



Natural Resources Conservation Service
359 East Park Drive, Suite 2
Harrisburg, PA 17111



December 26, 2019

State Technical Committee
AGENDA
PA State Technical Committee
Thursday, January 23, 2020

- 1:00 Welcome – Denise Coleman, State Conservationist
- 1:05 PA State Forest Action Plan – Ryan Szuch, Bureau of Forestry, Forest Resource Planning Section, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- 1:35 PA State Wildlife Action Plan – Diana Day, PA Fish and Boat Commission, and Catherine D. Haffner, PA Game Commission
- 2:05 2018 Farm Bill Financial Programs: EQIP and CSP – Barry Frantz, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
- 2:50 2018 Farm Bill Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Hathaway Jones, Easement Programs Manager
- 3:10 2018 Farm Bill Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) – Susan Marquart, Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships
- 3:30 Committee Input: Do the State Technical Committee members have any suggestions for topics or agenda items for future meetings?

Next State Technical Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Dates for 2020 State Technical Committee Meetings:

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

Thursday, October 22, 2020

Listen in/participate by calling:

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State Technical Committee

January 23, 2020

Meeting Notes

Susan Marquart, PA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, opened the meeting for Denise Coleman, State Conservationist (NRCS) promptly at 1pm. She announced that in the past we have been using the Toll-Free Number for use by those members who could not attend the meeting in person, but could still participate by hearing the meeting. Today we are going to use a Webinar Approach so that members will be able to see the actual presentations as well as hear them. Susan Welcomed all present and those on the phone and asked that they introduce themselves. There were 29 physically present and 17 participating from remote locations. Susan then introduced Ryan Szuch of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

Ryan Szuch, Bureau of Forestry, Forest Resource Planning Section of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Ryan presented information concerning Strategic Priorities and the Pennsylvania Forest Action Plan for 2020. (See attached Handout) He said that their mission is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the forests in the Commonwealth and to conserve native wild plants which is found in "Penn's Woods", which is the current Strategic Plan. "Penns Woods" consists of four sub-parts if you read into it further. The mission is accomplished by:

1. Managing state forests under sound ecosystem management; retaining their wild character; maintaining biological diversity; while providing pure water, opportunities for low-density recreation.

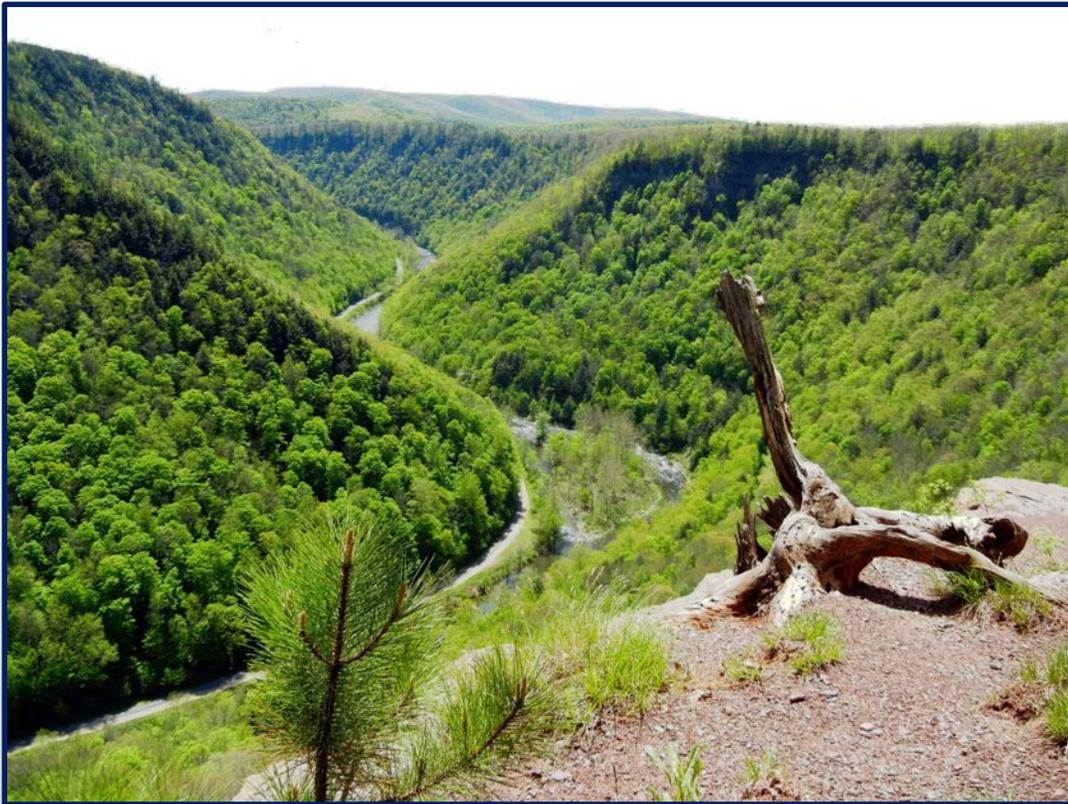
2. Habitats for forest plants and animals, sustained yields of quality timber, environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources; protecting forestlands, public and private, from damage and/or destruction by fires, insects, diseases and other agents.

3. Promoting forestry and the knowledge of forestry by advising and assisting other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industry, and the general public in the wise stewardship and utilization of forest resources.

4. Protecting and managing native wild flora resources by determining status, classifying and conserving native wild plants. The original strategic plan, Penn's Woods was established in 1995 which is the bureau's current strategic Plan, is moving toward Ecosystem Management and setting broad direction for managing state forests and private forest resources. He went on to explain the "Plan" Relationship Tree in detail. He discussed the processes to be able to achieve long-term forest sustainability and the funding requirements, and exactly what is included in the State Forest Action Plan. He also indicated that the Forest Action Plan was due to be revised in June of 2020. (A draft copy of the Bureau of Forestry Strategic Priorities and the 2020 State Forest Action Plan Outline that was updated in December 2019 is attached.) He also discussed the highlights of current and pending legislation.

Conserving Penn's Woods

Bureau of Forestry Strategic Planning



Ryan Szuch

**Forest Resource
Planning Section**

NRCS State Technical Committee
January 23, 2020

www.dcnr.state.pa.us



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Presentation Overview

- **Mission**

- Current mission of the Bureau of Forestry

- **Strategic Planning in the Bureau of Forestry**

- *Penn's Woods*
- Planning structure
- Inputs

- **Strategic Plan revision process**

- Approach
- Timeline
- Strategic Issues



Bureau of Forestry Mission

www.dcnr.state.pa.us

Penn's Woods Today

Our Mission:

“To ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth’s forest and to conserve native wild plants.”



Mission

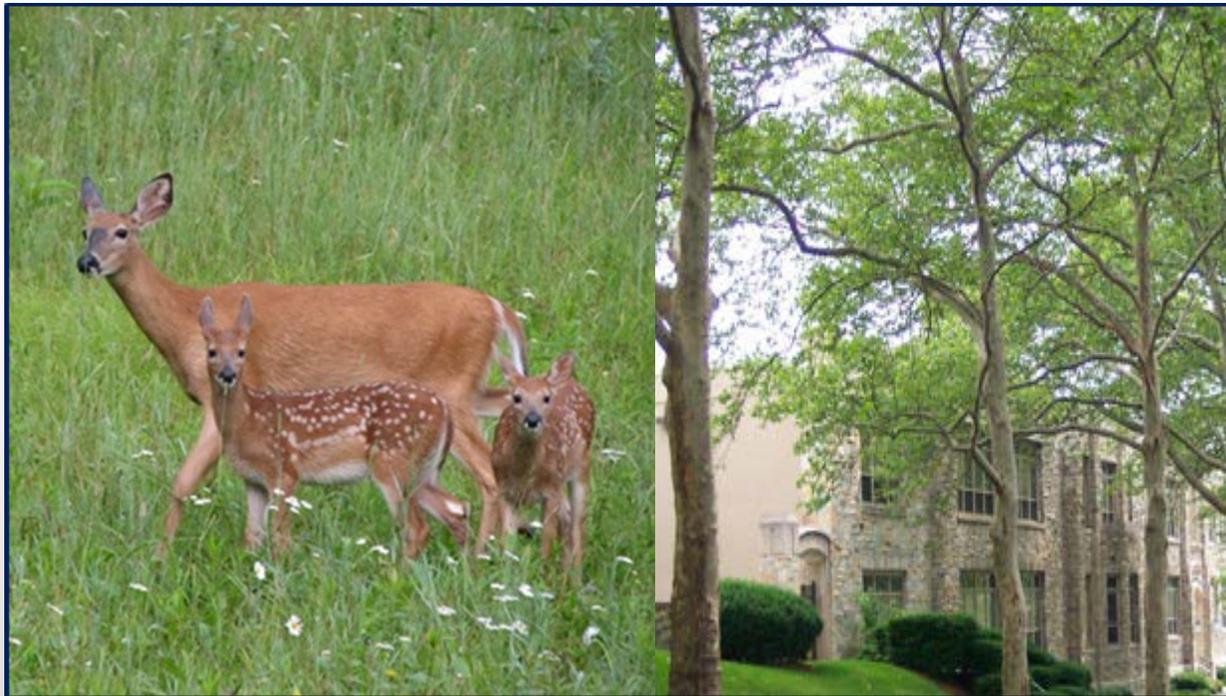
Bureau of Forestry will accomplish its Mission by...



- Managing state forests under sound ecosystem management
- Retaining their wild character
- Maintaining biological diversity
- While providing ...
 - pure water
 - opportunities for low-density recreation
 - habitats for forest plants and animals
 - sustained yields of quality timber
 - environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources.

Mission

Bureau of Forestry will accomplish its Mission by...



Protecting forestlands, public and private, from damage and/or destruction by fires, insects, diseases and other agents.

Mission

Bureau of Forestry will accomplish its Mission by...

Promoting forestry and the knowledge of forestry by advising and assisting other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industry, and the general public in the wise stewardship and utilization of forest resources.



Mission

Bureau of Forestry will accomplish its Mission by...

Protecting and managing native wild flora resources by determining status, classifying, and conserving native wild plants.



