Moshannon State Forest District

2019 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 Moshannon State Forest. For questions, comments or more information about this plan, please contact:

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RECREATION

• **Allegheny Front Trail Map Revision.** The AFT map has not been revised since 2013. The new map will serve as a reference for all recreation users. The plan is to include all types of trails onto one map – hiking, shared-use and snowmobile.

• **Rock Run Bridge and Sign Replacements.** There are 3 foot bridges that are in disrepair and need replaced that are located on the Rock Run Trail System. There are also roughly a dozen signs that are inaccurate or in very poor shape that will also be replaced.

• **New Signs and Trail Registries throughout the Quehanna Division.** Signage is an ongoing task, however, emphasis will be given to replace the 20+ year old signs on various hiking trails in the Quehanna Division. New trail registries will assist on search and rescue efforts if something would happen to a recreation user on state forest.

• **CPL Snowmobile Trail re-route from Stone Run Road to Laurel Run Road.** The CPL Trail is currently closed because of a washed-out bridge and the wetlands surrounding Laurel Run. The re-route will bypass Laurel Run while adding an important link to the snowmobile trail system. This re-route will likely be a multiple year project.

• **Dague Snowmobile Trail Reroute and Stone Surfacing.** Work is planned for straightening the trail and placing stone on the trail where needed.

• **Shields Dam and North Run Trail Stone Surfacing.** Work continues to surface the snowmobile and shared-use trails with 2A limestone. Wet spots and rocky spots are being addressed with stone to improve the riding experience.

• **S.B. Elliott/Old Horse Trail Area.** The Old Horse Trail, Rattlesnake Trail, North/South/Doctors Fork will be finished being brushed open and reblazed with paint. Bridges and boardwalks on Old Horse will be replaced. A small reroute of Old Horse Trail will bypass a wet area. Old signs will be replaced as well.

• **Shaggers Inn Dam and Beaver Run Dam.** Work continues on the Beaver Run Dam. The dam was breached and drained in 2017 to begin the replacement of a badly corroded spill pipe. By this fall the repairs will be done and the impoundment refilled. Shaggers Inn Dam likewise has a spill pipe that will need replacement at some point in the future and funding is being sought to drain and complete repairs to the dam.
• **Quehanna Hiking Trail Corporation Dam Bridge Replacement.** The Quehanna State Forest Hiking Trail is a 71-mile looped trail system through many remote areas in the northern part of the Moshannon State Forest and the southern part of the Elk State Forest. Several years ago, heavy spring snow melts severely undercut abutments on a 72-foot footbridge across the Mosquito Creek just west of Gifford Run in the Frenchville area. The crossing is currently accomplished by fording which can be difficult during periods of high flow. There are no suitable alternate routes nearby for crossing the stream. Designs are currently being considered for replacement of the bridge. Design, permitting and contracting still needs completed.

• **Rockton Mountain Trail System Maintenance.** Continue the work to brush out and re-blaze the Rockton Mountain Trail System. This trail system is located along Rte. 322 between Clearfield and Dubois. It is a district trail used as by cross-country skiers in the winter and hikers and mountain bikers in the summer. The trail traverses through areas with thick mountain laurel and huckleberry. The vegetation needs brushed back and the trail blazes repainted. Additional sign posts will be installed where necessary and wet spots addressed.

### 2019 Large Group/Organized Events

**January**
- Black Moshannon Snowmobile Club – Poker Run
- Winter Klondike – Chief Logan Council, Boy Scouts of America

**May**
- Moshannon Valley Y.M.C.A. –5k/10k Run-Walk

**July**
- High Country Arts and Crafts Festival

**August**
- Moshannon Valley Y.M.C.A. – Mountain Bike Race
- Penn State ORION – Student Orientation
- Allegheny Front Trail Run

**September**
- Canter for a Cure Horse Ride
TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Many of the current timber harvests in the Moshannon State Forest are related to efforts to salvage dead trees and regenerate a new forest from past gypsy moth infestations within the Black Moshannon area. This area of the forest is located in northern Centre County. During a period of three years in 2007, 2008 and 2009, more than 20,000 acres of trees died as a result of repeated heavy defoliations by this exotic pest. Some of these salvage harvests require supplemental plantings to replace trees that died. Harvesting is occurring in the areas of the forest listed below. These harvests include mostly shelterwood and overstory removal treatments. Shelterwoods are designed to encourage the growth of new tree seedlings in the forest to replace ones that died or have become mature and will be harvested. Overstory removals harvest the main canopy to release established tree seedlings to grow in the full sunlight and develop into the next forest stand. Most harvests listed below fall into one of these two categories. Below is a list of timber sales that are already contracted and will potentially be active in the Moshannon State Forest in 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Location – nearest road and forest division</th>
<th>Acreage (A) / Type of Harvest</th>
<th>Harvest Name/Contract #</th>
<th>Forester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off Governor’s Rd.-Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>1026A Salvage/ Shelterwood Two-Age</td>
<td>Pulp Kingdom 09-2017BC09</td>
<td>Kucharcik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Kelly Cellar Rd. Rd.-Dague Division</td>
<td>217A Shelterwood</td>
<td>Stinky Shroom 09-2017BC08</td>
<td>Jovenitti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Oslong/4mile. – Dague Division</td>
<td>155A Shelterwood</td>
<td>Koslor 09-2017BC01</td>
<td>Jovenitti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Jack Dent – Quehanna Division</td>
<td>52 A Overstory Removal</td>
<td>Ginger Jack 09-2018BC02</td>
<td>Mohney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Underwood/Rte.504 Road-Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>146A Salvage / Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Stage Coach Trail Removal 092016BC10</td>
<td>Kucharcik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Rte. 504-Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>236A Salvage Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Smays Tower Salvage 09-2017_C05</td>
<td>Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Crystal Springs Road- Dague Division</td>
<td>196A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Rattlesnake Fences 09-2015BC13</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Strawband Beaver Rd. – Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>368A Two- Age Removal</td>
<td>Allegheny Front Removal 09-2016_C05</td>
<td>Kucharcik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Strawband Beaver Road-Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>286A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>RJ230 09-2017_C10</td>
<td>Kucharcik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Laurel Ridge Rd. – Dague Division</td>
<td>170A Two- Age Removal</td>
<td>Skunk City II 09-2018BC01</td>
<td>Mohney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Hannah Furnace Road- Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>153A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Horse Hollow Removal 09-2018BC04</td>
<td>Kucharcik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Coaldale Road – Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>300A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Black Bear Removal</td>
<td>Kucharcik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As of the beginning of 2019, the following harvests are presently being proposed and/or marked and prepared for bidding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Location – nearest road and forest division</th>
<th>Acreage (A) / Type of Harvest</th>
<th>Harvest Name</th>
<th>Forester</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off Caledonia Pike and Billotte Road – Quehanna Division</td>
<td>220A Removal/Shelterwood</td>
<td>Sand Flat</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Sullivan Road- Quehanna Division</td>
<td>110A Shelterwood</td>
<td>Old Round Top</td>
<td>Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Tram Road. – Black Moshannon Division</td>
<td>500A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Firewood Heaven</td>
<td>Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cal Pike – Quehanna Division</td>
<td>166A Shelterwood</td>
<td>Close Call</td>
<td>Jovenitti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jury Mill Road – Dague Division</td>
<td>217A Overstory Removal</td>
<td>Jury Mill</td>
<td>Jovenitti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Quehanna HWY. – Quehanna Division</td>
<td>35A Overstory Removal</td>
<td>Hoover Farm Expansion</td>
<td>Jovenitti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Merrill Road- Quehanna Division</td>
<td>360A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>UFFR</td>
<td>Mohney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Mill Run Rd.- Dague Division</td>
<td>107 A Shelterwood</td>
<td>Mill Run</td>
<td>Conrad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Laurel Ridge Run Rd.- Dague Division</td>
<td>120 A Two-Age Removal</td>
<td>Pray Run</td>
<td>Hoffman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional harvests will be proposed in 2019. Inventory and landscape exam work has not yet been fully completed for identifying and prioritizing each of the areas to be proposed for harvesting over the next year. Areas will be selected for harvesting based upon assessments of stand health, habitat needs, forest maturity, whether natural seedlings are available to quickly replace harvested trees, and other goals detailed in the State Forest Resource Management plan.

**FOREST RESTORATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECTS**

- **Black Moshannon Tree Plantings** – Approximately 600-acres of forest which have been impacted by gypsy moth mortality will be planted with a variety of seedlings, mainly conifers. These plantings will not only aid in an effort to increase diversity of tree species amongst the forest, but it will also provide additional wildlife habitat opportunities.

- **Quehanna Wildlife Projects** - An effort has been made both past and present by the Game Commission to maintain about 225-acres of grass and clover food plots on the Moshannon State Forest for wildlife habitat in the Quehanna Area. The Moshannon District maintains about 30-acres. The Game Commission will also cut 25-acres of aspen this winter in the Chipper Rd. area for deer browse and portions are to maintain grouse habitat.

