

DELAWARE 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 Delaware 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:

Timothy R. Dugan, District Forester
Delaware State Forest
2174A Route 611, Swiftwater, PA 18370
570-895-4000
FD19@pa.gov

RECREATION

- District staff will assist the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission stock trout at Bushkill Creek, Lily Pond, Lake Minisink, Little Mud Pond, and Saw Creek.
- New picnic tables and BBQ grills are planned to be installed at the Ambush pavilion near the Owego Maintenance Headquarters, off U.S. Route 6 in Blooming Grove Township.
- A new informational panel and an educational wayside will be installed at the Pecks Pond Dam site. The informational panel is a requirement as per the state and federal permits for the dam rehabilitation project.
- Parking areas and access points— Castle Country Club, Barrett Township, Monroe County, a new acquisition of the Delaware Forest District, will have a new parking lot put in this year.
- Forest leased campsites (cabins) will receive their standard inspections, or on request, by staff.
- Snowmobile trail improvement is planned for a portion of Whittaker Trail and will include top-dressing AASHTO#1 with 2RC stone to provide a smoother driving surface.
- ATV trail improvement is planned for the Dixon Miller trails. Project will include filling entrenched trails, top-dressing trails, and grading to improve the driving surface and reduce erosion and impacts on that site.
- Pecks Pond lake management will continue. Activities include an herbicide treatment of up to 100 acres to reduce aquatic vegetation and improve recreational opportunities as well as continuation of PA Fish and Boat Commission's repopulation/stocking plan.
- Stream crossing signs will be installed to help visitors identify the stream name along our State Forest Roads.
- Dixon Miller ATV trails will receive new signage and posts for trails and intersections.
- A Hiking only trail connecting Laurel Run Road to Double Flat Trail on the SJC Tract is planned using an existing conservation easement right-of-way through a neighboring property.
- District staff will continue to improve bridge stream crossings on hiking trails throughout district, create a GIS layer map to monitor conditions and record maintenance, and inventory trail sign needs. Installation of signage, maintenance tasks, and improvements will be ongoing.

Organized Events

- The District expects to renew and administer multiple commercial activity agreements for 2022. The activities include environmental education, guided nature hikes, guided horseback riding, ATV trail access, and guided biking trips.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- Pike County, Greene Township—In 2019, an oak regeneration timber sale was marked and sold along Burley Inlet Trail in and around the Burley Inlet East deer exclosure. The overstory removal timber harvest encompasses 133 acres and will be cut in 2022.
- Pike County, Porter Township—In 2021, an oak regeneration timber sale was marked and sold along Spring Roberts Trail off Highline Road. The timber harvest encompasses 247 acres. Part of this timber sale's purpose is to create early successional habitat for golden-winged warblers and associated species such as woodcock and grouse. The overstory removal timber harvest may be cut in 2022.
- Firewood Cutting Permits—During 2022, the public will be able to buy fuelwood permits to cut wood at the following locations: Pine Flats Fireline Timber Sale landing, a network of roads west of State Route 402, Highline Road, Millbrook Trail fuelwood area (closed during the winter snowmobile season), Sixteen Mile Run Road, Whittaker Farm Road, Ivan Swamp Road, Hiawatha Road, Bald Barren trail, and Coon Swamp Road. Any of these sites may be closed if the wood is all removed and additional sites may become available. Permits and site-specific information can be attained by contacting the District Office in Swiftwater. A permit of \$20 per cord is required to cut fuelwood.
- Pike County, Porter Township—The Red Rock Salvage cutting is complete. The loggers have some logs on the landings yet to remove. It is 174 acres of Spongy Moth Salvage located east of route 402, on the east side of Luke Road. The loggers have greatly improved Luke road for vehicular travel during hunting season. The area will be opened for firewood this spring.
- Monroe County, Price Township. An overstory removal was sold to the high bidder along Millertown road, east of Schoolhouse road. The removal will occur inside of three fences that were installed to keep deer out and improve the regeneration. The sale is 95.6 acres and may be cut in 2022. When the sale is finished, and the regeneration is adequate the fences will be removed.
- Pike County, Blooming Grove Township – A 295-acre overstory removal sale was laid out along Ambush Road across from Costa's Fun Park just south of Route 6. The sale sold in November 2021 to the highest bidder and the logger has until September 2023 to complete the harvest. The harvest will occur inside and outside of three fences along the east side of the road totaling 50 acres. Another 245 acres was marked outside of the fences along the western side of Ambush Road to remove the overstory and allow for natural regeneration of the site. This treatment area will extend over to the well house along White Deer Lake Road. Conifers and oak seedlings will be planted inside the fences once logging has been completed. The large area

this sale encompasses will hopefully benefit threatened species by creating the proper habitat they seek out such as a healthy, young forest.

