

Susquehannock 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 district-specific resource management plans that aim to balance many uses and values of the forest, while maintaining ecosystem health and the wild character of the forest.

The purpose of this Management Activities document 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. For questions, comments or more information about this plan, please contact:

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RECREATION

- **Mount Broadhead Trails** – trail clearing and maintenance and/or trail marking of 50 miles of trail.
- **Hammersley Trail System** – surveying of trails, trail clearing and maintenance, trail marking and new trail signage. Development of a new brochure focusing on the trail system and recreation in the Hammersely Wild Area.
- **God's Country Shared Use Trail** – clearing, mowing, and/or trail marking of 80 miles of trail. Revising the trail brochure to include mileage between intersections and you are here markers. Installation of 3 sided kiosk at 12 mile Horse Camping Area.
- **Denton Hill Ski Trail** – clearing and maintenance and trail marking of 29 miles of trail.



- **ATV Trail** – placing of approximately 500 tons of stone on the trail along the Caption Shelton pipeline. Grading and trail maintenance. Replacement of 3 large culverts on the West Branch of Pine Creek near Maple Hollow. Replacing trail head sign boards with two sided kiosks at the Rte. 44, Sunken Branch, Lyman Run, and Rock Run trailheads.
- **Snowmobile Trails** – brushing and maintenance. Placing of approximately 500 tons of stone on the trail along the Captain Shelton pipeline. Grooming of 250 miles of trail.
- **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.
- **Billy Lewis Area Trails** – mowing some sections of 69 miles of trail. Other trail maintenance by trail volunteers.
- **Gated Roads Open for Deer Season** – This program allows hunters better access to DMAP 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. The following roads are being opened for the 2014 deer seasons:

SATV/Snowmobile Trail D15 1	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
ATV/Snowmobile Trail D15 2	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
ATV/Snowmobile Trail D15 3	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Alabama Trail	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Dingman Forest Rd	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Jerles Rd	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Keating Summit Haul Road	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Link Haul Rd	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Parking Lot Road	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Pine Hill Haul	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Schoolhouse East	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Schoolhouse West	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014



Shaky Fawn	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Snowmobile Trail	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Stony Run Haul	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Dry Hollow Haul Road	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/6/2014 - 12/13/2014
Jerles Farm	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Culver Woods Haul Road	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Windfall Haul Road	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/6/2014 - 12/13/2014
West Darian	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Wildcat	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014
Wingnut Haul	10/18/2014 - 10/25/2014	12/1/2014 - 12/13/2014

2015 Organized Events:

January, Dice Run (Southern Potter Snowmobile Club)

May, Annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour (Susquehannock State Forest)

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

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- The following are timber sales that are planned for 2015.
 - Overstory removal off of Nelson Run Road gate 315. Area was previously harvested with a shelterwood treatment.
 - 38 acre shelterwood in an oak stand that was treated with herbicide, near Randall Road
 - Overstory removal off Card Creek Road gate 261. Area was previously harvested with a shelterwood treatment.
 - 142 acre shelterwood and 8 acre overstory removal in a northern hardwood stand that was treated with herbicide near the Big Fill Haul Road gate 15.
 - 69 acre overstory removal in a northern hardwood stand that was treated with herbicide near the Ridge Road (ATV Trail) gate 24.



- Approximately 198 acre salvage shelterwood off of McConnell, Windfall, and Red Ridge Road. Area will be treated with herbicide in 2015. This area has a very large component of white ash.
- 80 acre shelterwood near the ATV Trail near Binky Hollow. Area was previously treated with herbicide in 2014.
- 86 acres will be marked for an overstory removal near Kenney Hollow off the Shepard Road. The area is currently fenced and the fence will remain up for an additional 2-3 years following harvest of this sale.
- 68 acres will be marked for an overstory removal and 15 acres will be marked for a two-aged harvest along the Ridge Road. This sale may be fenced following harvest depending on the deer impact.
- 69 acres will be marked for overstory removal and 20 acres will be marked for a two-aged harvest along the Robinson Road.
- 134 acres will be marked for a shelterwood treatment. The northern hardwood stand was previously treated with herbicide to control competing vegetation. The shelterwood harvest will help establish desirable tree seedlings by putting more light to the forest floor.
- 45 acres of overstory removal off the Prouty Lick Snowmobile Trail, area was previously harvested with a shelterwood treatment.
- Shelterwood harvest off Sunken Branch ATV trail. The northern hardwood stand was previously treated with herbicide to control competing vegetation. The shelterwood harvest will help establish desirable tree seedlings by putting more light to the forest floor.
- Approximately 165 acres of shelterwood and 15 acre overstory removal near Windfall Ridge haul road. The shelterwood area will be treated with herbicide in 2015. This area has a very large component of white ash.
- 74 acre shelterwood near Horton Run Road and Pine Hill haul road. The northern hardwood stand was previously treated with herbicide to control competing vegetation. The shelterwood harvest will help establish desirable tree seedlings by putting more light to the forest floor.
- 85 acre shelterwood near Horton Run Road. The northern hardwood stand was previously treated with herbicide to control competing vegetation. The shelterwood harvest will help establish desirable tree seedlings by putting more light to the forest floor.
- Shelterwood harvest in 3 separate blocks in the Pine Island area. These sites were previously herbicided to control competing vegetation. The shelterwood harvest will help establish desirable tree seedlings by putting more light to the forest floor.
- 127 acre shelterwood and 75 acre overstory removal near the Sunken Branch ATV trail near Captain Shelton and Berry Patch trail. Both areas have been previously treated



with herbicide to control competing vegetation.

- 39 acre overstory removal near Rte. 872 south of Austin.
- 190 acre shelterwood near Rock Run Road and Losey Trail. Shelterwood area will be treated with herbicide in 2015. This area has a very large component of White Ash.
- 202 acres of overstory removal near Big Moore's Road. Area was previously treated with herbicide and harvested with a shelterwood treatment.
- 97 acre shelterwood on east side of Rte. 44 near the fire tower. This area was treated with herbicide in 2012.
- Overstory removal near the Portage Road. Area was previously treated with herbicide.
- Overstory removal off of the Hungry Hollow Road. Area was previously treated with herbicide and harvested with a shelterwood treatment.
- The following herbicide projects to control competing vegetation that is inhibiting desirable forest regeneration from becoming established are planned for 2015:
 - Off Thompson Hollow Road, 58 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Windfall Road, 96 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years. This area has a high concentration of white ash and is a high priority because of EAB
 - Off SR 144 near Indian Run, 41 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Pine Island Road, 70 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off East Fork Road, 73 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Windfall Road, 69 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years. This area has a high concentration of white ash and is a high priority because of EAB
 - Off SR 144 near Indian Run, 34 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off McConnell Road, 198 acres, Glysohate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years. This area has a high concentration of white ash and is a high priority because



of EAB

- Off SR 144 near Long Run Trail, 63 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Thompson Hollow, 16 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off ATV trail near Jacob's Hollow, 50 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off of Southwoods Road near Dry Run, 94 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off the Randall Road near Warpath Hollow, 38 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Near Heath Hollow, 89 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Shepard Road near Greenlick Station, 15 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off SR 872 near Odin Hoxie Trail, 52 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Rock Run Road near Losey Run, 190 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years. This area has a high concentration of white ash and is a high priority because of EAB
 - Off Jerles Farm Road, 135 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off SR 44, 44 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
 - Off Thompson Hollow Road, 16 acres, Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) to control striped maple, beech brush and fern in preparation for a timber sale in the next few years
- The following projects to cut tall striped maple and beech brush that are inhibiting desirable forest regeneration from becoming established are planned:



