

Additional State Forest Roads Opening Across for Hunting Seasons, Other Outdoor Activities

By Terry Brady
HARRISBURG, PA - The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced today that hunters and other outdoors enthusiasts heading into Pennsylvania's state-owned woodlands this autumn will find additional roads open in 18 of the 20 state forest districts.

"DCNR's promotion of deer hunting, coupled with improved accessibility, benefits forest regeneration and the overall ecosystem," said Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "As a result, the Bureau of Forestry is opening more than 540 miles of state forest roads normally open only for administrative use. They again will be available to hunters, hikers, foliage viewers, and others visiting state forestlands this fall.

"These newly opened roads may provide new access and provide new vistas for all who enjoy being outdoors in autumn. It's a great time to be in Penn's Woods, regardless of your pursuit."

More than 3,000 miles of state forest roadways will be open during the statewide archery deer season, which opens Saturday, September 30, and closes Saturday, November 11. They will continue to stay open through other hunting seasons continuing into January 2018.

"Regardless of whether they seek deer, bear, turkey, or small game, hunters in our state forests will find more than 90 percent of that land now is within one-half mile of an open road," said Dunn.

With the hunter in mind, DCNR continues to update a new interactive map of state forestlands across Pennsylvania that offers details on newly opened roads, timber harvesting activity, forestry office contact numbers and more.

Meanwhile, top-quality hunting is offered at many state parks -- especially those in the 12.5-county Pennsylvania Wilds region -- where state forestland often surrounds them. Inexpensive camping can be found at many of those parks.

Primitive camping on state forestlands is also an option, giving hunters a backcountry camping or hunting experience. Camping permits, issued by the managing forest district, are required when camping on state forestlands on designated sites.

Many of these campsites are close to state parks and forestlands enrolled in the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Deer Management Assistance Pro-

gram, permitting hunters to take one antlerless deer or more when properly licensed. Hunters are advised to check with state forests district headquarters or state park offices about availability.

Hunters traveling to some north central areas of the state are reminded some hunting areas and travel routes may be impacted by Marcellus Shale-related activities. Some state forest roads may be temporarily closed during drilling operations or other peak periods of heavy use to reduce potential safety hazards.

Some state forest roads only will be opened for the second week of the traditional rifle season because they cannot withstand the expected heavy traffic of the first week of that season. Two- or three-month long openings will be in effect only where there is minimal threat of damage or deterioration to road surfaces or forest surroundings.

For more information on Pennsylvania's 20 state forest districts and 121 state parks, visit www.dcnr.pa.gov.

The interactive state forest map can be viewed at <http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Hunting/RoadsOpenForDeerSeason/Pages/default.aspx>



October 21
 Immaculate Conception
 Doors 11am;
 Starts 1pm

October 17
 Portland Fire Co
 Starts 7pm

October 22
 Bangor VFW Post 739
 Doors 3:30pm;
 Starts 6pm
 Open to Public
 Progressive Jackpot

October 18
 Bushkill Twp Fire Co
 Doors 5pm
 Starts 7pm

St. Elizabeth Church
 Starts 1pm

October 20
 Wind Gap Fire Co
 Doors 5pm; Starts 6:45pm

October 23
 Kunkletown Fire Co
 Progressive
 Jackpot - 7pm



HALLOWEEN Trick or Treat

Slate Belt Area Trick or Treat

- Bangor - October 29 - 2-5pm
- Bushkill Twp. - October 31 - 6-8pm
- East Bangor - October 29 - 2-5pm
- LMBT - October 29 - 2-4pm
- Pen Argyl - October 29 - 3-5pm
- Plainfield Twp - October 29 - 3-5pm
- Portland - October 28 - 4-6pm
- Roseto - October 29 - 2-5pm
- Stockertown - October 31 - 6-8pm
- UMBT - October 29 - 4-6pm
- Washington Twp - October 29 - 2-5pm
- Wind Gap - October 29 - 3-5pm



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