

# SUSQUEHANNOCK STATE FOREST DISTRICT

## 2022 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY PLAN

2/4/2022

The mission of DCNR Bureau of Forestry (BOF) 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 Management Activity Plan is to communicate to the public about upcoming management activities, projects, and events that will be conducted to implement the SFRMP on Susquehannock 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

- Clear and mark one third of maintained trails
- **Denton Hill Ski Trail** – Maintenance of 29 miles of trail. Grooming of trails when conditions permit.
- **ATV Trail** – Grading and maintenance of the ATV Trail as needed. Work with AJ Powersports to complete trail connector to their new business location on Denton Hill. Place 2750 tons of 2A gravel on 1.2 miles of the ATV trail near the Daggett section. Changed to ATV Trail between Maple Hollow to and upper crossing of West Branch of Pine Creek. Gravel placement completed July 2022.
- **ATV Pilot** – continue to plan and coordinate the opening of trails/roads for the 2022 ATV Pilot on Friday, May 27, 2022. Work with PennDot, Counties, Townships & Municipalities and other stakeholders to make this happen with minimal impacts to other recreational visitors and residents. Opened May 27<sup>th</sup>. Got large map printed and received in late June.
- **Snowmobile Trails** – Brushing and maintenance as needed. Grooming of 250 miles of trail when conditions permit.
- **Susquehannock Trail System** – Work cooperatively with STS Trail Club to ensure the successful maintenance of the trail system as they have for the last 40 plus years. Get new brochure that was developed for trail in 2020 printed and available for trail users. New brochure arrived in early July.
- **Commercial Activities Agreement** – Work with Summit Trail Rides on their operations under a CAA (Commercial Activities Agreement) for trail rides in the Southwoods/Eleven Mile Road areas. New CAA completed with Summit Trail Rides.
- **Special Activities Agreement** – Work with CMATV (Central Mountains ATV Association) to execute SAA (Special Activities Agreement) for an ATV ride in August 2022, work with Roulette Fire Company to execute SAA (Special Activities Agreement) for snowmobile poker run in February 2022 and an ATV ride in summer of 2022. Renewed SAA with CMATV for Poker Run and it was held on August 6. Renewed SAA with Potter County ATV Club for Sasquatch Ride that is being held on September 24.
- **Brochures/Maps** – work with Communications Section to print most of our brochures before the summer season. Received Billy Lewis, Hammersley, Gods Country and Susquehannock ATV Trail. Cherry Springs and Denton Hill XC Ski are in progress.

**Gated Roads Open for Deer Season** – This program allows hunters better access to DMAP (Deer Management Assistant Program) areas and inaccessible areas. The program helps the BOF to get more antlerless deer harvested in areas where we are seeing higher deer impacts to forest regeneration. Eighteen gated roads are proposed to be opened for the 2022 deer seasons. The final road List should be on website by mid-late September. Final roads were just completed and turned in August 22. Mileage is similar to previous years.

## **Organized Events**

### **2022 Organized Events:**

**February** - Snowmobile Poker Run – Roulette Volunteer Fire Company cancelled

**May** - Annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour (Susquehannock State Forest) cancelled

**June** - Ride for the Cure CMATV Held June 11

**August** - Midnight Madness Mountain Bike Race (Ole Bull State Park & Tioga County Ridge Riders Bicycle Club)

**August 8** - ATV Poker Run CMATV Completed. 216 registered riders

**September** - ATV Ride Roulette Fire Company

**Fall of 2022** - PA Wilds Adventure Ride – Pine Barrens Adventures

### **Events with Public Contact Trailer for 2022 w/ staff**

**March** - Kettle Creek Outdoor Show Complete

**June** - Cross Fork Snake Hunt Complete

**July** - Bark Peelers Convention at PA Lumber Museum Complete

**August** - Woodsmen Show at Cherry Springs Complete

## **TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

### **Marked and sold, potentially active**

- Captain Covid, 98 acres OSR off of Tom May Road
- Run On, 210 acres shelterwood off of Hungry Hollow
- Booked, 198 acres of shelterwood off of Twelve Mile Road
- Ashed Out, 203 acres salvage shelterwood off of Big Moore's Run Road
- Shrew Haven, 75 acres OSR off of Horton Run Road
- Four Bears Full Moon, 194 acres shelterwood off of Nelson Run Road, Schoolhouse West