- 55 acres north of the Sunken Branch Road off of the ATV Trail
- 45 acres off of the Hungry Hollow Road
- The following projects to treat tall striped maple and beech brush that are inhibiting desirable forest regeneration with Triclopyr (Garlon 4) herbicide are planned:
 - 69 acres, off of the ATV Trail known as Ridge Road between Thompson Hollow Road and Rock Run Road
- The following tree planting projects to enhance species diversity, wildlife habitat and supplement established desirable regeneration are planned:
 - 49 acres, 5000 white pine and 2000 red oak, off of Hungry Hollow Road and the Dry Hollow Haul Road
 - 40 acres, 5000 white pine and 5000 red oak, off of the Shepard Road near the Porter Branch
 - 30 acres, 10000 white pine and 10000 white spruce, off of Rte. 44 and the Francis Road
 - 54 acres, 10000 white pine, off of the Gas Well Road
 - 71 acres, 10000 white pine, off of the Pine Island Road
 - 55 acres, 20000 white pine, 10000 red oak and 5000 tulip poplar, off of Spring Brook Road
 - 24 acres, 5000 white pine, off of the Portage Road
- The following deer fence installations to protect desirable forest regeneration from browsing by white tailed deer are planned:
 - Installation of an electric deer exclosure off Hungry Hollow Road and Dry Hollow Haul Road
 - Installation of an electric deer exclosure off Hungry Hollow Road and Dry Hollow Haul Road
 - Installation of an electric deer exclosure off of Rte. 44 near Mt. Broadhead
 - Installation of an electric deer exclosure off of Rte. 44 near Mt. Broadhead
 - Installation of an electric deer exclosure off of Rte. 44 near Mt. Broadhead
 - Installation of an electric deer exclosure off of the Portage Road
 - Installation of a woven wire deer exclosure off of the Shepard Road and Culver Woods Haul Road
 - Installation of a woven wire deer exclosure off of the Shepard Road and Culver Woods Haul Road
 - Installation of a woven wire deer exclosure off of the Shepard Road near Joerg Run Road
- The following deer fence removals are planned:
 - Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Pine Island Road
 - Removal of an electric deer fence south of the Sunken Branch Road off of the ATV trail
 - Removal of an electric deer fence south of the Sunken Branch Road off of the ATV trail
 - Removal of an electric deer fence off of SR. 144 near Long Hollow
 - Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Elk Lick and Pine Island Roads



- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Elk Lick and Pine Island Roads
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Randall Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Randall Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Boone Run Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Portage Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Portage Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Lyman Run Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Wild Boy Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Rock Ridge and Wild Boy Road
- Removal of a woven wire deer fence off of the Shepard Road near Joerg Run Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Shepard Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Boone Run Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Black Diamond Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the McConnell Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of the Portage Road
- Removal of an electric deer fence off of SR 44
- Timber sale harvesting activity can be hard to predict with contracts lasting for up to 3 years. Contact the District Office at fd15@pa.gov or 814-274-3600 for information on active sales.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Horton Run** – Planting of the reclaimed monitoring pad and water impoundment. Planting will include aspen, larch, and black locust.
- **McConnell Road** – Planting of two reclaimed shallow wells and access road. Planting will include aspen, larch, and black locust.
- **Denton Hill** – Seneca Resources will be replanting a reclaimed monitoring well on Tract 001.
- **Food Plot Program** – Cooperative efforts between the forest district and PGC Food & Cover Crew complete 135 acres of food plot management in 2014 across the district. 2015 plans will be decided in February 2015.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Spring 2015 – Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) on Wild Boy Road – Starting at the end of the township section of the road covering 0.7 mile to new gravel that was placed in 2014.
- Spring 2015 – Drainage improvement / gravel placement on McConnell Road approximately 1.2 miles – location just south of Long Hollow

- Summer 2015 - Improve Drainage / Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) placement 0.5 mile – location Sunken Branch Road 2.3 miles east of the Billy Lewis Road
- Summer / Fall 2015 – Large culvert replacement on Lebo Run Road at Big Springs Branch
- Summer / Fall 2015 – Large culvert replacement on the ATV / Snowmobile trail near Maple Hollow

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- No prescribed fires are planned on the district for 2015.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- Insect and disease monitoring and reporting will continue in 2015 and will focus on the priority list provided by the Division of Forest Pest Management (FPM). Report forms will be forwarded to FPM Area Specialist from the District I&D 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.
- Treatment for EAB will be performed at several sites including Commissioner Run, Red Ridge, Portage, and Trout Run. Ash at the treatment areas will be inventoried and injected with chemical insecticides to control the Emerald Ash Borer. The treatment of these trees will take place following the approval of a state forest environmental review, with a target of May and early June 2015.
- Continued treatment for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the Dutlinger Natural Area. Goal is to treat approximately 400 more trees in the old growth area.
- Mile-a-minute treatment will continue in the Pine Island, Elk Lick, and Portage areas.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- Presently there are no new natural gas, oil, or pipeline development activities taking place within the Susquehannock State Forest.
- 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.

