

PINCHOT 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 Pinchot 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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State Forest Land

RECREATION

- Moon Lake Recreation Area
 - Complete trail sign installation on Mt. Bike Trail
 - Support conservation volunteer work by Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society on bird boxes and wildlife habitat improvement projects
 - Evaluate picnic area layout and design
 - Evaluate for additional rustic camp sites
 - Construct Boat and kayak launch, ADA fishing pier, improve road, and replace lake outlet
 - Install 3 rest room Units
 - Construct Pathway to Audubon Pollinator Garden

- Seven Tubs Recreation Area
 - Continuation of Rehabilitation of Seven Tubs Loop Trail, a PA Outdoor Corps project
 - Design trail improvements for Audubon hiking trail
 - Design Audubon trail footbridge restoration
 - Finalize design for interpretive kiosk panel (leave no trace) and interpretive wayside panel (Seven Tubs history)
 - Develop guidelines and additional rules and regulations for public postings
 - Hazard Tree Removal and trail stabilization
 - Road and access improvement project includes improved road access from Rt. 115, pedestrian path, parking lots, stormwater management, and restroom facilities, bid scheduled for Spring 2022

- State Forest Tracts
 - Standardize interpretive information displayed at all State Forest kiosk locations
 - Mocanaqua Tract
 - Designate and blaze trail location around main loop trail

- Thornhurst Tract
 - Pinchot Hiking Trail
 - Install new trail information signage
 - Continue brushing of trails with help of volunteer groups
 - Watres Trail
 - Continue brushing of trails with help of volunteer groups
 - Watres Trail restoration project
- Crystal Lake Tract
 - 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.
 - Develop scope to complete Laurel Run portion of trail
 - Improve Parking lot
 - Install gate at connector trail entrance
- Elmhurst Tract
 - North Pocono Trail Assessment completion
 - Establish Access on Freytown Road
- State Forest Signs: Install signage
 - Finish Luzerne County portion of state forest, replace 4 small signs due to vandalism and install 6 small signs,
 - Montage Tract 2 small signs on Rt 307
 - Finish Lackawanna County approximately 20 signs
 - Install 7 Fire Danger Signs across the district

- Snowmobile Trail System:
 - Complete design for stream crossing at Red Pine Plantation Trail funded by PRT Grant that is in design phase 60% completed
- Organized Events - *Pending COVID-19 Restrictions*
 - Keystone Trails Association Trail Care weekend
 - Nanticoke Conservation Club youth fishing day event on Harvey's Creek

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber Harvests

- Marked and sold, potentially active
 - 11-2019BC01 Timber Sale – 74 ac. Grouse Sale, Harvey's Creek Tract, TNT Rd., Plymouth Twp. Luzerne Co. – Expires 2022
 - 11-2020BC01 Timber Sale – 162 ac. Carvolth Boundary, Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst Twp. Lackawanna County
- Marked but not yet sold
 - Ten 1-cord Firewood Lots available to the public sold on fuel wood permits
- Proposed (not marked yet)
 - 11-2022BC01 Timber Sale – 70 ac. Bear Swamp, Thornhurst Tract, Tannery Rd. Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna County

Regeneration Projects

- 112101 Fence Dismantle, Skaluba West – Sassafras Rd. Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna Co.
- 112102 Fence Dismantle, Orchid #1 – Pittston Rd. Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna Co.
- 112103 Fence Dismantle, Choke Creek #3– Tannery Rd., Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst twp., Lackawanna Co.

Timber Reservations

Deer Park Lumber holds timber reservation rights in the Pinchot State Forest until 2028 on approximately 25,000 acres of state forest land. These lands were the former Theta Corporation lands. Deer Park Lumber is actively harvesting timber on these lands. District staff will monitor the sites for compliance with state forest rules and regulations, Chapter 102 and Chapter 105.

