

TUSCARORA STATE FOREST

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 the Tuscarora 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:

Scott A. Miller, District Forester
Tuscarora State Forest
4455 Big Spring Road
Blain, PA 17006
717-536-3191
fd03@pa.gov

RECREATION

The Forest District #3 staff continues to work on our trail system as time allows. We are also replacing/repairing signs as needed.

Organized Events

- Organized events for this year have all been postponed or canceled due to COVID-19.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- "Vincent Tram West" – 186 acres two age removal treatments in East Licking Creek, Juniata County.
- "Long Haul" - 398 acres comprised of mostly 2-age shelterwood treatment in Denholm, Juniata County.
- "J. S. Slam Dunk" – 106 acres comprised of an overstory removal treatment, Robber Hollow, Perry County.
- "Patches" -- 275 acres comprised of salvage shelterwood and salvage overstory removal treatments in Juniata county, along Mougans Trail, Spectacle Gap.
- "Bell Furnace" -- 159 acres comprised of shelterwood and overstory removal treatments in West Licking Creek, Huntingdon County.
- "Second Narrows" – 159 acres comprised of a shelterwood treatment, between Wildcat and Amberson trail, Perry County.
- "Three-Square Hollow" – 488 acres comprised of shelterwood and two age removal treatments. Lying west of the intersection of Cowpens and Three-Square Hollow Road in Perry County.
- "Flat Trail" – 78 acres comprised of two age removal. Located near Longfellow Road in Mifflin County.

Proposed

- "Twisted" – 300 acres comprised of salvage two-age and salvage group selection treatments located along Perry Lumber Road in Perry County.
- "Coyote Pups" --127 acres comprised of two-age and overstory removal treatments in Perry County.

- “Spruce Run Salvage” –51 acres comprised of salvage shelterwood and salvage overstory removal treatments in Juniata County.
- “Turkey Pens” – 135 acres, comprised of shelterwood and overstory removal. Situated along Turkey Pens Haul Road in Perry County.

Considering for Proposal

- In Perry County along Bower Mountain.
- Along Rt 274 near the shale pit in Perry County.
- In Perry County vicinity of Little Knob Road.
- In Perry County along Beers Trail.
- Huntingdon County along Blacklog Bench Road.

Regeneration projects

- Basal bark herbicide treatment of competing vegetation:
 - 79 acres in Spruce Gap, Juniata County
 - 98 acres near Wolf Road, Perry County
 - 113 acres along Holdermans Haul Road, Mifflin County
 - 22 acres along Blacklog Bench Road, Huntingdon County
 - 167 acres near North Slope trail, Cumberland County
 - 11 acres in Bell Furnace, Huntingdon County.
 - 35 acres along Turkey Pens, Perry County.
- Broadcast herbicide treatment of competing vegetation:
 - 32 acres in Sugar Valley, Mifflin County
 - 41 acres along Little Valley Road, Perry County
 - 47 acres near Laurel Run and Second Narrows Road, Perry County
- Basal bark and hack-n-squirt herbicide treatment:
 - 20 acres along Heishman Trail, Cumberland County
 - 100 acres near Perry Lumber Road, Perry County

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Continuing rehabilitation and maintenance of herbaceous areas including invasive species control with herbicide, pruning, fence maintenance, and mowing.
- With assistance of local NWTf chapters we plan to enhance wildlife habitat at the old Steltzer Place in Juniata County
- Through a grant from the USF&WS and the PGC, contractors will be doing habitat improvement work at several woodrat habitat sites in Perry and Juniata County portions of the Tuscarora State Forest.
- Rehabilitate existing fish habitat structures in Karl Guss Picnic Area.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

(Approximate dates are given. Please see our [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for most current updates or contact the district office.)

- DSA paver placed project scheduled for summer on West Licking Creek Drive Road. We will also be replacing culverts before the DSA is paver placed. Road may be closed 1-2 weeks sometime between Memorial Day and the end of October for the paver placing job and daily when the culverts are installed.
- Road repair on Spectacle Gap Road with new surface material.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Hockenberry PHO in Horse Valley along Concord Road, Perry County in the fall 2020
- Buck Ridge in Doubling Gap, Perry County fall 2020
- Bower Mountain along Dead End Rd, Perry County in the fall 2020

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Continue with treatment of privet, paulownia and other invasives at the Harling Tract in 2020.
- Continue treatment of invasive oriental bittersweet around Hickory Ridge and Cedar Hill.
- Continue restoration of herbaceous community along Blacklog Creek and replant with native grass species in the Steltzer tract.
- Treat Japanese barberry with herbicide in Blacklog Valley and Wynn Gap Mifflin County.
- Follow-up treatment of Japanese barberry in the Steltzer tract and along Blacklog Creek.

