

## Appendix C: 2009 – 2013 Pennsylvania SCORP Public Comment Report

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## 1) State Agency Interviews

To begin the update process of the 2009-2013 SCORP, interviews were conducted with 12 state agencies to understand recreation planning and information needs, and to identify cooperative opportunities. The information collected during the interviews provided the foundation for the planning process. This initial step was critical to the development of an inclusive and relevant process and also helped shape the direction of the plan's research agenda.

### Notes from Partner Agency Meetings

PA Historical & Museum Commission .....	December 14, 2007
PA Dept. of Aging.....	December 18, 2007
PA Game Commission.....	January 3, 2008
Center for Rural PA .....	January 3, 2008
PA Dept. of Agriculture.....	January 4, 2008
PA Dept. of Health .....	January 8, 2008
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PA Dept. of Corrections .....	January 11, 2008
PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development .....	January 17, 2008
PA Dept. of Education.....	January 25, 2008
PA Dept. of Environmental Protection.....	January 25, 2008

## **Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission**

Barbara Franco, Executive Director

December 14, 2007

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Primary use of many of PHMC's sites (25 in total) is recreational. Looking for partners to manage outdoor recreation at PHMC's sites (exchange professional expertise)
- Recreation is a key way to create interest in history and historical sites.
- Is interested in what the 'benefit/value' is to the community, beyond just 'historical value'.
- Use the State Museum in Harrisburg to get children interested in natural history and cultural landscapes so that they carry the interest to do things outdoors home with them across the state (many school groups visit annually).
- In eastern portion of the state, lands are often pockets of open space.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- The division of resources between environmental and historic could use work, which is an impetus for better cooperation between PHMC and DCNR.
- Connect historic markers and sites with adjacent DCNR sites, facilities and trails (particularly trails). Overlay GIS layers and look for connections.
- Opportunities may exist to utilize PHMC sites as gateways, visitor centers, or rest stops for other state sites such as parks and forests.
  - Example: PA Lumber Museum, development of outdoor exhibits and planning efforts to encourage recreational use (near Cherry Springs); Avoid duplicating facilities.
  - Example: Washington's Crossing and Delaware Canal SP – Develop signage to inform visitors of trail and allow parking and access at WC
  - There is a need to share expertise between agencies.
  - Opportunity to develop partnership with DCNR (e.g., I Conserve) for Conservation History.
- Additional statewide data from SCORP could be beneficial.
  - Purchased a question on PA poll within last few years – Results will be provided
  - Identify the primary use of PHMC sites? Would more partnering be beneficial?
- Interested in active interpretation for children.

## **Pennsylvania Dept. of Aging**

Becky Fortenbaugh, Aging Services Specialist

December 18, 2007

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Concerned that Baby Boomers do not use existing senior centers.
- Provide a variety of services and programs.

### **About Dept of Aging**

- 622 Senior Centers throughout the state.
- Many facilities have land and some have outdoor recreation amenities.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Interested in talking to Baby Boomers to identify outdoor recreation needs.
- Provide stewardship messaging through programs offered in parks and forests for seniors.

## **PA Game Commission**

Joe Neville, Director, Bureau of Information & Education

January 3, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Key concern is the desire to keep trail network from crossing Game Lands.
- Demand for non-hunting activities on Game Lands have become an issue in many parts of the state.
- Trails are only open for recreational use from the end of Sept to the end of Jan (after 1 pm in April & May).

### **About Game Commission**

- Manages two visitor's centers (Middle Creek & Pymatuning) and an elk viewing area.
- Operates three programs to enhance public access to private lands for hunting and trapping.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Explore why participation in hunting is declining.
- Wildlife Watching has grown on Game Lands and the Game Commission needs to find a way to make money off of this activity (need to survey this group).
- Share experience with interpretation and train WCO.
- Use the WCO training facility as an outdoor recreation camp for youth.
- Cooperate with the Becoming and Outdoors Woman Program.
- Interested in land swaps with DCNR.

## **Center for Rural PA**

Barry Denk, Director

Jonathan Johnson, Senior Policy Analyst

January 3, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- There is a need to understand urban dwellers expectations when they visit rural sites and to understand rural dwellers expectations of those visitors. This knowledge will enhance the experience of tourists.
- Infrastructure in most rural areas is not sufficient to accommodate tourism.
- Access to outdoor recreation opportunities should be documented not assumed.

