

NGAC – SFAP/Strategic Plan Force Field Exercise

June 27, 2019

Discussion Issues – A

1. Maintaining and conserving the forest land base
2. Promoting sustainable forest management

Assets/Things That Help (Existing or Potential)	Liabilities/Things That Hinder (Existing or Potential)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Foresters/PSU Extension• Access to non-commonwealth lands through paid memberships – pay to use lands for recreation – e.g.: Privately own ATV trails• Putting value to carbon sequestration• Info gather systems are much more accurate than they used to be – e.g.: CFI and GIS, truly knowing if you are gaining or losing forestland and using that information is very helpful• Public support for balancing uses of forest land especially for recreation – understanding recreational desires have changed• Reach out to large forest landowners to help them achieve sustainable forestry options for managing their lands• Promoting certification on private forest land• Conservation Easements especially with adjacent tracks and inholdings to commonwealth owned lands. Kind of like a public land easement buffer program• Ensure adequate funding for DCNR in the state budget process• Oil and gas funds for private lands leasing prevents parcelization of these lands due having the available money to pay taxes and upkeep – funds prevent social economic issues that might have resulted in having to sell of a portion of their forest land.	

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Discussion Issues – B

Promoting forest health, resilience and biodiversity:

3. Managing invasive forest pests and disease (insects, deer, pathogens, etc.)
4. Managing invasive plant species
5. Conserving native wild plants and ecosystems
6. Adapting to and mitigating for climate change

Assets/Things That Help (Existing or Potential)	Liabilities/Things That Hinder (Existing or Potential)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service foresters engaging NGO's to participate in invasive species management • Opportunity to inform the public of the relationship between ticks and invasive species • BOF – Early Detection Rapid Response invasive species program • Opportunity to tap into NGO's for assistance with invasives on a landscape level • Provide funding to private forest landowners to treat invasive especially adjacent properties to state forest land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of invasive species education, awareness, and outreach to public especially with SLF and HWA – consider signage like Smokey Bear signs that are out and about • Lack of leadership from BOF to engage NGO's like Watershed Assoc. in invasive species management • The list of invasive keep getting bigger due to globalization • Forest landowners don't know a lot about invasives • Cost of invasive treatments are high for Private Forest Landowners (PFL's) • State agencies are not working together • Confusing roles of state agencies when dealing with invasive species – DCNR, PDA, etc. • Ticks • Lack of interpretive panels addressing invasives in location where public will read them – less focus on providing online info •

Important Comments:

1. Deer shouldn't be grouped in with forest pests

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Discussion Issues – C

Maintaining relevancy of natural resource management and work of Bureau of Forestry:

7. Promoting education and public appreciation of forests and natural resources (adult and youth)
8. Promoting access and experiences in and around forests and trees
9. Ensuring public ecosystem services of forests, trees, and native wild plants

Assets/Things That Help (Existing or Potential)	Liabilities/Things That Hinder (Existing or Potential)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOF to acquire more land near population centers • A virtual forest experience mobile unit similar to the wood mobile – this would help children to experience the forest that don't have access due to social economical restraints • Convince public they are students and stewards of natural resource through creating more opportunities for outdoor recreation • Promote and create interpretive loop trails in key locations • DCNR is the largest land manager in PA therefore they manage the most wildlife/wildlife habitat in PA. This creates opportunity to more closely with agencies like PGC, USFW, PAFB who are the jurisdictional agencies over wildlife and fish • Focus on purchasing mine reclamation projects to turn barren land into forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are fewer consumptive users (hunters/anglers) of forest land and more non-consumptive (motorized and non-motorized rec.) • Public doesn't have good understanding about where products come from. e.g.: tp comes from Walmart and not aware it comes from a forest • State agencies identity – public doesn't understand the difference between State Parks, BOF, ANF, PGC, etc • The majority of PA's public forests are not geographically close to where majority of the commonwealth citizens reside • BRC not working close with BOF on linking public trails from non-BOF lands to BOF owned lands • BOF trail maps don't have many indicators of special features along the trail – e.g.: Purple Lizard maps has a lizard symbol at special natural features • Not enough natural resource virtual reality tools to available for schools. DCNR and most public-school district not equipped to handle VR • Decreased use of forests • Costs high of land near metro centers

Important Comments: Instead of using ecosystem services we might want to be specific and use clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, etc

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Discussion Issues – D

10. Continuing prevention and suppression of wildfires

11. Providing wise use and sustainable management of State Forest Lands

Assets/Things That Help (Existing or Potential)	Liabilities/Things That Hinder (Existing or Potential)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• BOF, PGC, and TNC are conducting Rx Fires.• Need to continue these programs and create public awareness to educate others to follow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not enough Rx fire programs for private forest lands• Few contractors available for Rx Fire work• Rx Fire time window is very short and weather dependent

Important Comments:

- Ecosystem service phrase is too broad
- Need to tie Wildlife Action Plan into everything we do since it relates to everything BOF does. Use funding that can be direct from WAP on forest lands
- Recreation has its entity in the Strategic Plan. Rec. can be solution to connection to land it also can be a hinder to us in the invasive species realm

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