

BALD EAGLE STATE FOREST DISTRICT

2022 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 Bald Eagle State Forest. This document will be revised at the start and middle of each calendar year to provide enough 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

2022 Events

All recreational events with current activity agreements are expected to take place in 2022. Exact dates and times will be determined closer to the event but will be in the same general timeframe as past years.

Organized Events

- Durty Dabber's Great Adventure Dual Sport – Typically the first weekend in June (550 riders). Saturday event in Bald Eagle & Tiadaghton State Forests and on Sunday in Sproul State Forest.
- PaTRA Seven Mountains Dual Sport – Second weekend in September (250 riders) (Poe Valley and Poe Paddy State Parks to be impacted).
- Seven Mountains Conservation Corp. – Canceled for 2021, but possible in 2022. Takes place the last weekend in June. Lunch at Hairy Johns State Forest Picnic Area (80 riders).
- Transylvania EPIC Mountain Bike Ride – Week and weekend of Memorial Day (Rothrock State Forest, R.B. Winter and Poe Paddy State Parks involved) (250 participants).
- The Wilderness 101 Mountain Bike Ride – Third weekend in July (400 participants).
- Seven Mountains Raven Enduro Mountain Bike Ride – Canceled for 2021, but possible in 2022. Takes place mid-September (100 participants).
- Boulder Beast –Running event that takes place mid-September (600 participants).
- Mile Run Challenge – Canceled for 2021, but possible in 2022. Running event that takes place first weekend in April (450 participants).
- Frozen Snot – Running event that takes place the third weekend in February (300 participants).
- Raven Trail Half Marathon - Takes place first weekend in September (150 participants).
- Dam Half Marathon – Takes place the last weekend in September (450 participants).

- Relay for Life Horseback Ride - Takes place at Hall Mtn. Group camping area on last weekend in April (50 participants).
- Circle M Horseback Ride – Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends (100 riders).
- Eastern Competitive Horseback Ride – Mid-May 2022 horseback ride (75 riders).
- Penn State 4-H Horseback Ride – Beginning of October horseback ride (75 riders).
- Iron Cross Race – End of October mountain bike race - Tiadaghton and Bald Eagle State Forests (600 mountain bike riders).
- Wildfire Ranch Therapeutic Equine Rides – Takes place throughout the summer months (100 participants).
- Nittany Mountain Guided Equine Tours - Takes place throughout the summer months and fall. (200 participants)
- Soggy Bottom Motofest – Mid July motorized leisure drive- 120 riders across multiple districts.
- PA Wilds Adventure Series Motorcycle Ride-Mid-May event across a hundred plus mile Adventure Series motorcycle ride across multiple Forest Districts (100 participants).
- unPAved Gravel Bike Ride – October 9, 2022. Ride is divided into four segments using state, municipal, and state forest roads (1000 riders).
- Centred Outdoors Guided Hike- Mid August hikes. (15 participants each day) guided hikes at Poe Paddy Tunnel
- Recreational Events with Formal Agreements: On average, 20 events/activities that are small in nature are completed with a Letter of Authorization from the District Forester.
- The Feathered Hook Guide Service- Year-round (300 participants) guiding on Penns Creek
- Transylvania Gavel Epic- August 25-28, 2022 (350 participants)
- Unpaved Gravel Ride American Cancer Society– July 15-17, 2022 (300 participants)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- Kitten Ranch Sale - This 403-acre sale is located along Rag Valley Road, Lamar Township, Clinton County. The treatments will involve a 15-acres of overstory removal, 13-acres of two-age, and 374-acres of shelterwood. The overstory removal and two-age treatments are within an existing deer enclosure, which was previously treated with a broadcast herbicide treatment. Once adequate regeneration is present within the fence and the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed. After the sale is cut, conifer planting and additional projects to enhance regeneration will likely occur within the shelterwood areas.
- Grass Mountain OSR- This 55-acre sale is located off Hunter Road in Spring and Adams Townships, Snyder County. The treatment is an overstory removal within an existing woven wire deer enclosure. When adequate regeneration is present and the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.
- Get Out the Way Sale - This 39-acre sale is located on Sand Mountain Road next to the Seven Mountains Parking area, Potter Township, Centre County. The treatments will involve a 27-acre overstory removal and a 7-acre two-age buffer cut within an existing woven wire deer enclosure fence and a 5-acre selection buffer cut outside the fence to stimulate growth of existing regeneration. A second prescribed burn was conducted in the spring of 2021 within the fence to reduce competing vegetation and to release existing oak regeneration. Once the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.
- Spokes on a Wheel Sale- This 82-acre sale is located on Spruce Run Road, White Deer Township, Union County. The treatments will involve a 77-acre overstory removal and a 5-acre two-age buffer cut within an existing woven wire deer enclosure fence. A prescribed burn was conducted in the spring of 2018 within the fence to reduce competing vegetation and to release existing oak regeneration. Once the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.
- Blue Slash Sale- This 59-acre sale is located off State Route 45 on both sides of Stitzer Gap Trail, Hartley Township, Union County. The treatment is an overstory removal mostly within a woven wire deer

enclosure fence. Once the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.