### **About the Center for Rural PA**

- Sponsors research on issues that affect rural areas of the state and use this knowledge to influence policy and funding to ensure equal representation with more developed areas of the state.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- The Center has offered to help BRC analyze the impact of grant funds given out by the agency.
- CRP can assist in providing venues and networks to help communicate with rural populations.
- CRP can assist in survey development and in interpreting data.

## **PA Department of Agriculture**

Cheryl Cook, Deputy Secretary for Marketing and Economic Development

January 4, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- People are moving away from agricultural work. Need to increase interest in agriculture as a way of life.
- Bio-security is an issue for the larger agriculture operations in the state.
- Most individuals who enrolled in agriculture preservation programs have no plans for passing the land on to future generations.

### **About the Department of Ag**

- Extremely diverse agency with programs addressing areas from dog kennels, to horse racing, to amusement rides & county fairs, to farm land preservation and agri-tourism.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Grant trail easements along working farms/dairies that link communities to public lands and install interpretive exhibits which explain agricultural processes to improve the public's understanding of the role of agriculture in daily living.

- Need to improve Pennsylvanian's connection to the natural environment as a first step toward getting people interested in agricultural vocations.
- Blue Ribbon Passport is probably the best vehicle for gaining easements for trails, especially if there is a good connection between outdoor recreation and gaining people for outdoor vocations.
- Physical activity, nutrition, locally grown foods are all linked to healthy lifestyles.
- Very interested in learning more about equine activities.

## **PA Department of Health**

Cynthia Malinen, Physical Activity Consultant

January 8, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Childhood obesity is focus for the department.
- Governor's Council on Physical Activity and Health has recently been reactivated.

### **About the Department of Health**

- Obesity and physical activity are the key issues of interest. The Dept. currently provides financial resources to PANA and works with that agency in the Keystone Active Zone and Keystone Healthy Zone programs. The Department of Health also develops user friendly educational tools for parents in dealing with childhood obesity.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- The Dept. is interested in the prescription pads for exercise and educating physicians about available recreation resources.
- An interesting area for collaboration is the public perception of physical activity as exercise vs. recreation and how this might influence the willingness of individuals to engage in physical activity.
- Creating more outdoor recreation programs that encourage physical activity

## **PA Fish & Boat Commission**

Doug Austen, Director

Laurel Anders, Special Projects

January 9, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Public access to information is a critical. Perhaps we could develop a better website with links between various agencies online. We should also explore which media we should use to present our information. Using this knowledge, we can decide how we are going to market outdoor recreation.
- Before we can market, we need to find out every opportunity we have to offer. We also need to keep land that we have access to. At this point there is a great deal of private land that is available for access. We are dependant on the goodwill of private citizens. What do we do to keep that? Where do we need to focus out attention to keeping access? We should explore our options with private land. For instance, someone might not want hunting on their land, but they would allow wildlife viewing. How do we explore these possibilities?

### **About the Fish & Boat Commission**

- The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is to provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources.
- The Fish and Boat Commission has come up with a proposal for marketing outdoor recreation in PA. They will forward a copy to the DCNR. (Check with Gretchen to see if she already has a copy. The National survey will be out soon. They are also working on a statewide trout plan. This plan looks at what makes a successful fishing trip for visitors. There are future plans to look at more ways to bring out of state visitors to come fish in Pennsylvania.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Work with DCNR and DOT to create water access points with bridge repair/replacement projects.
- The Commission did their last strategic plan in 2004. They are beginning a new strategic plan that will be done in 2009. SCORP research can be very useful in this plan.
- SCORP has a broader perspective than the Fish and Boat Commission, but they would like to be involved in certain aspects of SCORP relative to their mission.

## **PA Department of Transportation**

Jim Ritzman, Deputy Sec. for Planning

January 10, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- The idea of a statewide trail system corresponds with PennDOT's goals.

