

Loyalsock State Forest

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 Loyalsock 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. 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

- **Bridle Trailhead Development:** This project is an expansion of an existing equestrian camping area. This existing trailhead in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County along Worlds End Road currently holds up to 14 horse trailers. The project commenced in the fall of 2014 and will continue into the spring of 2015 until complete. The majority of the project involves the construction of an additional one way road loop and the leveling and clearing of an additional 8 camping sites. Picnic tables and high lead poles will be installed at each of the 8 additional sites and a manure composting bin is planned.
- **Old Loggers Path Trailhead Development:** This project is a continuation of recent improvements to the camping facilities in the ghost town of Masten, McNett Township, Lycoming County. Work planned for 2015 is the installation of a ventilated concrete sealed vault latrine to replace the temporary rental latrine. This project is pending funding and may not be possible for 2015.
- **Old Loggers Path Improvements:** This project involves the ongoing replacement of carved letter, wooden signage along entry points to the Old Loggers Path and the expansion/improvement of small parking areas at points where the trail crosses public use roads.
- **Kiosks:** This project involves the placement of informational kiosks at the Old Loggers Path Trailhead in Masten, McNett Township, Lycoming County and at the Loyalsock Trail crossing at Dry Run Road in Hillsgrove Township, Sullivan County.
- **Numbered Campsites:** This project includes the establishment of designated and numbered roadside campsites throughout the forest district, adding to those previously numbered sites. All popular and repetitively used roadside camping sites will be added to the designated and numbered site inventory, increasing the amount of numbered sites from 11 to 70. Camping policy will be updated to reflect changes in program. Sites will be posted with fiberglass posts and numbers in the fall of 2014 in order to be prepared for the new policy which is effective January 1, 2015.
- **Rock Run Parking Lots:** This project includes the levelling and stabilization of parking areas along Rock Run Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Parking areas will be slightly expanded as terrain permits and will be stabilized with Driving Surface Aggregate in order to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- **Robwood Parking Lot:** This project includes the stabilization of an existing parking area along Rt 220 in Monroe Township, Bradford County. In addition to the parking improvements, informational signage will be installed.
- **ADA Hunting Area:** This project includes establishing a hunting area to accommodate

hunters with disabilities on Nettle Ridge in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County. The area has existing roads and food plots. Roads will be stabilized as required in order to handle 4WD passenger vehicles. This ADA Hunting Area is anticipated to replace the High Rock Spur ADA Hunting Loop which may be closed due to poor visibility and the lack of desirable game forage.

2015 Organized Events:

May:

Youth Fishing Derby (Loyalsock Creek Men's Club): a one day youth fishing derby on Little Bear Creek. Approximately 80 participants. Derby will also be followed by a 2-week restriction to just youth and handicapped people along the lower section of Little Bear Creek.

June: Smith's Knob Scramble (Mid Penn Trailblazers): a 9-mile trail run beginning at Camp Conley. Approximately 75 participants.
Equestrian Charity Ride (4-H Trail Trotters): a 25-mile equestrian ride on the Bridle Trail. Approximately 25 participants.

October:

Wounded Warrior ATV Benefit Ride (Highland Lake Snowmobile and Outdoor Recreation Club): guided ATV ride on State Forest roads in the Mill Creek, Sharp Top and Bear Wallow Pond vicinity. Approximately 100 participants.
High Knob Trail Run (Sullivan County Recreation Association): a 9-mile trail run in the High Knob vicinity. Approximately 75 participants.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Timber management activities will include:

- **Dismantle of woven wire deer enclosures:** These projects involve the removal of woven wire fencing, posts and gates after the successful establishment of regenerating forest tree species.
 - 48-acre fence near Ketchum Run in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
 - 17-acre fence near Ketchum Run in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
 - 6-acre fence near Round Top in Lewis Twp, Lycoming County
 - 97-acre fence near Cold Run Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
 - 50-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
 - 74-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County



- 15-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
 - 37-acre fence near Winner Knob in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
 - 11-acre fence near Camels Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
 - 40-acre fence near Coal Mine Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
 - 29-acre fence near Coal Mine Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
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- **Installation of woven wire deer exclosures:** These projects include the installation of a woven wire deer fence, posts and gates to protect newly established tree regeneration.
 - 34-acre fence near Bear Wallow Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
 - 30-acre fence near Masten Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 19-acre fence near Masten Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 63-acre fence near Devil's Elbow Haul Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 53-acre fence near Middle Hill Road in Elkland Twp, Sullivan County
 - 59-acre fence near John Merrill Road Extension in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County
 - 56-acre fence near Devil's Elbow Haul Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 39-acre fence near Devil's Elbow Haul Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 58-acre fence near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 31-acre fence near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 88-acre fence near John Merrill Road Extension in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County
 - 38-acre fence near Devil's Elbow Haul Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 58-acre fence near Ellenton Mountain Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 46-acre fence near Mill Creek Road in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
 - 28-acre fence near Worlds End Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
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- **Tree Planting:** These projects involve contracted or district tree plantings of native forest tree species in order to supplement natural tree regeneration and to improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity:
 - 86-acres near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
 - 28-acre fence near Worlds End Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
 - 67-acres near Walnut Trail in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
 - 74-acres near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
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- **Herbicide Application (Ground Spray):** These projects include the application of glyphosate and sulfometuron methyl herbicides in order to control native and invasive plant species that are inhibiting the growth of forest tree species.
 - 38-acre block near McCarty Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County
 - 43-acre block near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 68-acre block near Big Hollow Road in Plunketts Creek Twp, Lycoming County



- 104-acre block near Ellenton Ridge Road in McIntyre Twp, Lycoming County
 - 43-acre block near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County
 - 27-acre block near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Twp, Lycoming County
 - 31-acre block near Pole Bridge Trail in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
 - 33-acre block near Pole Bridge Trail in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
 - 54-acre block near Pole Bridge Trail in Laporte Twp, Sullivan County
 - 37-acre block near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
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- **Vegetation Mowing:** These projects involve the mechanical removal of woody interfering vegetation species in order to improve conditions to grow desirable tree species.
 - 36-acre block near Devil’s Elbow Haul Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 20-acre block near Krimm Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County
 - 15-acre block near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Twp, Lycoming County
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- **Active Timber Sales:** These projects include the harvesting of timber sales that have been sold and contracted. Activities will include the felling, skidding, and bucking of trees and hauling logs from State Forest land to sawmills. Specific timing of harvesting operations is dependent upon the individual operator and various restrictions emplaced by the district.
 - 40 acre sale (20-2012BC01) near Mineral Spring Road in Fox/Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County, Overstory Removal
 - 47 acre sale (20-2012BC09) near Worlds End Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County, Overstory Removal
 - 60 acre sale (20-2012BC12) near Ellenton Ridge Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
 - 92 acre sale (20-2013BC01) near Camels Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Shelterwood Treatment
 - 40 acre sale (20-2013BC02) near Ellenton Ridge Road in McIntyre Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
 - 50 acre sale (20-2013BC04) near John Merrill Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County, Shelterwood Treatment
 - 122 acre sale (20-2013BC05) near High Knob Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County, Shelterwood Treatment
 - 109 acre sale (20-2013BC06) near Butternut Grove Road in Gamble Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
 - 83 acre sale (20-2014BC02) near Hagerman Run Road in Lewis Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
 - 41 acre sale (20-2014BC04) near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal



- 18 acre sale (20-2014BC06) near Loyalsock Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County, Overstory Removal
- 78 acre sale (20-2014BC07) near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County, Overstory Removal
- **Planned Timber Sales:** These projects include the analysis, volume determination, marketing and contracting of timber sales that have been approved for implementation. It also includes those planned timber sales that are being analyzed and for which an official timber sale proposal will be generated and submitted this calendar year. Additional timber sales that have not yet gone through the initial planning and analysis are not included.
 - 73 acre sale (20-2014BC01) near Little Bear Road in Plunkett's Creek Twp, Lycoming County, Overstory Removal
 - 211 acre sale (20-2014BC03) near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Twp, Lycoming County, Shelterwood Treatment
 - 128 acre sale (20-2014BC05) near Big Hollow Road in Cascade Twp, Lycoming County, 60 acres of Overstory Removal and 68 acres of Shelterwood Treatment
 - 73 acre sale (20-2014BC08) near McCarty Road in Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County, Overstory Removal
- **Ash Salvage along Rock Run Road:** This project includes the removal of small diameter white ash trees located in the McIntyre Wild Area along Rock Run Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Fuelwood permits to be sold via FMT-15 permits were marked to remove trees in danger of falling on roadway after they succumb to emerald ash borer. Analysis plots were taken and an official proposal requesting a waiver to cut trees in the Wild Area was approved by the State Forester. Permits will be marked and sold until the majority of the hazard trees are removed.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Wallis Run Stream Habitat:** This project involves the installation of muddills and log vane deflectors to protect fragile stream banks and to add valuable fish habitat to Wallis Run in Gamble Township, Lycoming County. This is an ongoing annual project and dependent upon funding and site access. Four previous projects have been completed within this watershed since 2009.
- **Wallis Run Riparian Tree Planting:** This project involves planting trees and shrubs along the stream banks in and around previous stream bank stabilization projects along Wallis Run in Gamble Township, Lycoming County. Native tree species such as swamp white oak, river birch, sycamore, and silver maple will be planted and protected by tree tubes. Shrub species will be planted on the stream banks and will include native willows, dogwoods and

black elderberry.

