects. Service Foresters will coordinate with landowners who have eligible areas for this project.
- County Envirothons held in partnership with County Conservation Districts and school districts in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties **Tentative/On hold due to COVID restrictions**
- Forestry booth at county fairs in Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties and other priority events **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
- Continue to partner and provide technical assistance with NRCS cost-sharing programs.
- Career day a Montrose high school & Susquehanna community school **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**

- Jim Rice memorial field days in Wyoming county. **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
- Ag day youth outdoors. **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**
- Garden field day education **Canceled due to COVID restrictions**

RESEARCH (State Forest Research Agreements)

- SFRA-910, River otter
- SFRA 1006, Bats at Crystal lake
- SFRA 1223, River Otter
- SFRA 1422 Lehigh River watershed
- SFRA1609 Sand Spring and Choke Creek water monitoring
- SFRA 1610 Headwater Peatlands
- SFRA 1611 fungal disease
- SFRA 1619 Mocanaqua Mine Tunnel
- SFRA 1706 PA Amphibians
- SFRA 1707 Pollinators and timber harvests
- SFRA 1730 Reforestation on anthracite coal mine reclamation sites
- SFRA 1801 Elmhurst tract PSF water levels
- SFRA 1808 Crystal Lake HCVF surveys
- SFRA 1820 Ice sheet impacts on NEPA
- SFRA 1827 American Chestnut study
- SFRA 1834 Viburnum Study
- SFRA 1836 PA Arboviral study
- Special Activity Agreement for Hemp Study site at Avondale mine reclamation

2019 District Activity Plan Accomplishments

- **Complete Pinchot State Forest District Resource Management Plan**
- **Complete Pinchot State Forest Recreation Plan**
- **Complete Pinchot State Forest 10-year Operation Plan**

RECREATION

- Standardize interpretive information displayed at all State Forest kiosk locations
Completed
- State Forest Signs: Install signage on newly acquired properties
 - Finish Luzerne County portion of state forest, 3 Large Signs and approximately 16 small signs
 - **COMPLETED**
 - Finish Thornhurst Tract 12 small signs
 - **COMPLETED**
 - Install 12 Fire Danger Signs across the district
 - **COMPLETED 3**
- Moon Lake
 - Partner with the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society a birder's brochure for the Moon Lake Recreation Area Completed
 - **Completed**
 - Install 6 benches around lake
 - **COMPLETED**

- Finish 2 campsites in camping area

- **COMPLETED**

- Seven Tubs

- 2019 phase of Rehabilitation of Seven Tubs Trail, a PA Outdoor Corps project

- **COMPLETED**

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Establish fifteen 1-cord Firewood Lots available to the public **Completed**
- Deer Park Lumber holds timber reservation rights until 2028 on approximately 25,000 acres of state forest land in the Pinchot State Forest. These lands were the former Theta Corporation lands. Deer Park is actively harvesting timber on these lands. District staff will periodically inspect the sites.

2019 Deer Park Timber operations:

Fedor Road I, Lehman Twp., Luzerne County

Fedor Road II, Lehman Twp., Luzerne County

- **Proposed (not marked yet)**
 - 11BC01-2019 Timber sale **Proposed**

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Install Kestrel boxes at Moon Lake with help from the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society volunteer group **Completed**

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- DSA placement on Deerwood Drive and Marina Drive to be completed by 06/30/2019
 - **COMPLETED**

- County Road 4 around lake 15 culverts installed and resurfaced with 1000 tons 2A
 - **COMPLETED**
- Install 7 culverts on Sassafras Hill Road
 - **COMPLETED**
- Replace Culvert on Fireline Road
 - **COMPLETED**

FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS:

- Completed emerald ash borer treatments on sites identified in district ash management plan.
 - 139 ash trees inventoried and treated for EAB
- Support state gypsy moth spray program on state and private forest lands Lackawanna County
 - 1,500 acres sprayed for gypsy moth
- 2019 insect and disease monitoring and reporting with ground and aerial survey flights scheduled for mid-summer
- Identify and mitigate invasive plants in the PPL Pocono Reliability and Deep Hollow right of way projects

Wildfire

- Suppress, Investigate, and Report all wildfires within the district
 - **COMPLETED 44 wildfires burning 85.36 acres**
- Conduct 3 S-130 Trainings and 1 S-190 Training
 - **COMPLETED**
- Conduct Wildland Fire Tactical Operations Seminar
 - **COMPLETED**
- Assist cooperating states and federal government with wildfire suppression
 - **COMPLETED**

State Forest Operations

- State Forest Land clean ups:

- **COMPLETED MOON LAKE AND THORNHURST APPROXIMATELY 100 CUBIC YARDS REMOVED**
- Vegetation Management on Dams
 - Olyphant # 3
 - **COMPLETED**
 - Turtle Creek
 - **COMPLETED**

Forest Planning:

- Complete the mapping, forest cover typing, and inventory of State Forest acquisitions
 - 1,132 acres Wanamie Tract; Newport Twp., Luzerne County
 - 389 Acres Bear creek Tract; Bear creek twp., Luzerne County

Rural and Community Forestry:

- Attended and presented at 5 Envirothon Test days and 2 Envirothon Educational days
- 7 Arbor Day Programs
- Attended Susquehanna County and Wyoming County Fairs
- 15 landowner visitations
- 25 partnership meeting
- 15 presentations totaling 400 attendees
- 3 high school career days
- 139 Ash Trees inventoried and treated
- Participated in TreeVitalize Grant Review 54 applicants
- Two communities completed TreeVitalize planting projects