

# Michaux State Forest

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## 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. In 2018, a draft Michaux District Management Plan was created to identify critical forest management priorities on the Michaux and in the surrounding communities serviced by District operations. This plan received public input and review and comments and feedback are being incorporated into a final draft to be completed April of 2019.

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 advance state and district level forest management goals. For questions, comments or more information about this plan, please contact:

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### RECREATION

- **Volunteer Work Days**
  - The annual Keep PA Beautiful roadside cleanup will take place in April. Potential sites are Old Forge Rd and Route 233 from U.S. 30 to South Mountain.
  - Annual volunteer work days will be announced throughout 2019. Persons interested in participating must first register as a DCNR Conservation Volunteer by visiting DCNR's webpage.

- **Brochure Updates** - Trail maps and brochures for the Mount Hope Trail System, Rocky Knob Trail, Snowmobile Trails and the Self-Guided Automobile tour are to be updated and printed. Copies will be available online or at the forest district office.
- **Snowmobile/ATV Trails** – Replace and update ATV & Snowmobile trailhead signage. The ATV trail will receive maintenance in various spots during trail closures including cleaning of the culverts on Huckleberry Trail.
- **Designated Campsite Improvements** – Several the district’s dispersed designated campsites will be upgraded and will now include a picnic table and fire ring.
- **Trail Maintenance & Construction**
  - Construction of a new trail system in the Pole Steeple area is in the planning, permitting and securing of funding stages.
  - Improvements will be made to the Canada Hollow Trail at the intersection of Milesburn Rd to remove standing water and upgrade the trail tread surface.
  - A section of Radio Tower Trail will be rerouted to avoid a wet area.
  - The trail connecting Teaberry Parking Area to Teaberry Rd will be redesigned to move the trail to a more suitable location that avoids the low-lying wet area.
  - Blazing will be added to the newly re-routed section of Wildcat Trail.
  - The trail system at the recently acquired Strawberry Hill tract will be evaluated and inventoried.
  - Repairs will be made to the foot bridge across Iron Run along Buck Ridge Trail.
  - PA Outdoor Corp will be continuing construction of the Melander Trail connecting Long Pine Reservoir Parking Area to Greenwood Rd.
  - Repairs will be made to the stone stairs leading from Birch Run Rd. to the Beaver Trail.
- **Friends of Michaux State Forest** – Following an initial meeting in January a Friends of Michaux State Forest group is forming. DCNR staff will continue to work with the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation on organizing and communicating with the friend’s group as it takes shape.
- **Tom’s Run Stream Restoration Signage** - Signage illustrating the history, ecology and habitat improvements made to Tom’s Run at the Camp Michaux complex will be installed in late spring or early summer 2019. Funding for the interpretive signage was provided with assistance from The Nature Conservancy and The South Mountain Partnership.
- **Hunters & CWD** – With nearly the entire Michaux State Forest included in Disease Management Area #2, DCNR and Michaux staff continue to work with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to combat the spread of CWD. High risk cervid part dumpsters and head collection bins for testing will once again be placed throughout the forest.

**2019 Organized Events:** The listing below represents the approximate timing of a few of the annually repeated large events hosted in the Michaux State Forest. There are many other smaller organized events not listed here that take place on the forest annually. If you would like more information regarding organized events occurring at a specific time or location in the forest, please contact the District office for more information.

**April:**

- Mountain Bike School
- American Odyssey Relay (running event)
- Buck Ridge Burn (running event)
- Iron Master’s Challenge (running event)
- South Mountain Rangers (horseback ride)
- Camp Michaux Guided Walking Tour

**May:**

Michaux Maximus (mountain biking event)  
Give a Little Bit Trail Challenge (horseback charitable ride)  
Michaux Gravel Grind (mountain biking event)

**June:**

Iron Run  
South Mountain Rangers (horseback ride)  
Pioneer Trek  
Ride for Breast Cancer (charitable cycling ride)  
Teen Trail Corps Camp (mountain biking event)

**July:**

Pioneer Trek  
Curse of Dark Hollow (mountain biking race)

**August:**

Michaux Dualsport (motorized event)  
South Mountain Rangers (horseback ride)

**September:**

PA Interscholastic Cycling League Adventure Ride (mountain biking event)  
South Penn Enduro Riders Motorcycle Race  
South Mountain Rangers (horseback ride)  
Terror Of teaberry (mountain biking event)

**October:**

The Stockville (adventure race)

## ROAD AND BRIDGES PROJECTS

### 2018 PROJECTS COMPLETED:

- Stillhouse Hollow Road: paver placed and rolled approximately 1.8 miles of Drivable Surface Aggregate (DSA).
- Birch Run Road: Repaired the road in front of the shooting range
- Swift Run Road: Replaced 18 culvert pipes and prepared the road surface for DSA
- Improved Shaffer's Rocks Parking Area
- Installed new stationary target frames on the rifle and pistol ranges
- Replaced the pavilion roof at Big Flat Parking Area
- Installed new kiosks at Teaberry and Peggy's Hill Parking Areas
- Completed a lot of prep work for the Hairy Springs Prescribed Burn Fire
- Coped with 50% above average precipitation without losing road segments due to plugged road drainage system.

**PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2019:**

- Swift Run Road: DSA from the intersection of Old Forge Road up to Shaffer's Rocks (approximately 1 mile.)
- Birch Run Road: Replace 14 Culvert pipes and resurface the road with 2RC. Seed with native grasses along the road edge and bleeders
- Perry Drive: Brush road side and ditch line for approximately 500'. Replace 3 culvert pipes and resurface road.
- High Rock Road: 50 Loads of shale will be placed in various low spots on the road to fill in some rough spots
- Thompson Hollow Road: The Whitmer Road end of this road will be raised and a French mattress will be installed. The road will then be topped with DSA
- Paint boundary line in map section 3
- Mow and disk various wildlife openings
- ATV trail maintenance: clean culverts and replenish shale in various locations
- Maintain the Old Forge Picnic Area and install new water fountains
- Install a new kiosk at Big Flat Parking Area
- Maintain target range
- Continue to maintain our building infrastructure including repairs and painting. Routing, staining, and installing new signage at various road intersections, parking lots, and trailheads
- Grading roads, mowing road sides, blowing ditches and cleaning culverts to keep our roads in good condition for public use
- Miscellaneous projects as they occur.

**BRIDGES:**

New bridges or box culverts will be installed to replace large pipes at the following sites:

- Mt. Hope Road and Poplar Hill Haul Road: the series of pipes will be removed and a new bridge will be installed
- Birch Run Road over Birch Run
- Milesburn Road over Long Pine Run
- The intersection of Lindsey Lot Road and Stillhouse Hollow Road
- Ridge Road over Cold Springs Run

**TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

**ACTIVE TIMBER SALES:** Timber sale contracts are normally executed with at least a two-year timeframe to complete the harvest. The following state forest timber sales will most likely be in operation during 2019:

- Grave Ridge Sale – 47-acre sale is located east of Route 233 near Woodrow Road on the ATV Trail. Harvesting may begin in 2019 with the potential to close the section of the ATV Trail near the sale during active sale operations.
- Spruce Run Sale – This 410-acre sale is located north of Pine Grove Furnace State Park off Ridge Road in the northernmost part of the District. Harvesting began in 2017 and should continue through much of 2019.

- Newman Road Sale – This 83-acre sale was completed in 2018 with road and skid trail seeding to occur in the spring of 2019.
- Deer Lick Sale – An 83-acre sale off Rattlesnake Run Road was completed late 2018 with road retirement and seeding to occur in spring of 2019.
- Slate Run Sale – This 173-acre sale is located off Wenksville Road along Slate Quarry Road. Harvesting is nearly complete with sale retirement and seeding to occur in spring 2019.
- Kepner Knob Sale – 103-acre sale is located off Mt. Hope Road. Most of the sale received an herbicide treatment in 2017 to remove competing vegetation. Harvesting began in early 2019 and will continue throughout the year,
- Curve Mountain Sale - This 104-acre sale is located southwest of Wirt Road. Harvesting is expected to begin in 2019.
- Grub Hill Sale – 116-acre sale is located along Old Forge Road near South Mountain. Harvesting was completed in 2018 with sale retirement and road seeding to occur in spring of 2019. Herbicide application was conducted in 2017 to remove interfering undesirable understory small trees and saplings.
- Chestnut Ridge Sale – This 69-acre sale is located northwest of Peach Glen Road. Harvesting is expected to begin in the spring of 2019.
- Mount Hope Sale – This sale off Mount Hope Road sold in January 2019. Harvesting could begin in 2019 but could last through 2021.

**APPROVED TIMBER SALES:**

- Briar Mountain Removal Sale - This 40-acre sale is located west of Swift Run Road in a deer fence. The sale will be sold in February 2019. Harvesting could begin later in 2019.

**TENTATIVE TIMBER SALES:**

- Eagle Rock Sale – 257-acre sale is located off Stillhouse Hollow Road. Proposal should be submitted early 2019 with timber marking most likely to occur by spring of 2019.
- A 168-acre sale is planned at the north section of Big Pond Road along Tobacco Patch Trail. The sale proposal should be submitted in 2019.
- Rusty Tricycle Sale – Sale is along Oak Road near Mont Alto. Sale proposal should be submitted in 2019.
- Hogshead Sale – Sale is located east of Hogshead Road and could encompass over 700 acres. Proposal should be submitted in 2019 with timber marking proposed for summer or fall of 2019.
- Grouse Sale – 17-acre sale is located off Myerstown Road. This aspen and oak sale will be cut to regenerate aspen for wildlife habitat, especially ruffed grouse. Proposal has been submitted. Harvesting can only occur from January to April.
- Feathered Edge and Teaberry Sales – These two pulpwood/firewood sales are located along the gas pipeline off Chimney Rocks Road. The combined 25 acres are proposed to create a “feathered edge” for wildlife habitat on both side of the pipeline ROW where grasses have been planted for this herbaceous opening or Special Wildlife Management Area.
- Chimney Rocks Sale – A 70-acre sale west of Chimney Rocks Vista could be proposed in 2019 with timber marking possible in late 2019 or 2020.

**DEER FENCES:** Fewer fences have been required recently, partly due to reduced deer impact on tree regeneration.

- One fence will be installed around a small herbaceous opening off Coon Road to protect tree seedlings in a new tree nursery.
- Wirt Road West fence will be removed. This 38-acre fence was installed in 2012.
- A 62-acre fence between Kettlesprings Road and Stump Run Road will be removed. This fence was installed in 2006.

- Milesburn Road fence (58 acres), west of Long Pine Reservoir, was installed in 2003 and will be removed this year.

**TREE PLANTING:** These areas will be planted by contractors in the spring of 2019:

- Deer Lick Sale – 50 acres off Rattlesnake Run Road will be planted with 3000 pitch pine, 6000 chestnut oak, and 1000 red oak seedlings.
- Devil Alex Sale - 23 acres off Stillhouse Hollow Road near Sandy Sod will be planted with 3500 red oak and 900 chestnut oak seedlings.
- Shriners Sale – 18 acres west of Old Forge Road near Camp Penn will be planted with 3100 white pine and 2600 chestnut oak seedlings in a newly installed deer exclosure fence.
- Grub Hill Sale – 12 acres at the north end of Old Forge Road will be planted with 2600 white pine and 2600 pitch pine seedlings.

**HERBICIDE PROJECTS:**

- Sawmill Campsite – This 45-acre block along Woodrow Road will be treated to control Japanese barberry and fern prior to a timber harvest.

*Other sales or projects could potentially occur in 2019, but forecasting all activity is difficult due to various reasons. We will periodically update this section throughout the year as additional timber management activities are confirmed as operational priorities.*

**RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

- **Big Pine Flat “Oak-Savanna” Restoration Project:**  
**Royer Treatment** – A 3 staged Royer Treatment will be conducted on approximately 475 acres of Scrub/shrub and pitch pine barrens. By mowing this area, we will be able to remove all over and mid-story trees with a diameter of less than 9”, as well as competing vegetation such as mountain-laurel. Scrub oak responds favorably to this type of treatment, and will regenerate quickly once mowed. Furthermore, mowing to increase sunlight and homogenize fuel loads will widen the prescribed burn window in this treatment block which is needed to restore this fire dependent habitat type.
- **Special Wildlife Management Areas (SWMAs)** –During the early 90’s, a severe decline in the wild turkey population was very prevalent on the Michaux State Forest. Due to the population decline, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Bureau of Forestry defined that ideal turkey habitat for brood-rearing was one of the reasons for the decline. In response, the Michaux State Forest, through funding provided by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), established and manages 43 herbaceous wildlife openings across the forest. Current efforts involve rejuvenating these areas to diverse mix of native grass, wildflower, shrub, and tree species that provide year around food and cover for game and non-game species. The following are priority projects for 2019:
  - **SWMA #13 Wildcat, SWMA #29 Hayes Run, and SWMA #5 Coon Road** will be rejuvenated and seeded to native warm season grass and wildflower mix and planted with native fruit and mast bearing shrubs and trees.
  - **Autumn olive removal** on SWMA #9 High Mountain Road, SWMA #10 Three Turn Road and SWMA #2 Irishtown Gap.
  - **Site prep for rejuvenation** of SWMA #10 Three Turn Road.
  - **SWMAs North of Route 30** will be mowed fall 2019 to prevent woody vegetation establishment.
- **Glatfelter American Woodcock Habitat** - The American woodcock is listed as a species of greatest conservation need by the Pennsylvania State Wildlife Action Plan. Woodcock are dependent on early

successional and shrubland/grassland habitats, which are in decline. The Glatfelter tract provides areas already being utilized by both resident and migratory woodcock. For the past two years, the district has been monitoring woodcock populations to establish a baseline from which to monitor the impact of habitat improvement efforts. In 2015 we began the first stages of habitat improvement with an herbicide treatment to address the Japanese honeysuckle and other invasive species that are outcompeting native scrub/shrub species. An adjacent 20-acre site will have a Royer treatment, where the primary goal is to create early successional habitat for the American woodcock.

- **Brook Trout and wetlands restoration Mountain Creek** - Many streams on state forest land lack the large woody material component normally found within mature, forested landscapes. Large woody material can increase habitat diversity in a homogenous stream reach by creating scour and plunge pools, providing escape cover for trout, and providing substrate and food for aquatic invertebrates on which brook trout feed on. Large woody material will naturally fall into streams, given time for the trees in riparian buffers to mature, die or blow-over, and eventually fall into stream. Until then, large woody material can be added to streams where habitat diversity is lacking by directionally felling trees into the stream channel.
- **Bunker Hill Herbicide Restoration Project** - For many years, foresters on the Michaux have struggled to figure out how to deal with challenges posed by the mix of invasive species; mile-a-Minute (*Persicaria perfoliate*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), crown-vetch (*Coronilla varia*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*), winged euonymus (*Euonymus alata*), Japanese privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Japanese spiraea (*Spiraea japonica*), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), wineberry (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), common periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Japanese wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda*) that has accumulated in and around these critical cultural sites. We will begin implementing a 5-year landscape level habitat enhancement and restoration project that we hope will be able to help us achieve numerous land management goals while also improving habitat for wild turkey and numerous other wildlife species. Sprays blocks have been delineated and assigned a year of completion for foliar and cut stump herbicide treatment. The year after a specific block is sprayed the Bureau of Forestry personnel will monitor the spray block and do any reapplications/spot treatments. During this time, monitoring efforts using the EDRR (early detection, rapid response) tactic will be implemented. Once all the treatment blocks are sprayed, the Bureau of Forestry will hire a contractor to mow all the dead vegetation that's 6" and under. Once that mowing is done we will then begin the "Recovery of Camp Michaux" phase. This process will be the most time/cost intensive part of the progression. Michaux State Forest and Camp Michaux is a high traffic area for recreation, so there is an exposure aspect as far as marketing goes as well as an educational aspect for highlighting the habitat restoration process. Throughout the process different types of habitat manipulation techniques will be utilized and restoration may be expedited if the opportunity presents itself.