### **About the Department of Transportation**

- Current focus is on highways and bridge repair.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Work with regional directors of PennDOT to address safety issues with trails crossing roads.
- PennDOT has to do mitigation work when they do construction. They are interested in possibly relocating these mitigation projects to more appropriate areas. They would like to explore doing these projects in more natural areas instead of heavily constructed areas. They currently can not do this, but are looking for a strategy to allow this.
- DCNR would like to know how we can make trail crossings over highways safer. Penn DOT is currently working with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to gradually put pedestrian bridges. PennDOT can only accomplish this a little at a time. Currently they are primarily focused on highways and bridges. PennDOT also manages other transit, but those are the areas of focus. They do overlap with DCNR in the areas of trails and bikeways.
- BRC may be able to get more involved in the Safe Routes to School program.
- PennDOT believes that they can use SCORP to inform their process. They could also help take part in putting more bikeways into urban areas. They are able to do this if funds from different departments are cobbled together.

## **PA Department of Corrections**

January 11, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- The Dept. did not initially see the connection between outdoor recreation and corrections as far as the public is concerned.

### **About the Department of Corrections**

- Has a recreation program for inmates and for corrections officers
- Occasionally finds itself in a position to give away land in order to allow access to natural resources or to allow other agencies to develop outdoor recreation facilities (usually a politician's idea). The Dept. does not have a policy to give up land.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- The Department is interested in allowing trails to be developed along the periphery of correctional facilities and has worked with Montgomery County to develop a trail in a riparian zone on prison property.
- After a quick review of a state map which included the locations of all state prisons, it was determined that trails could potentially be developed at ## of ## sites.
- The Department is not interested in allowing other recreational uses of prison lands.

## **PA Department of Community and Economic Development**

Mickey Rowley, Deputy Secretary for Tourism

Shelley Speirs, Director of Outdoor Tourism & Sports Marketing

Denny Puko, Center for Local Government Services

January 17, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Mr Puko has visited 90 state parks and has a personal interest in the planning process.
- Understand the need for more outdoor recreation opportunities in small communities and feel that “parks are a key ingredient for the well being of a community.”
- Felt that the DCNR website should be updated and should provide more info.
- Municipal governments are facing increasing fiscal difficulties and are concerned that maintenance of existing facilities will become a bigger issue.
- DCNR facilities should collect hotel tax to support local marketing efforts.
- Suggested bringing more conveniences to state parks to attract more visitors.

### **About DCED**

- Agency has a very broad scope and several areas have potential ties to outdoor recreation including tourism, community development, and economic development. With tourism being the area with most focus on outdoor recreation (staff dedicated to marketing PA as an outdoor recreation destination) and economic development having only tangential interest (building a walking trail around a business park).
- Community development area is interested in outdoor recreation to enhance quality of life and to make communities more desirable for relocating companies.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Marketing for outdoor recreation visitors from out of state. Also felt that a marketing strategy should be developed to differentiate state parks and identify key features at each site.
- Work through the PA Wilds – DCED group to address outdoor recreation on a broader scale.

## **PA Department of Education**

Patricia Vathis, Environment/Ecology Advisor

January 25, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Very interested in re-establishing a strong relationship with DCNR, but Project Learning Tree is a point of contention.
- A report on outdoor education in the Commonwealth is due in October.
- Leary of safe routes to school program (thought it was “walking school bus”) but interested in enhancing infrastructure to allow more walking and biking to school.

### **About the Department of Education**

- While the department is the overseer of education in the state, they have very little control over what schools do. Superintendents have most of the power to influence education. The Department uses funding as a carrot to influence educational delivery. Curriculum development is another way to influence education in the state.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- May be able to work with schools to relocate fences to build trails on school property (must be approached on an individual basis). Zero tolerance for risk at schools in PA due to incident at Amish school.
- Need to conduct a best practices study to identify creative things that schools have already done in the areas of outdoor education, outdoor recreation, & environmental stewardship. For example, a pilot project with 30 schools is being conducted to create outdoor play space educational programs. DOE will pay for the study and if a questionnaire is developed and an implementation strategy is in place by August (she will add the project to next year’s budget). Follow up the subsequent year with a process to document the best practices and share them via the web.
- Develop curriculum standards for outdoor recreation (integrate into PE) and environmental stewardship (make it easy for teachers to go on field trips) to force participation by schools.
- Work with PANA and DCNR to develop criteria for a safe route to school.
- Interested in focus group discussions with urban minority youth.

## **PA Department of Environmental Protection**

Tom Burkley, Exec. Asst. to the Dep. Sec.,  
Office of Community Revitalization & Local Gov. Support  
January 25, 2008

### **Key Comments/Topics**

- Limited previous involvement with the PA Outdoor Recreation Plan.

