

## Buchanan State Forest

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# 2015 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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. The SFRMP is implemented at the local level by forest district-specific plans that aim to balance the many uses and values of the forest through ecosystem management.

The Bureau of Forestry is committed to considering the views and perspectives of the public and various stakeholders. [Penn's Woods: Sustaining Our Forests](#) defines the strategic vision of the Bureau of Forestry, and states, "Public participation will be an integral part of the management of state forest lands." Public notification and input is solicited in many ways, including public meetings, newsletters, social media, advisory committees and participation in outreach events. The purpose of this Management Activities document is to communicate upcoming forest management activities, projects and events being conducted to implement the SFRMP on Buchanan State Forest. This document will be populated in January to include projects planned for the upcoming year and then revised again in July to reflect any changes for the remaining 6 months of the year.

Districts strive to accommodate local-level interests in planning management activities and making decisions when it is possible to do so. Comments or questions regarding planned or proposed activities are most appropriately directed to the local state forest district initially. Should questions remain following local consultation, please provide them to [PAForester@pa.gov](mailto:PAForester@pa.gov). The Forest Resource Planning and Information Division will coordinate with the State Forester's Office to review the situation and provide feedback.

For questions, comments or more information about this plan, please contact:

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## RECREATION

- A trail connector is being evaluated to re-establish a connection in the Sweet Root Natural Area. This project has not yet undergone an environmental review, but if approved would reestablish a lost portion of the Sweet Root Road, used only as a hiking trail, that is present at both the top and bottom the Sweet Root gap.
- A trail reroute is being proposed for the Roaring Run Trail to move a portion of the trail that runs adjacent to the creek to higher ground where the water table and surface water will have less of an impact on trail conditions. This will hopefully allow the trail to be part of the multi-use trail system again and become part of a horseback route.
- A parking and camping area is proposed for the Bark Road / Tower Area. This area is being designed to accommodate larger trailers. No areas currently exist on Buchanan State Forest south of Route 30 that can accommodate these types of vehicles. This will reduce hazards associated with recreational users crossing Route 30 and provide access to additional loop trail systems.
- The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club plans to rehabilitate a foot bridge on the Tuscarora Trail (Allen Trail).
- ATV Bridges will undergo repairs as part of routine maintenance and to more safely accommodate the classes of vehicles permitted to use our trail system.
- The ATV trail along Evitts Mountain will receive additional maintenance attention this year that may have a short-term impact on users. Roadsides will be trimmed back with a boom mower to increase the riding pleasure and prevent the vegetation from encroaching on the roadway.
- The development of a handicapped accessible hunting and wildlife viewing area is proposed for the Town Hill Tract. The plan is to use existing infrastructure from past timber sales and improve the area to allow access by a variety of mobility devices.
- In cooperation with the Bedford County Vo-tech, the fireplaces / chimneys located at the Blankley Picnic area will be repaired. This will entail the dismantling and reassembly of the stones that make up the chimneys.
- The new Hardwood Trails tract in located in the vicinity of Lake Koon and Lake Gordan in Bedford County that was acquired in 2014 will undergo assessment of current infrastructure and planning for recreation and timber resources will occur throughout 2015.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Previously marked sales that are likely to be active in 2015 include:
  - 02-2013BC02 Bear Valley Ski Trail sale located across from the Bear Valley Foreman Headquarters in Franklin County,
  - 02-2013BC03 Grouse sale located off Tower Road along the Fulton Franklin County



- line,
  - 02-2013BC04 Indian Hill Sale located off of McKees Gap Road in Bedford County,
  - 02-2013BC05 Broken Arrow sale located along Oregon Road in Fulton County,
  - 02-2013BC06 Aspen sale located off of Betsy Road in Fulton County,
  - 02-2013BC08 Sugar Mountain sale located off of Bark Road on Fulton County,
  - and 02-2013\_C09 Drum located off of Reddinger Road and Bowman Trail in Bedford County.
- Recent sales that are less likely but could potentially see activity in 2015 are:
  - 02-2014BC01 Indian Grave 2 sale located off of Indian Grave Road in the area of McKees Gap in Fulton County,
  - 02-2014BC02 Pump Station Road sale off of Pump Station Road near Winter Trail in Fulton County,
  - 02-2014BC03 Burned sale off of Pittman Road in Fulton County,
  - and 02-2014BC04 Paddy Mountain sale off of Big Mountain Road, Bedford County.
- Areas under evaluation for future sales are as follows:
  - an area in the vicinity of Allen Trail in Fulton County that is experiencing oak decline,
  - an area in the vicinity of Stuckey Road and Collins Road in Bedford County,
  - several smaller sale sites in Fulton County will be evaluated for sales with accompanying herbicide treatments for problem mid-story species along Hinish Trail, Thermostat Road, Snowfield Trail,
  - a low quality site off of Bark Road in Fulton County will be evaluated for a potential grouse and golden winged warbler treatment area.
- Fences will be proposed and hopefully installed along Piney Creek at the site of the 02-2013BC01 Don's Dolly Dock sale to protect pine regeneration.