- **Grays Run Stream Habitat:** This project involves the installation of mudsills and log vane deflectors to protect fragile stream banks and to add valuable fish habitat to Grays Run in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. In addition, the project will provide protection to a nearby leased forest campsite. This project is dependent upon permitting and funding.
- **Food Plot Management:** This project includes the plowing, seeding, fertilizing and liming of existing food plots throughout the forest district. Work is being conducted through a grant from the National Wild Turkey Federation and a cooperative effort with the PA Game Commission.
- **QDMA Food Plots:** This project includes the replanting of existing food plots throughout the forest district. Planting includes annual crops of deer forage and is completed through a cooperative effort with the Quality Deer Management Association.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- **Rock Run Road over Loyalsock Creek:** This project involves the rehabilitation of the historic iron through-truss bridge in Laporte and Forks Townships, Sullivan County. Work involves repairs to abutments, replacement of wooden deck, painting trusses and repair of rollers.
- **Pleasant Stream Road over Long Run:** This project involves the replacement of a concrete deck short span bridge in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Work involves removal of existing abutments and deck and the installation of an open bottom arch culvert. Culvert will be wider than existing bridge to improve safety and drainage of road bed. Project is dependent upon funding and contracting.
- **Grays Run Road over Long Run:** This project involves the replacement of a steel I-beam short span bridge in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Work involves removal of existing deck and replacement with pre-stressed concrete beams and the repair of existing abutments. Project is being completed by Seneca Resources and coordinated through the Bureau of Facilities Design and Construction.
- **Little Bear Road over Bryan Hay Run:** This project involves the replacement of an arch steel culvert in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County. Project is dependent upon funding, design and contracting.
- **Little Bear Road over Little Bear Creek:** This project involves the replacement of a concrete slab short span bridge in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County and is dependent upon funding, design and contracting.
- **Loyalsock Road over High Rock Run:** This project involves the replacement of a deteriorated steel arch culvert in Forks Township, Sullivan County.
- **Shanerburg Road over East Branch Double Run:** This project involves the replacement of a

deteriorated steel arch culvert in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County.

- **Pleasant Stream Road Repairs:** This work includes the replacement of existing culverts, improvement of drainage, stabilization of ditches and addition of aggregate to running surface on a 6-mile portion of Pleasant Stream Road in McIntyre and McNett Townships, Lycoming County.
- **High Knob Road Asphalt Repairs:** This work involves the paving of 2.25 miles of High Knob Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County. Work is being coordinate through an Agility Project with PennDoT. Asphalt base repairs were completed in the summer of 2014. This project will apply a 2-inch layer of asphalt to the existing asphalt surface.
- **Dry Run Road Asphalt Repairs:** This work involves the paving of 0.25 miles of Dry Run Road in Hillsgrove Township, Sullivan County. Work is being coordinate through an Agility Project with PennDoT. Asphalt base repairs were completed in the summer of 2014. This project will apply a 2-inch layer of asphalt to the existing asphalt surface from Route 87 to the Forest Maintenance Headquarters.
- **Dry Run Road Asphalt Reclamation:** This project involves the reclamation of 1-mile of existing asphalt road in Hillsgrove Township, Sullivan County. The existing deteriorated asphalt will be milled and combined with Driving Surface Aggregate and then maintained as a dirt and gravel road.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- **Red Ridge Prescribed Fire:** This project includes a prescribed fire in a mature oak forest. The 100-acre block of forest is in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County on Red Ridge. It is part of a 200-acre research study proposed by the United States Forest Service and will aid in determining the effects of wildfire on rattlesnake populations, snake habitat as well as provide optimum site conditions for the establishment of oak tree species and the reduction of undesirable forest growth. Completion of the project will be dependent upon the burning index, fire weather and site conditions during the springtime burning window.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- **Tract 100:** Seneca Resources will be applying prodiamine, a pre-emergent herbicide, in order to control two populations of mile-a-minute weed. The populations are located in Lewis Township, Lycoming County near the Hagerman Run Compression Station and along Kinney Ridge Road.
- **Emerald Ash Borer Tree Injections:** This project includes the injection of emamectin benzoate insecticide (Tree-age) into approximately 116 white and black ash trees located in various blocks near Rock Run Road in Forks Twp, Sullivan County, near High Knob Road in

Shrewsbury Twp, Sullivan County and near Cascade Road in Plunketts Creek and Cascade Twps, Lycoming County.