- Hogback, 59 acres OSR off of Rte. 44 Mt. Brodhead
- Fax Phone, 100 acres OSR, off of Ellis Hollow Road
- Lights Out, 73 acres OSR, off of Shepard Road
- Pandemic, 91 acres OSR, off of Rock Ridge Road
- Thunder Chicken, 60 acres shelterwood, off of the Ansley Road
- Crosswind Removal, 139 acres OSR, off of Windfall Road
- Workaholics, 112 acres OSR, off of Little Moores
- Head in the Sand, 87 acres shelterwood/OSR, off of Sunken Branch Road
- One to Two, 131 acres shelterwood, off of Rt.44/Patterson Park
- Bout Time, 136 acres OSR, off of Francis Road
- Tea Time, 56 acres shelterwood, off of 12 Mile Road
- Jazzleberry Removal, 104 acres OSR, off of the 11 Mile Road
- Little Indian Run, 117 acres OSR, off of Rte. 144/Indian Run Haul Road
- Down with the Sickness, 228 acres OSR, off of the McConnell Road
- TCB2, 85 acres OSR, off of Horton Run Road
- Keeney Mountain, 39 acres OSR, off of Shepard Road
- Bolich, 88 acres OSR, Off of Rte. 44/Bolich Run Haul Road
- Stony Birch 2021, 87 acres OSR, off of Nelson Run Road
- Layfield Hollow, 72 acres OSR, Off of Shepard Road
- Lock Nut, 23 acres OSR, off of Wild Boy Road
- ReRun, 116 acres OSR, off of Portage Road
- Watson Road Ash Salvage, 14 acres Salvage, Off of Prouty Road

#### **Planned Timber Sales**

- Opie Removal, 52 acres OSR and Two-Aged Removal, off of Ridge Road

- Green Timber Hollow, 75 acres OSR, off of Shepard Road/Culver Woods Haul Road
- Greenlick Station, 49 acres OSR, off of Shepard Road behind Greenlick Station
- 99 acres OSR, off of Shepard Road
- Dagget Removal, 56 acres OSR, off of ATV Trail north of Lyman Run SP
- Hungry Hollow Removal, 47 acres OSR, off of Hungry Hollow Road
- Donut Man, 142 acres OSR, off of Big Fill Haul Road and Rte 6
- Norm's Spot, 303 acres OSR, off of ATV trail between Thompson Hollow and Rock Run Road
- Sunken Branch, 122 acres OSR & Shelterwood, off of the Sunken Branch Road
- Just Nuts, 49 acres Shelterwood & OSR, off of Rock Ridge Road
- 70 acres OSR, off of Whitman Road
- 144 acres OSR & Shelterwood, off of Gaswell Road
- 81 acres Shelterwood, off of Junction Road
- 66 acres OSR, off of Thompson Road
- 61 acres OSR, off of Nelson Run Road
- 128 acres OSR, off of Nelson Run Road
- Stony Birch 2021, 87 acres OSR, off of Nelson Run Road
- 272 acres Shelterwood & OSR, off of Portage Road
- Sharpie II, 79 acres OSR, off of Black Diamond
- I know Squared II, 124 acres OSR, off of Rauch Road
- Buffering II, 139 acres OSR, off of McConnell Road
- Beans, Bullets, and Band Aids, 90 acres OSR, off of Card Creek Road
- 67 acres OSR, off of McConnell Road
- Snow Angels Removal, 150 acres OSR, off of ATV Trail south of Sunken Branch Road