Bureau of Forestry Strategic Planning



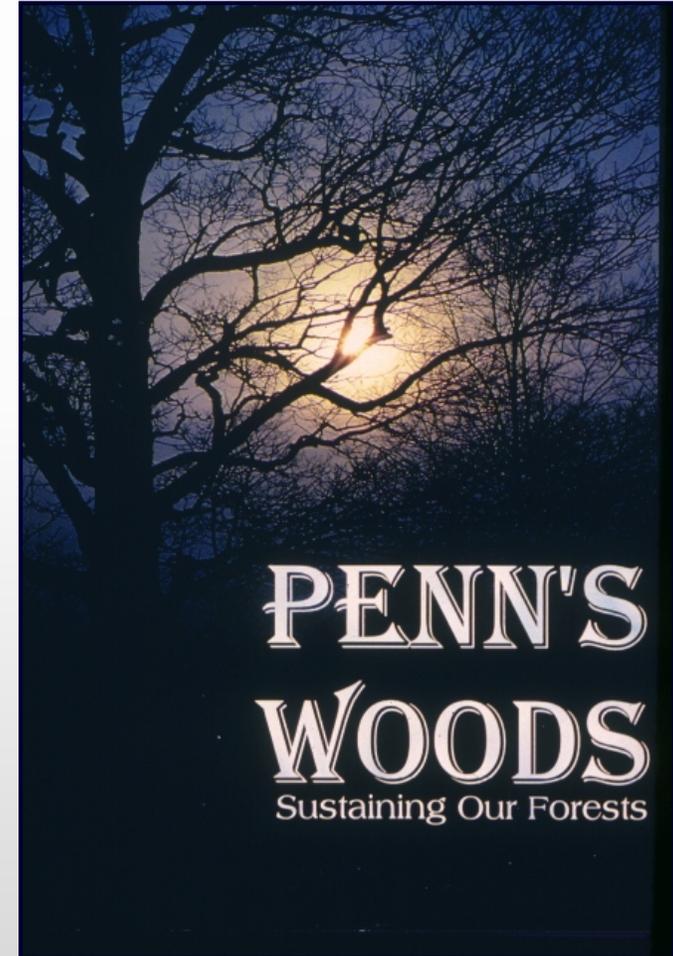
Conserving Penn's Woods

Bureau of Forestry Strategic Planning

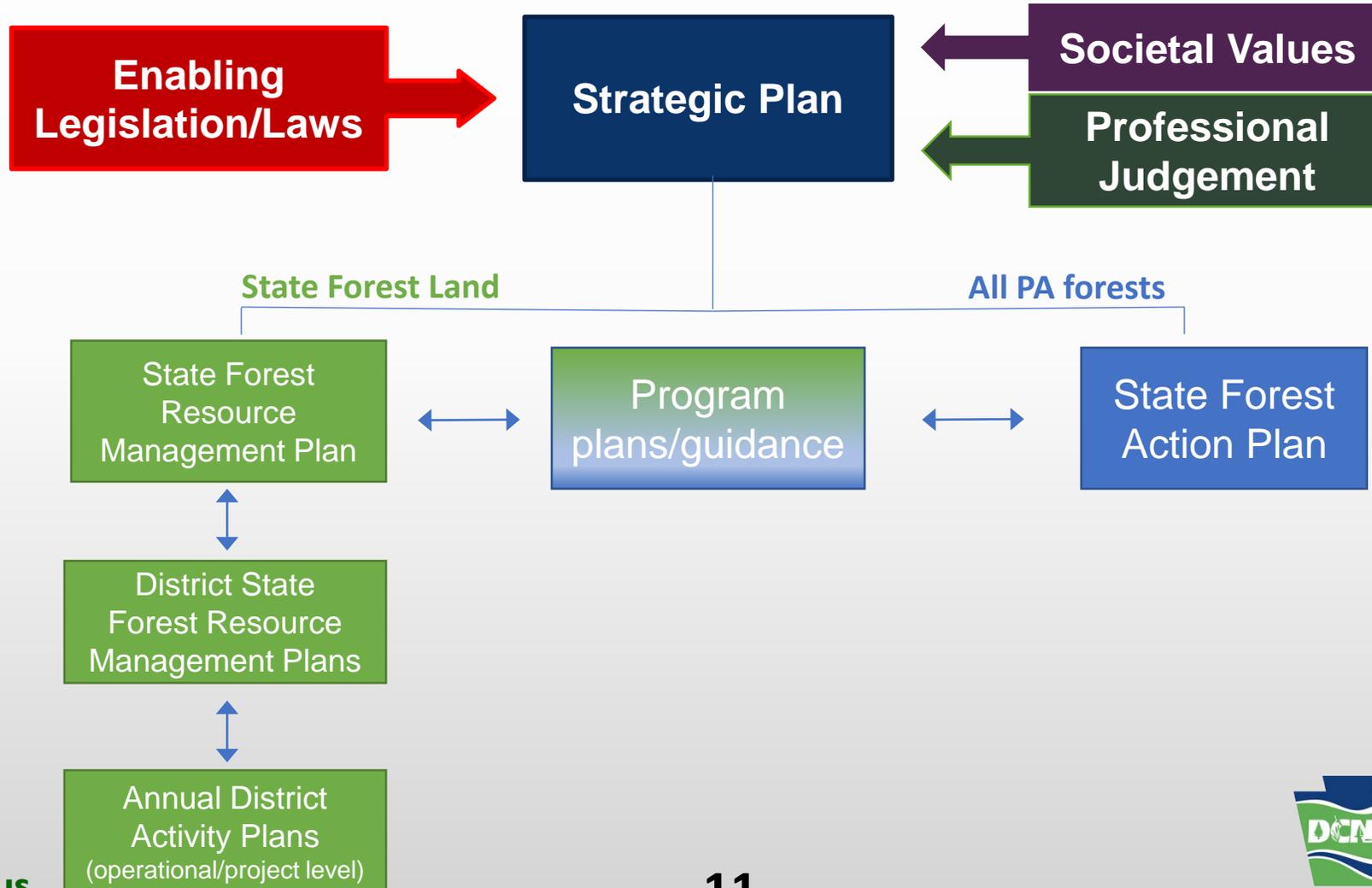
Strategic Planning : *an organization's process of defining its strategy, or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy*

Penn's Woods, est.1995:

- Established bureau's current mission
- Moved toward Ecosystem Management
- Set broad direction for managing state forests and private forest resources



The “Plan” Relationship Tree



The “Plan” Relationship Tree



Forest Action Plan

ACHIEVING LONG-TERM FOREST SUSTAINABILITY

Forest Action Plan must:

1. Assess the condition of trees and forests regardless of ownership
2. Develop strategies to:
 - a) Conserve working forest landscapes,
 - b) Protect forests from harm,
 - c) Enhance public benefits from trees and forests.

BOF receives federal funding for program such as:

- Forest Stewardship
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Health
- Wildland Fire Programs

Forest Action Plan

ACHIEVING LONG-TERM FOREST SUSTAINABILITY

- **The State Forest Action Plan includes:**

- Conditions and Trends (Sustainability Meters)
- Issues, Threats, and Opportunities
- Long-term Strategies
- Priority Landscapes

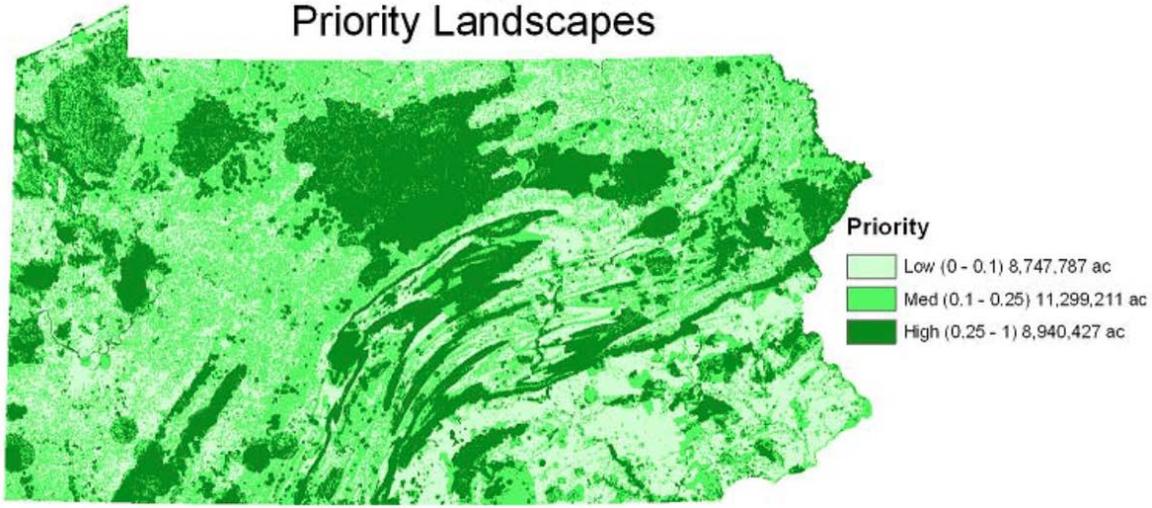
- **Revision of PA Forest Action Plan due June 2020**



Geospatial Analysis

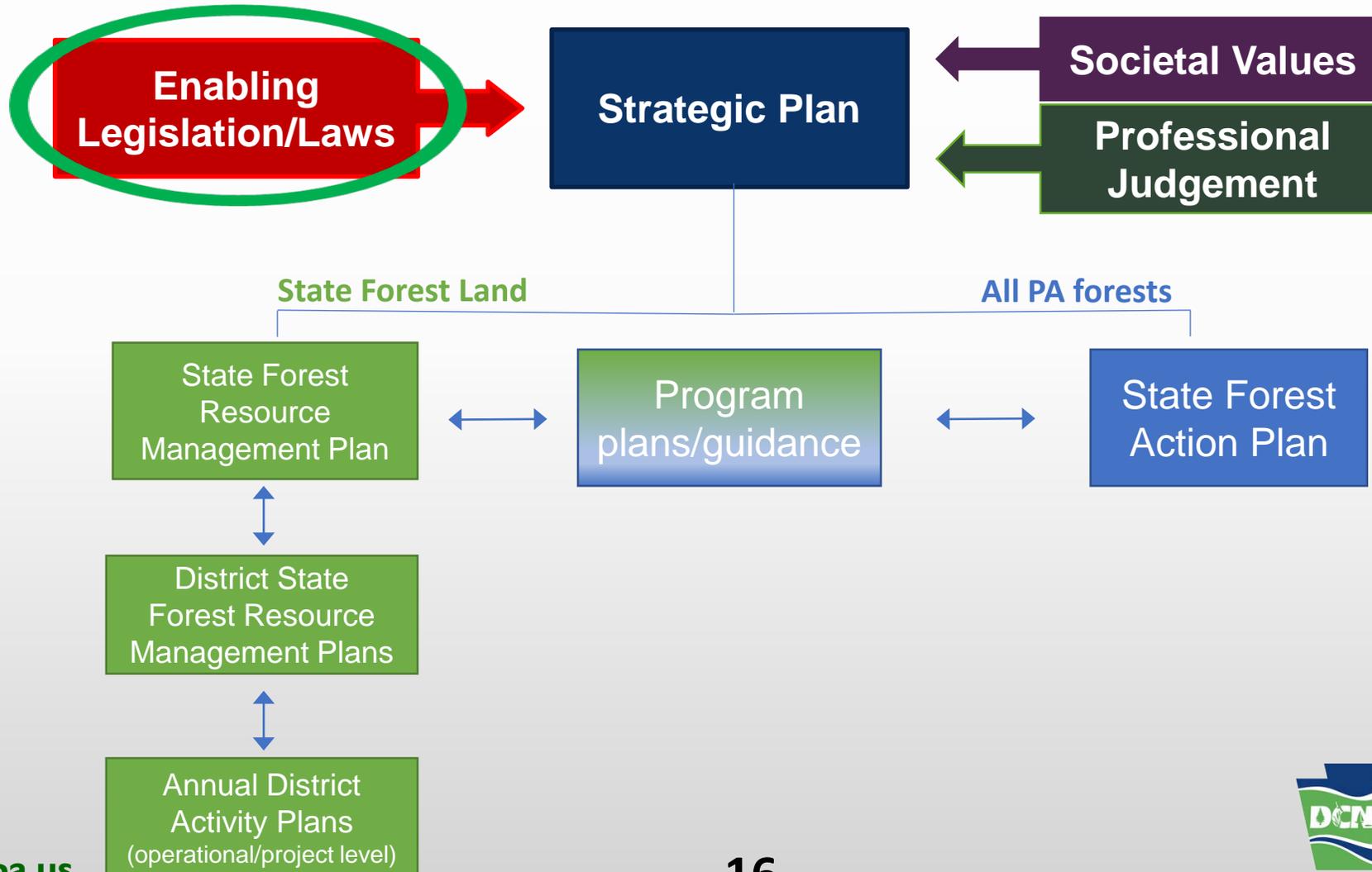
ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY LANDSCAPES

Ecological
Priority Landscapes



| Model Component | Dataset | Priority Weight |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Important Avian Habitat | Important Bird Areas | 0.2 |
| Important Mammal Habitat | Important Mammal Areas | 0.2 |
| Large Forest Patches (>100 acres) | Roads; NLCD | 0.2 |
| Biodiversity Hotspots | PA County Natural Area Inventory | 0.2 |
| Habitat for Species of Special Concern | PNDI data | 0.2 |

The “Plan” Relationship Tree



Enabling Legislation “At a Glance”

Pennsylvania Constitution

Article 1, Section 27:

“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”



Enabling Legislation “At a Glance”

Conservation & Natural Resources Act (Act 18)

- Foundational, enabling legislation - 1995
- Created Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
- Sets forth directive to:
 - Establish Forest Districts
 - Acquire State Forest land
 - Sell timber and mineral resources
 - Sell tree seedlings
 - Protect all forest lands from fire
 - Promote and develop forestry and knowledge
 - Others



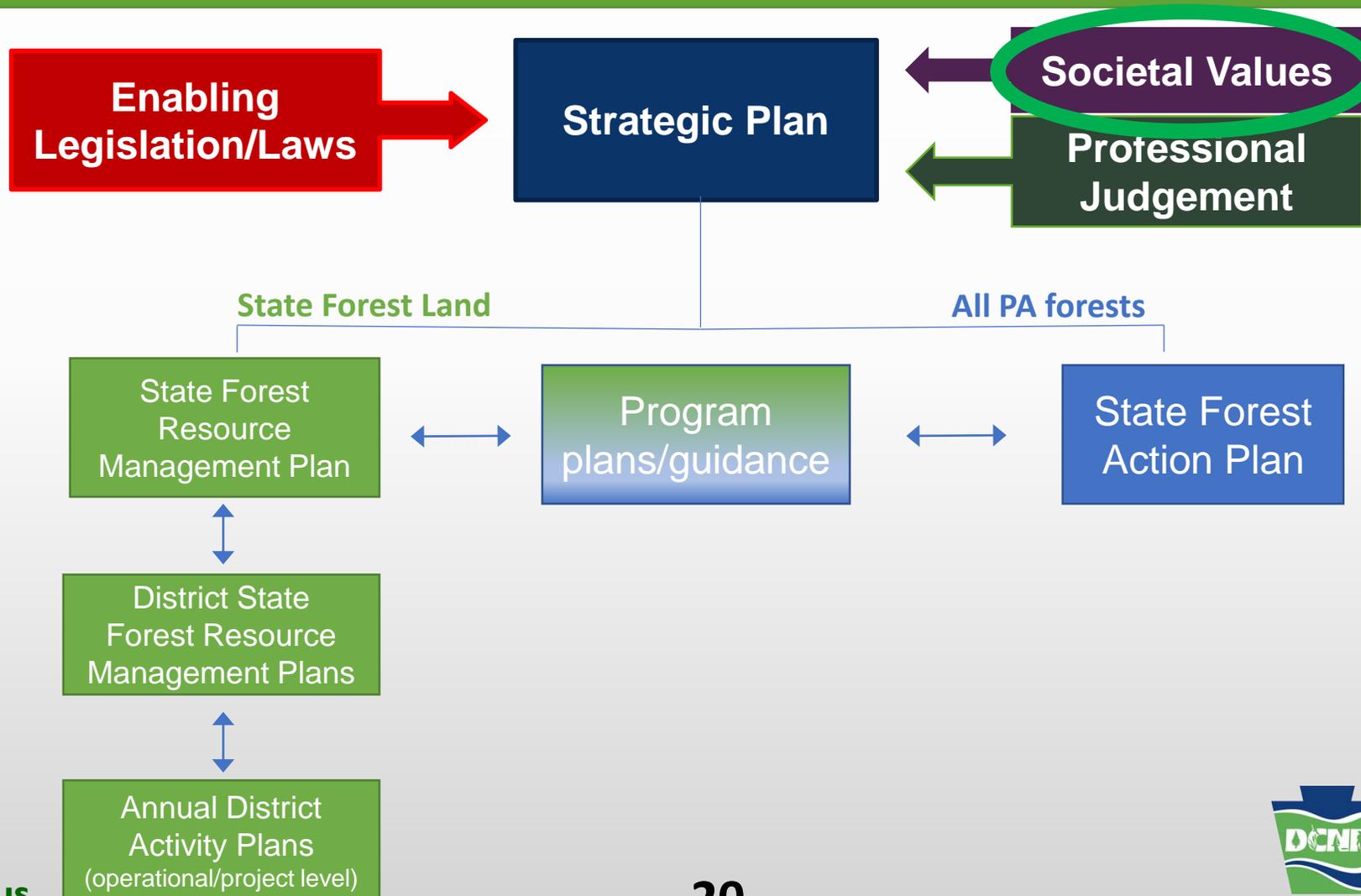
Enabling Legislation “At a Glance”

Conservation & Natural Resources Act (Act 18)

| Quote from Conservation & Natural Resources Act | Key Elements |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| The primary mission of DCNR will be “... to manage State forest lands to assure their long-term health, sustainability and economic use. . . across Pennsylvania.” | Bureau Mission |
| “... the purposes which the State forests are created, namely to provide a continuous supply of timber, lumber, wood, and other forest products, to protect watersheds, conserve the waters and regulate the flow of rivers and streams of this Commonwealth and to furnish opportunities for healthful recreation to the public.” | Timber Supply Water Recreation |
| “The Chief Forest Fire Warden, shall. . . take such measures for the prevention, control, and extinction of forest fires as will assure a reasonable protection. . . within this Commonwealth.” | Fire |



The “Plan” Relationship Tree



Advisory Committees

- CNRAC (Conservation)
- EMAC (Ecological)
- STAC (Silviculture)
- RAC (Recreation)
- NGAC (Natural Gas)



Societal Values

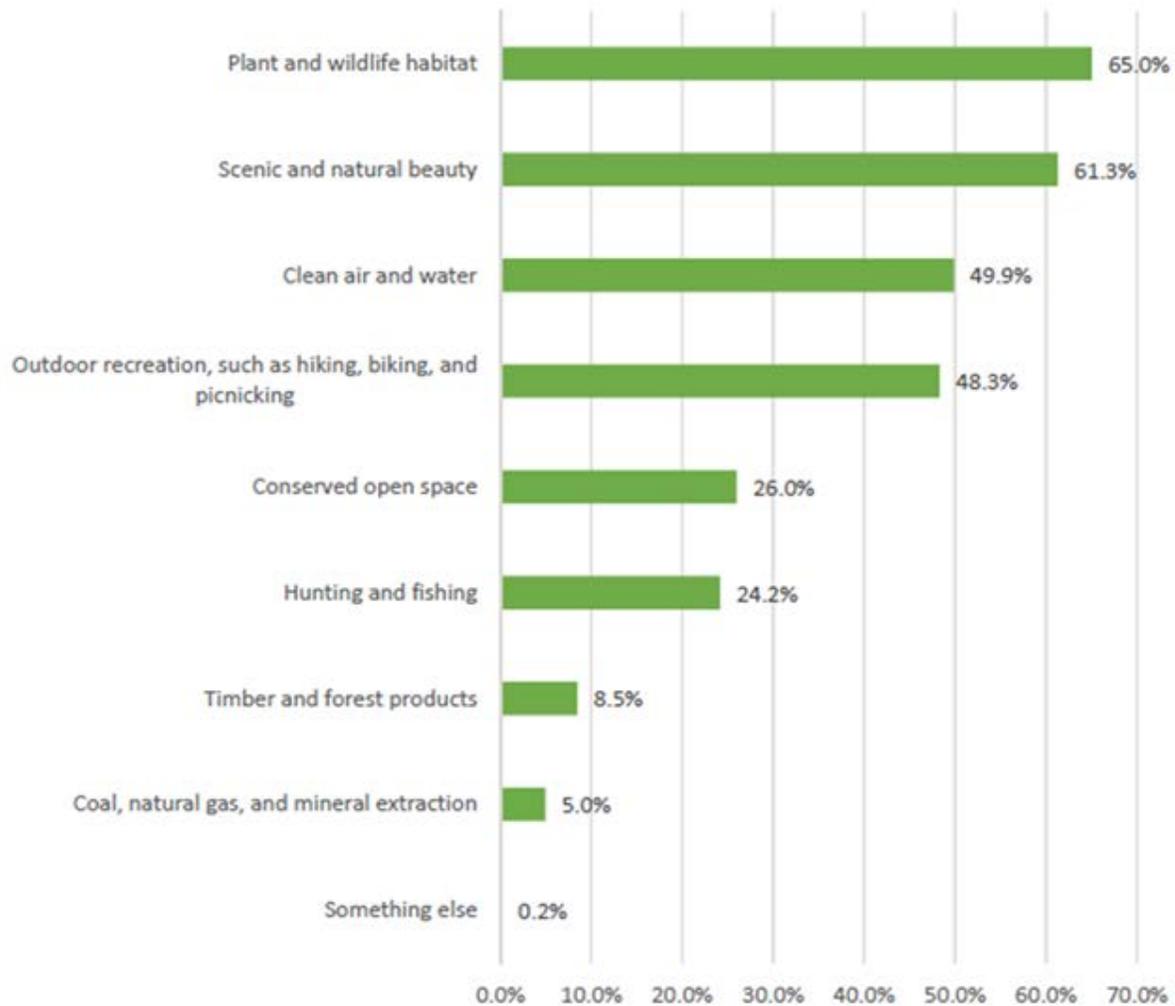
- Online survey of ~1,000 adult Pennsylvanians
- Provides statistically valid sample of PA population
- Stratified to represent PA census in terms of:
 - Region of residence
 - Age
 - Gender



Top Values



What do you perceive as the top three values of forest land in Pennsylvania? (n = 1,047)

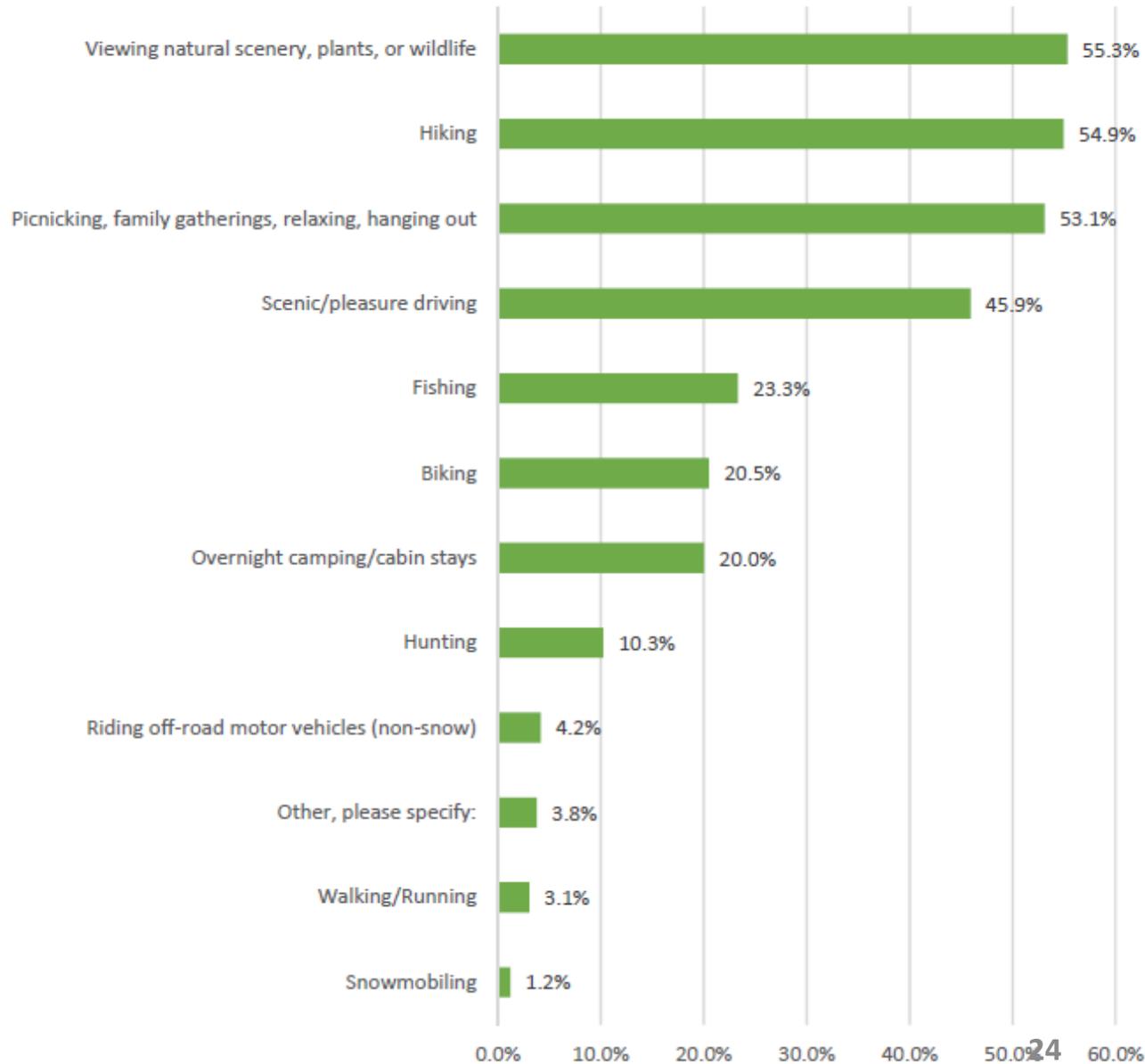


- Intangible ecosystem services and recreation are most valued
- Forest products valued by less than 10%



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In what ways do you typically use forest land, wooded areas, or other green space? (n = 819)



Uses



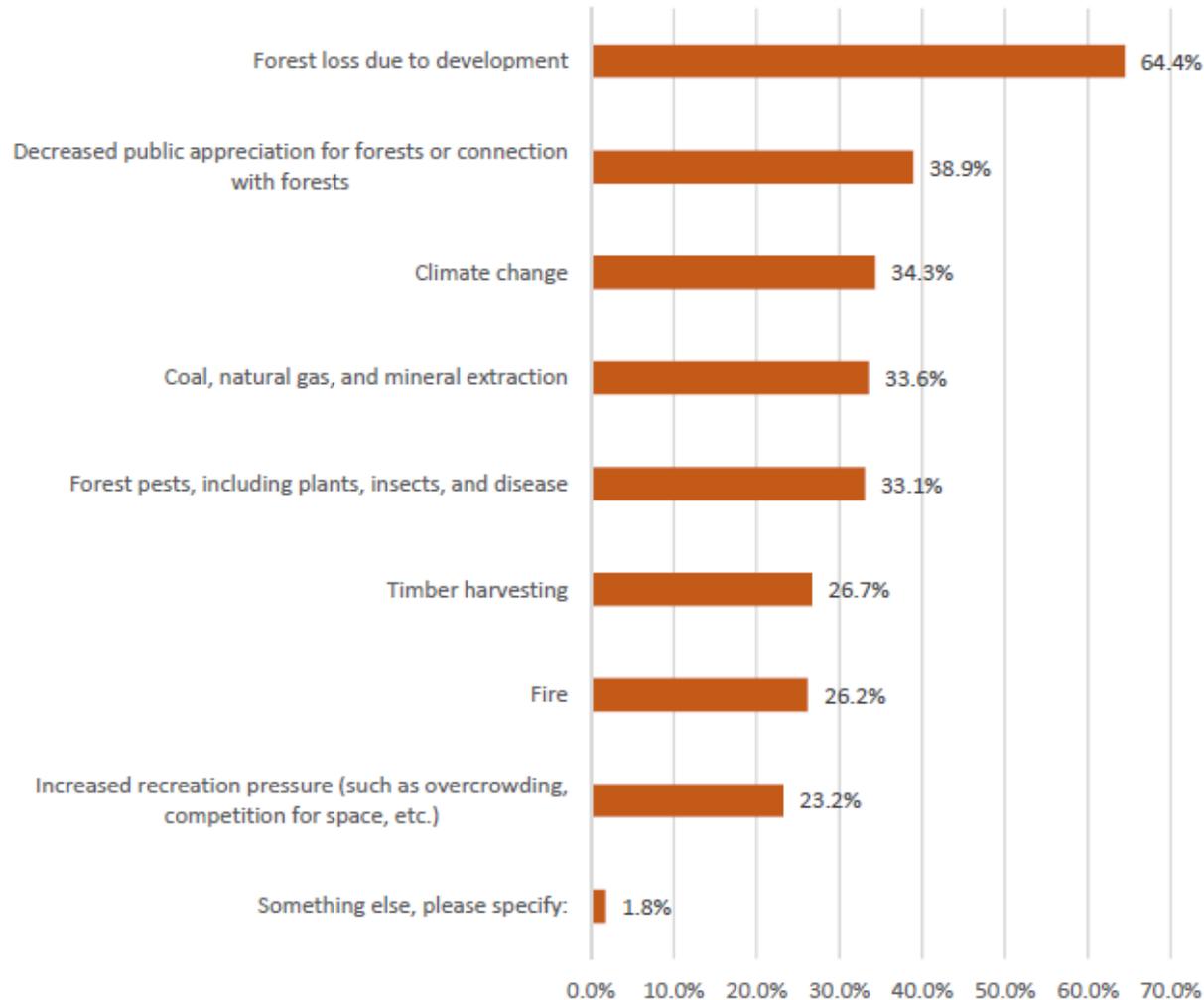
Uses by some prominent user groups (e.g., hunters, ATV/Snowmobile) are not among the most common uses.



Threats



What do you perceive as the top three threats to forest land in Pennsylvania? (*n* = 1,046)

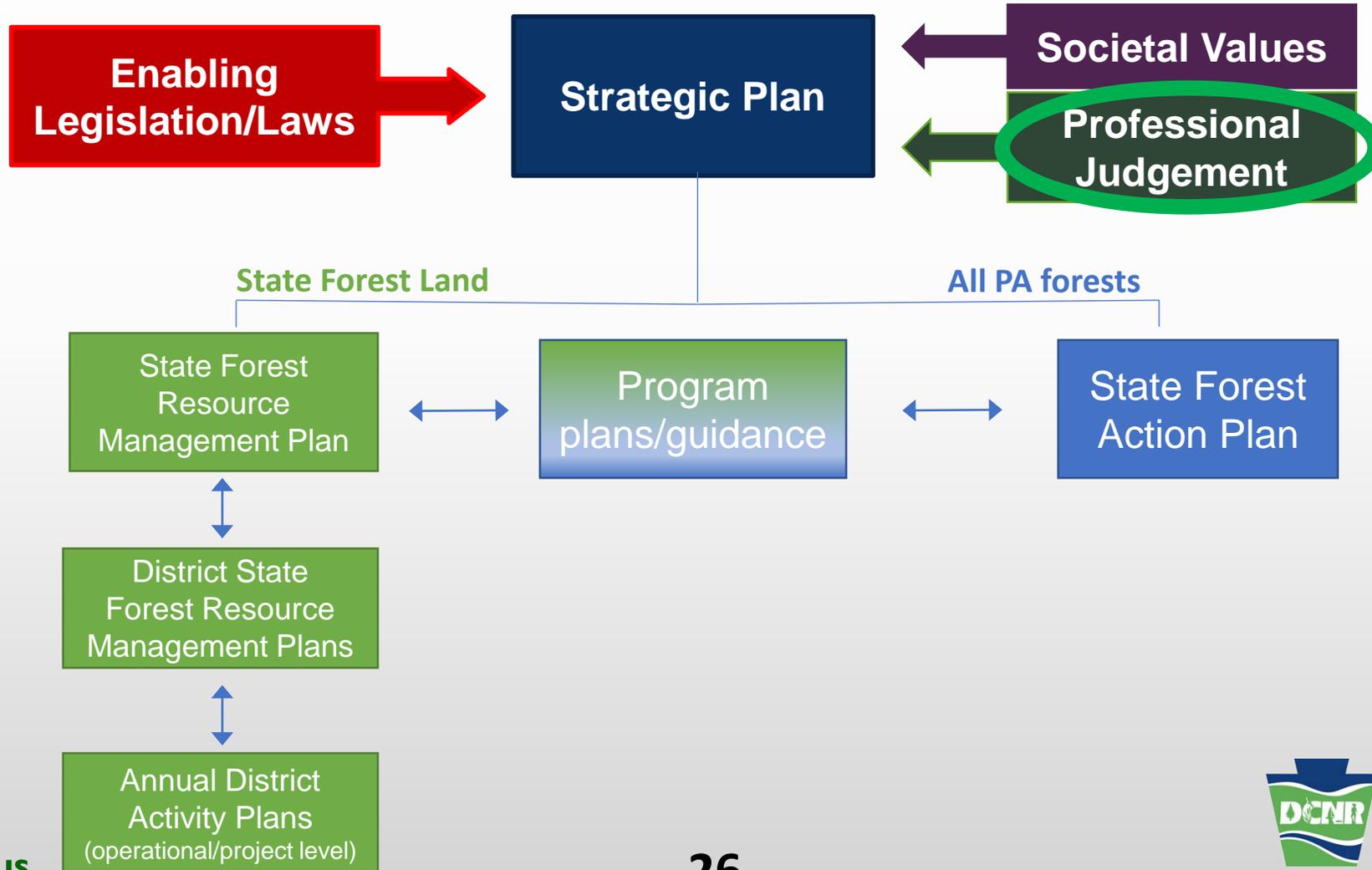


- Social threats (38.9% overall) are perceived similarly to several physical threats



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The “Plan” Relationship Tree



Professional Judgement

Forest Certification

- One of largest certified forests in North America
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (since 2018)
- Forest Stewardship Council™ (since 1998)
- Environmental, social, and economic principles and standards



Professional Judgement

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT)

- SWOT analysis with Bureau staff
- 8 regional meetings in 2017
- All technical staff invited
- SWOT assessed for each category:
 - Sustaining the Commonwealth's Forests
 - State Forest Land Management
 - Conserving the Private Forest Resource
 - Information, Education, Interpretation, Outreach
 - Bureau of Forestry-Organization



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Bureau of Forestry Strategic Plan Revision Process





Draft Strategic Priorities

- a. **Maintaining or Increasing Forested Land:** keep forests as forests; forest land protection/conservation
- b. **Sustainable Timber Harvesting:** environmentally, socially, and economically appropriate, on both public and private land
- c. **Sustainable Energy Resource Extraction** (e.g., natural gas, coal, oil, wind, biomass): environmentally, socially, and economically appropriate, on both public and private land
- d. **Water Conservation:** plentiful, clean water supplies along with adequate flood control
- e. **Wildland Fire:** prescribed fire and wildfire management



Draft Strategic Priorities

- f. **Native Wild Plants and Ecosystems:** wetland or rare habitat conservation, threatened and endangered species protection
- g. **Invasive Species:** plants as well as forest pests, insects, and disease
- h. **Climate Change:** adaption to impacts (e.g., warmer temperatures, species migrations, extreme weather events) and mitigation (e.g., storing more carbon in forests)
- i. **Forest Products** (e.g., paper, lumber)
- j. **Forest Recreation and Access** (e.g., crowding problems, widely accessible for all citizens and different uses)
- k. **Education and Outreach** (regarding the benefits and importance of forests and trees)



Strategic Plan Next Steps



- Assess PSU data
 - Lion Poll Report
 - Reports on Focus Groups
- Reproduce Lion Poll as stakeholder survey
- Advisory Committee and other stakeholder group “road show”
- Scope of Work to engage consultant
 - Organization assessment
 - Help with and writing strategic goals
- Spring 2020 PSU contract for additional public polling

Questions?

Contact:
Ryan Szuch
Forest Resource
Planning Section

office: 717.787.2980
email: rszuch@pa.gov



Diana Day, PA Fish and Boat Commission and Catherine D. Haffner of the PA Game Commission were introduced and made a two-part presentation concerning Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan. (See attached Handout) Diana started off by discussing the Conservation Opportunity Area Tool which is a joint effort between the Fish and Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission and working with several partners including: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration, Western PA Conservancy and NatureServe, across the state. The work was supported by State Wildlife Grants administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife & Sportfish Restoration Program. State wildlife action plans exist for every US state and territory covering a Ten Year Planning Horizon directed toward at-risk species. Six hundred-sixty four (664) Terrestrial and aquatic species were identified to be in greatest need of conservation. She discussed the Comprehensive Conservation Blueprint which includes: Species (conservation need), Habitat (extent & condition), Threat (human disturbance), Monitoring (hibernacula surveys) all tied into Action. She went on to say that the Conservation Opportunity Area Tool (COA Tool) is quite extensive, given that the electronic document is 2170 pages long and that the hard copy weighs 15 pounds. The COA Tool is user driven, Spatially explicit and web accessible. She went on to explain the notable features that it: Revolutionizes Wildlife Action Plan Delivery; Digests a massive amount of information into a usable format; Enhances relevancy to the user, providing a versatile interpretation of conservation actions; has a dynamic database that is regularly updated with new species information. The intended audiences for the COA Tool are: Resources managers of conservation related organizations to use for planning and on-the-ground implementation; private landowners; researchers, educators and the interested public. Diana then turned the podium over to Catherine Haffner from the PA Game Commission to do a demonstration of the tool. Catherine went through setting up an information inquiry by describing the site features, how to get started, finding the area of interest, doing a statewide search using Use Case Scenarios.



P E N N S Y L V A N I A
W I L D L I F E A C T I O N P L A N

Conservation Opportunity Area Tool

USDA- NRCS | State Technical Committee Meeting
23 January, 2020



Cathy Haffner¹ and Diana Day²

Pennsylvania Game Commission¹, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission²



Acknowledgments



Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy



NatureServe

This work was supported by State Wildlife Grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program.

Partnering to fund conservation and connect people with nature.



Voluntary Plans for *ACTION*

Celebrating
20 Years



State Wildlife Action Plans

- Exist for every U.S. state and territory
- 10- year planning horizon (max)
- Comprehensive
- Directed toward at- risk species



Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Chapter 1, Appendix 1.1

664 terrestrial and aquatic species identified to be in greatest need of conservation.

90 Birds

19 Mammals

65 Fish

18 Amphibians

22 Reptiles

450 Invertebrates



C. Eichelberger



Joe Kosack/PGC



R. Criswell



Tom Diez



Betsy Leppo



Andy Shiels



Comprehensive Conservation Blueprint: 8 elements



1. SPECIES



Conservation Need

2. HABITAT



Extent & condition

4. ACTION



Gating mines & caves

3. THREAT



Human disturbance

5. MONITORING

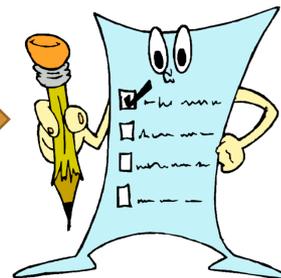


Hibernacula surveys

6. REVISION



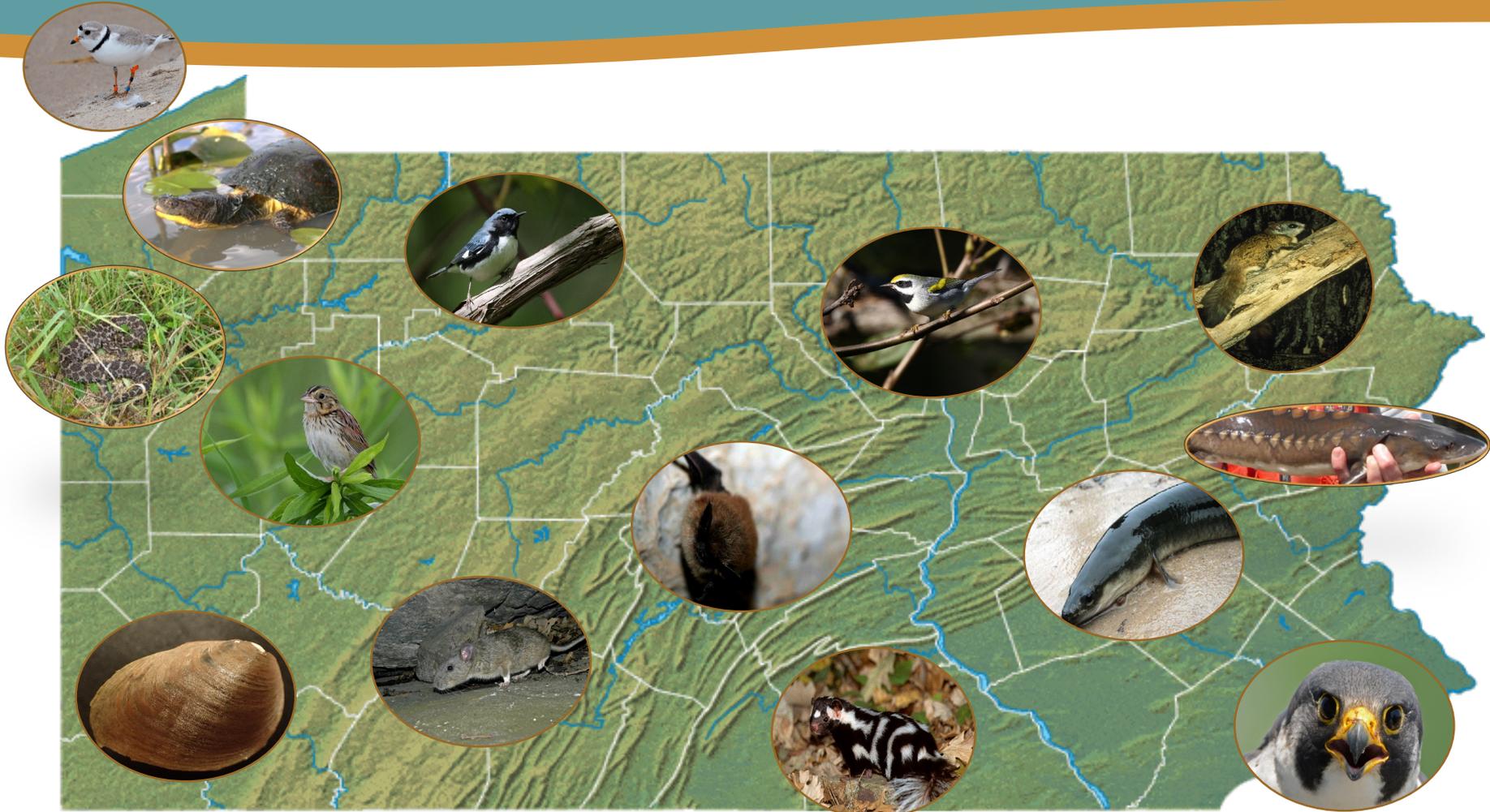
7. and 8. INPUT



Partners
Public



Conservation Opportunities are Tied To Place Spatially explicit



0 50 KM 50 Miles

© geology.com



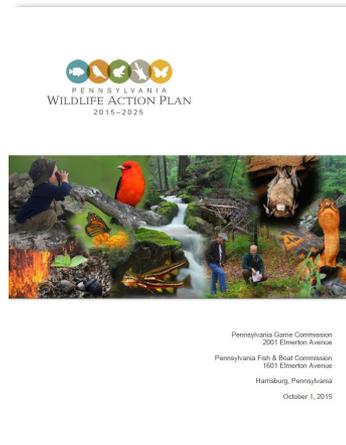
Need: Facilitate Conservation Delivery

Electronic Document
>2,170 Pages



User-Driven
Spatially explicit
Web accessible

Hard-copy
~ 15 Pounds



COA Tool Notable Features

- Revolutionizes Wildlife Action Plan delivery
- Digests a massive amount of information into a useable format
- Enhances relevancy to the user. Versatile interpretation of conservation actions.
- Dynamic database that is regularly updated with new species information.



eBird



Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program



Butterflies and Moths of North America

www.butterfliesandmoths.org

and many more!