- Pike County, Porter and Delaware Townships—The Big Bear timber sale at the end of Coon Swamp Road totaling 113 acres was harvested fall of 2021. Harvesting and hauling ended in September. Some minor road improvements were made, and new skid trails will provide easy walking for hunters and hikers. The site will be opened for firewood sometime in the spring when roads are passable. This treatment opens the forest and provides beneficial sunlight to the forest floor to promote oak growth. The sale has been remediated and signs of grasses and wildflowers should be visible in the spring along landings and skid trails.

Proposed (not marked yet)

- Pike County, Porter township—A 49.4-acre overstory removal timber sale will be proposed East of route 402 and North of the Whittaker Farm Road. The area was fenced and is scheduled for a prescribed fire this spring. After the prescribed fire is complete the sale will be marked and bid out for harvest.
- Pike County, Porter Township – A 108-acre timber sale will be proposed for an area located along Bald Hill Road. The southern portion of the sale area had tornado damage from the mid 1990's. Other parts of the sale along the road have been cut over for firewood and damaged by spongy moths. The entire area shows signs of good regeneration which should allow for the establishment of a healthy young forest once harvested. No sales have been conducted in the vicinity. This sale should create a large opening in an area of otherwise dense forest.

Regeneration projects

- In 2022, two fences will be expanded on Tanglewood Mountain in Palmyra Township, Pike County. The expansions of the Tanglewood Powerline and Tanglewood Billard fences will add 62 acres and 57 acres of additional fence, respectively. These woven wire fences will be installed around a shelterwood cut that was harvested in 2017-2018. The goal is to protect seed and seedlings from deer herbivory to develop regeneration of a high-quality stand which reflects the current overstory. Deer pressure is high in this area due to its proximity to a large housing development. These fences are located on productive growing sites which produce some of the highest quality timber in the Delaware Forest District.
- One deer enclosure fence northwest of Pine Lake in Greene Township, Pike County will be removed this year.
- Two fences east of the Bushkill Road and south of Raspberry Run Road in Lehman Township, Pike County are scheduled to be removed this year. The area was harvested, and the regeneration is adequate to remove the fences.
- One deer enclosure fence along Route 6 across from Alice's Wonderland store encompassing 38 acres will be slated for removal. The site was harvested years ago and the present regeneration

is tall enough to withstand any browsing from deer once the fence is removed. The site is currently being laid out for a prescribed burn to remove undesirable species, such as black birch, to promote oak growth.