- Devils Hole Sale- This 60-acre sale is located along Siglerville/Millheim Pike, Armagh Township, Mifflin County. The treatment is an overstory removal and two-age buffer cut within a woven wire deer enclosure fence. This stand has been stressed from multiple *Lymantria dispar* (Gypsy Moth) defoliations over the years with pockets of standing dead trees throughout. After the sale is cut, conifers will be planted to diversify regeneration and to reclaim logging infrastructure. Once adequate regeneration is present within the fence and the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.
- Centennial Sale - This 124-acre sale is located on Middle Ridge between Green Gap and Lick Gap in Hartley Township, Union County. The treatments will involve a 77-acre clear-cut and 23-acre of shelterwood cut, plus a separate 23 acre two-age buffer cut within a woven wire deer enclosure fence. Plans include additional woven wire fencing, prescribed fire, and conifer planting. Once the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.
- RBW Sale- This 72-acre sale is located along State Route 192, west of RB Winter State Park, Miles Township, Centre County. The entire sale is a two-age treatment. The area received basal/cut stump herbicide treatment and mowing of thick laurel as regeneration treatment to encourage new seedling establishment. After the sale is cut, conifers will be planted to diversify regeneration and to reclaim logging infrastructure.
- Out of the Box Sale- This 95-acre sale is located off Blue Ball Road in Greens Valley, Potter Township, Centre County. The entire sale will be an overstory removal treatment within two existing deer enclosures. A second prescribed burn was conducted in the spring of 2021 within both fences to reduce competing vegetation and to release existing oak regeneration. Once the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.

For Pete's Sake Sale- This 58-acre sale is located along Greens Valley Road, Walker Township, Centre County. The entire sale will be a Two- Age treatment within two existing deer enclosures. Once the seedlings are above the deer browse, the fence will be removed.

Marked but not yet sold

- Shade Mountain Grouse Habitat – This 286-acre sale is located on the south side Shade Mountain Road, West Perry Township, Snyder County. The sale is proposed to treat 218-acre with a clear cut and 68-acres with two-age buffer cut. Four large landings/safety zones have been created for future timber sale activity and to support multiple prescribed burns planned in the future. These openings will be planted with grasses and forbs to support grouse populations when not in use. The long-term goal is to promote pitch pine/scrub oak habitat and young mixed forest to encourage and sustain higher elevation grouse populations.
- Kurtz Gap Salvage Sale- This 127-acre sale is located off Pine Flat Road and Red Tongue Drivable Trail in Lewis Township, Union County. The sale is proposed to treat 111-acres with an overstory removal and 16-acres with a two-age buffer cut.

Proposed

- Cranberry Fence- This 72-acre sale is in Greene Township in Clinton County. The entire sale is proposed to be treated with an overstory removal within two separate woven wire deer exclosures.
- Zimmerman Road- This 71-acre sale is in Greene Township, Clinton County. The entire sale is proposed to be treated with a shelterwood cut to encourage the establishment and promotion of natural regeneration.
- Whiskey Still Salvage- This 38-acre sale is in Greene Township in Clinton County. The entire sale is proposed to be treated as an overstory salvage removal due to recent *Lymantria dispar* (Gypsy Moth) infestations.
- Lindale Removal Sale- This 95-acre sale is located on Deep Hollow Road (State Forest Administrative Road) in Hartley Township, Union County. The entire sale is proposed to be treated with an overstory removal within three separate woven wire deer exclosures.
- Hidden Springs Sale- This 733-acre sale is located off Pine Ridge and High Top Drivable Trails from Swift Run Road in Spring and West Beaver Townships, Snyder County. The sale is proposed to treat 228-acres with an overstory removal, 408-acres with a clear cut and 85-acres with a shelterwood cut to encourage the establishment and promotion of natural regeneration.

