

WILLIAM PENN 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 William Penn 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

- Wertz Tract
 - Complete signage install on the trails and high point.
- Honey Brook Tract
 - Plan a future trail system using the existing networks.
 - Install a campsite.

Organized Events

- Coordinate an activity with Latino Conservation week in July.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- Fuelwood permit issued for pitch pine removal on Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary that will aid in mitigating southern pine beetle outbreaks.

Marked but not yet sold

N/A

Proposed (not marked yet)

- 40 Acres of oak salvage and stand improvement at Honeybrook.

Regeneration projects

- Pre-emergent treatment inside the deer fence on Wertz.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Complete the Arazilia mitigation at Wertz.
- Install 2 projects in coordination with the National Wild Turkey Federation to improve habitat.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Continue to improve the access road at Gibraltar.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Warm Season Grass field 2 will be burned at Buck Hollow (Furnace Rd and Hay Creek Rd).
- Grass Field inside the Honeybrook seed orchard fence.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Southern Pine Beetle mitigation at Goat Hill.
- Wertz Ash treatments.
- Treat stilt grass at Goat Hill and Wertz.
- Focus on Paulownia, Ailanthus, and Angelica tree treatments on Wertz, Gibraltar Hill, and Buck Hollow Tracts.
- Complete an begin to implement the invasive Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) plan.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- No activity to report

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Confirm current ownership and maintenance of Cornwall Access Road.
- Establish signage for the Seidel Hill Right-of-Way for public use.

RESEARCH

- Research is ongoing involving nodding trillium, glade spurge, and elderberry on various tracts.
 - A new research project is being laid out at Goat Hill to study the habitat and ecological impacts from the southern pine beetle infestation.
- Goat Hill Management plan is undergoing revision. Biological assessment for rough green snake is included, with telemetry data collected in the 2023-2024 field season.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Closed on 28 acres acquisition to Gibraltar and 45 acres to Zimmerman Natural Area.