

2018 Accomplishments | PA Bureau of Forestry

Managing, Serving, and Protecting Forests and Communities

By the Numbers



- ✓ **Acquisitions:** DCNR acquired approximately 2,213 acres of land in 2018 that enhance, connect, and conserve state forest land. Over half of these acres included the Wanamie Tract (Luzerne County), now part of Pinchot State Forest.
- ✓ **Timber Management:** The bureau contracted for harvesting of approximately 12,378 acres of timber on state forest land. These operations provided over \$20 million in revenue for the commonwealth, supplied raw materials for an estimated \$400 million in private-sector economic activity, and improved habitat for wildlife.
- ✓ **Wildfire suppression:** The state suffered 688 wildfires, burning 1,840 acres in 2018. The bureau continued to restore its fire towers; 14 of 16 are now complete.
- ✓ **Forest Health:** Gypsy moth treatment in 2018 totaled 19,527 acres. Specialists also treated 13,087 hemlocks for woolly adelgid/elongate scale. DCNR staff received training on spotted lanternfly management and trap trees were chemically treated in William Penn Forest District.

Forest Resource Management

District State Forest Resource Management Plans: District-level plans were reviewed and revised for all 20 forest districts. Public input was gathered via meetings, surveys, and comments.

Dual Forest Certification: The bureau is working toward certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative™ (SFI). Bureau-managed forests are currently certified under the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC). Dual certification will further show the bureau's commitment to meeting the most rigorous standards of management of commonwealth forests.

Conservation Easement: The bureau was granted a conservation and recreation easement on 9,152 acres within the Elk State Forest District, securing into perpetuity recreational opportunities and open space for citizens while keeping the tract a working forest.



Pennsylvania has one of the largest third-party certified public forests in North America.

Natural Gas Activity

Management: Approximately 1,240 shale gas wells on state forest lands (or wells under lease and unitized with publicly-owned streambeds) had production capacity, generating approximately \$70,000,000 in revenue as of the end of November 2018.

Forest Protection

More than 200 bureau and volunteer firefighters were deployed in Montana, California, Nevada, Texas, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Utah and Colorado during the summer fire season of 2018.

Good Neighbor Authority

Agreement: The Bureau of Forestry entered into an agreement with the Allegheny National Forest (US Forest Service) to share resources and cooperate to more efficiently achieve common management objectives.



Prescribed Fire: The bureau carried out 27 controlled burns on 2,193 acres of DCNR-managed forest lands, 1,500 acres of which were burned on the largest ever bureau-led controlled burn at Michaux State Forest.

Forest Pests: During May of 2018, 19,527 acres of public and private forests were treated to minimize impacts from gypsy moth infestations, with a 100% reported success rate based upon program guidelines. The bureau continued projects to combat other invasive species in 2018, including emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, and the latest emerging insect threat- the spotted lanternfly.

Forest Recreation

Deer Hunting: Greater hunting opportunities were offered in 2018 in 83 units in state forests and parks participating in the Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP).

Forest district managers opened more than 400 miles of roads prior to the start of deer season. Roughly 90 percent of all state forest lands could be accessed within one-half mile of a drivable road.

The bureau also continued support of the multi-agency effort to suppress the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), placing special emphasis on education.

Conservation

PA Plant Conservation

Network: The bureau began a new initiative focusing on protection of rare, threatened, and endangered plants by networking with landowners, agencies, researchers, and interested citizens.

Invasive Plant Management:

The bureau expanded its effort to control invasive plants by releasing new biocontrols and conducting new research on over 1,000 acres of forest lands.

Tick-borne Disease

Collaboration: Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Partnership staff is partnering with Indiana University of Pennsylvania to investigate the presence and extent of tick-borne pathogens in the commonwealth. Small mammals are collected and tested for Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis.

Bat Habitat Conservation

Alliance: The Bureau of Forestry is cooperating with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to develop a habitat conservation plan for Indiana and northern long-eared bats on 2.2 million acres of forest lands.

PA Conservation Explorer: The PNHP environmental review screening tool, PA Conservation Explorer, had another successful year. The site was visited 87,000 times (up 9.8% over 2017), with users running 3,781 conservation planning reports. A total of 27,507 projects were entered and screened, with 21,208 submitted for agency review.

Rural/Community Forestry

Inmate Arboriculture Training

Program: The Bureau of Forestry collaborated with the PA Department of Corrections to pilot an arboriculture training program at the Forestry Camp State Correctional Institution in Bellefonte, PA.

Buffer Summit: The first DCNR Riparian Forest Buffer Summit was held in State College, PA, in conjunction with The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The event was attended by 270 natural resource professionals.

Riparian Buffer Programs:

DCNR awarded over 4.5 million dollars in buffer grants within the C2P2, PennVEST, TreeVitalize, and Stream Releaf programs.

TreeVitalize Program: The TreeVitalize program provided for planting of over 4,700 community and urban trees during 2018. The program also funded four shade tree improvement projects in three counties.



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES