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 five 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 Loyalsock 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:

Richard A. Glinski, District Forester
Loyalsock State Forest District
6735 Route 220
Dushore, PA 18614
(570) 946-4049
fd20@pa.gov
RECREATION

- **Bridle Trail Improvements**: this project involves continued brushing, blazing, signing, and Erosion & Sedimentation Control projects on portions of the 52-mile trail system. Work began in 2019 and will continue as weather conditions permit.

- **Old Loggers Path Improvements**: this project involves the ongoing replacement of carved letter, wooden signage along entry points to the Old Loggers Path and the improvement of small parking areas at points where the trail crosses public use roads.

- **Comfort Station Installations**: this project involves the installation of two new prefabricated restrooms. A single-vault unit will be installed at the Dry Run Picnic Area and a double-vault unit will be installed at the Masten Camping Area/Old Logger’s Path trailhead.

- **Brook Kedron Trail**: A hiking-only footpath will be constructed from the parking lot of the State Forest Resource Management Center in Laporte Township, along Brook Kedron and link up with the Loyalsock Trail near The Haystacks rapids.

**Organized Events**

- **Trail Running Events**
  - Smith Knob Scramble – a 9-mile trail race utilizing portions of the Loyalsock Trail. Generally held the second Saturday in June.
  - Worlds End Ultra-Marathons – a rugged semi-professional 50K and 100K trail race held on portions of the Loyalsock Trail and State Forest and State Park trails. To be held in June, 2020.
  - Worlds End Fall Classic – a rugged half-marathon run on portions of the Loyalsock Trail and State Forest and State Park trails. Late September/early October, 2020.
  - Iron Forged Runners – Fun Run and Trail Work day – to be held on portions of the Loyalsock Trail and State Forest and State Park Trails to be determined.
  - Two Rivers Adventure Race – an arduous two-day event featuring kayaking, mountain biking and running. Participants will start at Masten and orienteer through Rock Run Valley before leaving Loyalsock State Forest and heading to Tioga State Forest. Memorial Day Weekend, 2020.
  - Old Loggers Path Ultra-Marathon – a proposed 50K and 100K trail run along the Old Loggers Path and adjoining trails. Tentative date is June 27, 2020.

- **Mountain Biking Events**:
  - Endless Mountains Gravel: a one-day bike ride on gravel roads will be held on June 13, 2020. Route is to be determined but will be on a combination of township and forestry roads in central Sullivan County.
  - Endless Mountains Heritage Region Hikes and Bikes Series: a two-day bike ride, primarily on gravel roads, will be held on September 12-13, 2020.
Hiking Events:
  o Endless Mountains Heritage Region Hikes and Bikes Series: a two-day foot hike will be held October 3-4, 2020. Route is to be determined but will be centered in Worlds End State Park and is expected to include state forest trails.

Fishing Derby
  o The annual fishing derby sponsored by the Loyalsock Creek Men’s Club will be held at Little Bear Creek on Sunday, May 3.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active
  o 124-acre sale (20-2015BC06) near Big Hollow Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
  o 97-acre sale (20-2016BC08) near Loyalsock Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
  o 95-acre sale (20-2016BC09) near Loyalsock Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
  o 60-acre sale (20-2017BC01) near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County, Clear Cut Treatment
  o 43-acre sale (20-2017BC05) near Bodines Mt. Road in Lewis Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood/Over story Removal Treatment.
  o 147-acre sale (20-2017BC08) near Upper Bodines Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood/Selection/Over story Treatment
  o 55-acre sale (20-2017BC09) near Bear Wallow Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Selection/Clear Cut Treatment
  o 63-acre sale (20-2017BC10) near Devil’s Elbow in McNett Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment
  o 100-acre sale (20-2017BC11) near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County, Shelter wood/Over Story Removal Treatment
  o 100-acre sale (20-2018BC01) near Walker Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Selection/Shelter wood Treatment
  o 67-acre sale (20-2018BC02) near Big Hollow Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment
  o 69-acre sale (20-2018BC03) near John Merrill Road Extension in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment
  o 218-acre sale (20-2018BC05) near Middle Hill Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Salvage, Seed Tree and Over Story Removal Treatments
  o 88-acre sale (20-2019BC04) near John Merrill Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment

January 17, 2020
Approved but not yet sold
- 211-acre sale (20-2019BC01) near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment
- 36-acre sale (20-2019BC02) near Slab Run Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Over Story Removal Treatment

Proposed (not yet marked)
- 150-acre sale (20-2019BC05) near Loyalsock Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County, Over Story Removal Treatment

Regeneration projects
- **Woven Wire Fence Installations**
  - 44-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
  - 17-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
  - 60-acre fence near Mead Road in Laporte Township, Sullivan County
  - 106-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
- **Woven Wire Fence Dismantles**
  - 59-acre fence near Big Hollow Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County
  - 41-acre fence near Mill Creek Road in McNett Township, Lycoming County
  - 33-acre fence near Brunnerdale Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
- **Herbicide, Ground Application**
  - No Herbicide projects this year
- **Other Regeneration Projects**
  - Tree planting - 60-acre block near Mead Road in Laporte Township, Sullivan County

RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS
- **Wallis Run Stream Habitat**: repairs to the stream habitat structures caused by the 2016 flood will continue to be repaired through a cooperative effort between the Northcentral PA Conservancy, PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Loyalsock Forest District.
- **Ruffed Grouse Habitat**: The forest district will continue a landscape level restoration project to improve ruffed grouse habitat along Nettle Ridge near High Knob Road, Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County. This project is a collaboration between the Loyalsock Forest District, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the local Ruffed Grouse Society Chapter and Pennsylvania College of Technology Forestry Program.

January 17, 2020
**BRIDGE PROJECTS**

- **Loyalsock Road over High Rock Run:** this project involves the replacement of a large, deteriorated steel arch culvert in Forks Township, Sullivan County.

- **Cascade Road over Unnamed Tributary to East Branch Wallis Run:** this project involves the replacement of a large, deteriorated steel arch culvert in Cascade Township, Lycoming County. Culvert will be lengthened to allow for safer passage of vehicles through the curve in the roadway.

- **Pleasant Stream Road over Short Run:** this project involves the installation of a bottomless arch culvert on a section of re-routed road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County as part of a larger flood repair project.

- **Pleasant Stream Road over Long Run:** this project involves the installation of a concrete box culvert on a section of re-routed road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County as part of a larger flood repair project.

- **Pleasant Stream Road over un-named tributary to Pleasant Stream:** this project involves the installation of a bottomless arch culvert on a section of re-routed road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County as part of a larger flood repair project.

- **Pleasant Stream Road over Sixth Bottom:** this project involves the replacement of an arch culvert in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County as part of a larger flood repair project.

- **Pleasant Stream Road over Bear Run:** this project involves the replacement of an aging wood-decked, steel girder bridge with a concrete box culvert in Cascade Township, Lycoming County.

- **Camels Road over Middle Branch of Mill Creek:** this project involves the final completion and cleaning of a bottomless arch culvert installed during flood repairs in summer 2019.

- **Hilsgrove Road over West Branch of Mill Creek:** this project involves the completion of a bottomless arch culvert installed during flood repairs in fall 2019 that replaced a large French drain. Site will be filled to grade and driving surface aggregate applied.

- **Grays Run Road over Long Run:** this project involves repairs to the wing wall of the bridge in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County.

- **Hagerman Run Road over Hagerman Run:** this project involves repairs to an arch culvert in Lewis Township, Lycoming County.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

- **Cold Run Road DSA:** this project will be placing 5,000 tons of DSA material on approximately 1.5 miles of the Cold Run Road primarily in Worlds End State Park in Forks and Shrewsbury Townships, Sullivan County beginning at Mineral Spring Road and continuing past Loyalsock Canyon Vista.

January 17, 2020
• **Loyalsock Road**: Phase 1 of this project involves installing 44 culvert pipes, install underdrain, and raise the road profile.

• **General Flood Repairs**: the final stages of repairs to Cascade, Big Hollow, Mill Creek, Slab Run, Camels, Mill Creek, Bear Wallow, Hillsgrove, and Lutz Roads will continue.

• **Pleasant Stream Road Relocation 1**: this project involves re-routing a portion of the road between Bovier Run and Short Run, the replacement of bridges over Short Run and Long Run, and general road repairs in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County.

• **Pleasant Stream Road Relocation 2**: this project involves the major relocation of Pleasant Stream Road onto the former Susquehanna and New York Railroad grade between the general area of Potash Hollow to Sixth Bottom Run in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. The project will also involve the installation of a bottomless arch culvert over an unnamed tributary to Pleasant Stream.

• **Mill Creek Road Relocation and Walker Road Repairs**: this project involves the re-routing of Mill Creek Road, the removal of three bridges, retirement of a portion of Mill Creek Road, and repairs to Walker Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County.

• **Loyalsock Road**: this project is to expand two switchbacks on the road to improve safety and to resolve maintenance problems associated with the switchbacks.

• **Slab Run Road**: this project involves resurfacing the entire 1-mile roadway with 2RC.

• **Mineral Spring Road**: this project involves coordination with Worlds End State Park to repair two major slide areas along the road resulting from the excessive rain and flooding in the summer 2018.

**PRESCRIBED FIRE**

• No Prescribed Fires are proposed on State Forest lands

**INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS**

• **Emerald Ash Borer Tree Injections**: this project includes the injection of Emamectin Benzoate insecticide (Tree-age) into approximately 80 white and black ash trees located in various blocks near Rock Run Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County and near High Knob Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County.

• **Hemlock Wooly Adelgid**: This project includes the injection of approximately 350 Hemlock trees near Bear Wallow Pond in Fox Township, Sullivan County and Sandy Bottom Recreation Area in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County.
NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Tract 726 B**: Pennsylvania General Energy continues to utilize Pad B and associated infrastructure on Allegheny Ridge near Bryan Hay Road, Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County for natural gas extraction. Future proposed associated infrastructure construction consists of a pipeline enlargement project along with the construction of a 35-million-gallon fresh water impoundment. In addition, a temporary water line has been proposed to be laid overland from Route 87 to supply the newly constructed fresh water impoundment. Several of these projects may impact the Loyalsock Trail System. Only preliminary approval for these projects has been granted so that PGE can continue with determining the feasibility, developing plans, and seeking the necessary permits.

