

William Penn 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 William Penn 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

- Little Tinicum Island Trail – With monies from the 2004 Athos oil tanker spill a trail and observation deck has been completed on the eastern side of the island. Maps of the trail will be available on the district website soon.
- Goat Hill continues to be a destination point for the serpentine area. The Rose Trail received trail improvements and an extension is in the planning stage.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- A successful Great Blue Heron rookery on the eastern end of Little Tinicum Island is now posted by the Game Commission to protect the birds during nesting season. The newly constructed observation table is an excellent place from which to view the rookery May through June.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- Working with the Bureau of State Parks, the William Penn Forest District plans to implement prescribed burns in several state parks. These burns are planned between spring of 2015 and spring of 2020, weather dependent. The state parks that are involved are French Creek, Jacobsburg, Nockamixon, and Marsh Creek. The proposed burn sites in each park are comprised primarily of warm season grasses in open fields. The implementation of these burns provides FD 17 staff with quality hands on fire training that is difficult to receive elsewhere. The parks benefit by improving the quality of the grasses while minimizing the impact of non-native invasive plants. Prescribed fire burn plans will be written and submitted prior to the start of spring fire season 2015 for French Creek, Nockamixon, and Jacobsburg. A burn plan for Marsh Creek will be written sometime during the 2015 calendar year.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- A plan to protect select ash trees from the Emerald Ash Borer has been completed and will be implemented in 2015 on the following tracts: Johnson Natural Area, Zimmerman Natural Area, Evansburg Field office.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Jacobsburg EEC/ BOF/ Martin Guitar Partnership. This unique partnership with Martin Guitar Co. of Nazareth. Martin Guitar is providing support and funding for the Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center Demonstration Forest. Staff will help create forest plots that will be used as a tool to present and explain sustainable forest management in six uniquely different forest types in the park.
- Re-marking boundary at Goat Hill/ Zimmerman

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Little Tincum Island clean-up days conducted on the first Friday in June with non-profit and corporate partners. In 2015 the date will be June 5th.
- Participation in local sportsman's shows, including the Philadelphia Outdoor Show and the Lehigh Valley Hunting and Fishing Extravaganza.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- TreeVitalize 2013/2014 Lehigh and Northampton Counties
 - 300 New Street Trees planted
- Stewardship L&N
 - 3 New Stewardship Plans Approved
 - 1 New CAP 106 Approved
 - 2 CAP 106 Plans in development

RESEARCH

- There is some excellent research going on down on Goat Hill.