- **Apple Orchard Establishment in 3 new locations** – Three separate 1-acre apple orchards will be established to enhance wildlife habitat and visibility. They will be planted at a yet to be selected site in the Quehanna Area. Three wildlife exclosure fences will be built to protect apple saplings until the trees are well established and then the fences will be removed.

- **Kennedy Cool Season Grass Planting** – 12 acres near Kennedy weather station are scheduled to have a prescribed burn completed during the 2018 year. This will aid in
preparation for the cool season grass planting that will follow in order to diversify the area and provide more food and habitat for wildlife.

- **Hoover Farm Food Plot Expansion** - The Hoover Farm wildlife viewing area is scheduled to have a cut completed just north of the current opening in order to add an additional 23 acres of area to be underplanted. The area will still have 10-20 basal area present for diversity within this area. 12 acres adjacent to the western section will have a transition cut where 100’ will have 10 BA residual, 100’ will have 30 BA residual, and 100’ will have 50 BA residual.

**ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- **Spring 2019 – Caledonia Pike – Quehanna Division** – Driving surface aggregate placement on Caledonia Pike from Medix Grade Rd. west past Wallace Mine Rd. to the Lawrence Township line. This road was adopted from Goshen Township last year to better connect and allow grooming on this section of the snowmobile trail system. Closure and detour are anticipated for a week in May or June while work is completed.

- **Spring 2019 – Huckleberry Road – Black Moshannon Division** – Driving surface aggregate placement on Huckleberry Road covering approximately 2.75 miles. Closure and detour are anticipated for a week in May or June while work is completed.

- **Spring 2019 – Crystal Springs Rd. Large Culvert Replacement – Dague Division** - Contracted replacement with a box culvert over. Contract was award in 2017 to replace this crossing over tributary to Lick Run with a large box culvert. Final removal of environmental controls and touch up staining will occur in early 2019.

- **Spring 2019 – Blackwell Rd. – Dague Division** – Driving surface aggregate placement on Blackwell Road covering approximately 2.25 miles. Closure and detour are anticipated for a week in May or June while work is completed.

- **Spring 2019 – Little Medix Road – Quehanna Division** - Driving surface aggregate placement on remainder of Little Medix road from previous project year covering approximately .5 mile. Closure and detour are anticipated for a week in May or June while work is completed.

- **Spring 2019 – Laurel Run Road Large Culvert Replacement – Dague Division** – Contract was award in 2017 to replace this crossing over Laurel Run with a large box culvert. Construction is scheduled for early summer. Final removal of environmental controls and touch up staining will occur in early 2019.
• Summer 2019 – Tyler Rd. – Dague Division – Replace a large diameter temporary culvert with a box culvert over Abbot Run. Box culvert was designed and bid in 2017. Construction to be completed in early 2019 with a closure and detour to be in place.

• Summer 2019 – Lower Dubec Rd. – Dague Division – Replace a large diameter culvert with a box culvert over tributary of Moose Creek. Construction to be completed in early 2019 with a closure and detour in effect.

• Summer 2019 – Deserter Run Road Access Improvements – Quehanna Division – This project will involve improving road surface and drainage and installation of additional gates to allow better seasonal fishing access to a portion of Gifford Run from the Caledonia Pike.

• Summer 2019 – Medix Grade and Wilson Switch – Quehanna Division – Bridge/culvert replacements have been planned. Construction should be later in 2019 or 2020. Road closure and detours for a couple months is anticipated.

• 2019 – Evans Fire Road – Dague Division – Work with the Dirt and Gravel Road Fund to design improvements to a troublesome section of this road in 2019.

• 2019 – Hoover Nelson Road Retirement – Dague Division – The middle third of this road is proposed for closure and retirement due to entrenchment, the lack of use and the inability to maintain this road adequately. Repairs to drainage and road grading will be done on the portions that remain open.


**PRESCRIBED FIRE**

- **Bear Wallow Prescribed Fire – Quehanna Division** This is a 139-acre burn planned for April/May of 2019 weather permitting. The area had been treated with an overstory removal previously and red maple, birch and sassafras are overtopping and crowding the oak regeneration in many areas. The fire will benefit the fire tolerant oak seedlings that will resprout and grow vigorously post-fire. Oaks have many outstanding values for wildlife habitat and grow into a valuable timber tree in time.