- **Tract 723 and Tract 724**: Pennsylvania General Energy has indicated the desire to develop additional natural gas drilling pads, pipelines, roadways, and compression on Jacoby and Cove Mountains. To date, no definitive plans have been proposed and it is unlikely that any significant work will be done during this calendar year.

- **Tract 100**: Seneca Resources Corporation continues to be active with various well drilling and erosion mitigation activities throughout the tract. A remediation of the Hagerman fresh water impoundment will occur this calendar year and repairs to a culvert carrying Hagerman Run Road over Hagerman Run are expected. Seneca Resources and the Loyalsock Forest District will be cooperating on repairs to wingwalls at the bridge carrying Grays Run Road over Long Run.

- **Alta Resources, LLC**: Alta Resources has started preliminary construction work on their 551-site located near Bodines Mountain Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County. Additional large-scale infrastructure construction will occur throughout this calendar year. Alta Resources has constructed a temporary above ground water line with a portion of the line crossing state forest lands near Kellyburg Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County to support Alta Resource’s private holdings extraction activities.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

- None anticipated

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Facebook page**: this is an ongoing project to keep forest visitors informed of happenings on the Loyalsock State Forest. Facebook page will be monitored daily and the district staff will update the page with worthy information at a minimum of once per week.

- **Loyalsock Vista**: this is a district newsletter compiling articles from staff on recreation, forest management and forest fire protection. It is sent annually via email and postal mail to Forest Fire Wardens, forest campsite lessees, retirees, and a variety of other contacts.

January 17, 2020
• **Green Career Day:** this project involves introducing middle school students in Sullivan, Bradford and Tioga school districts to a variety of outdoor career fields. Project is dependent upon funding and school participation and is generally held in mid to late September.

• **Sullivan County Elementary Youth Field Day:** this project involves teaching elementary school children about conservation and is held in Laporte in late May.

• **Sullivan County Fair:** this project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fair in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.

• **Sullivan County Fall Festival:** this project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fairgrounds in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.

• **Sullivan County Flaming Foliage Festival:** this project involves the manning of an educational exhibit at the county fairgrounds in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.

• **Worlds End Day:** this event involves the manning of an educational and informational booth at Worlds End State Park in Forksville. Anticipated for mid-July.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

• **Little Bear Creek Handicapped Fishing Access:** this project involves major repairs to the water jack and base of the fishing pier and general streambank protection using logs and rip-rap. Work is a cooperative effort between the Loyalsock Forest District, the Loyalsock Creek Men’s Club and the PA Fish and Boat Commission.

**RESEARCH**

• **Headwater Peatlands:** this research project involves the assessment of headwater peatlands in the state forest. Continuing research is being conducted by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

• **American Ginseng:** this research is to document populations, associated habitat and the establishment of long-term monitoring plots on Pennsylvania’s state forest land. Continuing research is being conducted by The Pennsylvania State University.

• **Marcellus Gas Monitoring Team:** these research and monitoring studies include a variety of areas within the Loyalsock State Forest to include the Pleasant Stream and Rock Run areas. Research will assess base line conditions for a variety of aspects including roads, streams and water quality, mammals, birds, insects and invasive plant species.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

• **Forest Management:**
  - The district forest resource management team released 557 acres of timber to bid this year including the salvage of white ash and overstory removal harvests.

January 17, 2020
• **Forest Maintenance:**
  
  o **Bridle Trail Improvements:** several culvert pipes and water drainage issues were addressed at the trailhead by route 42 as well as aggregate was placed on the surface to raise the trail.
  
  o **Coal Mine Road Rehabilitation:** the entire length of the road had the roadside vegetation cut to improve vehicle visibility.
  
  o **Chimneys at Dry Run Picnic Area:** both chimneys on the picnic shelters were repointed and had stones reset.
  
  o **High Knob Road and Cold Run Road:** rusted and faulty guide rails were removed so there was not a false sense of security.
  
  o **Shanerburg Road:** DSA material was paver placed on a 1-mile stretch of the road.
  
  o **Camels Road:** the bridge over Middle Branch Run was replaced and opened to traffic.
  
  o **Big Hollow Road:** the bridge over Mill Creek was repaired, extended and opened to traffic.
  
  o **Loyalsock Road over High Rock Run:** this project replaced a large, deteriorated steel arch culvert in Forks Township, Sullivan County.
  
  o **Shanerburg Road over East Branch Double Run:** this project replaced a large, deteriorated steel arch culvert in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County.
  
  o **Wallis Run:** this stream habitat improvement project with the Fish and Boat Commission repaired several mud sills and log vane deflectors damaged by 2016 flooding.
  
  o **Loyalsock Road Berm Removal:** this project involved excavating large earthen berms along road shoulder in order to improve drainage and to prepare for the installation of underdrainage and raising the road profile.

January 17, 2020