The overall goal is to develop a site-based narrative around the cultural resources and environmental factors that have interacted in shaping this landscape. Developing human understanding, values, skills and behaviors on the part of the individuals and the groups that enable us to work towards and sustain desired future landscape conditions is a desired outcome of engaging forest visitors with this landscape sized habitat restoration project.

- **Other Habitat Projects** - The Michaux, in partnership with others within DCNR, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and other local conservation partners also

conducts several ongoing habitat monitoring and restoration projects throughout the year. These include microsite habitat manipulation for species of special conservation concern such as timber rattlesnake, spotted turtle, Allegheny chinquapin, native eastern lupine as well as monitoring and seed collection for protection and propagation of representative and high value tree and shrub species representative of the Michaux's forest habitat types.

### Prescribed Fire

- **Hairy Springs Prescribed Burn:** This prescribed burn is located in the Big Flat area, between Ridge Rd., Hogshead Rd., and Big Pond Rd. The burn area totals 1,926 acres in size. Unit 2, 1,398 acres, was burned in spring of 2018, the remaining 528 acres are planned for spring of 2019. This is a landscape level burn, with numerous goals and objectives. A few of which are pitch pine & scrub oak barrens restoration, fuel reduction for catastrophic wildfire prevention, and training opportunity for forestry staff in working in complex and large incidents. The burn will be conducted between mid-February to mid-April. Road and area closures will be in effect during this burn operation!
- **Dead Woman's Hollow Prescribed Burn:** This prescribed burn is located off Ridge Rd., between Dead Woman's Hollow Haul Rd, and Tumbling Run Game Preserve. This project consists of approximately 440 acres, which is broken into separate burn units ranging from about 60 acres up to 258 acre burn units. This project is aimed at rejuvenating the Pitch Pine, Scrub/Shrub barrens ecosystem that historically existed across this landscape. Furthermore, this project will also consist of special management geared towards creating critical grouse and woodcock breeding, nesting and foraging habitat. These burns may occur between mid April – November. This area will continually have prescribed burns every 5 – 15 years to maintain the pitch pine, scrub/shrub forest type. Units prioritized for this year include a 60 acre block scheduled for a spring burn, and a 258 acre late summer burn in an area pre-treated with a commercial timber sale.
- **Knarly Maple Burn:** This Prescribed burn is located inside a 20-acre deer fence, at the intersection of Wirt Rd. and Oak Rd. The estimated time we look to conduct the burn will be mid to late April into mid-November. The goal of this prescribed fire is to reduce the undesirable tree saplings and release the existing oak that is established in the fence.
- **Old Forge Prescribed Burn:** This prescribed burn is located along Old Forge Rd., right at the Old Forge State Forest Picnic area. The burn is less than 1.0 acre in size. This burn was conducted in spring of 2018, however will be re-burned this spring as well. The burn is being conducted to control unwanted growth of shrubs and invasive plants around remnants of a stone structure. The use of fire will be done to maintain this spot with native grasses and flowers. The burn will occur anytime between February and May, as soon as weather conditions allow.
- **Long Pine Reservoir Barberry Prescribed Burn:** This prescribed burn is located at the entrance to the Long Pine Reservoir Parking lot. The prescribed burn is 5.5 acres in size. The goal of this burn is to treat the barberry that is currently in the understory of the pine stands along the parking lot and access road. This is an experimental burn to monitor the effects of prescribed burning as a viable treatment option for invasive Japanese Barberry. The burn will occur anytime between February and May, as soon as weather conditions allow.
- **Special Wildlife Management Openings; Map Section 4:** These prescribed burns consist of burning small grass wildlife openings. The purpose of these prescribed burns is to reduce the thick thatch layer that is forming, remove woody vegetation from the openings, and help promote and rejuvenate the warm season grass components. The openings are scattered across the state forest, from the Long Pine Reservoir area, South to the town of South Mountain. These prescribed burns will occur between March and May.

### INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENT



- Aerial survey flight(s) will be conducted in late June/early July to detect large scale insect and/or disease areas. Gypsy moth is most often the insect detected with the flights on the Michaux.
- Gypsy moth defoliation is not expected to be a problem this year on the Michaux.
- Nearly all ash trees are expected to die within a few years in the district due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Over 40 ash trees were injected with insecticides in 2015 and 2017 to protect them from the borer. These trees will be monitored for their health in spring 2019 with potential retreatment in 2019 or 2020.
- Japanese barberry in the Pine Grove Furnace State Park will be sprayed again in spring 2019, as a continuation of the herbicide spray that began in spring 2015. Areas previously treated will be checked for skips and treated as needed. Glyphosate (Roundup) and Oust are the herbicides to be used. Blue dye may be added to aid in proper coverage of an area.
- Japanese barberry will be treated along roadsides on the following roads in early spring 2019: Milesburn Road from Route 233 to Long Pine Reservoir and Ridge Road from Shippensburg Road to Gilbert-Fegley Road.
- Control efforts for invasive plants will continue in 2019. Mile-a-minute is treated mostly in recent timber sale areas to control the plant until tree regeneration grows tall enough where the plants will no longer inhibit the seedlings. Weevils have been released in several locations to assist in controlling the mile-a-minute and are now spreading on their own throughout much of the district. Japanese knotweed treatments will continue in several small areas in the district. Japanese angelica is the most recent invasive that is a major concern. Areas in the southern Michaux are invaded most severely. Any Japanese angelica trees found to the north of the village of South Mountain will be targeted with herbicide.
- Invasives that could impact the Michaux in the near future are the spotted lanternfly, southern pine beetle, and wavyleaf basketgrass, which are all currently found in southeastern PA.

### NATURAL GAS AND OIL DEVELOPMENT

- The Michaux does not have any Natural Gas projects. No pipeline right-of-way projects are known at this point for 2019.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

- **Camp Michaux Learning Landscape Initiative.** Layout boundaries and establish inventory plots to write forest management plans for a scale-based forest management demonstration area for private landowners in the forest surrounding Camp Michaux. This will lay the groundwork for future management activities within a full-scale demonstration forest to showcase and interpret sustainable forestry activities at a scale that private landowners can utilize.
- **Strawberry Hill/Glatfelter Learning Watershed Initiative.** Approximately 485 acres of land currently held by the Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve became part of the Michaux State Forest in 2018. These properties were acquired by the late Frances Frohlicher to protect and restore the Swamp Creek and Middle Creek watersheds. We are working with Strawberry Hill staff, Adams county planning commission, and other stakeholders to sustain and enhance the stewardship and educational partnerships that have been built over the years through the Frohlicher legacy and the work of the Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve. Combined with the Glatfelter Tree Farm #1 which was acquired in 2010, these two acquisitions represent some of the last large acreage acquisitions likely to be added to this historic state forest. We'd like to sustain the conservation legacy behind these two historic properties by investing in a sustained effort of community stewardship, engagement, and learning on them. Seventy percent (70%) or 12 million acres of Pennsylvania's forest are

privately owned by 750,000 landowners. The average size of a private forest woodlot is 20 acres. These smaller tracts are often difficult to manage for all the desired forest values landowners hold for their properties due to a lack of economies of scale. It is our intent to work with local stakeholders to continue the Frohlicher legacy by using this new acquisition to demonstrate the critical role private forests and private forest decision makers play in sustaining healthy watersheds and landscapes for the rest of us to enjoy.

