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 William Penn 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

• Gibraltar Hill Tract
  o Continue implementing trail plan: blaze and clear loop trail

• Wertz Tract
  o Install kiosks on Sportsman and Huntzinger Road
  o Begin development of a trail system
  o Plan out a Picnic area

• Buck Hollow
  o Install informational kiosk
  o Design and construct parking area

Organized Events

• Open house for new tract in Honey Brook. Date TBD
• Small local official ceremony for closing of Staudt parcel on the Wertz tract. Date TBD
• Cleanup on Little Tinicum Island with DeLoitte

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

• No active sales at this time.

Marked but not yet sold

• A Paulownia and ash salvage are planned for the north side of Gibraltar Hill. This should be going out to bid by spring.

Proposed (not marked yet)

• No additional sales are planned.

Regeneration projects
• Protect fragile regeneration in the Hain Mill Sale with deer fencing

• Install a deer fence on the Texter Mt Road parcel of the Wertz Tract. This is a 2017 45-acre acquisition that has been treated for invasive plants.

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS

• Manual removal of invasive plants will occur on the Wertz tract with the goal of protecting sensitive plants.

• Develop a management goal to mitigate the damage of southern pine beetle on Goat Hill

• Mechanically remove briar and bull doze grass openings to promote serpentine savannah at Goat Hill

ROAD AND BRIDGE PROJECTS

• An access road stream crossing is in the design phase for Goat Hill Wild Plant Sanctuary. This will allow us to perform habitat work that improves the serpentine ecosystem.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

• Upon completed acquisition of The Nature Conservancy property at Goat Hill, a small prescribed burn is in the plans on the serpentine habitat.

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

• Implement round 2, phase 2 of the district ash management plan. A total of 70 trees are planned to be treated on the Wertz tracts.

• Monitor Spotted Lantern Fly on all Berks County Tracts

• Treat stilt grass

• Focus on Paulownia, Ailanthus, and Angelica tree treatments on Wertz, Gibraltar Hill, and Buck Hollow Tracts.

• Develop an invasive management plan for the Little Tincum Natural Area.
NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- No activity to report

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- Continue discussions to repair the road at Gibraltar with tower owners.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Public meeting for new lands in Honey Brook. Dates TBD

SPECIAL PROJECTS

**New Acquisitions planned in 2019**

- 116 acres donated by the Nature Conservancy adjacent to the Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens
- 19 acres along Maryland Border added to Goat Hill
- 56-acre addition to Wertz

**Habitat Projects**

- Plant a 7-acre field into warm season grasses and wildflowers at Buck Hollow
- Plan a soil scraping and vegetation management project at Goat Hill.

RESEARCH

- Research is ongoing involving nodding trillium, glade spurge, and elderberry on various tracts.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Over 125 acres of invasive plants were treated on several tracts.
- Acquisitions:
o Buck Hollow- 20-acre parcel and 101-acre parcel

o Honey Brook- New tract at 156 acres

o Gibraltar- adjacent addition at 23 acres.