Pennsylvania Amphibian & Reptile Survey



COA Tool Intended Audiences

- Resource managers (e.g., Federal & State Agencies, Conservation Districts, Watershed Organizations, Land Trusts)
 - Planning
 - On- the- ground implementation
- Private landowners
- Researchers, Educators
- Interested public



COA Tool Demo

Site features

What's in it?



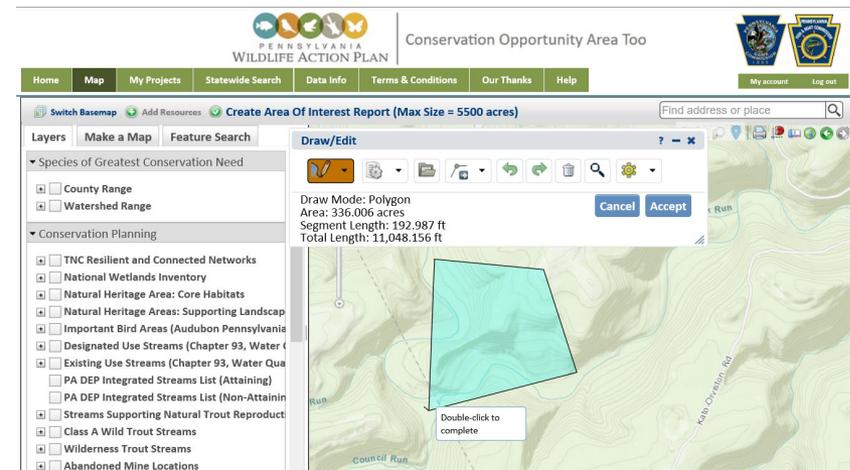
Conservation Opportunity Area Tool

Getting Started

Accessing the site

Area of Interest

Delineating an area
Generating a report



Statewide search



Let's go to the tool!

Conservation Opportunity Area Tool

Home Map My Projects Statewide Search Data Info Terms & Conditions Our Thanks Help

My account Feedback Log out

WELCOME TO THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN
Conservation Opportunity Area Tool!

The **2015-2025 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan** is the foundation for non-regulatory information provided through this tool. Administered by the Game Commission and Fish & Boat Commission and developed by species experts, conservation partners, and the public, the Wildlife Action Plan is the state's blueprint for conserving declining & imperiled vertebrates and invertebrates. Together, we can accomplish more for Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife!

<https://wildlifeactionmap.pa.gov>



Use Case Scenarios



PFBC/J. Carey

User: Agency, Conservation District,
Watershed Association

Need: Information on SGCN for a watershed
management plan and potential conservation
actions.



User: Land Trust or Conservancy

Need: Initial planning for property acquisition and
interest in potential SGCN occurrence.



PGC/H. Korber

User: Researcher

Need: Interest in research and survey needs for
SGCN in an Area of Interest.



THANK YOU!



Peregrine Falcon chicks, Mike Scafini/PGC



Cathy Haffner
chaffner@pa.gov



Diana Day
diday@pa.gov

Barry Frantz, PA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, was introduced and presented an update of the 2020 Financial Assistance Programs in Pennsylvania made possible through the 2018 Farm Bill. (See attached hand-out) Before starting his presentation, Barry noted that the end date for farmers and landowners to apply for EQIP, CSP and AMA is the end of January of this year, however those programs ending dates are going to be extended but the new dates have not yet been established. Those wishing to apply for those programs should try do so by the end of this month if possible, but it is certain that the closing date will be extended. As soon as that date is established, it will be announced as widely as possible. Proceeding to his presentation, Barry noted the major programs that the Farm Bill encompasses: Financial Assistance programs, Easement Programs, and Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP). He commented about the Conservation Opportunity Area Tool (COA Tool) that was covered in the previous presentation and indicated that Programs is in the process of developing a Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) that is very comprehensive and will do a lot of the same things for us that the COA Tool does for Fish and Game. He went to give a brief explanation of the proposed tool and that it involved changing how we do the Conservation Plans and how they are established. This tool is currently in the process of being established at the National Level and is expected to be enacted later this year. He went on to explain information and updates on Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), and Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). He discussed that we are working to get more participation in programs by Veterans, and covered the qualifying benefits available to them. He discussed participant eligibility criteria for the different programs. He reminded everyone of the information that is available to all producers on different web sites such as www.farmers.gov and the NRCS website www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pa/newsroom/.

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

2020 Financial Assistance Programs in Pennsylvania through the 2018 Farm Bill

PA State Technical Committee, January 23 2020



NRCS Programs and Tools

Conservation Technical Assistance

Conservation planning and technical support

Financial Assistance Programs

Agricultural Management Assistance

AMA

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP

Environmental Quality Incentives

Program EQIP

Easement Programs

Agricultural Conservation Easement

Program ACEP

Agricultural Lands Easements ALE

Wetland Restoration Easements WRE

Healthy Forest Reserve Program HFRP

Regional Conservation Partnership Program RCPP

Conservation Easements

Conservation Practices

Conservation Practice Enhancements

**2018
FARM
BILL**

NRCS Assistance for Voluntary Private Lands Conservation and Management

- NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help private farmers and landowners:
 - Plan
 - Design
 - Fund
 - Implement
- Land and water conservation practices and systems
- On private agricultural and forest land



2018
**FARM
BILL**

A photograph of two men in a field of tall grass, engaged in a conversation. The man on the left is wearing a blue cap and a plaid shirt, while the man on the right is wearing a dark visor and sunglasses. They appear to be outdoors, possibly near a body of water in the background.

Conservation Planning Overview: Conservation Desktop Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool

Agricultural Management Assistance - AMA



Provides financial and technical assistance to reduce production risks while addressing natural resource concerns and delivers environmental benefits such as improved water quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

2020 AMA Program in PA

Funding is limited

Targeted to 5 counties in southeast PA

Bucks/Montgomery

Lehigh/Northampton

Cumberland

Funding Categories

Irrigation

Specialty Crops

High Tunnels

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP

A photograph showing two men in a field. The man on the left is older, with glasses and a mustache, wearing a dark jacket over a blue shirt. The man on the right is younger, wearing a red polo shirt. They are both looking at a large green plant with yellow flowers that the older man is holding. The background is a vast green field under a clear sky.

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority natural resource concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.

Changes to CSP

Allocations by dollars instead of acres

Eliminates annual payment limit

Increases payment rates for certain activities

Authorizes contract extensions

Adds organic as a targeted ranking pool

**Includes special Grassland Conservation Initiative
(started in 2019)**

Privately controlled public land now eligible

New Advanced Grazing Mgt activity

2018
**FARM
BILL**

2020 CSP Options

“Classic” CSP

Agricultural Land

Cropland

Pasture

Non-Industrial Private Forestland

Special Funding Set-asides for

Beginning Farmers

Socially Disadvantage Farmers

Organic Farmers (new!)

Grassland Conservation Initiative

2018
**FARM
BILL**

CSP Enhancement Options include:

Crop Rotations

Nutrient Management

Pest Management

Cover Crop & Soil Health

Pollinator habitat

Wildlife Habitat

Pastures & Grazing Management

Forest Management

Riparian Buffers

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP



Provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns and delivers environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

Changes to EQIP

Raises payment cap for organic producers to \$140,000 eliminates annual organic payment limit

Advance payments for Historically Underserved producers including Beginning Farmers, Veteran farmers

**Higher Payments for Priority Practices
Conservation Incentive Contracts**

February 17 – last day to submit comments on Interim Rule

**2018
FARM
BILL**

Changes to EQIP

Animal Feeding Operations 7 CFR 1466.7 Plan of Operations

**Comprehensive Nutrient Mgt Plan CNMP for AFOs implementing waste storage or treatment practice
Develop CNMP by end of contract period**

EQIP funded practices must be consistent with CNMP

Full implementation by end of contract not required.

**2018
FARM
BILL**

Changes to EQIP

7 CFR 1466.23 Payment Rates

High priority practices

Up to 10 practices

May receive higher payment rate

Details to be forthcoming

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Changes to EQIP

7 CFR 1466.40-44 Incentive Contracts

In high priority areas

Up to 3 priority resource concerns per area

Same payment rate as otherwise provided

Can qualify for additional annual payments

O&M

Foregone Income

Details to be Provided

2018
**FARM
BILL**

PA 2020 EQIP Options Include:

Livestock & Grazing

Cropland Management

Forestry/Forest Mgt Plan

Organic (Certified & Transition)

