

R-O-W Siting Guidelines on DCNR Managed Lands

June 17, 2009

DCNR Position Statement

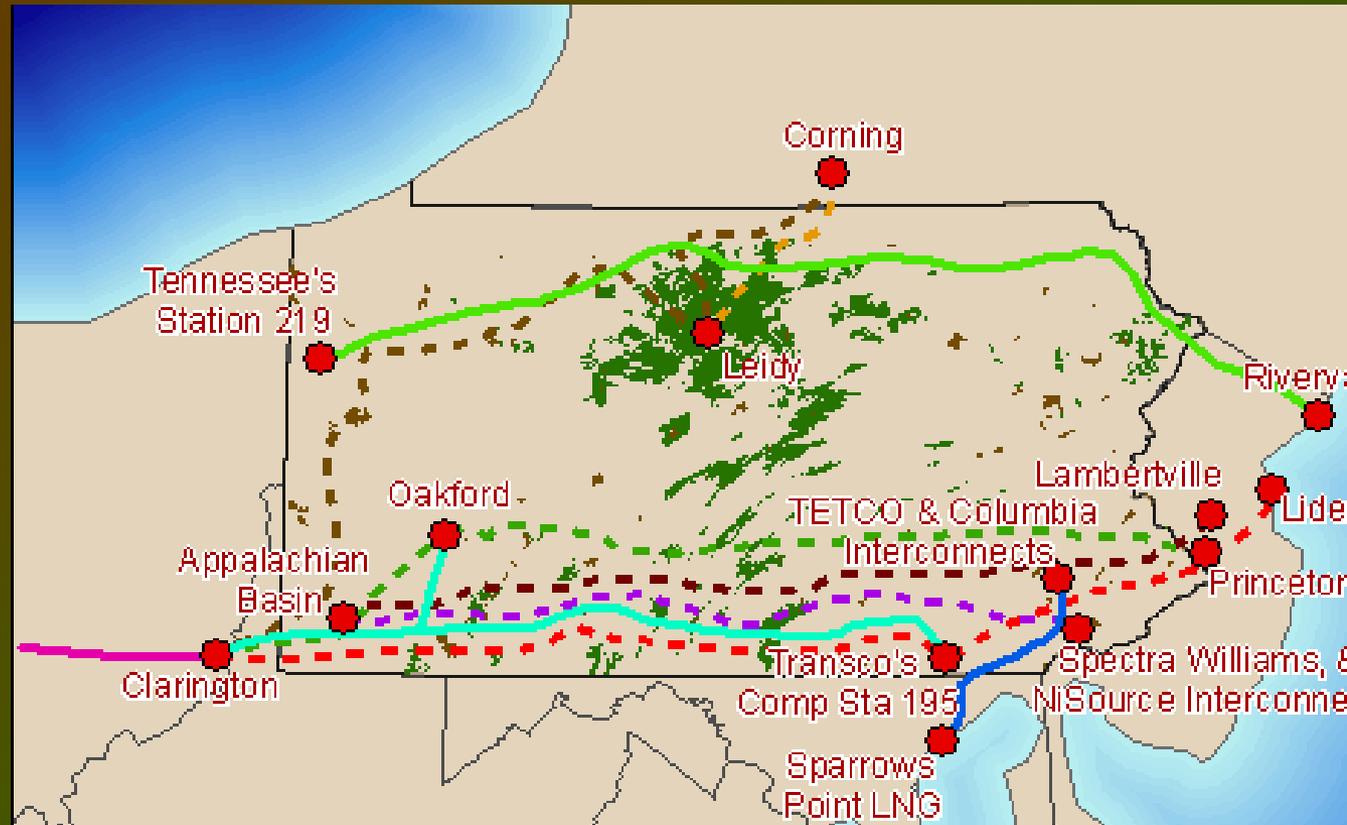
- DCNR seeks to balance the need to transport energy products with the need to minimize impacts to natural resources
 - The 2.4 million acres of land DCNR manages were set aside because they contain vulnerable resources which deserve special protection.
 - A safe, secure, and reliable domestic energy supply is in the public interest and may require the use of some DCNR lands

Outline

- Overview of DCNR's Land Base & Management
- Undesirable Right-Of-Way (R-O-W) Sites
- State Forest Environmental Reviews (SFER)
- Example Illustrations

