

TUSCARORA STATE FOREST

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 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:

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RECREATION

- The Forest District #3 staff continues to work on our trail system as time allows.
- Replacing/repairing signs as needed.
- Working on a district recreation plan that we hope to conclude by the end of 2022.
- Continuing to work on upgrading our camp sites and maps.

Organized Events

- Delaware Valley Trail Riders will be holding a motorcycle enduro event, the last weekend in July in the districts south block.
- A horse club is planning another orienteering event this year near the Showaker/Perry Lumber Road area in midsummer.
- We are working with a mountain bike club for an organized event, charity gravel ride, tentatively planned for August 20th, 2022 in the Blain/Fowlers Hollow Area.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- Bell Furnace - 159 acres comprised of shelterwood and overstory removal treatments in West Licking Creek, near Wire Fence Hollow Trail, Shirley Township, Huntingdon 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 Toboyne Township, Perry County and Upper Mifflin Township, Cumberland County.
- Coyote Pups - 127 acres comprised of two-age and overstory removal treatments in the Bowman Hollow area north of Hemlock Road, Toboyne Township, Perry County.
- Bower Mountain – 370 acres comprised of a two-age treatment focusing on early successional habitat for the Ruffed Grouse. Located along Bower Mountain Road between Wolf and Dead-End Road in Jackson Township, Perry County.

Proposed

- Blue Mountain Tower – 75 acres comprised of a salvage two-age overstory removal treatment. Located west of McVeytown Road along Blue Mountain Tower Road in Bratton Township, Mifflin County.
- Yellow Jacket Run – 66 acres consisting of two-age and overstory removal treatments located along route 274 west of the district headquarters in Toboyne Township, Perry County.

Considering for Proposal

- Buck Ridge Haul Road near Colonel Denning State Park in Tyrone Township, Perry County.
- Gifford Road / Anthill Trail in Shirley Township, Huntington County.
- Turkey Pens Haul Road in Toboyne Township, Perry County.
- Beers Trail Haul Road in Toboyne Township, Perry County.
- Spruce Gap Haul Road area in Tuscarora Township, Juniata County.
- Holdermans Haul Road in Bratton Township, Juniata County-.

Regeneration projects

- Basal bark herbicide treatment of competing vegetation to release desirable regeneration:
 - 20 acres along Meadows Road in Jackson Township Perry County.
 - 53 acres in fence near Steltzer Road Tuscarora Township, Juniata County.
 - 150 acres near Spruce Gap Haul Road and O'Donnel Field Trail in Tuscarora Township, Juniata County.
- Fence Dismantles:
 - 28 acres (Headwaters Fence) near Steltzer and Spruce Gap Haul Road, Tuscarora Township, Juniata County.
 - 20 acres (Northslope East Fence) near Doubling Gap Haul Road, Lower Mifflin Township, Cumberland County.
 - 29 acres (Triple C Fence) near Wynn Gap and Holdermans Haul Road, Bratton Township, Mifflin County.
 - 47 acres (Horseheads Fence) near Bower Mountain and Laurel Run Road, Jackson Township, Perry County.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Continuing rehabilitation and maintenance of herbaceous areas including invasive species control with herbicide, pruning, fence maintenance, and mowing.
- Perform herbaceous opening assessment to prioritize rehabilitation efforts throughout the district.
- Continue rehabilitation efforts with local National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) chapters to enhance wildlife habitat throughout the district.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

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

- Driving Service Aggregate (DSA) paver placed project scheduled for summer on Little Valley Road this summer, 2022, starting at Route 850 and going west NE Madison Township, Perry County
- Road repair on Longfellow Road with new surface material in Bratton Township, Mifflin County
- We will haul shale to Cowpens Road and Blue Mt Road as time allows in our south block, Toboyne Township, Perry County
- New bridge to be installed on Cowpens Road in Toboyne township, Perry, County
- New bridge to be installed on Little Knob Road in Jackson Township, Perry County
- Several bridges are in design phase.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- The district is planning to use prescribed fire on a landscape level to promote early successional habitat for wildlife and to meet other Silviculture goals. This will also rejuvenate fire adapted ecosystems such as Pitch Pine stands and other fire related species along with controlling competing vegetation.
 - Hockenberry Rx in Horse Valley, Toboyne Township, Perry County.
 - Dead End Rx on Bower Mountain in Jackson Township, Perry County.
 - Colonel Denning Triangle Rx near North Slope Haul Road in Lower Mifflin Township, Cumberland County.
 - Gismo Triangle Rx at the intersection of Laurel Run and Second Narrows in Toboyne Township, Perry County.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Treatment of Hemlock trees with insecticide to control Hemlock wooly adelgid will occur in the Hemlock Natural Area and other determined areas.
- Continue with treatment of Privet, Paulownia, Ailanthus, and other invasive plants at the Harling Tract in 2022.
- Continue treatment of invasive oriental bittersweet around Hickory Ridge and Cedar Hill.
- Contracted herbicide treatment of Japanese barberry and multiflora rose will occur near Turkey Pens and Back Hollow Road, Perry County.
- 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 State Forest is complete. Efforts continue to establish 70% success on the tree planting and 70 % coverage of perennial vegetation. Gas company will be monitoring and controlling invasive plants on the easement in 2022.
- Random recoating projects and emergency digs on gas lines throughout the district are historic, this activity is likely during 2022.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Cumberland County Public Safety is working with DCNR to replace their aging 3 Square Hollow Tower and Shelter with a new P25 800 MHz Communication System. Work is to commence sometime in the spring of 2022 depending on approvals.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