### **About the Department of Environmental Protection**

- Primarily a regulatory agency. Current focus is on land recycling (brownfields), reclaiming lands for conservation and recreation, and encouraging the use of alternative energies in state facilities as demonstration projects to encourage private sector adoption. Water quality is also high on the agenda for the agency.
- Provides funding to Dept. of Educ. to be used for environmental education.

### **Cooperative Opportunities**

- Interested in exploring the idea of adding outdoor recreation facility development as part of the ranking system for reclamation project funding.
- Should work with Office of Environmental Justice regarding trail connectivity in grant applications.
- Encouraged DCNR to contact the Turnpike Authority regarding use of an abandoned spur for trails and providing trail access at service plazas.
- Happy to put together a team to assist with plan development and will identify the correct person to update the wetlands element of the plan.

## 2) Public Stakeholder Meetings

Recognizing the need to provide a face-to-face opportunity for the public to respond to the 2009-2013 SCORP, three stakeholder meetings were held:

- **June 1, 2009 – Mars (North Pittsburgh), Four Points by Sheraton**
- **June 2, 2009 – State College, Ramada Inn**
- **June 3, 2009 – DeSales University, Center Valley**

The three-hour meetings presented an overview of key research findings by a member of The Pennsylvania State University research team, as well as the draft plan recommendations by the writing team leads. Following the presentations, attendees were rotated through stations reflecting the four goals of the plan to provide detailed comment. Each meeting ended with an open forum for discussion, and allowed the opportunity for more in-depth conversation. The meetings were well attended by a broad array of outdoor recreation groups, in particular trail advocates.

At each station, participants were asked:

*Do you have any questions or need clarification?*

*What are your initial thoughts?*

*What is missing?*

*Are there recommendations you'd like to be a part of implementing?*

### **Goal 1: Strengthen connections between outdoor recreation, healthy lifestyles and economic benefits in communities.**

#### **Mars (North Pittsburgh), PA**

Sustainable Pittsburgh - urban youth study available

No surprise - urban areas do not have parks. They stay in their setting. We can go to them.

Has DCNR looked into zoning/vacant lots/gardens, etc.?

How can DCNR (state) close parks when stats show how important they are to citizens?

No stats about economic value.

Developing abandon lots is great; partner with universities.

Don't have to own it; just let them garden in empty lots.

Have to quantify the economic value.

Trout in the Classroom Program.

The trail town program closes the loop, businesses & towns involvement makes it sustainable because they depend upon the resource.

Community level - greater Pittsburgh Council of Boy Scouts don't take advantage of state park land.

Need resources to get to parks (\$) schools, teachers need packages.

Kiosks are not stocked well with brochures.

Snowmobile clubs are starting to GIS trails (good source of info.).

Western PA Conservancy implementing greenway plan. How do you make multi-use trails?

Tough to bring it into practice.

Economic impact - it is pointed at parks - don't forget forests (a lot of land).  
Health and economic benefit - lots to connect.  
Trail town program can be expanded.  
PennDOT - push for community based.  
How much money spent in parks vs. gym. Lots of infrastructure in gym vs. park.  
Come have fun; get fit cheap!  
Economic development - trail towns important to build upon this is clean bathrooms/water draw people.  
EDU tax credit, why not healthy tax credit to build rec. facilities?  
How are health fields involved?  
Trail town program excellent - these should have a priority.  
One-time a year, close down streets and walk & bike.  
Encourage programming programs via grants. Dept. of Education mandates environmental education/outdoor recreation programs, but no money for it.  
A "Theme of the Year" (Equestrian, etc.)  
How do we get young people out? Need stats to take to legislators; Highmark, etc. to pitch ideas.  
Have to have infrastructure and access (not on TomToms, GPS).  
Rec. 18 - include non-profits.  
Bring recess back and make it outdoor! After middle school, it's dropped.  
As you rehab roads allow for multi-trail uses.  
Geocaching.com - 5 ways to do it. Do the same for state parks (need lat & long).  
Property taken out of county repository instead of viable economic development property.  
Community interaction - if you lead via groups, you have liability issues \$. How can state help? (example: New Zealand)  
Promoting health and parks - be aware of internal park maintenance (practice what we preach – stream buffers vs. mowing to edge).  
Land use: we separate them, we need integrate them (get help from local govts, PPA).  
Rec. #14 - Smaller groups, local can do a better job vs. state.  
Like having 1 message with input from each group (urban & rural).  
Describe sustainable, green communities - what does it mean to DCNR?  
Partner with Dept. of Corrections to get labor.

