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.

One of the policies in the bureau’s strategic plan (Penn’s Woods: Sustaining Our Forests) includes, “Public participation will be an integral part of the management of state forest lands.” The purpose of this Activity Plan is to communicate to the public about upcoming management activities, projects, and events that will be conducted to implement the SFRMP on Tioga State Forest. This document will be revised at the start and middle of each calendar year to provide sufficient time for public review, questions, and feedback. The bureau is committed to considering the views and perspectives of the public and stakeholders and strives to accommodate public interests in planning management activities and decision making. We encourage comments or questions regarding planned or proposed activities be directed to the state forest district conducting the activity.

For questions, comments, or more information about this plan, please contact:

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RECREATION

- The **Mt. Tom Challenge** will take place on February 17. This timed trail run utilizes that Mt. Tom trail system near Ansonia.

- The **Canyon Sled Dog Challenge** will take place on February 23, weather permitting, along the Pine Creek Rail Trail. This event will be from the Marsh Creek Access of the rail trail to Tiadaghton.

- The **Rail Trail Relay for Life** will take place in late June on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. This event helps raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

- The **Tioga County Homeless Initiative Rail Trail Bike Hike Fundraiser** will take place in late June on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. This event helps raise funds for and bring awareness to the homeless situation in Tioga County.

- The **Pine Barrens Adventure Motorcycle Tour** is tentatively planned for late June. This event has been expanding since it was first held in 2017, and will be held in several state forests in the PA Wilds region. Only licensed motorcycles are allowed.

- The **PA Grand Canyon Running Festival** will take place for the first time on July 28-29. This event will include both a full and half marathon on the Pine Creek Rail Trail and a 5K run in Wellsboro.

- **Brayden’s Trail of Strength** will take place in early August. This trail run is a 10 or 20-kilometer race that serves as a fundraiser for the Chromosome 18 Registry and Research Society. This race uses selected trails in the section of the Tioga State Forest that lies north of Rt. 6.

- The **Eastern States 100** will tentatively be taking place in mid-August. This 100-mile trail run uses selected trails and roads in the southwestern portions of the Tioga State Forest. This event takes place in several other forest districts as well.

- The **Susquehannock Trail Pro Rally** will take place for the first time in September due to scheduling conflicts with the rally circuit. The pro rally uses selected public use roads in the western and northern portions of the Tioga State Forest.

- The **Pine Creek Challenge** will take place in early September. This 100-mile run takes place on the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

- The **Laurel Classic** mountain bike race takes place in early to mid-September each year. This race uses selected trails and roads in the “Asaph Block” of the Tioga State Forest that lies north of Rt. 6.
The **Green Monster** trail run takes place in early to mid-October. This race has a 16 and 32-mile course that uses selected trails and roads in the “Asaph Block” of the Tioga State Forest that lies north Rt.6.

**Armenia Mountain Snowmobile Trail** – In 2019, continued work on the Armenia Mountain Snowmobile System will take place. This work will mainly involve sign placement and enhancements to the trailhead/parking lot.

The **Bee Tree Trail** that is located between Rexford and Ansonia will continue to receive upgrades in 2019. The trail will be linked with other adjacent trails to create a more extensive ski-trail system.

The relocation of the portion of the **Mid-State Trail** that is co-located along the Pine Creek Rail Trail north of Blackwell will continue in 2019.

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**TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

**Marked and sold, potentially active**

- There are currently 28 timber sales under contract in the district. Many of these sales will have activity on them in 2019. Sale activity will be in the scattered throughout the district. The contracts for 16 of these sales will expire in 2019.

**Marked but not yet sold**

- Currently, 11 timber sales totaling approximately 1,100 acres are proposed for bid in 2019 on the Tioga State Forest. These sales are scattered throughout the district. These sales are mostly shelterwood and overstory removal treatments.

**Regeneration projects**

- There are 9 blocks totaling 508 acres scheduled to be treated with broadcast herbicide in 2019. These blocks are located throughout the Tioga State Forest. These blocks are being treated to control interfering vegetation such as fern, beech brush, and striped maple.

- There are 4 blocks totaling 260 acres that are planned to have the brush cut in 2019. These blocks are located in the Arnot and Armenia Mountain area.

- There are 13 woven-wire fences proposed to be constructed in 2019. These fences are located throughout the district. These fences are being constructed to protect developing regeneration from deer browsing.

- There will be 1 fence dismantled in 2019. This fence is located on Hickory Ridge near Morris.
There will be 2 seedling planting sites in the district in 2019. There will be 50,000 white pine and white spruce seedlings planted in these areas.

**RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

- **Stream Improvement Projects**: There are two stream bank improvement projects on Babb Creek planned for 2019.

- **Fish Habitat Improvement Projects**: Sections of Kettle Creek and Cedar Run will have fish habitat projects conducted on them. These projects will involve using trees cut and placed along the stream to create eddies and pools.

- **Wildlife Habitat Projects**: Several wildlife projects will be taking place throughout the Tioga State Forest in 2019. Most of these projects involve placing seed, fertilizer, and lime on established food plots throughout the district. These sites include portions of the Dominion Transmission Pipeline in the western portion of the district, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in the northern section of the district, and food plots along Old Supply Trail, Big Dam Hollow, and Hoffman Campground.

- **Landscape Restoration Project**: Work will continue a landscape restoration project in the Gamble Run area of the district. This will involve prescribed fire and other management activities to enhance large areas with poor site quality on the Tioga State Forest.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- Portions of Painter-Leetonia Road will be receiving Dirt & Gravel Rd upgrades in 2019. This will be a limestone DSA project.

- The culvert at the first switchback coming from the village of Rexford on Painter-Leetonia Road will be replaced with a bridge in 2019. This portion of the road will be closed during construction operations.