(Due to COVID-19 and DCNR guidelines, some opportunities for public engagement have decreased since the 2020 pandemic.)

- 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 continue with staff and public engagement for revising the Bureau of Forestry's Strategic Plan.

- Facebook page – The district’s Facebook page will continue to be updated to provide the public current information about management activities occurring in the district.
- DCNR Tuscarora State Forest web page – The district’s webpage will be updated to include 2022 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 the COVID-19 pandemic and DCNR guidelines these opportunities have decreased however this may change depending on COVID-19 risk and school protocols.
- 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, for Perry county and Mifflin/Juniata counties will be held outside in May at a to be determined locations throughout the counties.
 - Also, in May, the Tuscarora State Forest is planning to host fourth graders from Perry County for an outdoor classroom at Hickory Ridge that includes grade appropriate information about a full range of forestry subjects.
- The Mifflin, Juniata and Perry Woodland Owners Association meetings and tours will be planned as interest and opportunities present themselves throughout 2022.
- Throughout the year 2022 staff patrols will be conducted for conversations with visitors and to reduce illegal activities including ATV use on the state forest.
- The District, Volunteers and PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) plan to stock trout in East Licking Creek, especially in the special regulation, Delayed Harvest Artificial Lure Only (DHALO) area.

RESEARCH

- Black Bear – The Tuscarora State Forest continues to cooperate 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 continue into the late summer. Data such as overall health, gender, age, young of the year and numbers are recorded.
- Allegheny woodrat (PA threatened species) – Research efforts continue with the PA Game Commission and Indiana University of PA at several locations in the Tuscarora.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- A total of eight timber sales were completed with varies silviculture treatments covering 1,331 acres.
- Prescribed fires operations occurred throughout the Tuscarora State Forest equaling 75 acres.
 - Buck Ridge - 54 acres in Tyrone Township, Perry County.
 - Amberson Haul Rd - 17 acres in Toboyne township, Perry County.
 - Hockenberry PHO - in Horse Valley 4 acres Toboyne Township, Perry County.
- Invasive plants were treated in multiple Plant Sanctuaries throughout the forest in conjunction with Ecological Services.
- *Lymantria dispar* (Gypsy Moth) Suppression Program occurred in the Laurel Run drainage with the Frank E. Masland Natural Area being the keystone to the project, this consisted of 7,365 acres.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Treatments occurred in the Hemlock Natural Area, treating 172 trees, totaling about 3184 Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) inches.
- Hickory Ridge demonstration area had rehabilitation efforts in 2021 to showcase various forest management techniques. This is an ongoing project that will likely extend into the future.
- Enhanced 4 acres at the Old Steltzer Place in Juniata County by planting a specialized native seed mix for wildlife and early successional habitat.
- 372 acres were treated with a basal herbicide application to control undesirable vegetation and promote desirable trees.
- A large mowing contract occurred in the Amberson Valley over 142 acres to control undesirable vegetation.
- The Showaker area near Back Hollow and Turkey Pens Haul Road had a 323 acres foliar herbicide treatment this year controlling Japanese barberry and multiflora rose.
- Over 58 miles of boundary marking occurred, delineating State Forest Land in 2021.
- Campsite evaluations and rehabilitation occurred throughout the entire district to enhance the camping experience for its visitors.
- Boom mowed, brushed, and widened several sections of snowmobile trail. Access around gates was improved where needed.
- Many miles of recreational trails were cleared and improved throughout the district 2021.