LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST DISTRICT

2019 ACTIVITY PLAN

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:

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RECREATION

• **Bridle Trail Improvements:** this project involves brushing, blazing, signing, and Erosion & Sedimentation Control projects on portions of the 52-mile trail system.

• **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.

• **Bear Wallow Pond Trail:** as part of the Bear Wallow Pond Recreation Area improvements, a 1.3-mile hiking/nature trail around Bear Wallow Pond will be constructed by Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps members. Construction will include signage, multiple foot bridges, and two benches in scenic locations.

• **Dry Run Picnic Area Pavilions:** Repairs to the stone foundation and chimneys as well as repointing will be completed in 2019.

**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, 2019.
  - 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, 2019.
  - 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.
  - High Knob Trail Run- a 10k foot race on trails near High Knob. Held in October.

• **Fishing Derby**
  - The annual fishing derby sponsored by the Loyalsock Creek Men’s Club will be held at Little Bear Creek on Sunday, May 5.
TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Marked and sold, potentially active

- 124-acre sale (20-2015BC06) near Big Hollow Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
- 86-acre sale (20-2016BC02) near Cascade Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
- 97-acre sale (20-2016BC08) near Loyalsock Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
- 95-acre sale (20-2016BC09) near Loyalsock Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
- 60-acre sale (20-2017BC01) near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County, Clear Cut Treatment
- 73-acre sale (20-2017BC02) near McCarty Road (West) in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County, Shelter wood Treatment
- 199-acre sale (20-2017BC03) near Big Hollow and Cascade Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Selection/Shelter wood Treatment
- 125-acre sale (20-2017BC04) near Cascade Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
- 43-acre sale (20-2017BC05) near Bodines Mt. Road in Lewis Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood/Over Story Removal Treatment.
- 59-acre sale (20-2017BC06) near High Knob Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County, Over Story Removal Treatment
- 37-acre sale (20-2017BC07) near Cascade Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood/Selection Treatment
- 55-acre sale (20-2017BC09) near Bear Wallow Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Selection/Clear Cut Treatment
- 63-acre sale (20-2017BC10) near Devil’s Elbow in McNett Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment
- 100-acre sale (20-2017BC11) near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County, Shelter wood/Over Story Removal Treatment
- 69-acre sale (20-2018BC03) near John Merrill Road Extension in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment

Approved but not yet sold

- 41-acre sale (20-2016BC07) near Hillsgrove Road in McNett Township, Lycoming County, Salvage/Shelter wood Treatment
- 129-acre sale (20-2017BC08) near Upper Bodines Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County, Multiple Treatments
- 100-acre sale (20-2017BC12) near Lower Pleasant Stream Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County, Clear Cut Treatment

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- 67-acre sale (20-2018BC02) near Big Hollow Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County, Over Story Removal Treatment

**Proposed (not marked yet)**

- 100-acre sale (20-2018BC01) near Walker Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Salvage/Selection/Shelter wood Treatment
- 52-acre sale (20-2018BC04) near Worlds End Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County, Shelter wood and Over Story Removal Treatment
- 218-acre sale (20-2018BC05) near Middle Hill Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County, Salvage, Seed Tree and Over Story Removal treatments

**Regeneration projects**

- **Woven Wire Fence Installations**
  - 49-acre fence near John Merrell Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County
  - 92-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Laporte Township, Sullivan County
- **Woven Wire Fence Dismantles**
  - **2017**
    - 50-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
    - 74-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
    - 15-acre fence near Nolans Trail in Fox Twp, Sullivan County
    - 78-acre fence near McCarty Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 31-acre fence near Big Hollow Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County
    - 40-acre fence near Mineral Springs Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 39-acre fence near Lower Camels Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County
    - 13-acre fence near Lower Camels Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County
    - 52-acre fence near Randall Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County
    - 51-acre fence near Randall Road in Forks Township, Sullivan County
  - **2018**
    - 78-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 60-acre fence near John Merrill Road in Cascade Township, Lycoming County
    - 34-acre fence near Bodines Mt. Road in Lewis Township, Lycoming County
    - 19-acre fence near SR 42 in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 18-acre fence near SR 42 in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 40-acre fence near Shanerburg Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 77-acre fence near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County
    - 33-acre fence near Brunnerdale Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County
    - 26-acre fence near Brunnerdale Road in Shrewsbury Township, Sullivan County

- **Herbicide, Ground Application**
- 23-acre block (Hand Cut) near Pleasant Stream Road in McNett Township, Lycoming County
- 30-acre block near Mead Road in Laporte Township, Sullivan County
- 5-acre block near Mead Road in Laporte Township, Sullivan County
- 16-acre block near Bodines Mt. Road in Lewis Township, Lycoming County
- 22-acre block near Bodines Mt. Road in Lewis Township, Lycoming County

- **Other Regeneration Projects**
  - Tree planting - 16-acre block near Mead Road in Laporte Township, Sullivan County
  - Tree Planting - 34-acre block near Bear Wallow Road in Fox Township, Sullivan County

**RESTORATION AND HABITAT PROJECTS**

- **Wallis Run Stream Habitat**: repairs to the stream habitat structures caused by the 2016 flood will be repaired through a cooperative effort between the Northcentral PA Conservancy, PA Fish and Boat Commission and the Loyalsock Forest District.