### **State College, PA**

Overlap in Federal and PA Outdoor Rec. trends and needs.  
Need for technology-based resources integrated in outdoor rec.  
Agriculture land preservation issues preventing access.  
Lots of concern re: closing of state parks.  
Owners of state-leased camps should be surveyed (private camps, too).  
(#20) Research data needed re: the correlation between lower health care costs and access and promotion of outdoor rec. facilities.  
Work with PGC for use of their trails on their lands.  
Economic benefits statistics needed for motorized trails.  
Citations needed for referenced used in DCNR presentation.  
Need for more comfort facilities (showers, lodges, restrooms).

Hang-gliding/parachuting referenced at state parks (Hyner View).  
Rock climbing conservancy up and coming recreation activity (state park and state forests Rothrock, Elk, Tioga, Kinzua).  
Health community and outdoor rec. needed to communicate more effectively.  
ARRA: American for Responsible Recreation Access-Data available.  
Need/opportunity for:  
    Participation of web & providing feed back  
    Map based inventory of users/themes/issues  
    Map based comments/feedback on resources offered (blogs; rating systems).  
Supportive of the need for data & education, encourage to get outside recreate (marketing).  
Important to have rec. facilities/access needed in more communities.  
Need pedestrian connections to community facilities (parks, schools, etc.).  
Support data collection for outdoor rec. facilities benefits.  
Encourage trail surveys at trailheads & track where they are coming from.  
Healthy communities somewhat conflicted message with high risk adventure activities (ATV; hang-glider; rock climbing).  
Encourage gap analysis (input) at the local govt. level and need for identified trails at risk.  
State direction towards increased trail development at local level.  
Good models of success stories "tool book" for developing trails in rural areas.

### **Center Valley, PA**

More collaboration with PennDOT.  
Work with PennDOT on ADA requirements for sidewalks.  
Connect with hospitals and doctors on trails and outdoor recreation.  
Connections between shopping areas/destinations and residential areas.  
Expansion of partnerships between commercial outfitters/guides/etc. & public lands (e.g., Get Outdoors).  
"Complete Streets" program; "Safe Routes to School".  
Engage PennDOT "ped" coordinator.  
Engage PSAB, League of Cities; School Association groups.  
Make sure economic benefit studies can help towns/municipalities articulate and support projects.  
Prepare for use of recreation resources by returning war veterans.  
Improve short trails at industrial parks.  
Promote use of official map as a municipal land use tool.  
Work with insurance companies - focus on prevention.  
Data collection/health benefits.  
Show negative benefits (TV; games; latch-key).  
More after-school programs.  
Trails in corporate centers.  
Connect by fresh/local with trails.  
Trails incorporate in planning.  
Allentown - model programs  
More overnight accommodations for horses.  
Promote more safe routes to school - school programs.

Add fitness trails to trail development.  
Need more equestrian trails.  
Connect bike-pedestrian facilities  
More interagency coordination.  
More bike racks.  
DCNR make direct contact to advocacy groups.  
More Ag. Tourism connection to health.  
More overnight accommodations on trails.  
Connect farmer's markets to trail amenities.  
Need single Ed. Campaign.  
Connect PHMC Heritage partners.  
Add community centers.  
Art walks.  
Train professionals to more get-outdoors.

## **Goal 2: Reconnect people to the outdoors and develop a stewardship ethic through outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences.**

### **Mars (North Pittsburgh), PA**

More collaboration.  
Marketing differences between visitors and residents.  
Missing recommendations on river restoration and natural resource protection.  
Liability insurance as trip leader (good model - Sierra Club).  
Improve school/community coordination – efficiency in infrastructure, lease property to township (let community use school grounds after hours and in summer).  
How can we make the “park that comes to me”  
Education needed to share the positive message  
Increase outreach to the conservation districts  
Role of park and recreation boards  
Improve quality and access to rivers  
Need more information on web  
Better market free fishing events  
Create “Take your kid outside day”, instead of taking them to work.  
Increase interpretive signage  
Like the yearlong state parks marketing campaign  
Weave outdoor activities into existing event calendars, especially non-recreation focused.  
Work with visitors bureaus and TPAs.  
Look at [www.wallsarebad.com](http://www.wallsarebad.com) as an example.  
Figure out how to reach more people.  
Contact Major Taylor Biking Club – successful model for African American outreach  
Work with school nurses.  
Schools are a good venue.  
Combine recreation with science and EE curriculum, K-12.