- **Gordon Middle Prescribed Fire – Dague Division** - This is a 60-acre burn planned for April/May of 2019 weather permitting. The area had been treated with an overstory removal previously and maple, fire cherry and birch are dominating saplings and out competing oak seedlings. The fire will benefit the fire tolerant oak seedlings which will resprout and grow vigorously post-fire. Oaks have many outstanding values for wildlife habitat and grow into a valuable timber tree in time.

**INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT**

- Insecticide treatments to combat emerald ash borer will be conducted on various sites throughout the state forest. 85 ash trees were treated in the spring of 2017. An additional 213 ash trees will be treated this spring. This treatment involves an “IV” injection of pesticide into ash trees to protect individual trees. Emerald ash borers are a devastating non-native pest that is invading Pennsylvania and will kill nearly all untreated ash trees. The trees we treat will act as a seed source if a viable broad scale control is someday found for emerald ash borers. The trees must be retreated once every three years.
• Hemlock trees were treated at various sites last year with an insecticide to combat the hemlock woolly adelgid. More sites will be treated in the fall of 2019. The soil underneath the hemlocks is injected with a pesticide that is then absorbed by the roots and distributed throughout the tree. Treatment sites are selected based on various factors such as tree health, density, and proximity to streams. Hemlock trees help to regulate the temperatures of cold streams, and thus the health of fish and invertebrates that are sensitive to temperature changes.

• Monitoring for gypsy moth defoliation will be completed with ground surveys in May and aerial surveys in late June. Gypsy moth egg mass counts will be completed in July and August in any candidate areas for treatment in May of 2020.

• Monitoring for the introduction of invasive plants and treatment of various sites in the state forest will continue in 2019. Much of this monitoring and treatment involves disturbed areas related to gas development. Control of Phragmites and spotted knapweed at an old road construction site across from the district office will continue this summer.

NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

No new leases have been proposed at this time on the Moshannon State Forest and companies have been slow to develop existing leases and subsurface rights beneath public lands where the Commonwealth only owns surface rights. Poor market conditions have reduced gas development recently. Due to poor prices, some gas companies have withdrawn almost entirely from state forest land the past two years and surrendered some leases. The Moshannon State Forest has large tracts where the subsurface rights are not owned or controlled by the Commonwealth, referred to as severed rights. Any new gas activity in addition to new drilling sites and roads, usually involves new pipelines and powerlines. Some general activities are noted below, but plans are far from definite for any company in 2019 at this time.

• EQT will be plugging three conventional gas wells this year. Locations are to be determined. No further plans have been presented to the district for other 2019 activities.

• Seneca Resources has begun plugging unconventional wells this year on private inholdings. One unconventional well is to be plugged and the site reclaimed this spring/summer. Flowback water hauling continues. No further plans have been presented to the district for other 2019 activities.

• Exco Resources will be surrendering their lease on Tract 323. This pad area had been reduced and reclaimed two years ago. Plugging of the unconventional well and reclamation of the remaining pad area will occur this spring/summer. No further plans have been presented to the district for other 2019 activities.

• Enterprise Products will be installing barricades near sensitive wetland environments, to deter illegal four-wheel drive traffic. No further plans have been presented to the district for other 2019 activities.
SPECIAL PROJECTS

• **Kassab Tract- Black Moshannon Division** - This 777-acre parcel in northern Centre County is located on the eastern edge of the 45,000 acre Black Moshannon Tract along state route 504. It was acquired in late-December 2018. The tract adds protection to nearly 2-miles of road frontage along the eastern gateway to the Black Moshannon State Park and Forest. It covers the final ascent that the highway makes up the Allegheny Front before reaching the rest of state forest lands. The highway was originally the Philadelphia to Erie Turnpike dating to the early 1800’s and includes several historical milestones, the historical site of the Rattlesnake Hotel and a traveler’s roadside spring that is still in use to this day. Also along the highway are two very scenic vistas, including the 30-mountain vista with sweeping views of the Bald Eagle valley and into Nittany valley and of the mountains beyond. The tract has many unusual boulders and cliff outcroppings along the Alleghany Front that create special habitat for plants and animals including the timber rattlesnake. There is a beautiful 20-foot waterfall on the back of the property that is unusual for this area. There is good wildlife habitat and many opportunities to develop trails for public access. Initial activities on this new tract will focus on signage, boundary marking, improvements to 30-mountain vista, and public contact work with community members to discuss the possibility of developing trails and better access to the area.