- The culvert near the intersection of Right Asaph and Sand Rds. will be replaced with a bridge in 2019. This is the Bear Wallow Creek Crossing. This portion of the road will be closed during construction operations.

- A new bridge will be placed over Carpenter Run on Bear Run Trail in 2019. This crossing is located just off Ogdensburg Rd near Blossburg.

- The culvert at the intersection of Cedar Mountain and Leetonia Rds. across Buck Run will be replaced with a bridge in 2019. This portion of the road will be closed during construction operations.
PRESCRIBED FIRE

• Prescribed fires east of Shin Hollow Rd and north of Deadman Hollow Rd are planned for the spring of 2019. These projects are to control red maple and other competing vegetation to release the oak regeneration that is already establish but being overtopped.

• Plans are being made to burn the food plots on Old Supply Trail. The goal of these prescribed fires is to prepare the sites for new seeding.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

• Ash Management: In 2019, the Tioga State Forest plans to continue implementing its management plan for dealing with the mortality of ash species due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Most hazard trees have been removed and the sites with higher components of white ash have been harvested. The only activity will be monitoring the trees that have been treated with an insecticide to control the borer.

• Hemlock Treatment – In 2019, hemlock that has been treated to protect from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Elongate Hemlock Scale will continue to be monitored and some additional trees may be treated.

• Invasive plants treatment projects: In 2019, we will continue to treat and monitor locations of invasive plant species in the district. Most of these projects have been on-going over the past several years. Japanese Knotweed, Mile-A-Minute, Glossy Buckthorn, and Ailanthus are the main species that are being targeted.

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

• In 2019, there will be moderate activity in association with gas development in the district. The activity that is anticipated is as follows:
  
  o Tract 007 (Baldwin Run Rd area): The construction of a new well pad (Pad D) in the summer of 2019 and drilling of wells on that well pad. Also, the compressor station along Matson Trail will be completed. Additionally, the Marsh Creek Waterline will be completed in 2019. This fresh water line will move water into the impoundments on the tract and greatly limit truck traffic on the roads.
Tract 594 (Lower Arnot Rd area): There will be several well pads constructed, wells drilled and completed, and small portions of pipeline constructed in 2019.

Tract 587 (Fallbrook area): There will be wells drilled and completed on certain existing well pads. Also, the compressor station south of River Rd. will be completed in 2019.

Old Possessions Pipeline: A new pipeline along portions of the Old Possessions Rd is anticipated to be constructed sometime in 2019.

**TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS**
- There will be small maintenance and monitoring projects on the various pipelines and electric rights-of-ways in the district. These mainly involve tree trimming along the ROWs and vegetation control.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**
- **Annual Local Events:** A public contact trailer is staffed by district personnel for the following events: Wellsboro Laurel Festival and the Tioga County Fair.

- **Pine Creek Watershed Association:** District personnel attend meetings with the Pine Creek Watershed Association.

- **Babb Creek Watershed Association:** District personnel attend meetings with the Babb Creek Watershed Association. This group is responsible for maintaining acid mine drainage treatment facilities on the Tioga State Forest.

- **Pine Creek Rail Trail Advisory Committee:** District personnel attend the bi-annual meetings with the Pine Creek Rail Trail Advisory Committee. The district updates the committee on rail-trail projects, usage, and incidents associated with the Pine Creek Rail Trail.

- **Step Outdoors Recreation Committee:** The district recreation forester attends meetings with a county recreation committee that holds events on private and public lands. Several winter events such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing take place on the Tioga State Forest each winter.

- **Tioga County Concerned Citizens Committee:** District personnel attend meetings with TCCCC. This group focuses on acid-mine treatment projects associated with the Tioga River and its tributaries.

- **Local School Districts:** District personnel give presentations to classes at local schools dealing with forestry related topics such as forest-fire prevention, tree planting, and insect and disease issues.

- **Local Fire Departments:** The district forest fire specialist commonly interacts with local volunteer fire departments to coordinate fire suppression activities and to provide needed equipment and training.
• **District Field Tour:** The district holds a public tour of management projects on state forest land every other year to keep the public informed of activities on the state forest. A tour is planned for 2019.

• **Leased Camp Meeting:** The district hosts a meeting with the district leased camp lessees every other year. This meeting is held to inform camp lessees about changes to leased camp guidelines and district activities. A meeting is planned for 2019.

### RESEARCH

• **Oak Regeneration Study:** The Forest Service is monitoring the growth of oak seedlings in 2 areas on the Tioga State Forest. Both sites are in the northern portion of the district. The sites are visited each year to assess seedling mortality rates and take growth measurements on oak seedlings.

• **Gas Development Impact:** There are several research projects in place that monitor the impacts of Gas Development on state forest land.

### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

• **Road Re-Surfacing Projects** – In 2018, road improvement projects on Asaph and portions of Painter-Leetonia Roads were completed.

• **Timber Sales** – In 2018, the forester and technician staff completed 13 timber sales totaling 1,312 acres, 4,501 MBF of sawtimber, and 2,239 HCF of pulpwood.

• **Armenia Snowmobile Trail System** – In 2018, many improvements were made to the snowmobile trails in Armenia Mountain. The system will be groomed and open to the public for winter use.

• **Bridge Replacements:** New bridges were constructed on Reynolds Springs and Painter-Leetonia Roads in 2018.

• **Bee Tree Trail:** A new foot bridge was constructed across Bee Tree Hollow along the Bee Tree Trail. The work was completed with the help of the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corp.

• **Armenia Snowmobile Trail:** A new trailhead was constructed along with other minor trail improvements on the Armenia Snowmobile Trail System. The trail will be opened and even groomed for the winter of 2019.