

# Cornplanter 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 Cornplanter 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

- **Lashure Interpretive Trail Improvements** – Improvement work will continue on this loop trail, located at the Hunter Run Division. Progress will be made towards updating and re-defining the 20 different stations, improving the surface on parts of the trail and creating an updated brochure for visitor’s use.
- **Hunter Run Trail System Improvements** – Areas identified by District staff as needing attention will receive various upgrades including erosion control measures such as water bars and geotextile placement along with additions of stone/gravel.
- **Hunter Run Connector Trail from Main Parking Area to Main Loop System** – A new connector trail will be developed to join the main parking area to the main loop system. The new trail will traverse over a gradual slope which may be particularly advantageous to cross-country skiers.
- **Hogback Parking Area** – Establish a new parking area near the gate of the Hogback Road to allow for safe parking for hunters and other users while still allowing for full road access.
- **Ingraham Tract Trail System Improvement** – The trail system at the Ingraham Tract off Strawbridge Road in Crawford County will receive numerous upgrades including re-routing away from wet areas, geo textile placement and stone/gravel additions, elevated walkway enhancements and further interpretive signage.
- **Motorized Campsite Enhancements** – The District’s motorized campsite at Hunter Run will receive upgrades including enhanced signage and online upgrades.
- **Interpretation Improvements** - Panels will be added to kiosks in the District and waysides will be installed along trails to add to interpretive efforts.
- **Directional Signage Improvements** -Develop plan for directional signage for District properties.

## TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- **Proposed Timber Sale in the Marfink Loop Area** – Initial work has been done to establish the sale area for a proposed timber sale in the Marfink Loop Trail area. Additional pre-sale activities are required.
- **Pine Plantation Treatment at Hunter Run Maintenance Area** - Preliminary work has been initiated to determine the viability of a thinning harvest in pine plantations near the Hunter Run Maintenance Headquarters.

## RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- **Legacy Oil Well Plugging, Infrastructure Removal and Surface Rehabilitation** – The District will continue to monitor well plugging efforts to minimize the effects of legacy oil wells and associated infrastructure throughout the northcentral portion of the Hunter Run Tract.

## ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- There are no road and bridge projects planned for 2015 on the Cornplanter State Forest.

## PRESCRIBED FIRE

- There are no prescribed fire activities planned for 2015 on the Cornplanter State Forest.

## INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- **Treatment of Ash Trees** – Between 30 and 50 ash trees on State Forest lands throughout the District selected by staff members will be treated with approved chemicals and methods to provide resistance against the emerald ash borer.
- **Spot Treatment of Invasive Plant Species** – During late summer/early fall the District will conduct herbicide spot treatments for non-native, invasive plants species on State Forest lands. Common species treated include: multi-flora rose, Japanese barberry, phragmites and Japanese knotweed. Primarily glyphosate-based herbicides will be utilized for these spot treatments.
- **Monitor for HWA**- Monitor and potentially treat hemlock trees affected by hemlock wooly adelgid, especially in the Ander’s Run Natural Area.

## NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- **OGM Monitoring** - Continue to monitor new oil and gas activity on the severed rights tracts of the Cornplanter State Forest and minimize surface disturbance where possible.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

- No special projects are planned in 2015 for the Cornplanter Forest District at this time.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Plans for public engagement for 2015 are still being developed, please check the District webpage or call the District Office for updated information.

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

- Ash Tree Treatments – District staff treated approximately 25 trees on State Forest lands with approved chemicals in an effort to prevent mortality due to the emerald ash borer insect.
- Over 2,200 pounds of scrap metal, 150 pounds of broken glass and plastic material were removed from a dump site on the Tank Hill Tract and taken to a recycling center.
- District staff treated non-native, invasive plant species on over 200 acres of State Forest lands using approved herbicides and methods.
- The District monitored oil plugging and related efforts to remove associated infrastructure from State Forest.
- Worked with oil well developers to minimize surface impacts to State Forest lands.

### **RESEARCH**

- The U.S.F.S Northeast Research Station is engaged in a fern and herbicide study on the Cornplanter State Forest to determine the effects of broadcast herbicide application for fern control on oak and other desirable seedlings. This is part of a multi-district study being led by Todd Ristau.