High Tunnels

**Beginning & Social Disadvantaged
Farmers**

On-Farm Energy Conservation

Stream Corridor Management

Conservation Activity Plans

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Initiatives through EQIP

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative GLRI

Working Lands for Wildlife

Golden-Winged Warbler

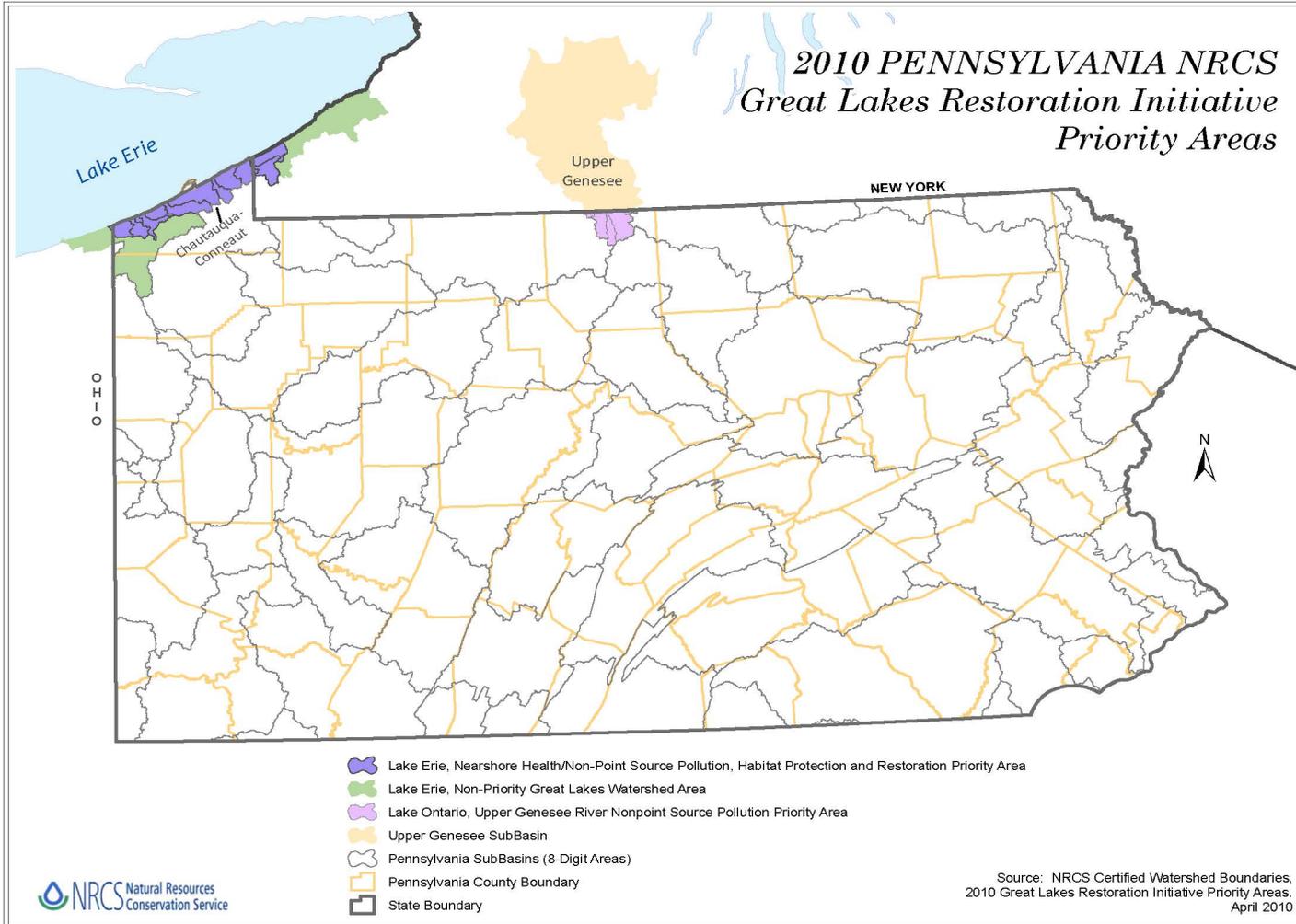
National Water Quality Initiative NWQI

Source Water Protection

Conservation Innovation Grant CIG

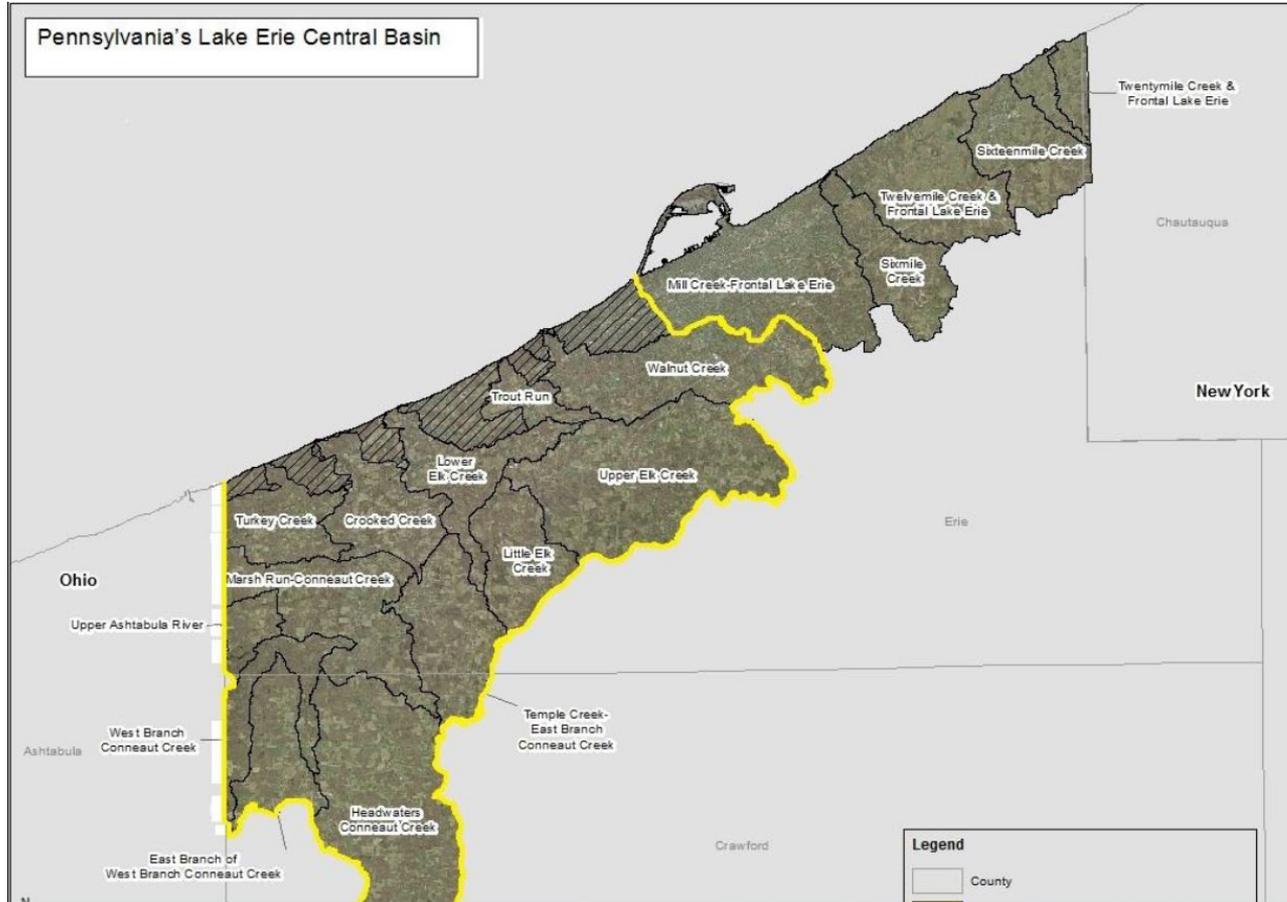
2018
**FARM
BILL**

GLRI – Historical Focus and Priority Areas



**2018
FARM
BILL**

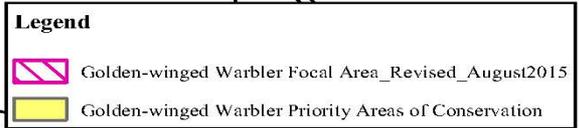
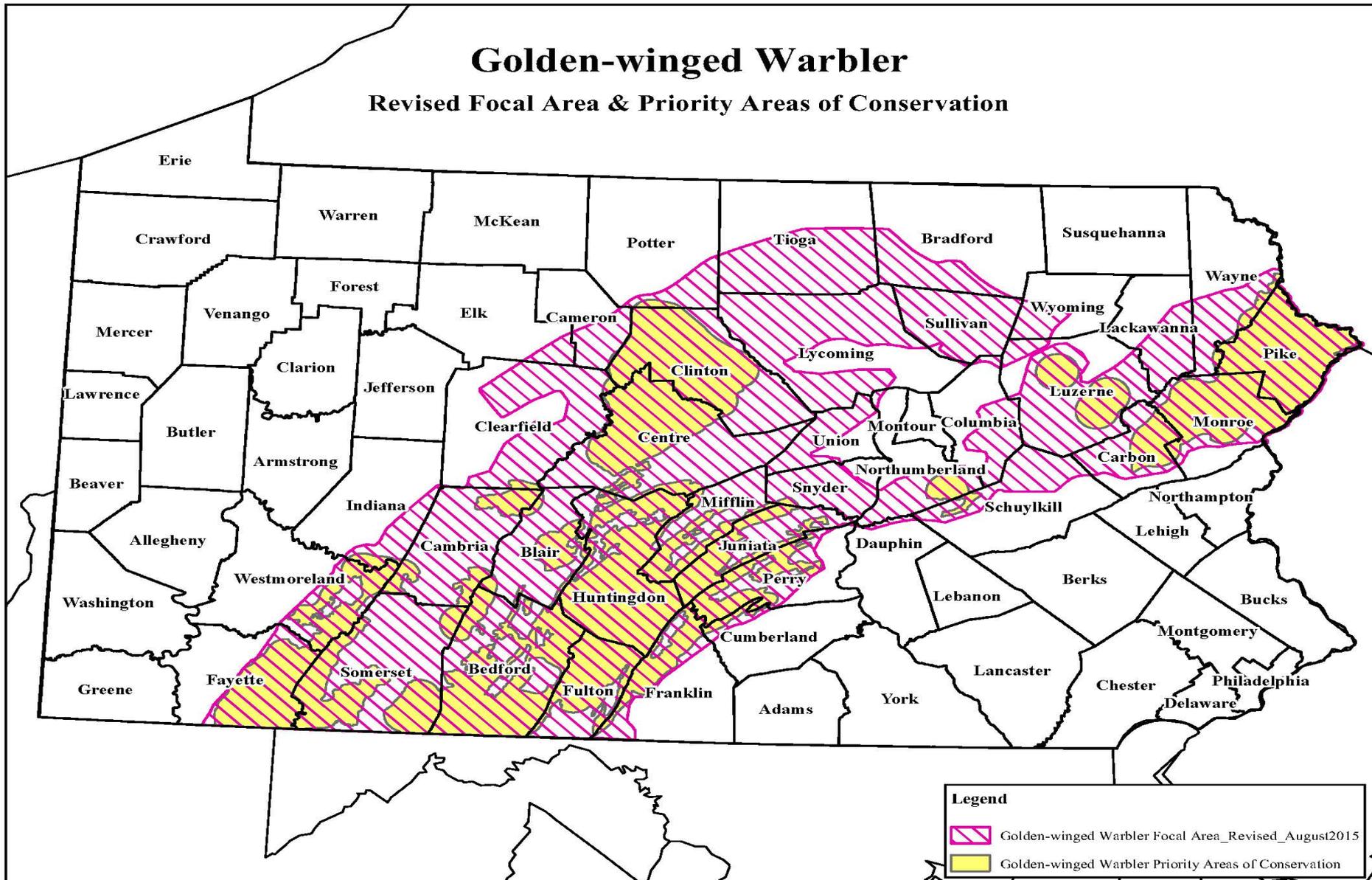
GLRI – Proposed Change in Lake Erie Priority Areas



2018
**FARM
BILL**

Golden-winged Warbler

Revised Focal Area & Priority Areas of Conservation



NWQI / SWP update

Watershed Assessment Plans – approved

- Critical source areas to protect water

Working on outreach in the watersheds

- Accepting applications through NWQI – EQIP

Conservation Planning

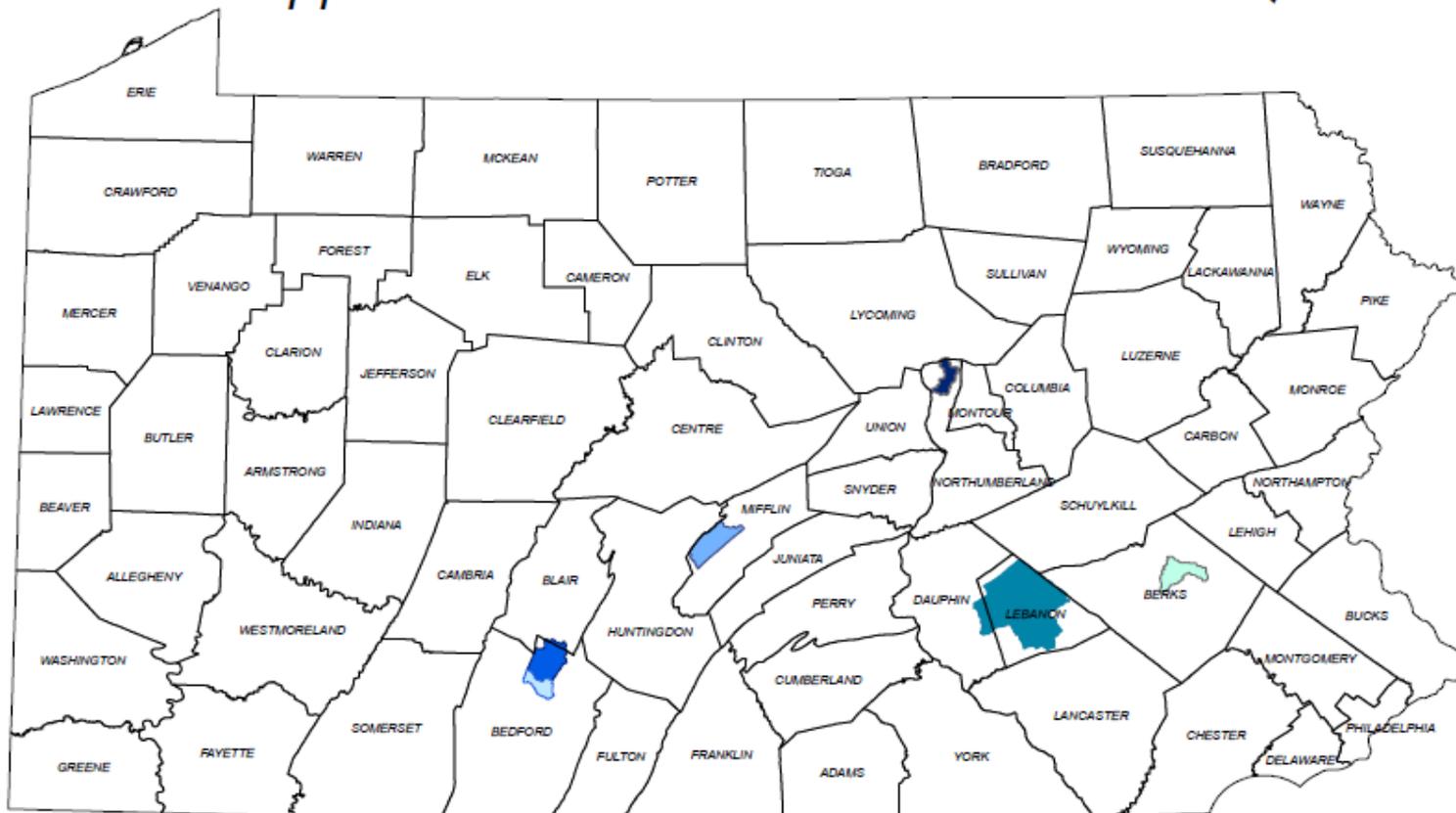
- Conservation Desktop
 - New way of planning

Application Ranking and Contract Development

- Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) to be used
 - Will need to build rankings in that system
 - The rankings prioritize applications for funding

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Approved for Readiness Phase of NWQI



- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Swatara |  Maiden Creek |
|  Beaver Creek |  Upper Kish |
|  Warrior Run |  Yellow Creek |

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Conservation Innovation Grant CIG

National CIG Announcement TBD

Pennsylvania State Option

\$75,000 NRCS payment limit

1:1 match with applicant

Proposed Priority Categories

Non-Industrial Private Forestland

Urban Farming

Soil Health

2018
**FARM
BILL**

Veteran Farms and Ranchers

Included in CSP and EQIP Historically Underserved

Served in Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard including reserve components

Not dishonorably discharged and

has not operated a farm or ranch, or

has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or

first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.

All members of entities must meet the above definition.