**Regeneration projects**

- 220 acres of flat terrain herbicide blocks, 1.5 qt. Glyphosate/Oust mix Complete
- 1463 acres of steep terrain herbicide blocks, 1.5 qt. Glyphosate/Oust mix Complete
- 284 acres of hand sprayed herbicide blocks, 1.5 qt. Glyphosate/Oust mix Complete
- 95 acres of weeding/crop tree In-progress
- 48 acres of fertilizing for black cherry regeneration Complete
- 482 acres of royer/mowing In-progress
- 438 acres of planting with mostly conifers and mixed hardwoods Complete
- Erecting approximately 4 electric deer exclosures by BOF staff on approximately 151 acres In-progress
- Erecting approximately 4 woven wire deer exclosures by contractors on approximately 311 acres Contract executed
- Dismantling approximately 9 deer exclosures In-progress

## RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Food Plot Program** – Cooperative efforts between the forest district and Pennsylvania Game Commission Food & Cover Crew complete 200 acres of food plot management across the district. 2022 plans will be decided in February 2022. Spring planting completed and fall planting completed recently. Mowing, fertilizer and lime completed where needed.
- **National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Cross Fork Sportsmen Club, Safari International, Keystone Elk Country Alliance, Black Forest Conservation Club, Eastern Gas Transmission & Storage, National Fuel Gas** – continue to partner with these organizations to work on habitat projects
- **Aspen cuts** – Several small wildlife aspen cuts will be completed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and district staff during winter of 2022. One area completed in winter of 2022
- **Large Woody Debris Habitat Projects** – Cooperative project with PA Fish & Boat, Potter County Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, Tioga and Susquehannock State Forests. Permit for Cross Fork Creek drainage and tributaries is in hand and will be the focus of 2022 work. Completed work on Hammersley Fork and Cross Fork Creek.
- **Grouse/Woodcock management** – Habitat work in Gas Well Hollow and Greenlick area where we have Grouse/Woodcock Management Plans completed.

## ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Paver placing and rolling of 5530 tons of DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate) on 1.6 mile of Red Ridge Road. Completed
- Replacing culverts and drainage work on another 1.4 miles of Red Ridge Road
- Replacement of large culvert on Windfall Road near Slip Hollow
- Replacement of 3 large culverts on Eleven Mile Road
- Grade, clean headwalls, culverts, and tail ditches on 168 miles of State Forest Roads In-progress

## PRESCRIBED FIRE

- RX Burn of competing vegetation off of Hungry Hollow Road if conditions allow Cancelled for this spring

## INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

- Insect and disease monitoring and reporting will continue in 2022 and will focus on the priority list provided by the Division of Forest Health. Report forms will be forwarded to Forest Health Area Specialist from the District I&D (Insect and Disease) coordinator for ground truthing and possible control efforts for reported insect and disease problems. Aerial survey flight(s) will be conducted in late June/early July to detect possible problem areas as well.
- Complete *Lymantria dispar* (Sponge Moth) Spray Program off of the Ridge Road in Southwestern Potter County, in the Pine Island/Wharton area and in the Ansley area. Completed late May. Mapped defoliation for spring 2022. Extensive defoliation in southern Potter County/Northern Clinton County and Shinglehouse/Galeton areas.
- Continue to monitor for the presence of Emerald Ash Borer and continue to initiate Ash salvage shelterwoods in stands that are heavily stocked with Ash.
- Treat 3 areas of Ash (approx. 100 trees) against Emerald Ash Borer.
- Mile-a-minute treatment will continue in the Pine Island, Elk Lick, and Portage areas. Completed
- Monitor for presence of Ailanthus/Tree of Heaven and eradicate when found.
- Monitor for presence of other invasive species.

## NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Work with Pennsylvania General Energy on development of severed rights off of Nelson Run Road to possibly include drilling activity, new pads, water impoundments and gathering pipelines.
- Current maintenance and operation of existing gas wells with occur in the following areas: Greenlick Storage Field, Wharton Storage Field, Pine Hill/McConnell Shallow and Marcellus wells, Reed Run Shallow and Marcellus wells, and Tract 001 Marcellus wells.
- Work cooperatively with JKLM Energy who has the Billy Lewis Road bonded for hauling in relation to drilling on private land adjacent to state forest land. JKLM graded the Billy Lewis Road in June. Applying water as needed for dust control in front of camps at beginning of Billy Lewis.

## TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- No new tower or ROW (Right of Way) projects are currently planned for 2022
- Tri-County Rural Electric will be clearing and maintaining Right of Way's across the district
- Eastern Gas, NFG, and Enterprise Pipeline will be performing maintenance on portions of their Right of Way's

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour held Sunday after Spring Gobbler Season opens each year. The main objectives of the tour are as follows: To observe and discuss some of the on the ground challenges involved in both sustainable forest and wildlife management, to examine some of the habitat improvements that we are seeing with the current deer management plan, to foster a better relationship with those who use the Susquehannock State Forest and to exchange information that can be taken home and utilized.

Details for the 2022 Tour can be obtained by contacting the district office in early April at [fd15@pa.gov](mailto:fd15@pa.gov) or 814-274-3600.

- We staff our public contact trailer at the following events each year: Cross Fork Outdoor Show, Cross Fork Snake Hunt, Bark Peeler's Convention, and Cherry Springs Woodsmen Show.
- Questions or comments can be asked or made at any time by emailing the Susquehannock State Forest at [fd15@pa.gov](mailto:fd15@pa.gov) or calling 814-274-3600.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- ATV Pilot monitoring Completed pre-monitoring on North Bend Connector
- Boundary line maintenance on 1/5<sup>th</sup> of total boundary line in district Completed

## RESEARCH

- Researchers from Penn State University are conducting a multi-year project called the Deer-Forest Study on the Rothrock, Bald Eagle, and Susquehannock State Forests. This study looks at better understanding the role of deer in context of the many challenges that PA forests face including invasive species, insect outbreaks, soil acidity, tree diseases, and even deer themselves. The goal of this study is to help forest and wildlife managers better manage deer and the forests. This is a cooperative project with researchers from PSU, US Geologic Survey, PA Game Commission, and DCNR Bureau of Forestry. This study area is approximately 69 square miles in size and is in the northern part of the Susquehannock State Forest from Cherry Springs north to US Rte. 6. Deer trapping concluded in early April and vegetation plot data was collected over the summer. Monitoring of deer w/ GPS collars is ongoing.
- Researches from Penn State are working on monitoring economic and social impacts of the ATV pilot program. On-going
- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is performing research that involves monitoring stream conditions on two tributaries of Pine Creek and one tributary of the First Fork of the Sinnemahoning. They are monitoring turbidity, PH, temperature, and other measures that have the potential to be impacted by Marcellus gas activity.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Marked and sold 2660 acres of timber. These timber sales generated \$8.5 million dollars.
- Administered the contracts and harvesting of over 30 timber sales.
- Completed administration of contract for the herbicide application of Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control competing vegetation consisting of beech brush, striped maple, and fern.
- Completed the cutting of interfering brush on several blocks.
- Planted mixed hardwoods and softwood tree seedlings.

- Erected 6 new electric deer exclosures and dismantled 2 deer exclosures, maintained the existing deer exclosures.
- Completed the following road maintenance projects:
  - DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate) placement on Sunken Branch Road approximately 1.1 miles
  - Drainage improvement on Red Ridge Road in preparation for DSA (Driving Surface Aggregate) in spring of 2022
  - ATV/Snowmobile Trail – improvements to new Billy Lewis Connector
- Graded, cleaned culverts and headwalls on 168 miles of state forest road
- Cleared and marked trails on the Denton Hill Cross Country Ski Trail System, cleared trails on the God’s Country Shared Use Trail, completed STS (Susquehannock Trail System) Brochure
- Completed several informational videos in cooperation with the Potter County Conservation District
- Opened gated haul roads for early muzzleloader and rifle deer season
- Completed planting and maintenance on 200 acres of food plots in cooperation with the PA Game Commission Potter County Food & Cover Crew