

PINCHOT STATE FOREST DISTRICT

2023 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

- Finalize Pinchot State Forest Recreation Management Plan
- Moon Lake Recreation Area
 - Complete trail sign installation
 - Continue working with Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society on bird boxes and pollinator garden
 - Complete picnic area layout and design
 - Construct Pathway to Audubon Pollinator Garden
 - Pool Area Pavilion Restoration Project
- Seven Tubs Recreation Area
 - Continuation of Rehabilitation of Seven Tubs Trail, a PA Outdoor Corps project
 - Rehabilitation and Repainting of Seven Tubs Hiking Bridge, a PA Outdoor Corps Project
 - Trail improvements for Audubon Hiking Trail
 - Installation of Trail Signage for the Seven Tubs Loop and Audubon Hiking Trail
- State Forest Tracts
 - Standardize interpretive information displayed at all State Forest kiosk locations
 - Mocanaqua Tract
 - Designate and blaze trail location around main loop trail
 - Cut in connecting trail to finalize Mocanaqua Loop Trail
 - Thornhurst Tract
 - Access and order new snowmobile trail posts
 - Pinchot Hiking Trail
 - Install new trail information signage
 - Continue brushing of trail with help of volunteer group

- Watres Trail
 - Continue brushing of trails with help of volunteer groups
- Snowmobile Trail System:
 - Complete design for stream crossing at Red Pine Plantation Trail funded by PRT Grant that is in design phase 60% completed
- Crystal Lake Tract
 - D&L Trail, Black Diamond Section
 - Finalize a cooperative agreement with D&L National Heritage Corridor and Anthracite Scenic Trail Association.
- Elmhurst Tract
 - Establish Access on Freytown Road
- Organized Events
 - Keystone Trails Association Trail Care Weekend
 - Nanticoke Conservation Club Youth Fishing Day event on Harvey's Creek
 - 2023 Crooked Compass Adventure Race
 - Penn State Extension 4-H Education Day and Fishing Derby

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber Harvests

Please note: The annual harvest allocation acreage goal for the Pinchot State Forest has been revised to reflect growth in state forest acreage and resulting increase in multiple use & commercial acres. The current state forest land base for the Pinchot State Forest is 49,636 acres. Based on preliminary forest planning data the annual harvest allocation for overstory removals will be set at 160 acres.

- Marked and sold, potentially active
 - 11-2020BC01 Timber Sale – 162 ac. Boundary Carvolth, Thornhurst Tract, Thornhurst Twp. Lackawanna County
- Marked but not yet sold
 - Establish 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

- Contract 22-D4 #6100056484 Deer Fence Dismantle
 - 112201 – County Line
 - 112202 – Skaluba East

Inspections of Birchstill, Tannery, and Choke Creek IV fences for removal

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.

- 2023 Deer Park Lumber Timber Operations:
 - Covey Swamp, Montage Mt. Tract, Lackawanna County
 - Rt 118/Slocum Rd. 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. Work planned for Summer / Fall 2023. Lycoming Supply, Winning Bidder.
- Replace two bridge crossings, one on Marina Drive and one on White Deer Way. Completed except for guiderail.
- Seven Tubs Recreation Area Road and parking lot project, scheduled to be completed Fall 2023.
- Tannery and Springs Rd. Dirt and Gravel Road project occurring in 2023.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- State Forest Land clean ups
 - 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)
- Hazleton Fire Control Station Replace Roof and Windows
 - Interior Remodel and Windows to be completed Spring 2023
- Complete design build contract for removal of 5 dams
 - Pine Run #1 Hanover Twp., Luzerne County, permit in progress
 - Laurel Run #2 Plains Twp., Luzerne County, Removal in process
 - Olyphant # 2 Archibald, Lackawanna County, Working on PHMC
 - Olyphant # 3 Archibald, Lackawanna County, Working on PHMC
 - 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 Way Agreements
- State Forest Boundary Line Project
 - Need to establish over 400 miles of boundary line
 - Submit survey project request for 2023

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
- 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

- None planned on the Pinchot State Forest for 2023.

FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Complete Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for invasive plants for the Pinchot State Forest
- Ninety trees will be chemically treated for emerald ash borer at the Harvey's Creek Tract Tracts
- Inspect and monitor hemlock wooly adelgid treatments at Manny Gordon Recreation Area
- Reconnaissance on state forest land for additional hemlock wooly adelgid treatment sites
- 2023 insect and disease monitoring and reporting with ground and aerial survey flights scheduled for mid-summer
- Identify and mitigate Ailanthus on state forest
- Identify and mitigate Japanese knotweed at Moon Lake Recreation Area
- Identify and mitigate Japanese stilt grass 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 state forest Teasdale 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
- Proposed Abandoned Mine Land projects with Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation
 - Mocanaqua
 - Recreation access
 - Abandoned Mine Land trail system
 - Avondale
 - Curry Hill reclamation and access
 - Laurel Run AML Reclamation

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
- Sunoco pipeline cathartic protection project, Harvey's Creek

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
 - Realignment of Compartments
 - #10 Lower Crystal Lake, Wright Twp., Luzerne County
 - #11 Lower Crystal Lake, Wright Twp., Luzerne County
 - #19 Blue Ridge Tract, Coolbaugh Twp., Luzerne County
 - #32 Moon Lake Recreation Area, Jackson Twp., Luzerne County

- Forest cover typing, and inventory of State Forest acquisitions
 - Murry Acquisition, Plains Twp., Luzerne County
 - White Oak Road., Plymouth Twp., Luzerne County
 - Komoroski Acquisition, Newport Twp., Luzerne County
 - Montage Plant sanctuary, Pittston Twp., Luzerne County
 - Future 2023 Acquisitions.

- Land Acquisitions projects
 - Hanover 1416 acres, Hanover, Newport, Warrior Run, Sugar Notch. Luzerne County
 - RT 309 Donation 134 acres, Hanover twp. Luzerne County
 - Miller Mountain, 2491 acres, Eaton Twp. Wyoming County
 - Sedor Kelly 45 acres, Newport twp. Luzerne County
 - D&L Phase 1 – NBLT, 50 acres, Laurel Run, Plains. Luzerne County

- 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
 - 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
- 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.

- Participate in Ag Day Youth Outdoors.
- Assist local state parks with various public educational events.
- Assist with Chalkfest & Hyrdomania
- Assist with Master Watershed programs
- Assist with Riverfest
- Career day at Montrose High School & Susquehanna Community School
- Continue to partner and provide technical assistance with NRCS cost-sharing programs.
- 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 Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties and other priority events
- Jim Rice Memorial Field Days in Wyoming county.
- Provide technical forestry assistance to private forest landowners and the public
- Promote and assist communities involved with TreeVitalize and Tree City USA
- Promote and assist communities involved with Urban Council Bareroot Tree Program

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 in all five counties
- 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 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

2022 Pinchot Forest District Activity Plan Accomplishments

FOREST HEALTH AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Fifty-five ash trees chemically treated for emerald ash borer at Mocanaqua and Thornhurst Tracts
- Inspected and monitored hemlock wooly adelgid treatments at Manny Gordon Recreation Area
- Completed 2022 insect and disease monitoring and reporting with ground and aerial survey flights
- Treated 3 acres of Japanese knotweed at Moon Lake and Thornhurst
- Treated 5 miles Japanese stilt grass along state forest roads of road edge, Thornhurst and Harvey's Creek.
- Treated several populations of Mile-a-minute at Mocanaqua

FOREST PLANNING

- FIMS Data Improvements
 - Updated and identified roads, streams, and water bodies on district lands.
 - Inventoried and updated various assets maintained by the district
- State Forest Boundary Lines
 - Completed Boundary line painting, tagging, brushing
 - 500ft at Thornhurst, Blumer Acquisition
 - 5,300ft at Mocanaqua Tract
 - 2,000ft at Moon Lake Recreation Area, white oak road
- Compartments Completed
 - #12 Northern Thornhurst Watres/ High Bridge Area, Thornhurst Twps., Lackawanna County
 - #16 Northeastern Thornhurst – Blumer Area, Springbrook, Clifton, Thornhurst Twps., Lackawanna County
- Land Acquisitions projects completed
 - Komoroski, acres, 75 acres Hanover twp. Luzerne County