Combine litter control with exercise.  
No Child Left Inside.  
Use events like National Get Outdoors Day to increase awareness.  
Pittsburgh has hiking meet up groups that are very successful.  
Better coordination with land conservancies – ex: work with Girl Scouts.  
ATV Traction does lessons in schools.

### **State College, PA**

Recommendations seem like DCNR programs.  
State Parks closure questions.  
Put best practices on web.  
Input from state parks/state forests lessees – want to be surveyed.  
Riding OHV/ATVs is a family opportunity.  
More programs and facilities for senior citizens.  
What is the role for organized sports in connecting people to nature?  
Include state forest land.  
Show what can be done at the county and community level.  
Provide citations for text.  
Look at information from Americans for Responsible Recreation Access (ARRA).  
Tread Lightly – work with Boy Scouts and local clubs.  
Kids fear being outside a small neighborhood.  
Ask kids what they want.  
Include hang gliding.  
Look at Southern Alleghenies website for an example.  
Kids need to know what they can do nearby, especially when they can't drive.  
Need better marketing of nearby amenities and historic sites.  
Student generated clubs need to be introduced at school and with friends.  
Institutionalize outdoor recreation in schools.  
A lot depends on what is cool, or if someone cool is doing it.  
Like the 20 minutes of outdoor play in school day recommendation.  
Need interactive, educational games and websites for kids.  
Look at [www.ssrt.org](http://www.ssrt.org) for ATV opportunities  
Survey youth use of recreation facilities, ages, sibling influence

### **Center Valley, PA**

Partner with insurance companies  
- Work with NOLS for risk management training  
- membership reimbursement for outdoor clubs  
Focus on families, not just kids/  
Better identify the role for outdoor industry/business.  
Link statewide website with businesses.  
Add IMBA to Recommendation 21.  
Need better maps of current and potential recreation areas.  
Highlight high profile outdoor recreation.

Lack of awareness of local amenities – local trails, businesses, private sector.  
Need to increase public interest.  
Better press about park opening events, including outdoor etiquette.  
Teachers want lessons packaged and ready.  
Clearinghouse for grants/funding opportunities for outdoor education.  
Work with school administrators to support hiring teachers to do outdoor recreation.  
Include trails on school grounds.  
Build a continuum of programs.  
Add AMC to leader's manual action step.  
Have informal recreation nights – Tuesday night, group decides.  
Use environmental readiness as starting point – start with identified weaknesses (Blue Ribbon Criteria)  
Role of school boards and elected officials – do familiarization tours.  
Include technology.  
Role for Dept of Corrections?  
Include as part of service hours.  
Do regional marketing.  
Create more bike parks – easy addition to any recreation facility (eg – Chambersburg)  
Good example – Fairmount Park and Philly Mountain Biking Club (meet 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of month)

### **Goal 3: Develop a statewide trail network to facilitate recreation, transportation and healthy lifestyles.**

#### **Mars (North Pittsburgh), PA**

Clarification and define “public access”.  
Concern over conservation easement access: farmland preservation; landowner liability/efforts, re: hold harmless.  
Really need support from DCNR on this issue (making it stronger) (recovery costs).  
Felt that existing easements will be difficult; since so many already done.  
Roads a vital part of trail system because of these issues.  
Rail-trail parking (trailhead) for equine users - a safety issue for others; incl. multi-use trails; separate horse trailer parking area.  
240 miles of trails for motorized, yet over 500,000 ATVs.  
Use Allegheny NF as an example.  
Access from the trails to local facilities/amenities.  
Trails – stewardship.  
ATV safety training to adults.  
Educate on trails about different hunting seasons.  
Question about criteria for selection of priorities (maybe list out type of gaps).  
Model examples - accessibility, working around natural features, particularly wetlands (construction).  
Getting the other agencies on board - greater synergy.  
Rec. 29 - work cooperatively on maintenance, upkeep.