- One deer enclosure off Route 402 near the Blooming Grove hiking trail encompassing 63 acres will be slated for removal. The area inside the fence was harvested in 2016 and current regeneration inside the fence is tall enough to warrant removal. Undesirable black birch has overtopped a lot of the oak. This site is currently being laid out for a prescribed fire as well.
- A 21-acre deer fence is slated to be installed just east of Route 402 and south of the White Deer Lake Road. The new fence will protect young oak seedlings within the recently harvested shelterwood. Interfering black birch will be spot treated with an herbicide during the summer months. Birch in the region tends to outgrow oak seedlings.
- Vegetation Impact Protocol Plots (VIP plots) will be completed on State Forest Land to assess deer browsing impact on regeneration and native plants.
- The District will participate in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) in effort to achieve or maintain a deer population that is balanced with its habitat.
- Tree seedlings will be planted at sites along Song Dog Road and Bear Wallow Road in Greene and Palmyra Townships, Pike County. A total of 30,000 white pine seedlings will be planted on 38 acres at these locations. The conifer tree seedlings will augment the natural regeneration of mainly hardwoods with a conifer component for wildlife habitat and species diversity. The conifers will provide winter thermal cover and escape cover for wildlife.
- Delaware State Forest staff have been and will continue to perform a silvicultural treatment called weeding at previously regenerated timber sales in Pike County. The projects consist of cutting, by hand, competing vegetation generally less than 8" diameter. Specifically, sweet and yellow birch, striped maple, beech, and hophornbeam are cut to release red, white, and chestnut oak saplings and other highly desirable species such as tulip poplar, sugar maple, black cherry, evergreens, and aspen. The project areas planned for 2022 are along Song Dog Road and Bear Wallow Road in Greene and Palmyra Townships, Pike County.
- In order to improve the regeneration of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers and to improve the health and sustainability of wildlife populations, the Bureau of Forestry has been improving access to deer hunters during the past two decades. The result of this initiative is that now, more than 90 percent of the state forest system is within one-half mile of an open road during the fall hunting season. The increased access has allowed hunters to harvest more deer throughout the more remote parts of the forest which in turn has improved forest health. With improved forest health comes better wildlife habitat and healthier wildlife populations. Besides big game hunters, other forest users such as wildlife viewers, hikers, small game and waterfowl hunters, and fall foliage enthusiasts have benefited from the access program. For the 2021-2022 fall/winter hunting season, the Delaware State Forest District has opened 27 gated roads

totaling 34.5 miles of road access. We have also enrolled 8 gated roads into the popular and effective Big Game Retrieval Program. The Big Game Retrieval Program allows hunters to drive behind a closed but unlocked gate in order to retrieve big game that they had harvested. This program encourages hunters to harvest deer in remote areas where a long drag may normally discourage them from doing so. At the same time, the program keeps these areas in a state of having minimal disturbance by vehicular travel.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Delaware State Forest will continue to partner with Indiana University of Pennsylvania in an ongoing effort to create Golden Winged Warbler habitat in a 2500-acre Special Management Area. Sites are located along Pine Flats Road and Highline Road. These habitat projects are beneficial to warblers and a host of other game and non-game species.
- Work will continue at the 2-acre wildlife habitat opening located along Steam Mill Trail. The area received an herbicide treatment to kill non-native grasses and shrubs. A 200' buffer around the opening was burned to stimulate new shrub growth. The buffer had some of the trees cut to open it up and create a "soft edge". The opening was planted in May 2019 with a mixture of native grasses and wildflowers. The site has seen two growing seasons and has responded nicely. One more growing season is needed for the opening to reach its maximum growth ability. A prescribed fire will be used to remove dead grasses and stimulate new growth for the Spring 2023 growing season.
- Nesting boxes for various wildlife species will be installed throughout the district to help promote species such as wood ducks, bats, and bluebirds.
- The numerous herbaceous openings in Monroe and Pike county will be maintained for various species of wildlife.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Burnt Mills ATV trail will receive aggregate to improve the trail as needed. Volumes of aggregate are unknown at this time.
- Culvert replacements—two at locations at Camp William Penn will receive culvert replacements this year.
- Laurel Run Road, Price Township, Monroe County, will receive 1721 tons of paver placed and rolled DSA through a Dirt and Gravel Road funded project. This project is funded and should take place in the spring/early summer 2022. A temporary road closure will be posted and in-place.