DCNR Managed Lands

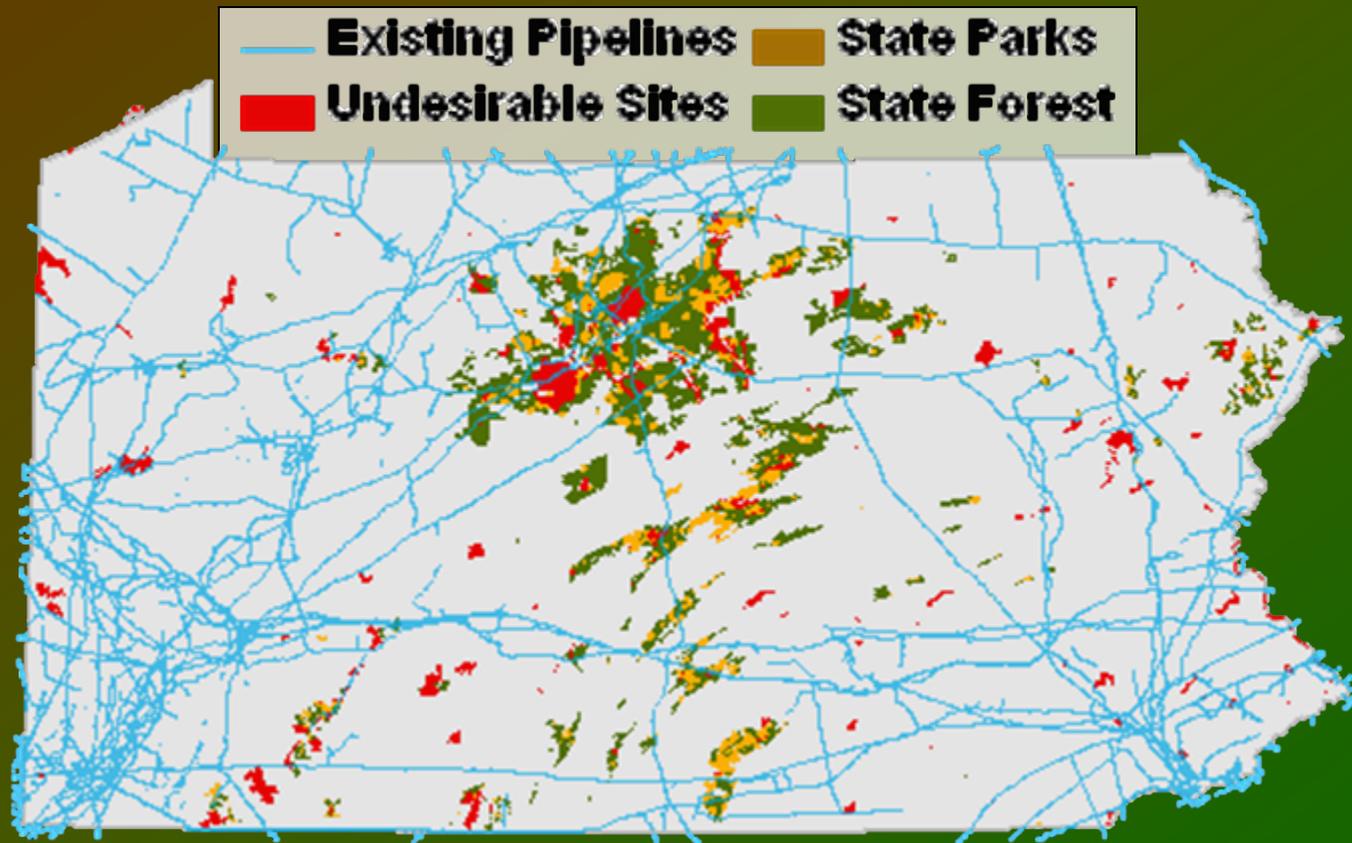
- Ecosystem Management
- Retaining the Forest's wild character
- Maintaining Biological Diversity
- Recreational Opportunities
- Clean Water
- Habitats
- Sustained Yield of Timber
- Mineral Resources



The mission of the Bureau of Forestry is to ensure the long-term health, viability, and productivity of the Commonwealth's forests and to conserve native wild plants.

Undesirable R-O-W Sites

- ✗ Natural Areas
- ✗ Wild Areas
- ✗ State Parks
- ✗ Primitive ROS Zones
- ✗ Pine Creek
- ✗ Env. Rev. Indirect Conflict Buffers
 - ✓ Wild Plant Sanctuaries
 - ✓ Critical Habitat for Species of Concern
 - ✓ Exemplary Natural Communities
 - ✓ Unique Geologic Features
- ✗ Others (Not Shown)
 - ✓ Archeological / Historic Sites



Other Siting Considerations

- ✘ Natural Areas
- ✘ Wild Areas
- ✘ Primitive ROS Zones
- ✘ State Parks
- ✘ Pine Creek
- ✘ Env. Rev. Indirect Conflict Buffers
 - ✓ Wild Plant Sanctuaries
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Type of ROW?

- Transmission
- Marketing
- Gathering



Project Type

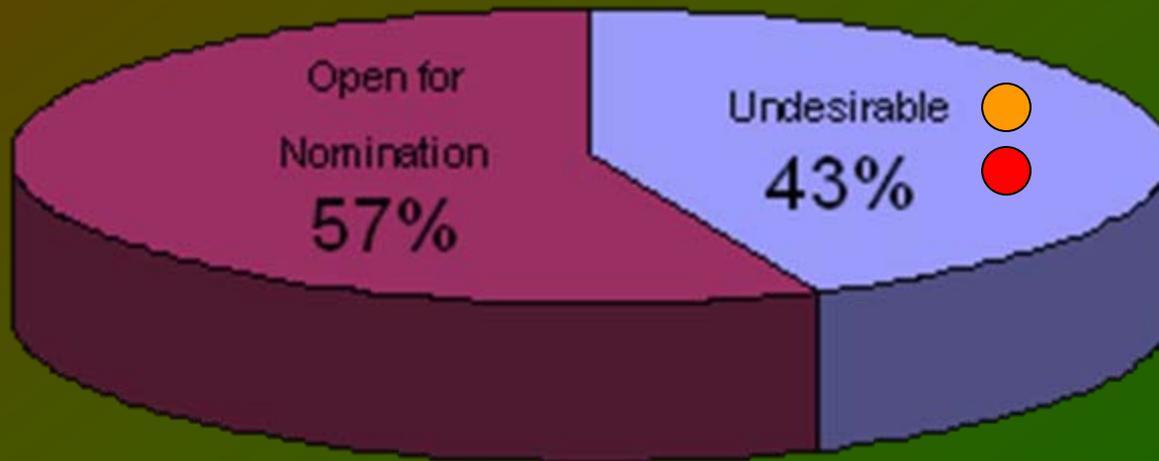
- R-O-W Expansion
- New R-O-W



Eminent Domain?

Undesirable R-O-W Sites

DCNR Lands	Total Ac.	Undesirable Ac.	
State Forest	2,129,725	771,553	(36%)
State Park	273,148	273,148	(100%)
Total	2,402,873	1,044,701	(43%)



State Forest Environmental Review

“On initiation of any project on state forest lands that may or will disrupt, alter, or otherwise change the environment, review and consider the environmental review items.”

State Forest Environmental Review Projects:

- Wetlands Encroachment
- In-stream Alterations
- Disturbance Activities in a Natural Area
- Timber Management in a Wild Area
- Right-of-Way Expansions or New Construction (pipelines or major powerlines)
- Surface Mining, Oil and Gas Leases (excluding gas storage)
- Large-Scale Stone Removals
- Subsurface Disturbance to Caves
- Addition of Public-Use Roads
- Land Acquisitions/Exchanges
- New Trail Construction
- Large Blocks of Artificial Regeneration
- Other Projects as Determined by the State Forester

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/sfrmp/overview.htm#projectreviews>

