

Lackawanna 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 Lackawanna 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:

Nicholas Lylo, Lackawanna District Forester
Lackawanna State Forest
1839 Abington Road, North Abington Twp., PA 18414
570-945-7133
District Email: ra-fd11@pa.gov

RECREATION

- Transfer ownership of 15 miles of the Delaware and Lehigh trail to DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, a State Forest Environmental Review will be conducted pending the transfer agreement.
- Pinchot Trail; remove local trail name signs and install Pinchot Trail signs.
- Install new road signs on all State Forest Public Use Roads.
- Install new snowmobile trail signs on all snowmobile trails.
- Create new Pinchot Trail Map / Thornhurst Tract Map to reflect new trail signs.
- Develop 3 designated camp sites on the Thornhurst Tract.
- Develop 1 designated campsite on Susquehanna River Bellis Island near Shickshinny.
- Develop camping map to reflect designated camp sites on the Lackawanna State Forest.
- Install signs on various acquisitions on parcels across Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties.
- Submit Pennsylvania Recreation Trails Program grant for replacement of latrine at Thornhurst Picnic Area.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- No specific timber sale locations or treatments are determined for 2015. A new forester is in training and will conduct compartment examinations to plan a 2015 timber sale location. The sale will be located on the Lackawanna State Forest on one of the tracts in Lackawanna or Luzerne County. Timber sale planning will include compartment examinations and determination of silviculture opportunities to meet the district harvest goals and allocation.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Avondale Mine reclamation project in partnership with Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Harvey's Creek tract.
- Avondale wetland mitigation project in partnership with Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, Harvey's Creek tract.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Improve the driving surface and drainage on approximately 1.25 miles of Pittston Road.
- Improve the driving surface and drainage on approximately 1 mile of Tannery Road.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- No prescribed fires are planned in 2015.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- Emerald ash borer treatments on sites identified in district ash management plan.
- Hemlock wooly adelgid treatment of hemlocks at the Thornhurst Picnic Area, Thornhurst Tract as necessary.
- Treat knotweed at the Rush Brook Tract as part of the PPL NE Pocono project mitigation.
- 2015 insect and disease monitoring and reporting with aerial survey flights scheduled for mid-summer 2105.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- There is no oil or gas development on the Lackawanna State Forest.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- District office addition scheduled for bid and to start construction in 2015.
- Develop work plan to map, type and inventory, 14,000 acres of new state forest land acquisitions.
- State Forest Environmental Review for the 3,400 acre Mocanaqua Acquisition.
- State Forest Environmental Review for the Lackawanna Highlands Acquisition.
- Middleburg Road PennDot Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the D&L Trail Railroad Crossing.
- Administration of construction phase as part of the Pocono Reliability License Agreement.
- Removal of Olyphant # 1 Dam.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Conduct public meetings in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties on public opportunities and management of state forest lands.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- PPL Northeast Pocono Reliability License Agreement.
- Acquisition of the 600 acre + Polish National Catholic Church Property as mitigation for the



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

www.dcnr.state.pa.us

BUREAU OF FORESTRY

PPL power line right of way on state forest land.

- Acquisition of the 4 acre Spall property for public access into the 6,500 acre Crystal Lake Tract.

RESEARCH

- No major research projects at the current time.