

DCNR Bureau of Forestry

Our Mission and What We Do

Mission

The Bureau of Forestry's mission is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth's forests and to conserve native wild plants.



Penn's Woods

The Bureau of Forestry is responsible for conserving Penn's Woods. For more information about our mission, role and strategic vision, read *Penn's Woods: Sustaining our Forests*. It's available on our website at: www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/ForestsandTrees/StateForestManagement.

Advocate and Promote Forest Conservation

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry is the state's lead forest conservancy agency. The Bureau advocates and provides leadership on issues related to the management of the Commonwealth's forests, trees and native plants.

Forestry Information and Outreach

The Bureau plays an instrumental role in providing credible information about the conditions and status of Pennsylvania's forest resources to industry, academia, other government agencies, and conservation organizations. The Bureau is actively involved in public outreach on topics ranging from woodlot management to wildfire prevention, invasive species control and urban tree planting.

Prevent and Suppress Wildfires

The Bureau is responsible for extinguishing forest wildfires on both public and private land. Each year, personnel assist in the suppression of approximately 600 wildfires on 6,000 acres across the Commonwealth. Bureau personnel educate the public about wildfire risk and prevention, and train volunteers and local fire companies in wildfire suppression.

Protect the Forest From Destructive Insects and Diseases

The Bureau is responsible for monitoring and managing destructive forest insects and diseases on all Commonwealth lands. It coordinates statewide suppression and spraying efforts on ecologically disruptive invasive insects, such as the gypsy moth.

Conserve Native Plants

The Bureau manages and conserves Pennsylvania's rich diversity of native, wild plant communities across public and private ownerships. The Bureau is responsible for determining the status and classification of the 3,000 native wild plant species in Pennsylvania. Of those, more than 500 are ranked as state-listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered.

Conserve Private Forest Land

Approximately 70 percent of the Commonwealth's forest land is privately owned. Through its outreach programs, the bureau provides leadership and technical assistance in conserving and managing these important forest lands.

Promote Community Forests and Tree Planting

Through its partnerships and programs, the Bureau provides leadership and coordination in planting and maintaining trees in cities and towns across the Commonwealth. Tree cover in communities helps improve the environment, manage stormwater, conserve energy, and revitalize downtowns and main streets.

Manage the Certified State Forest System

The state forest system of Pennsylvania—2.2 million acres in 48 of 67 counties — comprises 13 percent of the forested area of the Commonwealth. These forest lands represent one of the largest expanses of wildland in the eastern United States, making them a truly priceless public asset. The Bureau proudly manages this third-party certified forest with an ecosystem management approach to provide a multitude of uses, values and resources to Pennsylvania citizens.

Protect Water Quality

The state forest system serves as the headwaters and living filter for municipal drinking water supplies and thousands of miles of high-quality coldwater streams. Sound management of our state forests helps keep these important waters clean. The Bureau also coordinates tree planting along streams on private land to help improve water quality in Pennsylvania waterways and places like the Chesapeake Bay.

Sustainably Harvest Timber

Each year, the Bureau sustainably harvests approximately 15,000 acres across the state forest system. Harvesting serves multiple goals, including providing a steady flow of wood products to the economy; creating wildlife habitat; and enhancing forest health and diversity.

Manage Natural Gas Activity

The Bureau manages natural gas activity on 700,000 acres within the state forest system. Bureau forest managers, ecologists, botanists, foresters, geologists and forest planners work to minimize and mitigate the environmental effects of well pads, roads, pipelines and rights-of-way.

Provide Forest Recreation Opportunities

Citizens look to Pennsylvania's state forest system for a variety of recreational activities, from scenic driving to hiking, camping, hunting and snowmobiling. The Bureau maintains thousands of miles of trails, roads and related infrastructure to accommodate state forest visitors and ensure quality low-density recreational experiences.

Our Staff

The Bureau of Forestry is made up of foresters, botanists, ecologists, geologists, biologists, entomologists, forest fire specialists, rangers, maintenance and administrative personnel and many others — all working to conserve Penn's Woods. For information on how to join our team visit: www.employment.pa.gov. For internship information visit: www.dcnr.pa.gov/Internships



More Information

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES