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 Sproul State Forest. For questions, comments or more information about this plan, please contact:

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RECREATION

- **Whiskey Springs ATV Trail** - The Whiskey Springs ATV Trail will open for the ATV riding season on May 27, 2016 following a major mine reclamation project. The District is working with DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation on several other future projects which will impact this trail system.

- **Donut Hole Trail (DHT)** – A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Friday July 29, 2016 of the Prowl the Sproul weekend. This ceremony dedicated the section of trail from Rattlesnake Run to Hyner View which was constructed through the 2015 field season. A
major portion of the trail is routed on lands owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. This is a reroute made to help mitigate impacts from the Marcellus Shale Play in the Grugan and Gallagher Township areas.

- **Eagleton Mine Camp Trail** – The majority of this trail was used in an adventure hike on October 9, 2016. This is the first year of this event which was headquartered on the Sons of Italy property in Bald Eagle Township. The majority of the event was held on State Forest Land and will consist of a 25k and 50k race. This event is planned to replace some of the opportunities lost through changes to the Megatransect event in another portion of Clinton County.

**2017 Organized Events:**

- **April**. Saturday, 23rd; Hyner View Trail Challenge
- **June**. Sunday, 4th, Durty Daubers Trail Ride
  
  Saturday, 10th, Cruise for a Cure Trail Ride
- **July**. 21st to 23rd, Prowl the Sproul Hiking Weekend
  
  30th Brandywine Rattlesnake Enduro Ride
- **August**. Eastern States 100 Trail Race
- **OCTOBER**. 8th Eagleton Mine Camp Trail Challenge

**TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

- The district timber allocation model recommends silvicultural treatments conducted on 1500 acres on an annual basis. In 2016 the forester staff marked 2683 acres on eleven sales. Six sales have been sold and five are in the pipeline to be announced out for bid.

- Directly below are the sales completed in 2016 and a rough idea where the foresters propose to implement timber sales in 2017

**Marked and sold, potentially active**

- Pat’s Ridge – 65 acres Overstory Removal, Pete’s Run – 150 acres Overstory Removal,
- Montour Road – 21 acres Overstory Removal, Cole Run – 40 acres Overstory Removal,
- Panther Camp – 34 acres Shelterwood
Marked but not yet sold


Proposed (not marked yet)

- Panther Camp – 100 acres Shelterwood, Rock Hollow – 100 acres Shelterwood, Sandy Run (South) – 100 acres Shelterwood, Dutchman Road – 100 acres Overstory Removal, Dry Run – 150 acres Shelterwood, First Fork Road – 100 acres Shelterwood, Cattaragaus Road – 400 acres Shelterwood, Salt Lick Trail – 250 acres Shelterwood, DeHaas Road – 100 acres Shelterwood, McClure Ridge – 100 acres Shelterwood, Petes Run - 100 acres Shelterwood, Benjamin Run – 75 acres Overstory Removal, Mill Branch Road – 100 acres Shelterwood

Regeneration projects

- Projects for 2017 include: Tree Planting – 265,000 trees on 496 acres, Woven Wire Deer Fencing – Eight fences on 334 acres totaling 40,500 feet of fence, Fence Dismantling – Fourteen fences removed on 528 acres totaling 78,000 feet of fence, herbicide application to control fern – Three projects covering 403 acres, Laurel Mowing – One project area of 115 acres, Crop Tree Release – Two projects totaling 98 acres.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

- Fourteen food plots are currently maintained by the district. Two of the oldest, Tamarack Swamp and Painter Hollow, will be re-worked in 2017. The food plots get re-worked on a rotating schedule of every five years.

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

- Shintown Run Phase 1 – Paver Place DSA $249,000.
- Birch Island -Paver Place DSA $249,000.
- Tamarack Tower Road DSA placement.
Possible Bridge Replacement Projects

State Line Road over Panther Run
Coon Run Road over Swamp Branch
Crowley Road at Nefure Hollow
Little Greenlick Rd/Rand's Hole
Little Greenlick Rd. over Big Greenlick
Sugar Camp Road over Rattlesnake Run

PRESCRIBED FIRE

- A burn plan is being prepared for the large scrub oak stand south of Allen Dam Road. This project is in partnership with the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Burn will occur in the 2017 field season. This will be the third field season we have attempted to complete this prescribed fire.
- Several other burns are in the process of being developed to enhance oak regeneration in some of the timber sale first stage shelterwood.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT

- The staff treated 87 White Ash trees on six (6) sites in the hopes of saving a White Ash seed source from the devastating effects of the Emerald Ash Borer, EAB. The site locations are at Halls Run, Bakers Run, Cooks Run, Hyner Run, Rattlesnake Run, and Holland Run. These trees will be monitored yearly for EAB presence and will be retreated in the future. We have decided not to treat the trees for this field season.
- Aerial surveillance flights are conducted each year in June. Most forest insect pests are cyclical in nature, i.e. gypsy moth, and the flights enable us to get a sense of any population build up.
- Monitoring/control of Japanese Knotweed and Mile a Minute will occur if the need arises. Mile a Minute has been found on private land adjacent to State Forest Land. The banks of the West Branch of the Susquehanna River seem to be a conduit for the establishment of invasive species on the district. Japanese knotweed and Mile-A-Minute Weed control will continue on the recently acquired Goodling/Knarr property in Chapman Township, Clinton County.
- Efforts started in the 2016 field season to treat a poison hemlock infestation at three sites off Jews Run Road. The results on the sites were mixed and all three will be retreated in the 2017 field season.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
Anadarko, Exco and XTO have no plans for constructing well pads along with the associated access roads and pipelines for 2017. The District had its last Marcellus Shale well drilled in 2011. NCL has not constructed a new shallow gas site since 2007. They have been actively plugging approximately a dozen wells per year. We expect those operations to continue into 2017. Dominion continues to upgrade their infrastructure within the Leidy and Tamarack Storage Fields. We expect several sites to be worked on in 2017.