- 2022 Deer Park Lumber Timber Operations:
 - Covey Swamp, Montage Mt. Tract, Lackawanna County
 - Trojan Rd., Harvey's Creek Tract, Luzerne County
 - Zbick Rd/Rt. 29, Harvey's Creek Tract, Luzerne County
 - Rice Dam/Jackson Rd, Harvey's Creek Tract, Luzerne County
 - Mizdale Flume Line, Harvey's Creek Tract, Luzerne County

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Develop grassland habitat management plan for the open fields on all Pinchot State Forest lands in cooperation with the Division of Conservation Science and Ecological Resources
- Install 4 Ac. meadow habitat - Moon Lake Recreation Area
- Install 2 Ac. meadow habitat - Thirsty Hill, Thornhurst Tract

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Replace two box culvert stream crossings over Butler Run on Sand Springs Road
- Replace two bridge crossings, one on Marina Drive and one on White Deer Way
- Moon Lake Recreation Area Roads
 - DSA resurface to be completed
 - Road drainage and stormwater management
- 10 Mile Rd. planning and design, for access into Crystal lake Tract
- Evaluate Highbridge Rd. for state forest road classification and project scope
- Evaluate Montage Mt. Road system for state forest road classification and project scope

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- State Forest Land clean ups
 - for Seven Tubs clean up with PA Environmental Council and Keep NEPA Beautiful
 - Mocanaqua Tract clean up with conservation volunteer groups
 - Watres Tract near High Bridge with conservation volunteer group
 - Moosic Mountain tract (Cooperative project with PA Game Commission)
 - Moon Lake Recreation Area (dispose of unserviceable picnic table and rubbish)
- Hazleton Fire Control Station Replace roof and windows and
 - In process of bidding / quotes
- Complete design build contract for Removal of 5 dams
 - Pine Run #1 Hanover Twp., Luzerne County
 - Laurel Run #2 Plains Twp., Luzerne County
 - Olyphant # 2 Archibald , Lackawanna County
 - Olyphant # 3 Archibald, Lackawanna County
 - Edgerton Archibald, Lackawanna County
- Monitor High Hazard Dams during storm events (Laurel Run and Pine Run)
- Inventory and Update Road Use Agreements and Right of Ways
- State Forest Boundary Line Project
 - Need to establish over 400 miles of boundary line
 - Submit survey project request for 2022

WILDFIRE

- Suppress, Investigate, and Report all known wildfires within the district
- Conduct (2) S-130 Trainings and (1) S-131 Training
- Wildfire prevention and Smokey Bear Program
- Conduct Annual Pinchot Forest District PA Forest Fire Warden Training

- Install electrical hookup at Bear Springs, Dry Land Hill, and Mehoopany Fire Towers
- Assist cooperating states and federal government with wildfire suppression
- Assist Volunteer Fire Companies with Federal Excess and Department of Defense Equipment
- General Maintenance to Ashley and Thornhurst RAWS Station Sites

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Moon Lake Grass Prescribed Fire, Jackson Twp., Luzerne County

FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Complete Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for invasive plants for the Pinchot State Forest
- Fifty-five ash trees will be chemically treated for emerald ash borer at Mocanaqua and Thornhurst Tracts
- Inspect and monitor Hemlock wooly adelgid treatments at Manny Gordon Recreation Area
- Survey state forest land for additional hemlock wooly adelgid treatment sites
- 2022 insect and disease monitoring and reporting with ground and aerial survey flights scheduled for mid-summer
- Identify and mitigate *Ailanthus* (tree-of-heaven) on state forest
- Identify and mitigate Japanese knotweed along Laurel Run
- Identify and mitigate Japanese stiltgrass along state forest roads

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 Teasdale Rd. a proposed state forest 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 PA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP), Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR)

- Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) projects in cooperation with DEP, BAMR
 - Laurel Run Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
 - D&L Trail Wilkes-Barre Mt. Phase II
 - Mocanaqua
 - Recreation access
 - Road and trail system
 - Mitigate 10 mine openings
 - Avondale (proposed not funded)
 - Curry Hill reclamation and access

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Review of proposed Transco regional access project across the Deep Hollow Tract, Plains Twp., Luzerne County
- Continued partnering with AECOM on the North Pocono Reliability Line

FOREST PLANNING

Steps to establish Pinchot State Forest:

- Checklist:
 - Evaluate then establish and mark state forest boundary lines
 - Evaluate forest cover typing, stands, compartments and LMU and revise mapping
 - Complete forest inventory for baseline ecological data
 - Evaluate for oil, gas, and mineral (OGM) rights
 - Evaluate for fuels and wildland urban interface (WUI)
 - Evaluate forest health and invasive plant species
 - Evaluate roads and trails and develop public access
 - Evaluate and revise harvest allocation model
 - Evaluate recreation use
 - Evaluate needs and location for state forest information signage and gates
 - Research and locate all deeded right of ways and easements, develop road use agreements (RUA)
 - Update utility agreements and rights-of-way
 - Evaluate district infrastructure and needs
- State Forest Compartment Exams
 - #10 Lower Crystal Lake, Wright Twp., Luzerne County

