

Good Natured Pennsylvanians

By DCNR

PA/NJ - Jeanne Ortiz is the Senior Program Manager for Landscape Conservation at Audubon Mid-Atlantic, who also serves as the external lead for the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape.

She is being celebrated in Penn Future's Celebrating Woman in Conservation Awards.

Jeanne works in partnership with DCNR to implement conservation planning, on-the-ground project implementation, partnership development, communications management, and overall management and administration of the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape.

Pennsylvania's conservation landscapes are eight large regions that work together to drive strategic investment and actions around sustainability, conservation, community revitalization, and recreational projects.

These collaborations are found in regions where there are strong natural assets, local interest, and state-level investment.

Jeanne's appreciation for nature and environmental affairs makes her a great fit for this position.

She has worked for many years establishing municipal environmental advisory councils throughout Pennsylvania; and brings a wealth of experience dealing with multiple officials across different municipalities.

The Kittatinny Ridge:

Is one of Pennsylvania's most climate resilient landscapes

Is a global Important Bird Area and migration superhighway

Has 160 miles of the Appalachian Trail

Provides clean drinking water to millions of people

Conserving this 185-mile ridgeline -- across 12 counties and more than 200 municipalities -- requires a variety of approaches, including land protection, habitat improvement, municipal outreach, policy changes, and public engagement.

Jeanne explains that the designation of being a conservation landscape provides a framework for state agencies and partners across a region to advance the goals of:

Land protection, Safe passage for wildlife, Public engagement and identification with the ridge, Healthy communities, Conservation-oriented plans and policies, Outdoor recreation, Scientific research, "No one organization can do it alone," she says.

Jeanne's favorite part of her work is partnership development. "Many of us in conservation have been working together for several years. In some ways, it feels like a conservation family," she says.

"It is fulfilling to reach out to other organizations who share a passion for conserving Pennsylvania's natural assets and beauty, to collaborate and leverage resources. We all see the world changing before our eyes, and I am grateful to work with so many partners on making a difference now and in the long run."

Know of a good natured Pennsylvanian who is passionate about outdoor recreation and/or conservation that we should feature? Contact us at ra-resource@pa.gov to nominate someone.

Report Wild Turkey Sightings to Help With Population Monitoring

By DCNR

BUSHKILL - Pennsylvanians can help track wild turkey populations by reporting their turkey sightings to the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The public is encouraged to report any turkeys observed until March 15. The information submitted helps the agency analyze annual survival rates and annual spring harvest rates.

Trapping and leg banding turkeys during winter is part of ongoing population monitoring as well as a large-scale turkey study.

"It is the largest turkey project we've ever conducted, with the hope of answering many questions regarding current turkey population dynamics," says Mary Jo Casalena, Pennsylvania Game Commission wild turkey biologist.

Participants are asked to report the number of wild turkeys they see, along with the general location, date, and their contact information if agency biologists have any questions. Viewers can access results from previous years.



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