State Forest Environmental Review

Project Review Items

- ✓ Promotion of Goals
- ✓ Erosion and Sedimentation
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Air Quality
- ✓ Water Quantity
- ✓ Groundwater
- ✓ Soils
- ✓ Unique and Unusual Geologic Features
- ✓ Aesthetic Values
- ✓ Noise Levels
- ✓ Archeological Sites and Historic Sites
- ✓ Recreation Sites and Opportunities
- ✓ Public Health and Safety
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Energy Needs/Use
- ✓ Existing/Potential Land Use
- ✓ Protected Animals and Plants
- ✓ Habitat Diversity and Interspersion
- ✓ Biological Productivity
- ✓ Vegetation
- ✓ Non-Native Invasive Species
- ✓ Permits

State Forest Environmental Review

✓ DCNR Reviewers

- Planning Section
- Ecological Services
- Minerals Section
- Recreation Section
- Operations Section
- District Foresters
- Office of Conservation Science
- Bureau of State Parks
- Policy Office
- Legal Office
- Bureau of Recreation & Conservation



Final Decision



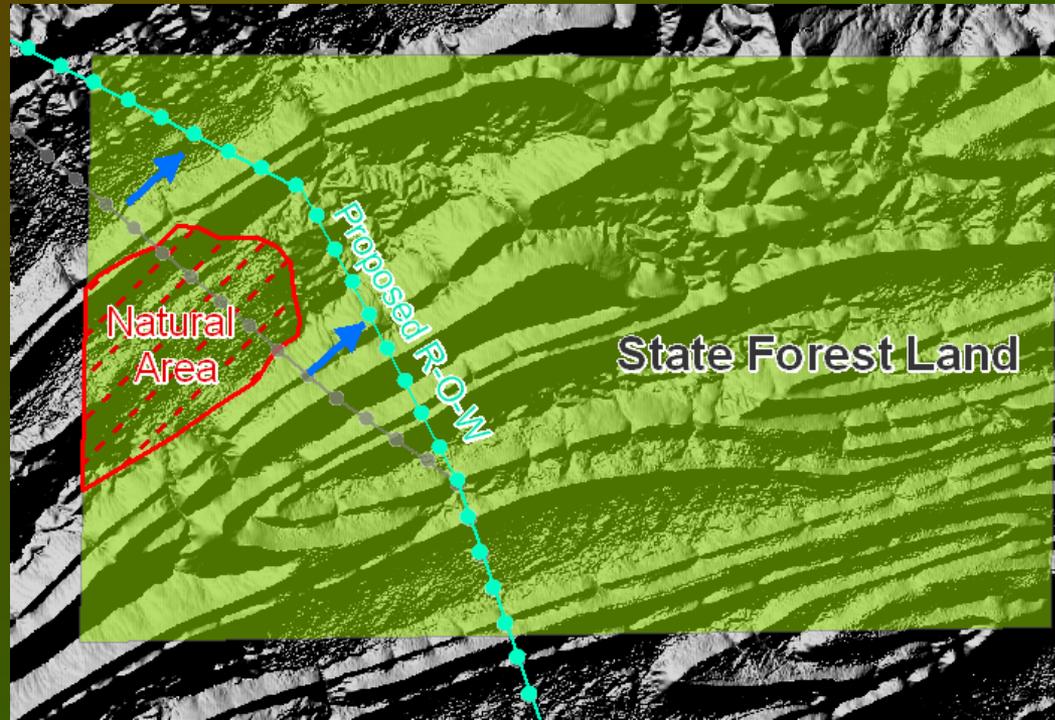
- **State Forester**
- **DCNR Executive Staff**