Regeneration Projects

Most regeneration projects in the Bald Eagle State Forest are designed to reduce competition from other species to create or improve conditions for oak species to regenerate and grow. In 2022, we anticipate the following projects to be completed:

- Broadcast Spray Projects - Mountain laurel is the primary target species to be treated with a broadcast operation on 132 acres off Henstep Trail (i.e. Pot Pie Springs) in Gregg and Potter Townships, Centre County.
- Basal Bark/Cut Stump herbicide treatments – The purpose of these treatments is to reduce the amount of competition from low value, overtopping species, to advanced oak regeneration. In addition, these treatments allow acorns to be able to accumulate, grow and compete. Four different locations (Strongs Improvement Road, Armagh Township, Mifflin County; Cherry Run Road, Lamar Township, Clinton County; Greens Valley Road, Potter Township, Centre County; and Riansares Road, Greene Township, Clinton County) will receive this type of treatment, approximately 267 acres total.
- Deer Exclosure Fencing – Erected either prior to or after timber sales in areas where white-tailed deer herbivory will significantly reduce the amount of advance regeneration in the area. No fences are proposed to be built in 2022 due to funding and inflated high costs. Deer Exclosure Fence Dismantle - Four fences are proposed to be removed in 2022. McClure, Stover Gap West, Three Hills, and Ripka Trail fences have been requested for removal.
- Tree Planting- One tree planting project is planned to supplement or enhance natural regeneration already occurring. Seedlings are scheduled to be planted in April 2021. 4,000 pitch pine seedlings are planned to be planted on area less than 4 acres next to the district office.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Bridge replacements – 2022
 - o Sheesley Run Road over Sheesley Run, Hartley Township, Union County
 - o Timber Road over UNT to Swift Run, Adams Township, Snyder County
 - o Cherry Run Road over Bear Run, Hartley Township, Union County
 - o Buffalo Flat Road over Buffalo Creek, Lewis Township, Union County
- Bridge replacements – 2023
 - o White Mtn. Road over Penns Creek bridge repair, Hartley Township, Union County
 - o Bear Run Road over Bear Creek, Hartley Township, Union County

ROAD PROJECTS

- Hunter Road - resurfacing 7,500 tons of DSA (driving surface aggregate) to approximately 4 miles of Hunter Road starting at Hoofnagle road traveling west to Bear Gap Picnic Area.
- Spruce Run Road - resurfacing 4,500 tons of DSA to approximately 2.5 miles of Spruce Run Road starting at Cooper Mill Road intersection and traveling east.
- Nittany Ridge Road - resurfacing 3,800 tons of DSA to approximately 2 miles of Nittany Ridge Road
- Sand Mtn. Road – Asphalt paving and drainage work on 1 mile of Sand Mtn. Road (Centre County). The asphalt paving will start at the intersection of SR 322 and travel 1-mile to the State Forest boundary.

PRESCRIBED FIRES

- Bear Fly North and South Rx Fire- Approximately 126 acres, located off White Deer Haul Road, White Deer Township, Union County. Purpose is to release existing advance oak regeneration and create favorable conditions to recruit additional regeneration within two separate deer exclosures that have been treated with a shelterwood harvest.
- Faust Valley Fence Rx Fire – Approximately 88 acres of previously mowed understory will be burnt to control competing vegetation at a manageable level. It is planned that this area will be part of a future landscape level Rx fire regime. This location is off Faust Valley Road, Potter Township, Centre County.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- District personnel will identify and treat invasive species giving priority to those areas located within and adjoining timber sales to minimize the spread because of disturbance.
- Plans are in place to treat numerous invasive plant species at multiple locations throughout the district through grant monies secured through the Bureau of Forestry's Ecological Services Section. Contracted applicators will focus on high priority locations and species.
- Ongoing monitoring by the Bureau's Division of Forest Health and district personnel of large tracts of timber that were defoliated by

Lymantria dispar (Gypsy Moth) in the spring of 2021. An estimate of 9,000 acres of timber within the district will be sprayed by aerial application to try to control the expected 2022 *Lymantria dispar* (Gypsy Moth) outbreak in higher quality stands.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Information is exchanged with the public through attendance at different events and fairs throughout the year. This includes the Beaver Fair and West End Fair, county level Envirothon, FFA testing, outdoor education programs for elementary school students, Forestry Job Shadow Day for local high school students, Woodland Owner Association events, Arbor Day ceremonies. In addition, the district service forester and recreation forester work daily to educate the public regarding Bureau of Forestry goals, priorities, and regulations while listening to their concerns.
- Numerous volunteers are engaged in activities such as the maintenance, improvement, or relocation of recreational trails, along with rehabilitation and improvement of state forest picnic areas. This work may be done by individuals, clubs, or through groups such as the Boy Scouts (Eagle Scouts).
- Notification regarding district issues is accomplished through the district's web page, the district's Facebook page, press releases, and letters directly to concerned parties.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Removal of the former Laurelton Center's dilapidated greenhouse.
- Installation of Solar panels and a generator to the District office complex