- **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Soil Injection:** This project includes the application of dinotefuran insecticide (Safari) via soil injection to control populations of hemlock woolly adelgid and hemlock elongate scale. Project site is a 2-acre block of hemlock forest at the Dry Run Picnic Area in Hillsgrove Township, Sullivan County.
- **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Tree Injection:** These projects include the application of imidacloprid insecticide (Merit) via tree injection to control populations of hemlock woolly adelgid and hemlock elongate scale. Project sites are a 2-acre block of hemlock forest at the Bear Wallow Pond in Fox Township, Sullivan County and a 2-acre block of hemlock forest at Sandy Bottom in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- **Tract 100:** Seneca Resources will continue on-going gas development in the Grays Run area, McIntyre and Lewis Townships, Lycoming County. No additional construction is anticipated however various projects on existing well pads and pipelines can be expected. A vertical monitoring pad along Upper Grays Run Road will be reclaimed and planted with trees and herbaceous cover. Various locations along established pipeline corridors will be planted with tree and shrub species. Small deer exclosures will be installed to protect seedlings from deer browsing. There is the potential to bury an existing over-the-ground waterline between Browns Road and the Hagerman Run Compression Station.
- **Tract 551:** Anadarko Petroleum has proposed the construction of Pad A along the Bodine Mountain Extension Road, in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County, and the relocation of a portion of said road to reduce impacts to timber rattlesnake habitat. Also proposed is a pipeline corridor from the Bodine Mountain Compression Station (operated by Seneca Resources) along Bodine Mountain Road to the proposed Pad A location.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Hillsgrove Equipment Storage Building:** This project involves the demolition of a deteriorated wooden pole building and the construction of a steel structure. Building is used to store the district's heavy equipment.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Facebook page:** The district initiated a Facebook page in fall 2014. Page will be monitored

on a daily basis and the district staff will update the page with worthy information at a minimum of once per week.

- **Loyalsock Vista:** This is a district newsletter compiling articles from staff on recreation, forest management and forest fire protection. It is sent annually via email and postal mail to Forest Fire Wardens, forest campsite lessees, retirees, and a variety of other contacts.
- **Green Career Day:** This project involves introducing middle school students in Sullivan, Bradford and Tioga school districts to a variety of outdoor career fields. Project is dependent upon funding and school participation and is generally held in mid to late September.
- **Sullivan County Elementary Youth Field Day:** This project involves teaching elementary school children about conservation and is held in Laporte in late May.
- **Sullivan County Fair:** This project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fair in Forksville.
- **Sullivan County Fall Festival:** This project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fairgrounds in Forksville.
- **Sullivan County Flaming Foliage Festival:** This project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fairgrounds in Forksville.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

GENERAL:

- Expanded historical displays of information and artifacts at Resource Management Center

MAINTENANCE:

- Replaced and added culverts, cleaned and stabilized ditches and paver placed DSA on 2.75 miles of Shanerburg Road
- Rehabilitated 1.7 miles of upper Pleasant Stream Road by replacing culverts, cutting brush, repairing ditch lines and resurfacing
- Initiated an Agility Agreement with PennDOT to repair asphalt portions of High Knob and Dry Run Roads in exchange for chainsaw safety training
- Installed entering/leaving state forest signs along public roadways
- Painted/repared/replaced state forest signs east of Rt. 87
- Replaced/installed missing signs Districtwide
- Painted state forest boundaries in Little Bear Creek, Jacoby Mountain, and Blessing Mountain blocks
- Performed reconstruction of lower Pleasant Stream Road and re-opened the road to public travel after a 4 ½-year closure
- Replaced bridges on Little Bear Creek Road over Red Run and along Little Bear Creek Road at

Forest Maintenance area access road

- Installed 6 large culverts on Shanerburg Road, Cold Run Road, McCarty Road, Walker Road, and Cascade Road
- Completed the Hillsgrove Maintenance Station Improvement Project to include equipment/materials/culvert storage area, fuel island relocation, and construction of an employee and snowmobile parking area

FOREST MANAGEMENT & HABITAT MANAGEMENT:

- As of October 16, 2014, the district marked and sold 370 acres of reproduction cuts in accordance with Timber Allocation Model and proposed an additional 178 acres that should be on the market before the end of the year.
- Prepared and implemented Ash Management Plan for District
- Completed riparian plantings along Wallis Run fish habitat/stream bank protection projects
- Completed plantings of 800 seedlings with recruiting Boy Scouts
- Performed vegetation measurements to assess impacts of browsing by white-tailed deer
- Installed silvicultural education panels along Link Trail
- Established food plots for white-tailed deer at Nettle Ridge through cooperation with Quality Deer Management Association

RECREATION:

- Rehabilitated Masten Trailhead and Camping Area
 - Increased/improved available camp sites and marked with permanent markers
 - Replaced or repaired informational signage
 - Established camping area for through-hikers aside from numbered designated sites
- Began the expanded camping opportunities at Bridle Trail Camping Area
 - Currently constructing additional road loop with additional camping sites
 - Completed installation of non-potable water well via Eagle Scout project
- Completed FIMS Recreational Points for on-line interactive public use map.
- Constructed snowmobile trail link between Pleasant Stream Road and Ellenton Ridge Road via Bovier Hollow and Krimm Road
- Began the establishment of additional numbered and designated campsites throughout district
- Constructed parking area at Loyalsock Trail crossing along Little Bear Creek Road that will also serve as a snowmobile trail parking lot
- Constructed parking area for Old Loggers Path and snowmobile trail at Krimm Road intersection with Ellenton Ridge Road.
- Installed informational kiosks and signage at Jacoby Falls Trail, Sandy Bottom Stream Access Area, Bridle Trailhead, Little Bear Creek Parking Area,

- Repaired E & S concerns along Old Loggers Path
- Terminated and removed flood damaged remnants of Leased Campsite 20-C-054
- Developed paper informational panels for professional presentation of a variety of district information to be posted in locking panels of kiosks
- Repaired/replaced/upgraded trail registers on the Old Loggers Path

PUBLIC CONTACT/LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Performed surveillance via patrol and cameras at Camp Conley to address the off-roading situation, leading to a number of citations
- Cooperated with PA Game Commission on a number of hunting violations leading to citations
- Cooperated with US Fish & Wildlife Service and provided invaluable investigative support leading to the arrest of a major ginseng poaching operation
- Performed at least 15 recorded significant assists to forest visitors
- Recorded 102 incident reports as of October 21, 2014 regarding incidents such as fatalities, motor vehicle accidents, burglary, illegal ATV activity, etc.
- Coordinated with Words End State Park to assist with 5 visitor programs this year
- Created Facebook account for District and provided updates at least once per week

SAFETY:

- Began daily safety chats by all work crews giving all staff members responsibility in leading the safety chats
- Conducted Snowmobile Safety Course for District staff

CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS:

- Completed the 4th stream bank stabilization and fish habitat project on Wallis Run through cooperation with Northcentral PA Conservancy, PA Fish and Boat Commission with volunteer support and funding from Anadarko Petroleum
- Planted 100 live-stakes and 50 large trees with volunteers to complete the Wallis Run bank stabilization project

MINERALS:

- Initiated well pad retirements on Tract 100 with Seneca Resources
- Completed riparian tree plantings on NFG pipeline at Long Run and Grays Run crossings
- Initiated plan for tree plantings along NFG pipeline and reinforcement plantings at Hagerman compressor station

RESEARCH

- **Rattlesnake Study:** This project includes a shelterwood cut, prescribed fire, overstory removal cut and a control block on 200 acres of mature oak forest. The United States Forest Service is assisting with the research and hope to gain more insight on the effects of the various silvicultural treatments on the populations and growth of timber rattlesnakes. The project will take place on Red Ridge in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County.
- **Unassessed Waters:** This project involves the aquatic sampling and brook trout habitat assessments on previously unassessed waters in the state forest. The study will also assess the ability of brook trout and macro-invertebrates to respond to flood damaged waterways. The research is being conducted by Susquehanna University and occurs throughout eastern Lycoming and southwestern Sullivan Counties.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy:** This research project involves the assessment of a variety of native herbaceous forest plants as well as waterways within the state forest. Research area includes the Kettle Creek basin in Sullivan County.
- **Marcellus Gas Monitoring Team:** These research and monitoring studies include a variety of areas within the Loyalsock State Forest to include the Pleasant Stream and Rock Run areas. Research will assess base line conditions for a variety of aspects including roads, streams and water quality, mammals, birds, insects and invasive plant species.