• **Repair and Rehabilitation of Beaver Run Dam** – After discovering safety concerns in late 2017, the Beaver Run Dam was breached and drained. As this site is an important location for the enjoyment of various wildlife and forest users alike, the site is set to bid in early 2019. Construction should begin in late 2019 or early 2020, with water beginning to refill the impoundment upon completion.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

The public is welcome to call or email the Moshannon State Forest for further information on any activities within the forest. Also, below is a list of some of the organizations that are most engaged presently with activities and projects on the Moshannon State Forest. Belonging to one of these organizations is an excellent way for the public to become more engaged with the forest.

• The **Wild Turkey Federation** is engaged with wildlife habitat projects in the district.

• The **Mosquito Creek Sportsmen's Association** completes stream and wildlife habitat projects with the district.

• The **Sinnemahoning Sportsmen's Club** is engaged in wildlife habitat projects in the district.

• The **Ruffed Grouse Society** is also engaged in wildlife habitat projects in the district.

• The **Clearwater Conservancy** has completed water conservation projects in the district.

• The **Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Unlimited**, P.O. Box 851, Dubois, PA builds and maintains stream improvements in the district.
• The Hilltop Howlers Snowmobile Club grooms trails and participates with the forest district in a number of snowmobile related projects each year in the northern part of the district.

• The Black Moshannon Snowmobile Club grooms trails and participates with the forest district in a number of snowmobile related projects each year in the southern part of the district.

• The Keystone Trails Association organizes volunteer projects with the district on the Quehanna Trail and cross-connector trails.

• The Pennsylvania Equine Council is an umbrella organization for projects and equine activities on the district.

• The Boy Scouts of America are engaged in trail and other projects in the district.

• The DCNR Conservation Volunteer program allows individual volunteers to propose and/or complete various projects from planting trees to scouting trails on the forest district.

• The Four-Mile Camp Association holds an annual meeting that district staff attends to discuss issues and receive comments.

• The Pennsylvania Camp Lessees Association is a statewide organization of State Forest Camp Lessees that occasionally communicates issues to the district of interest to camp owners.

• The Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania is an organization that conducts environmental and safety training for loggers on State Forest lands with the forest district.

• The Pennsylvania Forest Fire Warden Program is involved with fire suppression, prescribed burns, prevention programs and fire preparedness on the forest district.

• The Moshannon Firefighters Association is involved with fire suppression, prescribed burns, prevention programs and fire preparedness on the forest district.

• The Northeast Moshannon Firefighters Association is involved with fire suppression, prescribed burns, prevention programs and fire preparedness on the forest district.

RESEARCH

• The United States Forest Service (USFS) will continue data collection on a site off Hoover Nelson Road to study the effects of herbicide on mountain laurel.

• The USFS will continue data collection on sites at Tyler Road and Kaylor Camp to study oak regeneration.
EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

- The Moshannon State Forest offers a Service Forestry program whose mission it is to provide public education, outreach and technical assistance to school groups, conservation groups, government agencies, homeowners and forest landowners in Clearfield County. Its purpose is to promote sound, science-based forest management. There is no cost for a consultation or landowner visit.

- In addition to responding to requests for forest management assistance, the District is scheduled to participate in the following ongoing programs and special events:
  
  o Provide ongoing technical assistance to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement programs designed to promote good forest management on private land.

  o Provide forestry education to Boy Scouts at the annual Klondike Derby January 26 at the Camp Wopsononock Tract.

  o Provide forestry education to area high school students April 17 as part of the annual Earth Day celebration at Parker Dam State Park.

  o Participate in the statewide high school Envirothon environmental education competition May 7 by providing review sessions and conducting the forestry test component of the county competition.

  o Give presentations to elementary, middle school, high school and college students throughout the year.

  o Promote the Moshannon State Forest and good forest management at the Clearfield County Fair in late July-early August.

  o Provide technical assistance to the Clearfield County Conservation District to plant trees on private land along streams to help control erosion, intercept nutrients and sediment and provide shade to reduce water temperature. The total planted area is 10 acres. Teach forestry principles to elementary students at the annual Conservation Camp in August sponsored by the Conservation District. Present a forestry program at the annual Conservation Celebration September 7 sponsored by the Conservation District.

  o Assist Penn State Extension with woodlot management tours at the annual Ag Progress Days near State College August 14 and 15.

- In Clearfield County, contact the Moshannon State Forest with forestry questions or for technical advice on tree care and forest management issues. Call 814-765-0821 and ask for the Service Forester.