- Rinaldi, 436 acres Scranton City. Lackawanna County

RECREATION

- Moon Lake Recreation Area
 - Installed 30 more Trail Marker Signs
 - Moon Lake boat launch and spillway bridge completed
 - Continued work with Moon Lake Trail Crew with closure of retired trails and trail maintenance
 - Continued work to officially designate the Moon Lake trails
- Seven Tubs Recreation Area
 - Rehabilitation of lower hiking bridge, a PA Outdoor Corps Project
 - 300 feet of rehabilitation of Seven Tubs Trail, a PA Outdoor Corps Project
 - Trail Maintenance of Main Loop and Audubon Trail
 - Hazard Tree Removal and Trail Stabilization
 - Road and access improvement project including improved road access from Rt. 115, pedestrian path, parking lots, stormwater management, and restroom facilities, Project is to be completed August 2023.
- Pinchot Hiking Trail
 - Continued brushing of trail with help of volunteer groups
 - 2 miles of rehabilitation and restoration to the Watres Trail
- Elmhurst Tract
 - North Pocono Trail Assessment completion
- D&L Trail
 - Black Diamond Trailhead Parking Lot Rehabilitation
 - Start of Phase 1A of the D&L Trail
 - Design of Phase II of the D&L Trail
- Organized Events
 - EPAC Mocanaqua Clean-up

- Nanticoke Conservation Club Youth Fishing Derby
- Moon Lake Trail Crew Trail Maintenance Weekend
- 28 Total State Forest Activity Agreements
- Keystone Trails Association Trail Care weekend

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Installed 4 Ac. meadow habitat - Moon Lake Recreation Area
- Inspected Painter’s Creek Bog plant sanctuary
- Installed fencing and inspected Lupine plant sanctuary

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Finish Luzerne County portion of state forest roads/bridge projects, replace 4 small signs due to vandalism and install 6 small signs
- Montage Tract - 2 small signs on Rt 307
- Finish Lackawanna County roads and bridges with approximately 20 signs
- 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 Mountain Road system for state forest road classification and project scope

RURAL AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

- County Envirothon held in partnership with County Conservation Districts and school districts in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties
- Attended Career Day at Montrose High School & Susquehanna Community School
- Attended Jim Rice Memorial Field Days in Wyoming county
- Attended Ag Day Youth Outdoors
- Assisted local state parks with outdoor watershed program

- Assisted with Chalkfest & Hyrdomania
- Assisted with Master Watershed programs
- Assisted with Riverfest
- Forest Health
 - EAB Inspection 4
 - HWA Inspections 3
 - SpongyMoth Inspections 1
 - Other 19
- Stewardship Plan Assistance
 - Number of Meetings 2
 - Total Acreage 59
 - Number of New Plans 1
 - Total Acreage - New Plans 39
- All Other Landowner Assistance
 - Number of Meetings 14
 - Total Acreage 2170
- Urban Forestry Assistance
 - Community Assistance 2
 - Tree Planted 40
- School Events
 - Envirothon-Related 1
 - All Others 1
- Workshops
 - Number Held 3
 - Total Attendance 50
- Meetings 5
- Fairs
 - Harford (Susquehanna)
 - Wyoming County
 - GDS (Wayne)

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 3 successful PA Outdoor Corps. projects completed.
- Moon Lake Recreation Area (dispose of unserviceable picnic table and rubbish)

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber Sales

- Marked, sold,
 - 11-2020BC01 Timber sale – Boundary Carvolth Sale, Thornhurst Tract, Pittston Rd., Thornhurst Twp. Lackawanna County.

Regeneration Projects

- **Completed**
 - 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.

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 - Covey Swamp, Montage Mt. Tract, Lackawanna County
 - Silkworth, 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

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Continued partnering with AECOM on the North Pocono Reliability Line
- Completed district planning for Sunoco pipeline cathodic protection- Harvey’s Creek.

WILDFIRE

- Suppressed, Investigated, and Reported all known wildfires within the district
- Conducted (2) S-130 Trainings and (1) S-131 Training

- Conducted wildfire prevention and Smokey Bear Program
- Assisted cooperating states and federal government with wildfire suppression
- Assisted Volunteer Fire Companies with Federal Excess and Department of Defense Equipment
- Performed general Maintenance to Ashley and Thornhurst RAWS Station Sites