- **Charcoal Hearth Shared Use Trail Loop Project.** We are designing and seeking funding for a shared use trail loop system to improve shared use trail access and experience while reducing conflicts with hiking only trails near Pole Steeple. This is the first project implementing recommendations provided in the 2016 Michaux Trail Assessment Study. Contingent on grant funding.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Trail work Volunteer Days:** We will be holding three or four volunteer trail work days in 2018. We will update this plan as those dates are finalized and promote them through the local press and through the South Mountain partnership.
- **District Management Plan Open House** District will host an annual Open House winter 2019 to provide public updates and networking opportunities around district management goals and objectives.
- **Michaux State Forest Friends Group** The District will be working with Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation to establish a Friends of the Michaux State Forest. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and consider getting involved as this group takes shape.
- **Comment Cards:** Are available at most large parking area picnic pavilions and at the target range.
- **Email us:** Comments are always welcome at [FD01@pa.gov](mailto:FD01@pa.gov) or by calling the office at 717-352-2211
- **Partner with our Partners:** Consider engaging with the Michaux by partnering with our partners. From national trail organizations like the **Appalachian Trail Conservancy** to local volunteer groups like the Camp Michaux POW camp trail volunteers or Mountain Bikers of the Michaux, one of the best ways to engage with the Michaux is to find others who share your aspirations and stewardship values for this forest. And it doesn't have to all be about trails. The following is just a short list of other organizations that sustain critical engagement opportunities for those who care about this forest:
  - **Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation's** Vista Stewardship volunteers and Friends groups at Caledonia and Pine Grove Furnace State Parks and Kings Gap Environmental Learning center
  - **National Wild Turkey Federation:** Local NWTF chapters fund significant habitat work and volunteer projects annually on the Michaux.
  - **National Audubon Society:** Local chapters conduct birding tours, collect monitoring data, and host educational meetings annually on the Michaux and in the surrounding area.
  - **Trout Unlimited:** Sponsors habitat work and volunteer and educational activities annually on the Michaux and throughout the region.
  - The **South Mountain Partnership** provides access to a regional network of organizations and individuals committed to improving the quality of life through conservation and economic development throughout the South Mountain region.
  - **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful** provides trainings and educational resources for organizations, townships, law enforcement organizations and others interested in addressing littering, dumping, and graffiti issues through community engagement, volunteer organization, and strategic enforcement activities.

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

- Hairy Springs Burn Unit 2
- First Phase Bunker Hill Habitat restoration project
- Target Range backstop redesign
- Completing numerous large road and infrastructure improvement projects while coping with 50% above annual precipitation
- Continued progress on Mt. Creek Brook Trout Habitat Improvement Project and Pine Grove area barberry eradication efforts
- Electronic system for managing Organized event application, review, and scheduling process
- Strawberry Hill Acquisition

## RESEARCH

- The Michaux coordinates habitat priorities and work with various research entities conducting ongoing monitoring and research on Michaux species and habitats. A short list of ongoing research on the Michaux with the potential to influence our management activities and priorities includes work being done on the following species or habitats: Timber Rattlesnake, Northern Bulrush, Pitch-Pine Scrub oak barrens moth species, Eastern Lupine, Spotted turtle, Shortleaf pine, Spadefoot toad, Eastern bog turtle, American woodcock, and Wild Turkey