## **RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

- The 02-2013BC03 Grouse sale located off Tower Road along the Fulton Franklin County line and the adjacent sale, 02-2007BC03 CCO, that was previously harvested are part of a treatment area to create and promote habitat suitable for both Golden Winged Warbler and Ruffed Grouse. These areas have a low site quality for timber, but have great potential for maintaining quality habitat for both of these species. Each of these areas will be treated post-harvest with a cycle of prescribed burns to promote the desired habitat.
- Rehabilitation is being planned at several locations along two creeks in the Buchanan State Forest. The proposed locations are in Trout Run in Franklin County near the Bear Valley Picnic Area and in Sweet Root Creek near the Chaneyville Forest Foreman Headquarters.

## **ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- An access road and parking area will be constructed at the new Hardwood Trails tract in located in the vicinity of Lake Koon and Lake Gordan in Bedford County. Once complete this will be the primary access for recreational opportunities in this area.
- Akersville Road will have paver placed Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) between Route 30 and Deer Hill Trail. This project is anticipated to take place during the summer months.
- Two bridges along Keefer Road, over the Conodoguinet and Trout Run, in Franklin County have been undergoing design for replacement and repair activities. Work on the bridges is anticipated to begin sometime late in 2015 but may extend to 2016.
- Abey Road in Bedford County is in the design phase to replace a large culvert with a bridge. Work on this project is anticipated in late 2015 but may extend to 2016.
- Several other small culvert replacements are anticipated to take place during 2015: Gilbert Road, Bark Road, Wertz Road, and Northcraft Road.

### **PRESCRIBED FIRE**

- Martin Hill North Prescribed Fire along Blankley Road will hopefully be treated with a prescribed burn in the spring of 2015 to improve silvicultural options for the site. The burn plan has been approved and the site is being monitored for appropriate burning conditions.
- A prescribed fire along Tower Road near the Fulton Franklin County line will hopefully be treated in the spring of 2015 pending burn plan approval and weather permitting. This burn is being conducted for wildlife habitat improvement for Grouse and Golden Winged Warbler.

### **INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT**

- Insect and disease monitoring will occur throughout the Buchanan in 2015 and any information will be submitted to Forest Pest Management.
- Aerial surveys for significant populations of defoliators, diseases, and mortality will be conducted in late June.
- Control efforts for invasive plants will continue at locations across the district in 2015. Spot treatments will occur at the locations of many current and recent sale areas for ailanthus, mile-a-minute, Japanese barberry, and a few other problem species. Ongoing Japanese barberry treatment sites along Oregon Road and Aughwick Road will be monitored and treated as needed. Mile-a-minute control efforts along mowed roadways and trails will continue to be priority treatment sites. Weevils have been released at various locations across the district in 2010 and 2014, and volunteer weevils have been found at several other sites. We will continue to evaluate sites for future releases and plan to add to populations on Evitts Mountain, the recently acquired Hardwood Trails property near Lake Gordon, the

Kerper Tract, and locations along Summit Road and Fisher Road.

- Emerald Ash Borer has been confirmed in our area since 2010, and most of the populations of ash have already been impacted. Surveys for any additional roadside or trailside ash mortality will be conducted and hazards will be removed.

## **NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT**

- No gas or oil development is anticipated in the Buchanan State Forest at this time.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

- Hopefully the new Buchanan State Forest Resource Management Center will stay on track to break ground sometime in 2015. This facility will be located in Knobsville which is 5 miles north of McConnellsburg along Route 522.
- The new Forest Maintenance Headquarters for Chaneyville is in the planning process and final plans should be completed in 2015.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Buchanan State Forest Staff will assist the Pennsylvania Game Commission to provide a Bear Check Station at the Sideling Hill Forest Foreman Headquarters along Route 30 just east of Breezewood. Dates are pending the announcement of the 2015 Bear season. The check station is open to the public.
- As part of the revision of the State Forest Resource Management Plan the Buchanan State Forest will hold a public meeting to get input from all stakeholders. Stay tuned for dates and locations near you.

## **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

- The most exciting accomplishment from 2014 was the addition of the new Hardwood Trails tract. Located in the Cumberland Valley in Bedford County in the vicinity of Lake Koon and Lake Gordan, the tract adds 1,700 acres to the state forest system. Hardwood Trails connects two previously disparate parcels of state forest land, providing connectivity of important ridge habitat that promotes enhanced recreational opportunities, improved public access and the conservation of important ecological features. The tract also protects headwater streams and a municipal water supply. It was purchased through a partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation

and the Bureau of Forestry. Assessments of current infrastructure and planning for recreation and timber resources will occur throughout 2015. Construction of an access road and parking area will begin as well.

- Several important infrastructure improvements were completed in 2014 and include:
  - Bridge deck replacement on Kinton Tower Road, Bedford County
  - DSA application on 1.7 miles of Martin Hill Road, Bedford County
  - DSA application on 0.7 miles of Keefer Road, Franklin County
  - And the second phase of DSA application on Broad Mountain Road, Franklin County.
- State Forest clean-up projects allowed for the gathering and removal of over 4 tons of discarded tires. These tires were taken to a recycling facility.