- Dixon Miller Recreation Area will receive aggregate to improve trail conditions and driving surfaces. Plans are to improve drainage from the trails and repair entrenched trails. Approximately 690 tons of 2RC and 1300 tons of Aashto #1 will be tailgated.
- Ongoing bridge inspections continue to occur across the state forest. Inspections are done to ensure the integrity of our bridges for employee and public safety.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Pike County, Porter Township. A prescribed fire is planned for north of Whittaker Farm Road and east of the powerline. It will be conducted inside of a deer exclosure. The purpose is to remove unwanted interfering vegetation and promote desirable regeneration. After the fire is completed the area will be marked as an overstory removal timber sale and harvested.
- Pike County. Various sites will be evaluated for future prescribed fire treatment. These sites entail previously harvested timber sales, poorly growing/overcrowded stands, and established stands to remove interfering birch and understory plants. The goal will be to open the mid-canopy and stimulate growth.
- Pike County, Porter Township – Red spruce is a native conifer to our region and past forest disturbances have mostly relegated it to the swamps. Staff will work to reduce hardwood competition to red spruce that are re-colonizing the upland areas around Painter Swamp. Hardwood trees will be cut which will allow the spruce ample room to grow. This project will benefit grouse, snowshoe hare and northern flying squirrel.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- One hundred ash trees will be chemically re-treated with TREE-AGE, a trunk-injected insecticide. Most of these trees are on Tanglewood Mountain. This treatment is an attempt to save some genetically superior ash trees that would otherwise succumb to the emerald ash borer – a non-native forest pest.
- Staff will continue to monitor for invasive plants and insects across state forest land and they will be treated appropriately. Areas of specific concern are the fourteen miles of PPL Susquehanna-Roseland powerline, as well as, several other electric and gas line projects. Mile-a-minute, tree-of-heaven, phragmites, Japanese knotweed, emerald ash borer, and spotted lantern fly are key invasive species for which the staff will be on the lookout.
- Approximately one acre of wisteria will continue to be chemically treated until it is controlled. Wisteria is an exotic, invasive vine that causes significant damage to the native trees and forest ecology. The wisteria treatment site is located along Old Route 402 near Peck's Pond.

- Approximately one-quarter acre of Japanese knotweed will continue to be chemically treated along the shore of Peck’s Pond. Japanese knotweed is an exotic, invasive plant that can detrimentally alter a wetland ecosystem.
- The presence of emerald ash borer was confirmed in Monroe and Pike County in 2017. Ash mortality began in 2018 on the western edge of the district as a result. Severe ash mortality is occurring in Monroe and Pike Counties. This mortality will continue to spread into other areas.
- Spotted lanternfly has been confirmed in Monroe and Pike Counties. Spotted lanternfly is an invasive insect that was confirmed in the United States in 2014. This invasive insect could potentially have an impact on State Forest lands in 2022. This pest has the potential to negatively affect many of our native tree species.
- Approximately 50 hemlock trees will be chemically re-treated for hemlock woolly adelgid along the Tarkill Interpretative Trail. The goal of this project is to maintain a healthy hemlock stand for ecological and educational purposes. This site contains 100 trees that have been periodically treated for woolly adelgid. These trees will be the last hemlocks treated at this location until hemlock woolly adelgid populations rebound. Re-treatment will be done in the future when conditions warrant.
- Spongy moth populations are on the uptick along the Routh 402 corridor, south of Route 84 in Pike County. In the spring of 2022, the Delaware State Forest will be conducting a suppression program on 1423 acres to reduce forest damage from the insect.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Tennessee Gas Pipeline company will continue to support invasive plant treatments on Delaware State Forest land right-of-way’s and adjacent areas.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- PennDOT continues to improve Interstate 84 in Dingman Township, Pike County adjacent to Delaware Forest and has recently given Forestry notice of acquisition of approximately 0.5 acres for ROW access. Construction on the Tunnel Road underpass may occur in 2022, which will increase access to the south side of Int84.
- The Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps worked to replace wooden steps and landings at the Pohopoco Fire Tower at Dixon Miller Recreation Area in 2021. The project is anticipated to be completed in the year 2022.
- Pike County, Blooming Grove Township—PPL will continue a transmission line upgrade from Beaver Dam Road to Shiney Mountain Road. Project includes the removal of wooden poles to

taller steel poles. Temporary impacts will occur at Beaver Dam Road, Tanglewood Trail, and Shiney Mountain Road.