RESEARCH

- The district continues to cooperate with Penn State University, the PA Game Commission and USGS on the deer forest study in Snyder and Mifflin Counties within DMAP area 2108. Currently, PSU will be studying a basal herbicide site along Hunter Road, and a mowing and second basal herbicide site along Hoofnagle Road. The purpose is to compare with similar sites in the Rothrock State Forest and determine what effects various regeneration enhancement treatments have considering reduced herbivory by White-tailed deer.
- A long-term study, *Oak Forest Regeneration Study in Pennsylvania (ORSPA)*, has been ongoing in the forest since 1996. This Penn State

University, Department of Ecosystem Science and Management, study includes 55 formerly oak-dominated stands, all of which were measured before regeneration treatments were conducted. The stands are presently at various stages in the regeneration process and have been periodically remeasured. The study has provided detailed information on pre-harvest oak seedling populations, the short-term development of oak seedling and stump sprouts, and understory conditions at the time of harvest. The study has also provided information on the effects of silvicultural treatments that was central to the development of the model-based guidelines for regenerating oaks in the central Appalachians under even-aged silvicultural systems. This study will continue to provide new information as stands are continuously monitored. The emerging information will be used to test and refine the guidelines.

- Pennsylvania Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Penn State University, is *collecting soil and common plant samples in conjunction with the current Deer-Forest Study* (noted above). This information will assist in studying the use of the forest floor indicators as predictor of site fertility for a variety of tree species. The information will also investigate linkages between soil fertility and white-tailed deer health. The study ended on December 31, 2021.
- The Pennsylvania State University's Center for Private Forests has established permanent 1/10-acre plots within the Forest Demonstration Area. These will be used to teach landowners, interested members of the public, and others in learning how to measure plots for sampling forest density, regeneration, and to monitor change and growth over time.
- The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation amphibian and reptile survey was given approval to commence in March 2017. This data will update the current information in PARS and PNDI databases.
- Bucknell University's former Civil and Environmental Engineering Department installed a gaging station on White Deer Creek in 1980 to predict the storm-induced sediment yield from highway construction. The station was abandoned in the late-1990's. Bucknell's Watershed Sciences and Engineering Program refurbished the gaging station in 2018 and began collecting 15-minute readings of air temperature, humidity, wind speed/direction, precipitation, water depth, pH, temperature total dissolved solids, and turbidity. The long-term study objective will *Monitor Changes in the Hydrology and Water Quality of White Deer Creek* and look for diurnal, seasonal, and annual, variations in weather, discharge, and water quality in the forested headwater region of the watershed.

- *Distribution of Allegheny Woodrats across Pennsylvania* is an Indiana University of Pennsylvania study to examining the occupancy across the specie's range. This analysis is proposed to conclude in November 2022.
- Madison Moody, Bloomsburg University, has proposed to develop visitor's guides to the Halfway Run Natural Area and an internal publication on the variety of habitats and species of the Rosecrans Bog Natural Area. Set for publish by the end of 2022.
- A unique study by Adventure Scientists, which will end in January 2022, is the field work of identifying the range of black walnut to assist in the prosecution of timber theft.
- Dr. Charles Cole, Penn State University's College of Arts and Architecture, approached both Parks and Forestry in June 2021 requesting to revive a long-term study with the reassessment of wetland hydrology and plant community composition that he initiated with Dr. Robert Brooks, College of Agriculture, in 1994. The study has sat dormant since 2011.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

Large Infrastructure Enhancements – 2021

- Bridge replacements –
 - o Replaced the bridge structure at Stony run Road over Stony Run.
 - o Replaced the "A-frame" bridge at Stony Run Road over Pine Creek.
 - o Replaced the bridge structure at Treaster Valley Road over Treaster Run.
 - o Made repairs to bridge structure at Pine Creek Hollow Road over Pine Creek
 - o Made repairs to bridge structure at Pine Creek Hollow Road over Rapid Run
- Mtn. Church Road - resurfaced 5,500 tons of DSA to approximately 2.5 miles of Mtn. Church Road
- Strong's Mtn. Drivable Trail – Added base and resurfaced 1 mile of Strong Mtn. Drivable Trail from Havice Valley Road to just north of Flat Hollow Drivable trail intersection.
- Trail enhancements – Cleared and re-blazed 10 miles of District trails.
- Footbridge Replacements – Added footbridges at Stillhouse Hollow and Snyder Middleswarth NA.