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 2015 Tour can be gotten by contacting the district office in early April at 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 or calling 814-274-3600.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Marked and sold 2365 acres of timber. These timber sales generated almost \$9 million dollars
- Administered the contracts and harvesting of over 20 timber sales
- Completed administration of contract for the herbicide application of Glyphosate (Round Up) and Sulfometuron (Oust) on 1199 acres to control competing vegetation consisting of beech brush, striped maple, and fern
- Completed administration of contract for herbicide application of Triclopyr (Garlon 4) on 155 acres to control tall striped maple and beech brush
- Erected 9 new electric deer exclosures and tore down 4 electric deer exclosures, maintained the existing deer exclosures, that total is 88 fences
- Completed the following road maintenance projects:
 - Liquid Fuels Project – McConnell Road – Approximately 1.5 miles of road (culverts added and replaced as needed, sections of the road built-up, outside berm cut to allow sheet-follow, and gravel placed) – 3450 tons of 2A stone – Project location from Nelson Hollow to the north.
 - Dirt and Gravel Roads Project – Wild Boy Road – Approximately 1.7 miles of road (culverts added and replaced as needed, sections of the road built-up, and gravel placed)- 3050 tons of DSA – Project location from the intersection of Rock Ridge/ Nelson Run Roads intersection to the southeast
 - Large culvert replacement – Sunken Branch Road (approximately 2.3 miles east of the Billy Lewis Road)
 - ATV /Snowmobile Trail (Captain Shelton's) – gravel placement on approximately 0.7 mile

with 1000 tons 2A stone

- Graded, cleaned culverts and headwalls on 168 miles of state forest road
- Held our annual Forest Management/Habitat Tour on May 4 with over 30 people in attendance
- Had our Public Contact Trailer staffed at the following events answering questions and providing brochures, maps, and other information: Cross Fork Outdoor Show, Cross Fork Snake Hunt, Bark Peelers and Woodsmen Show
- Completed new trail brochures for the Mt. Broadhead Area trails, Billy Lewis Area Trails, and Pine Mtn. Ski trail
- Completed revisions to the Denton Hill Ski Trail brochure
- Made and installed over 70 trail signs and 100 “you are here” markers on the trails that make up the Billy Lewis Area Trail System
- Cleared and marked trails within the Billy Lewis Area Trail System
- Held Arbor Day activities in 10 school districts (5 in Potter County and 5 in McKean County)
- Treated 455 Hemlock trees within the Dutlinger Natural Area against Hemlock Wooley Adelgid
- Opened 58.6 miles of gated haul roads for early muzzleloader and rifle deer season
- Completed planting and maintenance on 135 acres of food plots in cooperation with the PA Game Commission Potter County Food & Cover Crew
- Spent 35 days including 5 weekends grooming 250 miles of snowmobile trail last winter

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.
- Researchers from the US Forest Service in Irvine are performing a study with the following objectives: The disconnect between deer densities and their concomitant browse impact has led us to ask whether incorporating information on the heterogeneity in vegetation and land use patches across the landscape (e.g., abundance and distribution of high-quality forage) will clarify the relationship between ungulate density and their impact on vegetation. Specifically, we propose to (1) evaluate the relationship between deer densities

and browse-impact on vegetation and (2) determine the degree to which forest landscape heterogeneity influences foraging behavior and, in turn, browse impact. Millington et al. (2010) asserted that elucidating the relationship among herbivore distribution, foraging impact, and forest landscape structure was critical to “ensure the ecological and economic sustainability” of forest ecosystems.

- Researchers from the US Forest Service in Irvine are performing research looking at the effectiveness of different Surfactants used when applying herbicides with a broadcast sprayer. They hope to determine the most effective way to control competing vegetation consisting of striped maple, beech brush, and fern.
- Researchers from the US Forest Service in Irvine are performing research looking at the effectiveness of different application rates of Oust herbicide in controlling competing vegetation specifically fern and grasses.
- 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.
- The US Forest Service in Irvine and DCNR Bureau of Forestry continue to monitor lime plots that were established in the mid 1980’s as part of a study into Sugar Maple decline.