- Pike County, Porter Township—PPL and Verizon will be extending service south along SR402 from Snow Hill Road to the Monroe County line. Project will include placement of new poles, right-of-way clearing and installation of local distribution lines.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Staff will continue to promote and enhance the image of the forest and district. One task is addressing illegal forest dumping. Staff will investigate and prosecute illegal forest dumpers when applicable. We will continue to remove and clear dump sites when found.
- Volunteering opportunities are expected for 2022. The recreation forester will reach out to current conservation volunteers and the estranged friends group to inform them on priority projects. Information will be distributed to local stake holder groups to advertise the need for volunteer assistance and seek to establish a new friends group.
- Comments, questions, and concerns pertaining to any and all district activities may be directed to our District Office at 570-895-4000 or via email at FD19@pa.gov. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety protocol, our offices may not be open to the public. Please email us or call and leave a message; our staff are monitoring those lines of communication and will reply as soon as possible.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Construct new Resource Management Center with Storage Building—The site selected along Rt. 402 near the Thunder Swamp Trailhead parking area continues to go through design and site testing. It is anticipated that design of the site will be completed in 2022 and construction may start in 2023.
- Little Summit Fire Station—Renovate the heating system, remove underground fuel tanks, and improve site drainage. Project bidding, award, and construction should occur in 2022.
- Edgemere Fire/Maintenance Station—Replace roof, gutters and downspouts. Project bidding occurred and has been awarded to a contractor; construction in 2022.
- Edgemere and Snow Hill Station paving—Project is in design to pave portions of the Edgemere and Snow Hill stations to improve site drainage and operational efficiencies. Project may move to bidding and construction in 2022.

- Owego main shop and Edgemere pole barn received new snow bars in January of 2022 to hold the snow on the roofs to prevent hazards of sliding snow for employees and the public.

RESEARCH

- A research project is being conducted in the vicinity of the 16 Mile Run fire to study the impact of the fire on the soil and water. The project will try to determine how the soil and water are impacted from the fire and how long it takes for them to return to the pre-fire state.
- A research project is being conducted along Millertown road on a previous prescribed fire. The project is being done along with the 16 Mile Run project to determine how the soil and water are impacted from the fire and how long it takes for them to return to the pre-fire state. The results of the two projects are being compared and published.
- Other research projects continue at multiple sites across the forest district investigating and monitoring groundwater, water quality, and other flora and fauna.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Trail maps for the Buckhorn Recreation Area, Camp William Penn, and SJC tracts were developed and are now available for the public.
- 68,900 tree seedlings were planted at various sites across the Delaware State Forest in 2021. Seedling species were predominantly white pine, with lesser amounts of Norway Spruce (7,500) and Red Spruce (400). Sites included Millbrook Trail, Pine Flats Fireline Trail, Highline Spur, and Standing Stone Road. The conifer tree seedlings will augment the natural regeneration of mainly hardwoods with a conifer component for wildlife habitat and species diversity. The conifers will provide winter thermal cover and escape cover for wildlife.
- A silvicultural treatment called weeding was performed at previously regenerated timber sale sites along Big Dam Ridge Trail in Palmyra Township, Pike County and Burley Inlet Road in Greene Township, Pike County. Projects consisted of cutting, by hand, competing vegetation less than 8" diameter. Specifically, sweet and yellow birch, striped maple, beech, and hophornbeam were cut to release black cherry, oak, and red maple seedlings and saplings. Total project of 94 acres was funded by the Department's Regeneration Fund.
- DSF staff chemically treated one hundred ash trees by trunk injection to kill emerald ash borer. This treatment is an attempt to save some genetically superior Ash trees that would otherwise succumb to the emerald ash borer – a non-native forest pest.
- Approximately 50 hemlock trees were re-treated for hemlock wooly adelgid at Tarkill Interpretative Trail. These are large trees with an average diameter of 17 inches.

- DSF staff certified several shipments of ginseng for ginseng dealers to ship across state lines.
- DSF staff applied for and received 1,164 DMAP permits covering nine DMAP areas encompassing 86,266 acres in Pike, Monroe, and Carbon counties.
- DSF staff completed 19 Vegetation Impact Protocol Plots (VIP plots) on State Forest Land to assess deer browsing impact on regeneration and native plants.
- District 19 transitioned to the P25 radio system.
- DSF staff assisted other state and federal agencies with large-scale wildland fires in Colorado, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and California.
- Delaware Forest staff assisted PA F&BC stock trout at the Bushkill Creek, Lily Pond, Little Mud Pond, Lake Minisink, and Saw Creek.
- Lily Pond and Little Mud Pond were both added to the PFBC's Stocked Trout Open to year-round fishing program.
- Ranch Road in Pike County was greatly improved via a grant through Pike County Conservation District utilizing funds from the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads.
- A section of Whittaker Trail was top dressed with 2RC to improve smoothness for snowmobilers and improve overall trail conditions.