**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.
- **Shanerburg Road over East Branch Double Run**: this project involves the replacement of a large, deteriorated steel arch culvert in Shrewsbury 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.

**ROAD PROJECTS**

- **Shanerburg Road DSA**: this project will be placing DSA material on a 1 mile stretch of the Shanerburg Road.
- **Loyalsock Road**: phase 1 – 44 culvert pipes to be installed, underdrain, and raise road profile.
- **2018 Flood Repairs**: additional projects with contracted repairs, which will take several years, to Dry Run Road, Mineral Springs Road, Mill Creek Road, Lower Pleasant Stream Road, and the Robwood Tract. This includes numerous stream crossings.

**PRESCRIBED FIRE**
• 36-acre block near Red Ridge Road in Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County. Spring of 2019

INSECT, DISEASE, AND INVASIVE PLANT TREATMENTS

• **Emerald Ash Borer Tree Injections**: This project includes the injection of a systemic insecticide treatment into approximately 116 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 plus Cascade Road in Plunketts Creek and Cascade Twps., Lycoming County.

• **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**: This project includes a systemic insecticide treatment of approximately 200 Hemlock trees near Bear Wallow Pond in Fox Township, Sullivan County

NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

• **Tract 726 B**: Pennsylvania General Energy has completed the construction of Pad B and associated infrastructure on Allegheny Ridge near Bryan Hay Road, Plunketts Creek Township, Lycoming County. The future associated infrastructure construction for this project will consist of a pipeline corridor. The proposed pipeline project may impact the Loyalsock Trail System.

• **Tract 723 and Tract 724**: Pennsylvania General Energy has completed drilling on Pad 724 and 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 however, it is likely that work will continue during this calendar year.

• **Tract 100**: Seneca Resources Corporation has resumed active well drilling on Pad M and R. Hagerman Run Road is one-way traffic while this drilling activity occurs. A temporary above-ground water line has been constructed to move fresh water to Pad R to support drilling activities.

• **Alta Resources, LLC**: Alta Resources has started preliminary survey work on their 551-site located near Bodines Mt. Road in McIntyre Township, Lycoming County in anticipation of the construction of well pads and related infrastructure.

TOWER AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROJECTS

• Acquired new ROW from Eagles Mere Conservancy to continue resurfacing and overall maintenance of the Loyalsock SF Bridle Trail.

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.

• **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 staffing of an educational exhibit at the county fair in Forksville. Dependent upon overtime funding.

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

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

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

• No special projects are planned.

**RESEARCH**

• The following research projects are expected to continue:

  • **Trout Research:**
    - A research project involves genetic studies of brook trout in the Loyalsock Creek Watershed along Shanerburg and Double Run in Forks Township, Sullivan County. The research is being conducted by U.S. Geological Survey, PA Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, The Pennsylvania State University.
    - A research project involves the evaluation of thermal habitat used by brook and brown trout. Studies are being conducted by the Stroud Water Research Group throughout the forest district.

  • **Headwater Peatlands:** this research project involves the assessment of headwater peatlands in the state forest. 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. 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.

• **Birch Regeneration Project**: This research and monitoring study will look at the life cycle of Yellow/Gray Birch and its effect on other Northern Hardwood timber specie’s reproduction. Research is being conducted by Dr. Pat Brose of the UFS on several sites across the entire forest district.

• The Pennsylvania State University School of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management is conducting the year-long **PA Visitor Use Monitoring Survey** study throughout the forest until February 2019. This study consists of visitor exit surveys and trail/traffic counts.

**MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM PREVIOUS YEAR**

• **Forest Management**:
  o The district forest resource management team released 600 acres of timber to bid this year, primarily salvage of white ash
  o Active timber sales removed hazardous white ash trees from along approximately 25 miles of State Forest Roads to date

• **Forest Maintenance**:
  o **Mill Creek Road**: this project involves two repairs, replacement of a block retaining wall with a soldier-pile retaining system (Hillsgrove Twp./Sullivan Co.) and a road/stream bank slide repair (Fox Twp./Sullivan Co). The road/stream bank was 90% completed in 2017.
  o **Brunnerdale Road Rehabilitation**: this project involves roadside brushing, multiple cross-pipe replacements, two French mattresses, and resurfacing with Driving Surface Aggregate over most of the 4.4-mile state forest road.
  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 **Chimney at the Masten Camping area**: the chimney was repaired and made structurally sound to maintain the historical importance of the area.