- Treat hemlock trees with insecticide to control hemlock wooly adelgid. Location to be determined.
- Continue efforts to eradicate or control new infestations of Japanese knotweed, black swallowwort, poison hemlock, etc. throughout the Tuscarora State Forest.
- Several areas along roadsides will be treated for managing Japanese stiltgrass in the Tuscarora Forest.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Construction of the new line called the PA pipeline or Mariner East II by Sunoco Logistics pipeline in Western Perry County and the southern portion of the Tuscarora is mainly complete. Final grading has occurred followed by tree planting and seeding on the entire project. Efforts continue to establish 70 % success on the tree planting and 70 % coverage of perennial vegetation from seeding. Gas company will begin to monitor and control invasive plants on the easement in 2020.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Sunoco Pipeline has a recoating project occurring near Hemlock Road, Perry County.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

(Due to COVID-19 many opportunities have been postponed for 2020, some may continue in the fall depending on the pandemic levels).

- The Tuscarora State Forest Plan which was developed during 2018 was adopted in 2019 and continues to be used to guide the district.
- Work will begin on public engagement for revising the Bureau of Forestry's Strategic Plan and the Statewide Forest Action Plan.
- Facebook page – The district's Facebook page will be updated to include information about management activities. Timber sales, fence construction and herbicide treatments will be updated quarterly.
- DCNR Tuscarora State Forest web page – The district's webpage will be updated to include 2020 management activities to inform the public.
- Throughout the year staff are invited to schools in the area for guest lectures, special programs, fire prevention programs, and career days. Due to COVID-19 these have been postponed for 2020, however some may continue in the fall as school begins again.

- The Tuscarora State Forest is involved in many school programs throughout the year. These are important opportunities for interactive engagement that encourages appreciation and understanding of the forests of Pennsylvania. It also provides an opportunity to receive feedback not only from students but also from teachers, administrators and parents. Some of the more significant school programs that staff participate in each year are:
 - Envirothon's, one for Perry county will be held May 2 at Big Spring State Park and one for Mifflin & Juniata counties is to be held May 9 at Kish Park. (Postponed due to COVID-19)
 - The Tuscarora State Forest also hosts fourth graders from Perry County for an outdoor classroom at Hickory Ridge that includes grade appropriate information about a full range of forestry subjects. (Postponed due to COVID-19)
 - Several elementary schools that participate in the Trout in the Classroom program with Trout Unlimited and the PGC come to the State Forest to release their fry and learn more about forest and stream interconnections. (Postponed due to COVID-19)
- Throughout the year 2020– Patrols will be conducted for conversations with visitors and to reduce illegal activities including ATV use on the state forest.
- During 2020, 5 meetings and tours are planned for the Mifflin, Juniata and Perry Woodland Owners Association. (Postponed due to COVID-19)
- Worked with volunteers and PF&BC to stocking trout in East Licking Creek, especially in the DHALO area.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

-

RESEARCH

- Black Bear – The Tuscarora State Forest cooperates with the PA Game Commission to capture black bears as part of their ongoing research. Bear traps are deployed throughout the state forest beginning in April and continues into the late summer. Data such as overall health, gender, age, young of the year and numbers are recorded.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Allegheny woodrat, a PA threatened species, was documented at several new locations in the Tuscarora. Habitat for woodrats was improved through a Pitman-Robertson grant through the PA Game Commission on 4 sites in the Tuscarora State Forest last year.
- Approximately 525 acres were treated with a basal herbicide application to control undesirable vegetation and promote desirable trees.
- Invasive plants were treated in multiple Plant Sanctuaries throughout the forest.
- Replaced bridges on Pine Ridge road and Spruce Gap Road
- DSA Paver place project and new culvert install for approximately 2.25 miles on East Licking Creek Drive.
- Boom mowed, brushed and widened several sections of snowmobile trail. Access around gates was improved where needed.
- Through the Sunoco Pipeline project significant improvements were made to Meadow Road.
- Many miles of recreational trails were cleared and improved throughout the district 2020.