Example Illustrations

Example Illustration #1

Natural Areas

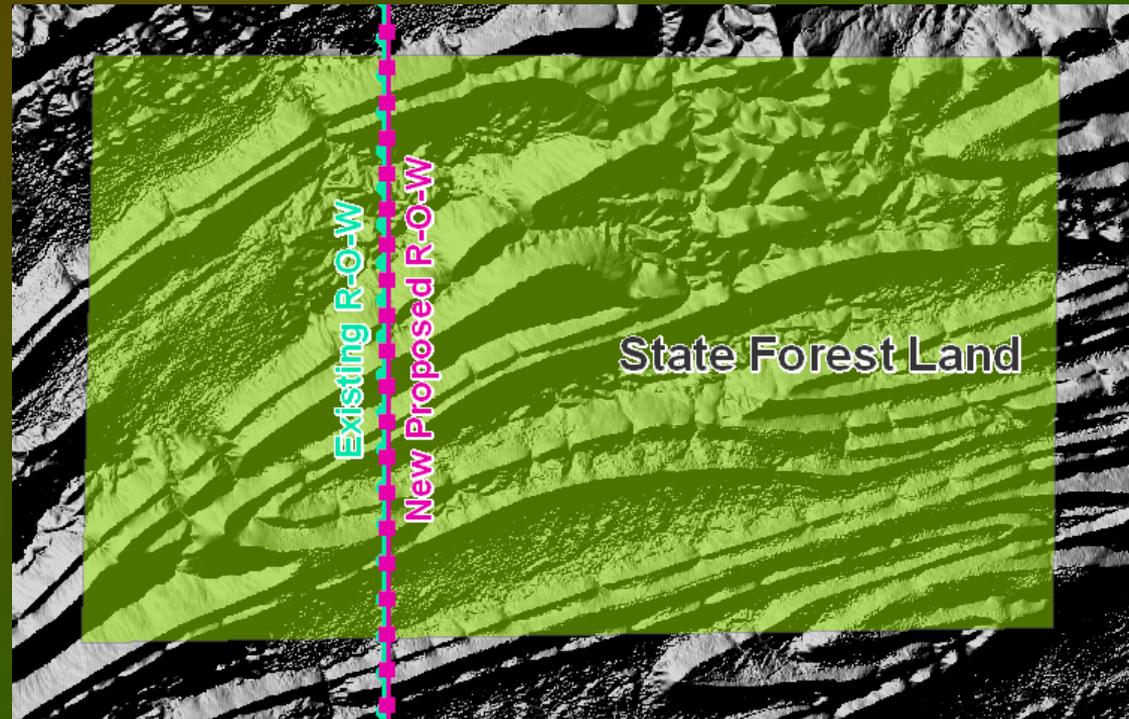
- Unique values (scenic, historic, geologic or ecological)
- Maintained without direct human intervention
- Scientific observation of natural systems
- Unique plant and animal communities
- Outstanding examples of natural interest and beauty



