

CORNPLANTER STATE FOREST DISTRICT

2024 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 The Cornplanter 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:

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RECREATION

- **Townville Tract Trail System Establishment** – A new hiking trail is being planned on the site of a recently completed timber sale
- **Strawbridge Tract Picnic Shelter Rehabilitation** – Damage from porcupines on building siding will be addressed
- **Hunter Run Trail System Improvements** – Repair elevated walkways and improve trail system as needed

Organized Events

- Forest Field Day (Erie County, exact location TBD) – Please check the district webpage or call the district office for updated information.

STATE FOREST/TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber Sales

Marked and sold, active

- None at this time

Marked but not yet sold

- None at this time

Proposed (not marked yet)

- **Tines Down Sale** – This 80-acre sale, located on the Hunter Run Tract is proposed to receive a salvage shelterwood harvest in order to remove dead and dying timber, small pole-sized trees, and genetically inferior trees to allow more sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor to promote the growth of new seedlings. Areas that contain an abundance of low woody vegetative cover will receive an in-house treatment to mechanically remove the competing small trees. A substantial portion of the sale may receive a contracted herbicide treatment to reduce fern cover. The herbicide treatment is projected to occur in late summer 2024.

Regeneration projects

- Herbicide treatment for ferns in the proposed Tines Down Timber Sale, proposed for later in 2024

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- The district will continue to participate in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) to help balance the deer herd on the Hunter Run Tract
- A hack-&-squirt TSI project is planned with the POC at Hunter Run in a 35 year-old overstory removal

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Hunter Run Headquarters Access – Complete road access project at headquarters building

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- There are no prescribed fire activities planned for 2024 on the Cornplanter State Forest

WILDLAND FIRE

- The Cornplanter Forest District will be actively engaged in wildfire detection and suppression
- Work will occur on the wooden stairs and platforms on the Marienville Fire Tower

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- **Spot treatment of Invasive Plant Species** – During summer/early fall the district will conduct herbicide spot treatments for non-native, invasive plant species on state forest lands. Common species treated include: multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, phragmites and Japanese knotweed. Glyphosate-based herbicides will be utilized for these spot treatments.
- **Treatment of Hemlock Trees** – Plans are being finalized to treat hemlock trees at the Ingraham Tracts in Crawford County and at the Anders Run Natural Area in Warren County in 2024. Approved chemicals and methods will be used to provide resistance against the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Oil, Gas and Mineral (OGM) Monitoring** – Continue to monitor new oil and gas activity on severed rights tracts of the Cornplanter State Forest and minimize surface disturbance where possible.
- **Legacy Oil Well Plugging, Infrastructure Removal and Surface Rehabilitation** – The district has been working with the Bureau of Forestry’s Minerals Division and the Department of Environmental Protection on implementation of a capital well plugging contract. 22 wells will be included in phase three of the project. Bidding for phase three is expected to occur in 2024 and activity may begin later in the year
- No shale/stone pits or coal/hard mineral projects are planned for 2024 on the Cornplanter State Forest.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- There are no tower or right-of-way projects planned for 2024 on the Cornplanter State Forest

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Plans for public engagement in 2024 are still being developed, please check the district webpage or call the District Office for updated information

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- The district is working with the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) on potential project areas under the Good Neighbor Authority
- Working with First Energy/Penelec, a native pollinator habitat project is planned for the Townville Tract
- A boy scout will be working on his Eagle Scout Project---building and installing wildlife habitat boxes on the Hunter Run Tract

RESEARCH

- The U.S.F.S. Northern Research Station is engaged in a fern and herbicide study on the Cornplanter State Forest to determine the effects of broadcast herbicide application for fern control on oak and other desirable seedlings. This is part of a multi-district study being led by Todd Ristau

- The district is cooperating with MOTUS to track migratory species to better understand their movements and habits

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Ash Tree Treatments – district staff treated approximately 23 trees on State Forest lands with approved chemicals to prevent mortality due to the emerald ash borer insect
- District staff and the PA Outdoor Crew spot-treated approximately 36 acres of state forest lands to reduce the occurrence of invasive plant species
- District staff completed landscape examinations on all state forest lands throughout the District
- District staff and a PA Outdoor Crew improved 2 acres of state forest lands at the Townville Tract to better support wildlife. Brush piles, small pond enhancements and invasive plant treatments were also completed at Hunter Run
- District staff completed the administration of a 72-acre timber sale at Hunter Run
- District staff, with the assistance of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Bureau of Facility Design and Construction (FD&C) and OGM central office staff, oversaw the completion of Phase two of the abandoned well-plugging project at Hunter Run