- #11 Lower Crystal Lake, Wright Twp., Luzerne County
- #26 Seven Tubs Recreation Area, Bear Creek, Plains Twps., Luzerne County
- #32 Moon Lake Recreation Area, Jackson Twp., Luzerne County

- Forest cover typing, and inventory of State Forest acquisitions
 - Moon Lake White Oak Drive Parcel, Plymouth Twp., Luzerne County
 - Murry Acquisition- Laurel Run Tract, Plains Twp., Luzerne County
 - Scheduled 2022 Acquisitions SFER and forest cover typing

- Land Acquisitions projects
 - Hanover Phase I, 700 acres, Hanover twp. Luzerne County (in progress)
 - Hanover Phase II, 700 acres Hanover twp. Luzerne County (in progress)
 - Komoroski, acres, 75 acres Hanover twp. Luzerne County (in progress)
 - Rinaldi, 436 acres Scranton City. Lackawanna County (in progress)
 - Earth Conservancy Donation, Hanover Twp., Luzerne County (in progress)
 - PAWC Reservoir Buffer Conservation Easement, multiple sites (in negotiations)
 - Gravell, 240 acres, Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna County (in negotiations)
 - Miller Mt., 2,500 acres, Eaton Twp., Wyoming County (in negotiations)
 - Newport Property, 45 acres, Newport Twp., Luzerne County (in negotiations)

- State Forest Boundary Lines
 - Completion of state forest boundary line establishment and maintenance plan
 - Complete Boundary line painting, tagging, brushing on 8,000ft at Thornhurst, Blumer Acquisition
 - Complete Boundary line painting, tagging, brushing 13,000ft at Wanamie Tract
 - Resolve boundary line disputes:
 - Freytown Tract line
 - Moon Lake Hunt Club line

- 10 Mile Access line
- High Bridge line
- PAWC Maple Lake property

DISTRICT PROGRAMS

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
- Provide technical forestry assistance to private forest landowners and the public
- Promote and assist communities involved with TreeVitalize and Tree City USA
- 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 Envirothon held in partnership with County Conservation Districts and school districts in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties
- Forestry booth at county fairs in Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties and other priority events
- Continue to partner and provide technical assistance with Natural Resources Conservation Service cost-sharing programs.
- Career day at Montrose high school & Susquehanna community school
- Jim Rice memorial field days in Wyoming county
- Ag day youth outdoors
- Assist local state parks with various public educational events
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OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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

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 Pinchot State Forest water levels
- SFRA 1808, Crystal Lake High Conservation Value Forests surveys
- SFRA 1820, Ice sheet impacts on NEPA
- SFRA 1827, American Chestnut study
- SFRA 1834, Viburnum Study
- SFRA 1836, PA Arboviral study

2021 Pinchot Forest District Activity Plan Accomplishments

FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- 91 Trees treated for Emerald ash borer at Harvey's Creek Tract
- Inspected Hemlock wooly adelgid treatments at Manny Gordon Recreation Area
- Identified and mitigated *Ailanthus* (tree-of-heaven) on state forest
- Identified and mitigated Japanese knotweed along 10,000ft of Laurel Run
- Identified and mitigated presence of Japanese stiltgrass along state forest roads

FOREST PLANNING

- Completed 2021 FSC and SFI state forest audit.
- Compartment Exams Completed:
 - #12 Northern Thornhurst Watres/ High Bridge Area, Thornhurst Twps., Lackawanna County
 - #16 Northeastern Thornhurst – Blumer Area, Springbrook, Clifton, Thornhurst Twps., Lackawanna County
 - #19 Lehigh Tract, Coolbaugh Twp., Monroe County
 - #23 Lehigh Tract, Tobyhanna Twp., Monroe County
- Forest cover typing, and inventory completed:
 - 528 – acre Blumer, Thornhurst tract, Clifton Twp., Lackawanna County
 - 407-acre Laurel Run Tract, Laurel Run Luzerne County
 - 19.6-acre Upper Delaware tract, Manchester Twp. Wayne County
 - 60- acre Rush Brook tract, Carbondale Twp. Lackawanna county
 - 76-acre Balish addition, Rushbrook Twp. Lackawanna county
 - 108-acre Popple Tract Plains Twp., Luzerne County

- State Forest Boundary Lines
 - Completed Boundary line Painting, Tagging, Brushing on 3 Miles at Mocanaqua Tract
 - Completed Boundary line Painting, Tagging, Brushing New Moon Lake Parcel
- FIMS Data Improvements
 - Updated and identified roads, streams, and water bodies on district lands.
 - Inventoried and updated various assets maintained by the District

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- D&L Trail Wilkes-Barre Mt. Phase II
 - State Forest Environmental Review and Agreement completed

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- None conducted on the Pinchot State Forest for 2021.

RECREATION

- Improve Parking Areas
 - Mocanaqua, install new Kiosks and guiderails in parking lot
 - Wanamie East and West
 - Black Diamond Trailhead, parking lot improvements
 - Joe Palooka Parking access and gate
 - McClintock Access and gate
 - Install state forest information signage
- Moon Lake Recreation Area
 - Installed 28 Trail Marker Signs
 - Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society Partnership installed bird boxes

- Seven Tubs Recreation Area
 - 800' of Rehabilitation of Seven Tubs Trail, a PA Outdoor Corps project
 - Renovation to Kiosk and surrounding area, a PA Outdoor Corps project
 - Trail Maintenance of Main Loop and Audubon Trail including trail blazes
- Pinchot Hiking Trail
 - Installed new trail information signage
 - Continued brushing of trails with help of volunteer groups
- D&L Trail, Black Diamond Section
 - Updated information in kiosk
- Organized Events
 - Keystone Trails Association Trail Care Weekend
 - 15 Special Activities Agreement
 - Nanticoke Conservation Club youth fishing day event on Harvey's Creek

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Installed 1-acre meadow habitat at Moon Lake Recreation Area in partnership with Division of Conservation Science and Ecological Services staff and Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society.
 - Promoting Native species and pollinator habitat

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Sassafras Road drainage and DSA surface
- Coordinate with PA Turnpike Commission to install emergency access from NE Extension into Crystal Lake Tract
- Gate Installation at various locations on state forest

RURAL AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

- 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.

- Hemlock wooly adelgid inspections - 2
- Gypsy Moth Inspections - 1
- Number of Landowner Meetings - 29
 - Lackawanna - 4
 - Luzerne - 10
 - Susquehanna - 3
 - Wayne - 8
 - Wyoming - 4
- Number of New Plans - 5
- Natural Resources Conservation Services programs - EQIP/CSP
 - Total Acres – 546 acres
- Total Acreage of Assistance - 2,080 acres
- Urban Forestry Assistance
 - Arbor Day Tree City Awards - 7 Communities
- School Events - 1
- Envirothon Related - 1
- Workshops - 1
- Fairs Attended – Wyoming county and Harford Fair

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Mocanaqua clean up
- PA Outdoors Corp Laurel Run clean up
- Walk in Penn's Woods – Birds and Bikes – Moon Lake Recreation Area

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Regeneration

- Completed
 - Ten 1-cord Firewood Lots available to the public sold on fuel wood permits
 - Orchid #2 fence removal – Pittston Rd. Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst Twp., Lackawanna Co.

 - Choke Creek #1 fence removal – Tannery Rd., Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst twp., Lackawanna Co.
- Re-Bid for Contract
 - Choke Creek #3 fence removal – Tannery Rd., Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst twp., Lackawanna Co.

Timber Sales

- Marked Out to Bid
 - 11-2020BC01 Timber sale – Boundary Carvolth Sale, Thornhurst Tract, Pittston Rd., Thornhurst Twp. Lackawanna County.
- Marked, sold, cut
 - 11-2019BC01 Timber sale – Grouse Sale, Harvey's Creek Tract, TNT Rd., Plymouth Twp. Luzerne Co.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Inspected invasive treatment by AECOM North East Pocono Reliability Transmission line

WILDFIRE

- ✓ Suppress, Investigate, and Report 227 wildfires
- ✓ Conduct 2 S-130 Trainings and 1 S-131 Training, depending on Covid-19 guidance
- ✓ Conduct Annual Fire Warden Training, depending on Covid-19 guidance
- ✓ Assist cooperating states and federal government with wildfire suppression
- ✓ Assist Volunteer Fire Companies with Federal Excess and Department of Defense Equipment

- ✓ Install new RAWS Station on Crystal Lake Tract