Example Illustration #2

Utilize Existing Infrastructure

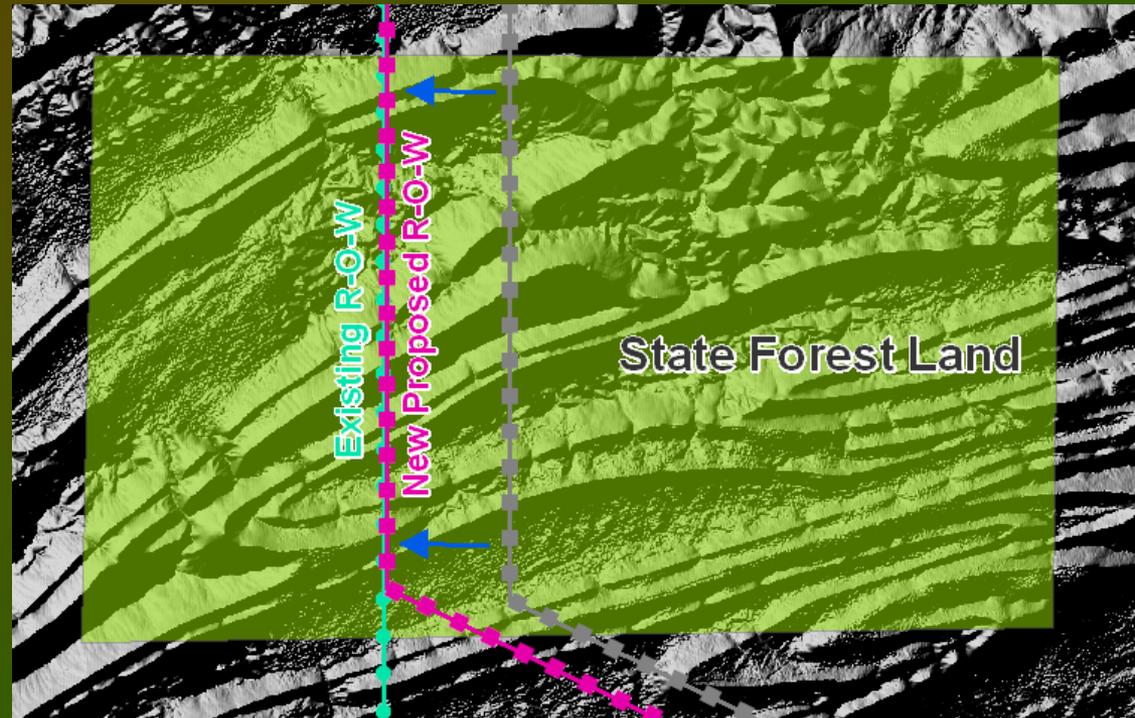
- Minimize Fragmentation



Example Illustration #3

Utilize Existing Infrastructure

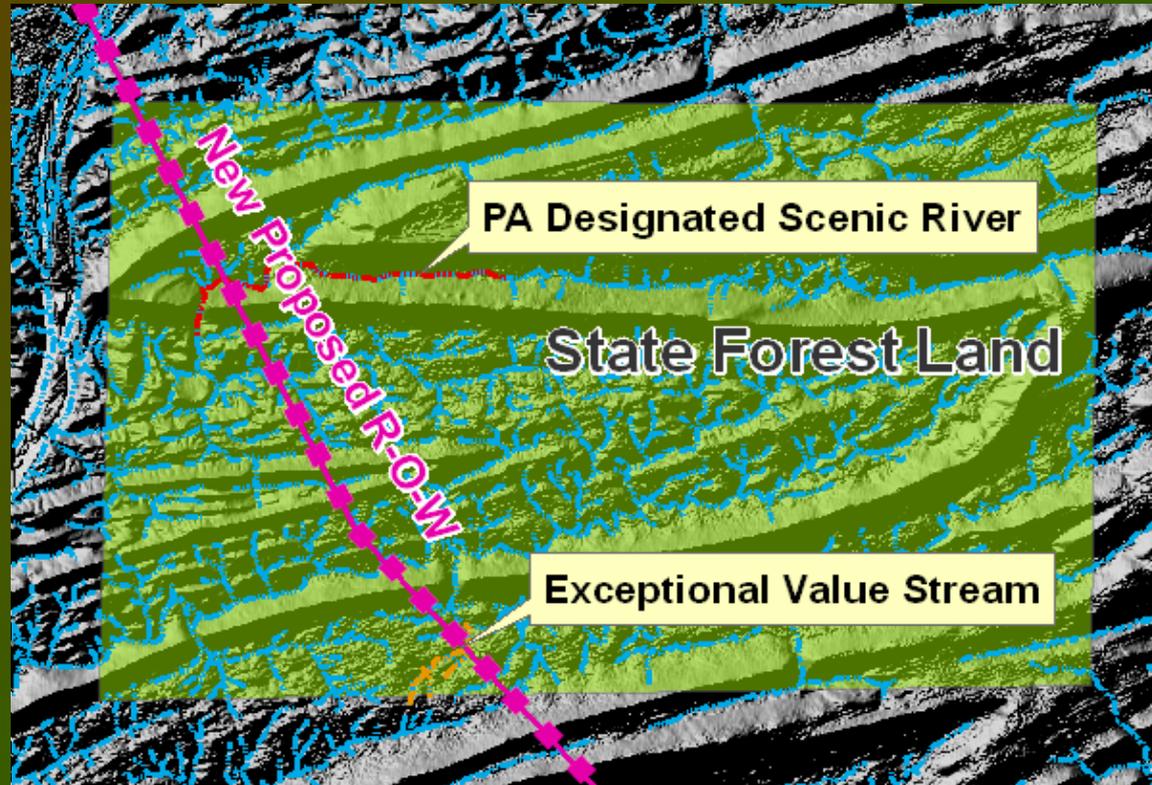
- Minimize Fragmentation



Example Illustration #4

Sample Project Review Items

- Existing / Potential Land Use
- Water Quality / Quantity
- Groundwater
- Aesthetics
- Recreation Sites / Opportunities
- Protected Animals / Plants
- Habitat Diversity & Interspersion



Review of Principles

- DCNR manages 2.4 million acres
- Some are highly undesirable for ROWs
- Others can accommodate ROWs, at varyingly lesser impacts
- By working together we can identify acceptable routes which minimize undesirable impact to natural resources