**2018
FARM
BILL**

Veteran Farms and Ranchers

Higher priority in CSP and EQIP Beginning Farmer/Rancher and Socially Disadvantaged ranking pools.

Qualify for higher Historically Underserved EQIP payment rates

Qualify for EQIP Advance Payments

Participant Eligibility Criteria

**Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
remains at \$900,000**

**Waiver option for environmentally
significant projects**

Conservation Compliance (1985 Farm Bill)

**Highly Erodible Land/Wetland
Conservation**

AMA is not subject to HEL/WC

**2018
FARM
BILL**

For Help go to www.farmers.gov



Conserve

USDA recognizes that conservation by farmers, ranchers, and forest owners today means thriving and sustainable agriculture for our future.

Seventy percent of the nation's land is privately owned. Conservation of our nation's private lands not only results in healthy soil, water, air, plants, animals, and ecosystems but also provides productive and sustainable working lands.

Whether you are small-scale vegetable grower, a cattle rancher on 10,000 acres of range, a multi-tract timber manager, or someone who owns agricultural land, USDA has tools and resources to help you learn about conservation and what you can do, voluntarily, to improve the natural resource conditions on your land.

Visit our [Soil Health](#) page to learn about best practices to improve the health of your land.

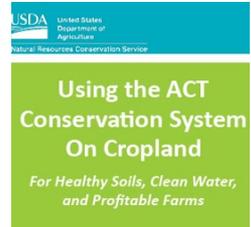
Manage Your Natural Resources



Get Technical Assistance



Explore Financial Assistance Options



**2018
FARM
BILL**

Sign up for NRCS news and information

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pa/newsroom/>

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Newsroom

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Pennsylvania Media Contact

Molly Rose
molly.rose@usda.gov
717-237-2208

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[Events & Deadlines](#) View a variety of Events and Deadlines.

[Features](#) The Features page showcases the Pennsylvania Conservation Catalog. Check it out.

[Photos and Videos](#) The Photos and Videos page provides a link to the NRCS Photo



United States
Department of
Agriculture

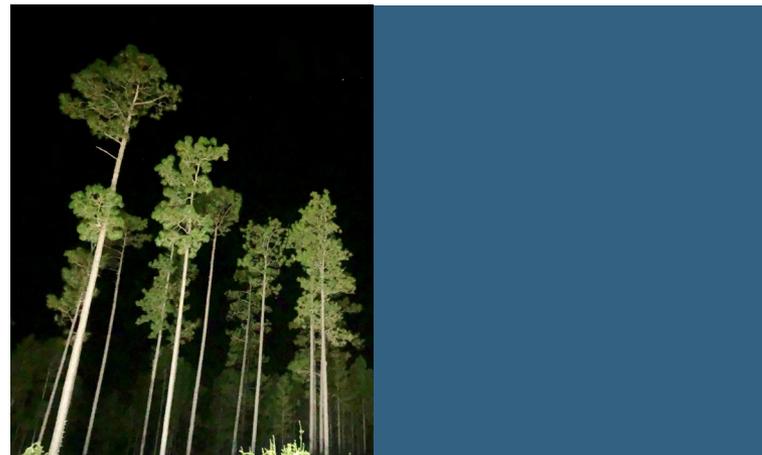
A man with a beard and a baseball cap, wearing a dark t-shirt, is smiling and holding a small green seedling with soil in his hands. He is standing in front of a wooden wall with an American flag hanging behind him. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

The Farm Bill is an important tool. But it doesn't work without the dedication of the folks in the field, most importantly, the farmers and ranchers that use it to make the best decisions for their land and operations.

Hathaway Jones, PA NRCS Easement Program Management Analyst, was introduced and discussed the changes across (ACEP) for the 2018 Farm Bill. (See the attached Hand-out) She noted that NRCS conservation easements are acquired through the voluntary sale of a property right that restricts what a landowner may do on their land. Easements run with the land, attach to a parcel and apply to all subsequent landowners. She discussed the past 25 years of NRCS Easement Program accomplishments - Closed Easements and noted that as of the end of FY 2019, there are almost 23 thousand easements on over 4.8 million acres nationwide. Pennsylvania has the highest number of FRPP (Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program) which is the forerunner of ACEP (Agriculture Conservation Easement Program) WRE (Wetland Reserve Easement) and ALE (Agriculture Land Easement Program) easement programs. There four NRCS Easement programs operating under the 2018 Farm Bill. They are: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) both ALE and WRE; Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE); Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP); and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Easement Authorities. She went on to describe the major changes of each of the programs under the 2018 Farm Bill including: ACEP-ALE Purpose, Eligibility Entity Contribution Requirements, ALE Agricultural Land Easement Plan, ALE Ranking; ACEP-WRE: Landowner Eligibility, WRE Ranking, and WRE Restoration and Management. She stated that NRCS invites comments on the ACEP interim rule through March 6th on the Federal Register offsite link image. Electronic comments must be submitted through www.regulations.gov under Docket ID NRCS-2019-006.



United States Department of Agriculture



ACEP - Changes Across ACEP for the 2018 Farm Bill

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

NRCS Conservation Easements

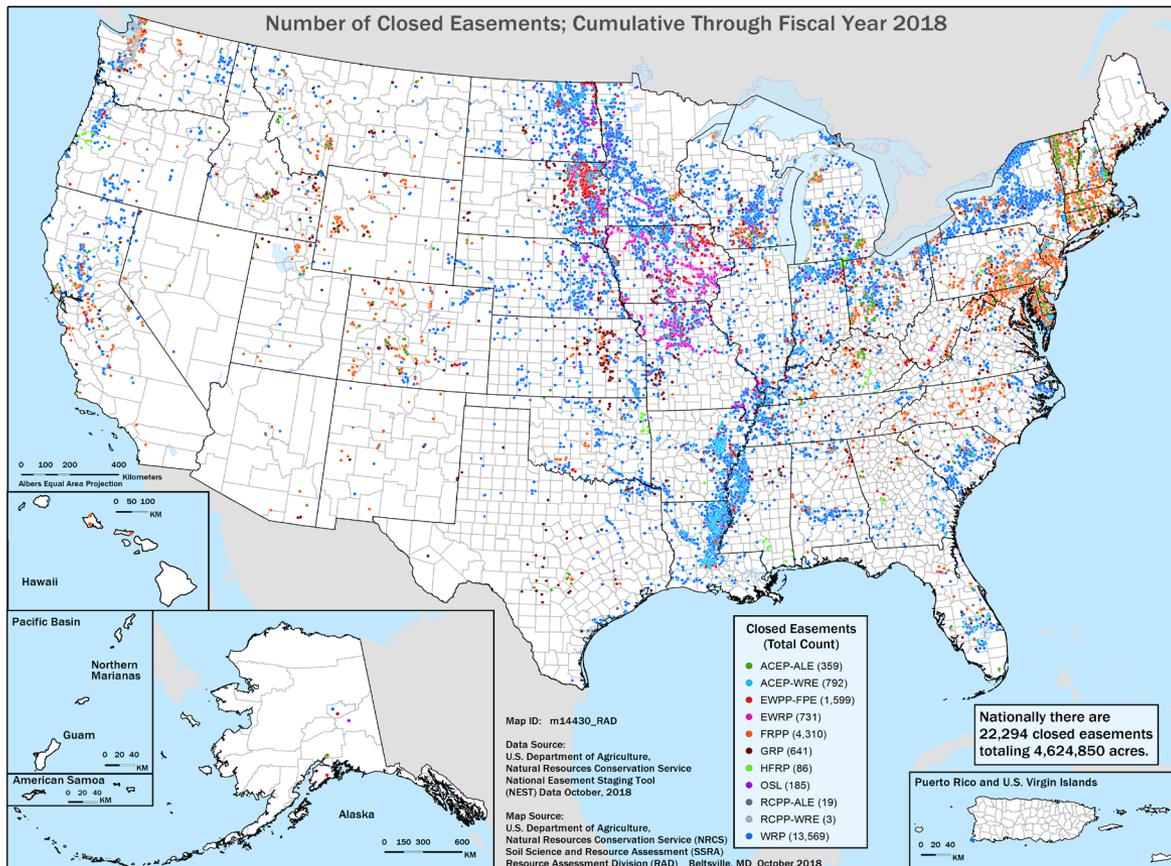
NRCS conservation easements are acquired through the voluntary sale of a property right that restricts what a landowner may do on their land.

Easements run with the land:

- The restrictions attach to a parcel and apply to all subsequent landowners.



25 years of NRCS Easement Program Accomplishments - Closed Easements



As of end of FY 2019:

Over 22,750 easements

On over 4.8 million acres

2018 Farm Bill NRCS Easement Programs



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE)
- Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)



Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)



Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Easement Authorities

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE)

- Combines the purposes and functions of **FRPP and GRP**
- NRCS provides funds to eligible entities for the purchase of agricultural land easements.
- **Eligible Entity holds the easement**
- **US obtains a 3rd party right of enforcement**
- Eligible Entity responsible for monitoring, management, and enforcement

Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)

- Same purposes and functions as **WRP**
- NRCS purchases easements directly from private and Tribal landowners through a reserved interest deed in eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands and associated lands.
- **US holds the easement**
- NRCS responsible for monitoring, management, and enforcement



ACEP General information (applies to both ALE and WRE)



ACEP Responsibilities

ACEP Responsibilities – NEW ITEMS

- Regional Conservationist (528.10 E)
 - Receive and process AGI waivers
- State-Level Staff (528.10 H)
 - Develop the (new) State-specific **Wetland Restoration Criteria and Guidelines (WRCG)** document

ACEP Responsibilities

528.12 – ROLE OF STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- State Technical Committee
 - ACEP-ALE: Input on ALE ranking factors
 - ACEP-WRE: (new) WRCG document input
- Specialized Subcommittees
 - Identification of lands of Statewide importance, special significance, or other unique or high-priority wetland habitat types
 - Provide technical input in development of State-specific wetland restoration criteria and guidelines document

ACEP Appeals

Appeal Process

- All appeals in writing and the appellant provides facts and evidence for consideration
- All information generated as part of an appeal action must be kept in the official easement case file maintained at State Office (528.20 A)
- Clarifies that the development or modification of an **wetland restoration plan** is an NRCS discretionary authority and is **not appealable** under 7 CFR Part 11 and 614 (528.20 B)

Ranking Threshold Scores

- State Conservationists, with advice from State Tech Committee, may establish high threshold ranking score for ALE or WRE at a level high enough that an eligible application ranking above such threshold score would automatically warrant selection for funding
 - Example, an eligible application scoring >95% of the available ranking points may be selected for funding at any time.
- State Conservationists should establish low thresholds ranking scores below which applications will not be funded
 - Return funds to NHQ for reallocation to other States rather than fund low-ranking applications that do not effectively meet ACEP purposes

ACEP – AGI Waiver

- AGI waivers permitted on a case-by-case basis **solely for the purpose** to protect environmentally sensitive land of special significance.



- Valid **only** for the fiscal year it is approved
 - If the application is not funded/executed in the fiscal year of approval, a new AGI waiver is needed

ACEP Easement Administration Actions

All Easement Administration Actions

- Should be rare and are complex and time consuming
- May be requested by landowner, easement holder, or third party BUT
 - Landowner AND easement holder (if not U.S.) must agree to the Easement Administration Action before NRCS will consider approving it
- Requestor of the Easement Admin Action (Project Proponent) is responsible to provide NRCS all required documentation
- NRCS, on behalf of the United States, has sole discretion to determine whether to alter the U.S. interest in an easement through an Easement Administration Action

ACEP Easement Administration Actions

- Authorities:
 - State Conservationists may:
 - Submit recommendation for approval of an easement administration action request to EPD Director
 - Deny an easement administration action type
 - EPD Director may:
 - Approve an **Easement Subordination, Easement Modification, or Easement Exchange** request
 - Submit recommendation for approval of Easement Termination request to Chief
 - Deny an easement administration action type
 - Chief may:
 - Approve or deny any easement administration action type
 - Only Chief has authority to approve **Easement Termination**



ACEP-ALE CHANGES



ACEP-ALE - Purpose

- Protecting the agricultural use and future viability, and related conservation values, of eligible land by limiting nonagricultural uses of that land that negatively affect the agricultural uses and conservation values (§ 1468.1(a)(3))



ALE Eligible Entity Contribution Requirements

Federal Share Under the 2018 Farm Bill

- The Federal share is still limited to 50% of the FMV of the agricultural land easement or 75% for GSS

Non-Federal Share Under the 2018 Farm Bill

- May be comprised of several potential components
- General ALE - Must at least equal the Federal share
- GSS – Must comprise remainder of easement FMV

ALE Eligible Entity Contribution Requirements

2018 Farm Bill Enrollments Only Calculating the Non-Federal Share

- The non-Federal share may be comprised of:
 1. Eligible entity's cash contribution toward easement payment to landowner
 - No longer a minimum required amount
 2. Landowner's donation or charitable contribution reducing easement price
 3. Procured costs paid by eligible entity's for certain easement acquisition-related expenses, or
 4. Eligible entity's costs for monitoring and stewardship (up to 2% of FMV of the easement)

ALE – Agricultural Land Easement Plan

2018 Farm Bill Enrollments Only:

- ACEP-ALEs enrolled under the 2018 Farm Bill are not required to have or be subject to an ALE plan
 - Changes made throughout the regulation to account for this change (§ 1468.23(a)(5), former § 1468.26, etc.)
 - ACEP-ALEs enrolled under the 2014 Farm Bill are still required to have and be subject to an ALE plan
- HEL conservation plan still required on all Highly Erodible Cropland
 - Entity may agree to develop other ALE plan components (general, forest land, grassland) as a matter of ranking



ALE Ranking

- **Entity cash contribution added as a national ranking criteria**
- **Allow for State criteria based on geographic differences provided such criteria:**
 - Allow for selection of parcels that achieve ALE purposes and maximize benefit of Federal investment.
- **Measures that maintain or increase agricultural viability such as:**
 - ALE plans (non-HEL), succession plans, and entity deed terms added as potential State ranking criteria.
- **States can add criteria rewarding entities that regularly meet agreement and monitoring requirements**

ALE Ranking

- **NOTE: Role of partner entities**
 - Representatives of eligible entities that participate in ACEP-ALE must not be involved in developing rankings, assigning weight to ranking criteria, establishing funding pools, or funding priorities.