Anadarko will begin pipeline restoration activities throughout their lease holdings.

Anadarko rehabilitated the Tract 252D Pad using Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) techniques in the Fall of 2015. The 4 acre pad site was planted with conifer species in the spring of 2016. The 6,000 tons of stone that was removed from the pad was used for subbase material on Barney's Ridge Road. Anadarko plans to rehabilitate a significant portion of the Tract 231 Compressor Pad in 2017. The stone will be applied to roads in the Marsh Creek Trail area for subbase material. This site will also be restored using the ARRI method.

Anadarko also removed Pad B on Tract 344 off Shoemaker Road, Pad D on Tract 653 off Eagleton Road and a pad on private property off Beech Creek Road. The District used the stone coming off these pad reclamation projects as sub base on Shoemaker and Beech Creek Roads. The reclaimed pads were planted with a food plot mix and will incorporated into the District's food plot program.

Planning on a major strip mine reclamation project in the Cooks Run Watershed started in the Fall of 2016. This project will consist of excavating the Fran Mine Complex down to the pit floor, adding alkaline addition to the overburden, removing and treating any tipple waste and remaining coal on the site and regenerating the site to a mixture of ARRI plantings and food plots. Current plans are to ring the 15 acre food plot with a conifer stand planted on the ARRI sites. The food plot will be planted to a mix favored by elk. The hope is to change quality of the base water flows from the site and improve the water quality in 5.5 miles of stream. The lower reaches of Camp Run, Rock Run and Cooks Run will all be impacted by this project.

A 14 acre unreclaimed strip mine site in the Stony Run Watershed was regraded and partially reclaimed last year. In August 2016 this site started to receive dredge material from George B. Stevenson Dam in the Sinnemahoning Watershed. This project is expected to continue into the early portion of 2017. Site will be revegetated using ARRI principles in April of 2017.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) plans to construct a passive treatment on Sandy Run to treat acid mine drainage entering the watershed from a shallow deep mine. The system will consist of a limestone treatment pond and will located between
the road and stream. This project will impact the lower reaches of Sandy Run and improve the water quality in Drurys Run to Woodley Draft.

TOWER AND RIGHT-OF-WAY PROJECTS

Williams will continue planning for the 3.5 mile looping pipeline which is part of the larger Atlantic Sunrise project in the Summerson Mountain Area of Chapman Township. They are also planning a series of integrity digs on their pipeline corridor for the 2017 field season.

Betchel Corporation is currently evaluating the feasibility of building a large natural gas fired electrical power plant in Renovo utilizing the site of the former railroad repair facilities. If this plant is built it will require a 16 to 20 inch natural gas pipeline to provide the needed fuel. The company decided on a route that will impact approximately six (6) miles of State Forest. The route will begin in the Robbins Run and basically follow the First Energy/NYSEG corridor to an area of private property just north of Renovo. The company continues to conduct their planning operations with the possibility of construction in the Fall of 2017.

Dominion constructed a new 190 foot communication tower to replace a smaller tower in the Tamarack area. The towers used the same access road and site. This allows the company to better regulate the movement of natural gas within and outside the storage field.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Several rights of way are in the process of being acquired from private landowners to facilitate public and administrative access to the Sproul State Forest.
- The Gerfen Tracts which were was acquired in late 2015 is being stand typed, maintenance needs categorized and the boundary lines marked for full incorporation into the State Forest System.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Sproul Tree Planting Ramble – Saturday, April 29th, this event is sponsored by Pennsylvania Forestry Association and involves approximately 50 volunteers planting trees on selected sites.
- Numerous school programs throughout the year featuring fire prevention, Birth of a Tree, conservation field days and other programs for schools within the District.
- Leased Camp Owners Meeting – Sunday, November 26th. Meet with leased campsite owners in a central location to discuss changes to the lease program.
- Participation in the Centre County and Clinton County Natural Gas Task Forces and
associated sub committees. Meetings held throughout the year.

- Participate with the Clinton County Economic Partnership Tourism Committee. Meetings held throughout the year.
- A public meeting on the State Forest Resource Management Plan will held in 2017 on a date and site to be determined.

RESEARCH

- There are many research projects currently active on the Sproul State Forest. These projects range from habitat studies for various species to impacts from the Marcellus Shale Gas play. The Planning Section maintains a database of all active and approved research projects.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- May 2016 – Whiskey Springs ATV Trail reopened.
- June 2016 – Maintenance crew placed 2,725 tons of DSA on Tamarack Road.
- July 2016 – Contractor started rehabilitation of Tract 344 Pad B and Tract 653 Pad D. Stone from both placed on Shoemaker and Beech Creek Roads.
- July 2016 – Contractor placed 6,800 tons of road base and DSA on Two Mile Road.
- August 2016 – Contractor placed 4,900 tons of DSA and 2A stone on along with milling the existing asphalt on Right Branch of Young Womans Creek Road.
- August 2016 – Prescribed fire is completed in Logway Run.
- September 2016 – Maintenance crews complete food plot in Logway Run.
- September 2016 – Contractor completed food plots on former Tract 344 and 653 well pads.
- October 2016 – Contractor installed 2 box culverts on Cole Run Road.
- November 2016 – Contractor completed 3 Bay pole barn at Snowshoe Maintenance Site.
- December 2016 – Contractor completed earth moving activities on 14 acre strip mine reclamation project in the Stony Run Watershed.
- December 2016 – A total of 1,327 acres of silvicultural treatments were finalized with executed timber sale contracts for the year.