ACEP-WRE CHANGES



WRE Landowner Eligibility

- Removed references to DUNs and SAM requirement for Landowners
- New authority to waive AGI for 'lands of special environmental significance'

WRE Land Eligibility

- All land must meet eligibility criteria, including donated acres
- County Cropland Limitation for cropland enrolled in ACEP-WRE/WRP - increased from **10% to 15%**
 - Cropland in CRP plus ACEP-WRE/WRP – remains at 25%

WRE Ranking

Ranking Process

- Role of USFWS in Eligibility and Ranking
 - References in regulation and policy changed from 'consultation' to 'coordination', 'obtain input'
 - Emphasize engagement at the State/local rather than national level
 - States have discretion to determine how this program-related coordination will occur and be documented

WRE Ranking

- The capacity of the wetland to improve water quality added as a consideration in evaluating ACEP-WRE applications



ACEP-WRE – Restoration and Management

2018 Farm Bill – Managers Report

The Managers expect the agency to prioritize the maintenance and enhancement of the functions and values of currently enrolled WRE.

While some States have effectively achieved increased wetland functions and values, including optimum wildlife habitat, more could be done by States to achieve these goals.

By including these statutory changes for WRE, the Managers hope to ensure these wetlands and associated upland areas will be managed so the taxpayers receive the wildlife habitat and water quality benefits they have paid for and deserve.

NRCS invites comments on the ACEP interim rule through March 6 on the Federal Register offsite link image . Electronic comments must be submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under Docket ID NRCS-2019-0006.



Questions?

Susan Marquart, PA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, provided an update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). (See attached hand-out) Susan discussed the recent changes in the RCPP under the new Farm Bill. She explained that the RCPP Principles were: Impact, Partnership Contributions, Innovation and Partnership and Project Management. Items still in development are: Interim Final Rule (IFR); Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA); Details of programmatic agreements and RCPP contract Implementation which is new; Quality assurance and reviews. These Principles were explained in detail. She noted that the FY 2019 Funding Announcement was put out and explained it in detail also. She went on to explain the FY 2019 RCPP Projects. The NRCS review period ends on January 31, 2020. Anticipated announcement of FY 2019 selected projects in March 2020. Partnership agreements will be completed by June 2020. Activities for 2020: IFR for RCPP is anticipated in February 2020; AFA funding announcement is anticipated soon after the IFR; Anticipated announcement of FY 2020 project funding round in July 2020; and AFA awards to be announced in the summer of 2020.

There being nothing further to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2020 at 1pm.



United States Department of Agriculture



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

PA State Technical Committee
January 23, 2020



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

RCPP Principles



- **Impact**
- **Partner Contributions**
- **Innovation**
- **Partnership and Project Management**



Items Still in Development

- **Interim Final Rule (IFR)**
- **Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)**
- **Details of programmatic agreements and RCPP contract implementation**
- **Quality assurance and reviews**



FY 2019 Funding Announcement

- **\$300 million available nation-wide**
- **Project maximum of \$10 million, minimum of \$250,000**
- **Application period was 90 days, ended on December 3 2019**
- **PA received six proposals for a total ask of \$18.4 million**



FY 2019 RCPP Projects

- **NRCS review period ends January 31, 2020**
- **Anticipated announcement of FY 2019 selected projects in March 2020**
- **Partnership Agreements completed by June 2020**



2020 RCPP Activities



- **IFR for RCPP anticipated in February 2020**
- **AFA funding announcement soon after IFR**
- **Anticipated announcement of FY 2020 project funding round in July 2020**
- **AFA awards announced in summer 2020**



PA NRCS RCPP Coordinator



Susan Marquart

**Assistant State Conservationist
for Partnerships**

717-237-2237

Susan.Marquart@USDA.gov



State Technical Committee

January 23, 2020

Meeting Notes

Susan Marquart, PA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, opened the meeting for Denise Coleman, State Conservationist (NRCS) promptly at 1pm. She announced that in the past we have been using the Toll-Free Number for use by those members who could not attend the meeting in person, but could still participate by hearing the meeting. Today we are going to use a Webinar Approach so that members will be able to see the actual presentations as well as hear them. Susan Welcomed all present and those on the phone and asked that they introduce themselves. There were 29 physically present and 17 participating from remote locations. Susan then introduced Ryan Szuch of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

00/03/23 - Ryan Szuch, Bureau of Forestry, Forest Resource Planning Section of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Ryan presented information concerning Strategic Priorities and the Pennsylvania Forest Action Plan for 2020. (See attached Handout) He said that their mission is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the forests in the Commonwealth and to conserve native wild plants which is found in "Penn's Woods", which is the current Strategic Plan. "Penns Woods" consists of four sub-parts if you read into it further. The mission is accomplished by: managing state forests under sound ecosystem management; retaining their wild character; maintaining biological diversity; while providing pure water, opportunities for low-density recreation, Habitats for forest plants and animals, sustained yields of quality timber, environmentally sound utilization of mineral resources; protecting forestlands, public and private, from damage and/or destruction by fires, insects, diseases and other agents; Promoting forestry and the knowledge of forestry by advising and assisting other government agencies, communities, landowners, forest industry, and the

general public in the wise stewardship and utilization of forest resources; Protecting and managing native wild flora resources by determining status, classifying and conserving native wild plants. The original strategic plan, Penn's Woods was established in 1995 which is the bureau's current strategic Plan, is moving toward Ecosystem Management and setting broad direction for managing state forests and private forest resources. He went on to explain the "Plan" Relationship Tree in detail. He discussed the processes to be able to achieve long-term forest sustainability and the funding requirements, and exactly what is included in the State Forest Action Plan. He also indicated that the Forest Action Plan was due to be revised in June of 2020. (A draft copy of the Bureau of Forestry Strategic Priorities and the 2020 State Forest Action Plan Outline that was updated in December 2019 is attached.) He also discussed the highlights of current and pending legislation.

00/29/20 - Diana Day, PA Fish and Boat Commission and Catherine D. Haffner of the PA Game Commission were introduced and made a two-part presentation concerning Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan. (See attached Handout) Diana started off by discussing the Conservation Opportunity Area Tool which is a joint effort between the Fish and Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Game Commission and working with several partners including: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration, Western PA Conservancy and NatureServe, across the state. The work was supported by State Wildlife Grants administered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wildlife & Sportfish Restoration Program. State wildlife action plans exist for every US state and territory covering a Ten Year Planning Horizon directed toward at-risk species. Six hundred-sixty four (664) Terrestrial and aquatic species were identified to be in greatest need of conservation. She discussed the Comprehensive Conservation Blueprint which includes: Species (conservation need), Habitat (extent & condition), Threat (human disturbance), Monitoring (hibernacula surveys) all tied in to Action. She went on to say that the Conservation Opportunity Area Tool (COA Tool) is quite extensive, given that the electronic document is 2170 pages long and that the

hard copy weighs 15 pounds. The COA Tool is user driven, Spatially explicit and web accessible. She went on to explain the notable features that it: Revolutionizes Wildlife Action Plan Delivery; Digests a massive amount of information into a usable format; Enhances relevancy to the user, providing a versatile interpretation of conservation actions; has a dynamic database that is regularly updated with new species information. The intended audiences for the COA Tool are: Resources managers of conservation related organizations to use for planning and on-the-ground implementation; private landowners; researchers, educators and the interested public. Diana then turned the podium over to Catherine Haffner from the PA Game Commission to do a demonstration of the tool. Catherine went through setting up an information inquiry by describing the site features, how to get started, finding the area of interest, doing a statewide search using Use Case Scenarios.

00/54/50 - Barry Frantz, PA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, was introduced and presented an update of the 2020 Financial Assistance Programs in Pennsylvania made possible through the 2018 Farm Bill. (See attached hand-out) Before starting his presentation, Barry noted that the end date for farmers and landowners to apply for EQIP, CSP and AMA is the end of January of this year, however those programs ending dates are going to be extended but the new dates have not yet been established. Those wishing to apply for those programs should try do so by the end of this month if possible, but it is certain that the closing date will be extended. As soon as that date is established, it will be announced as widely as possible. Proceeding to his presentation, Barry noted the major programs that the Farm Bill encompasses: Financial Assistance programs, Easement Programs, and Regional Conservation Partnership Programs (RCPP). He commented about the Conservation Opportunity Area Tool (COA Tool) that was covered in the previous presentation and indicated that Programs is in the process of developing a Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) that is very comprehensive and will do a lot of the same things for us that the COA Tool does for Fish and Game. He went to give a brief explanation of the

proposed tool and that it involved changing how we do the Conservation Plans and how they are established. This tool is currently in the process of being established at the National Level and is expected to be enacted later this year. He went on to explain information and updates on Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI), and Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG). He discussed that we are working to get more participation in programs by Veterans, and covered the qualifying benefits available to them. He discussed participant eligibility criteria for the different programs. He reminded everyone of the information that is available to all producers on different web sites such as www.farmers.gov and the NRCS website www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pa/newsroom/.

01/28/06 - Hathaway Jones, PA NRCS Easement Program Management Analyst, was introduced and discussed the changes across (ACEP) for the 2018 Farm Bill. (See the attached Hand-out) She noted that NRCS conservation easements are acquired through the voluntary sale of a property right that restricts what a landowner may do on their land. Easements run with the land, attach to a parcel and apply to all subsequent landowners. She discussed the past 25 years of NRCS Easement Program accomplishments - Closed Easements and noted that as of the end of FY 2019, there are almost 23 thousand easements on over 4.8 million acres nationwide. Pennsylvania has the highest number of FRPP (Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program) which is the forerunner of ACAP (Agriculture Conservation Easement Program) and ALE (Agriculture Land Easement Program) easement programs. There four NRCS Easement programs operating under the 2018 Farm Bill. They are: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) both Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE); Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE); Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP); and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Easement Authorities. She went on to describe the major

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01/43/34 - Susan Marquart, PA NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships, provided an update on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). (See attached hand-out) Susan discussed the recent changes in the RCPP under the new Farm Bill. She explained that the RCPP Principles were: Impact, Partnership Contributions, Innovation and Partnership and Project Management. Items still in development are: Interim Final Rule (IFR); Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA); Details of programmatic agreements and RCPP contract Implementation which is new; Quality assurance and reviews. These Principles were explained in detail. She noted that the FY 2019 Funding Announcement was put out and explained it in detail also. She went on to explain the FY 2019 RCPP Projects. The NRCS review period ends on January 31, 2020. Anticipated announcement of FY 2019 selected projects in March 2020. Partnership agreements will be completed by June 2020. Activities for 2020: IFR for RCPP is anticipated in February 2020; AFA funding announcement is anticipated soon after the IFR; Anticipated announcement of FY 2020 project funding round in July 2020; and AFA awards to be announced in the summer of 2020.

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STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
ATTENDANCE

| NAME | ORGANIZATION/ AGENCY/ COMPANY | E-MAIL ADDRESS (if different/changed since last meeting) | MAILING ADDRESS or PHONE # (if e-mail not available) | How did you hear about this meeting? | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | | | | e-mail | newspaper | other (specify) |
| Cathy Chaffner | PA Game Commission | chaffner@pa.gov | | | | |
| Johd Taucher | PGC | jotaucher@pa.gov | | X | | |
| Diana M. Day | PA Fish & Boat | dlday@pa.gov | | | | |
| Ryan Szuch | DCWR - BOF | rszuch@pa.gov | | | speaker | |
| Gary Gilmore | DCNR BOF | ggilmore@pa.gov | | X | | |
| Tom Stahl | DCWR BOF | tstahl@pa.gov | | X | | |
| Katherine Scott | Citizen/CDA STATE Master Gardener | avonks4@qualtel.com | | V | | |
| Amanda Bassow | Nat'l Fish+Wildlife Fund | amanda.bassow@NFWF.ORG | | | Network | |
| Katie Ombatski | Woods and Waters Consulting | kate@woodsandwaters.com | | X | | |
| Yuni Plouden | NRCS | | | | | |
| Sanja Jahrsdoerfer | USFWS | sanja | | X | | |
| RON RAMSEY | TNC | | | X | | |
| Frank Schneider | SCC | fschneider@pa.gov | | X | | |
| Chris Sigman | Team Az | chris@teamazi.com | | X | | |
| Donnel Brown | HBC Urban Growers | tovalcenter@gmail.com | | X | | |
| Marel King | CBC | mking@chesbay.us | | X | | |
| Kelly O'Neill | CBF | koneill@cbf.org | | X | | |
| Frank Guliben | PA Farm Bureau | fguliben@pfb.com | | X | | |
| Ashley Lenig | NRCS | | | | | |
| MARK GARDSON | NRCS | | | | | |