People need to be aware of the importance of the trail standardization issue.  
Working to improve access to private land - guidance on how to do it, work with land trusts.  
Educational tool, fact sheet to provide to landowners.  
Prioritize trails to urbanized centers; close to home - access.  
Which trails are listed in the county TIP? Connections with other facilities.  
Desire for completion.  
Dept. Labor - workforce dev. & work experience to maintain trails and do trail projects. (Youth employment programs - New York's Green Apple Corps as a model - AMC, SCA)  
Utility ROW, easement - gas lines as well (underground lines).  
Adoptive programs similar to PennDOT's.  
Long-term plans and efforts to maintain the trails.  
How to shifting funding to maintenance - micro-grants to clubs to do stewardship activities.  
Maintenance and education.  
Making the clubs aware.  
Challenge: finding local champion to close up a gap.  
Work these points (above) into existing recommendations.  
Lack of funding for smaller links (at the community level) access without cars.  
Development plans - missing link.  
Development stipulations that are coordinated across political boundaries.  
Trails in industrial parks work space, offices.  
Question about aging-friendly trail/path (for older adults).  
Location, accurate address of the parks, greenways - as part of the information database.  
Need to get people to come forward to discuss issues with NIMBY - mechanism to do a better job of this.  
Opportunities, lost even with \$.  
New/updated resources telling their success stories.  
On-trail education may provide commercial opportunities.  
PennDOT - obstacles because of new and/or changing regulations.  
Flexibility with guidelines particularly if in a high priority area - changes to be made pending additional.  
Make up-to-date, accurate abandoned railroad grades (missing lines).  
Look at major easements to piggyback.  
Old USGS from 1900 to update.  
Keep up with the trail maintenance workshops - 1 hr. of different areas (these work great!).  
Keep funding as part of the recommendation.  
Question - Putting together all the county greenway plans as a starting point.  
Do an assessment of greenway plans - why do they work and network?  
Funding via gas; casino. (dedicated funding - difficult to eliminate).  
Who will own/manage the trails - these are roadblocks.  
Excess taxes - trails and trail use (equipment).  
How to sustain trail groups after project is completed.

## **State College, PA**

Tough to implement - shared uses to connect. Overlay of single use vs. multiple use trails.

Encourage funding, multiple use through policy.

Concern on ATV motorized inclusion into language.

State park maps: connection between facilities - just shows an end point - maps covering broader area.

Development & illustration of restroom facilities, process of how they should be maintained - need to be spelled out prior.

Expand the GIS mapping; increase awareness or expand into the state park systems - other agencies as well.

Consider the collective of all studies.

Evidence of multiple trail uses - bike then white-water rafting.

Organized activities, because difficult to get people to do on their own.

Programs/events extremely popular.

Websites/bulletin boards.

Connected up with trail efforts in other state (ATV).

ATV/SMB

Communicate future plans for how ATV \$ is allocated.

Challenge of sign standards:

- funding
- understanding format
- what is to be standardized
- what about existing signage - language of signage (- or + posting).

Taking care of what we have - should we be building more?

Work with other state agencies to make it easier for trail groups.

One go-to place to address recreation and transportation. (Nebraska example).

Cost/time prohibitive - how make it work vs. what would stop it.

Transportation-enhancement funding sources are difficult to navigate.

Land use enabling legislation rewritten to include trails.

Trailmap for the whole state (Frostburg, Cumberland Md. Kiosk on the trail).

DCED involvement in plan recommendations.

Coordinate isolation out of the process. May be because of the breadth.

Geocaching on trails, historic sites.

Model WV/KY/TN/OH ATV/SNOW and find a way to connect to those states' systems.

Be careful with signage - going too far/too rigid; keeping unique branding (consistency of what is in a signage system).

Until better cooperation between agencies there will be gaps (concern over the same goal).

Strong committed action.

Prioritization of rec. to state agencies (what goal should be achieved).

Sense of "owing" between agencies and organizations.

Under Rec. 31 - tying to physical activity - health while nature/outdoors.

Transportation basis for trails - going somewhere. Thinking of the destination that provides value/worth (with support amenities) - also in community living.

Tie into existing infrastructure.

Existing ROW - making these ROWs formalized.

State parks here, where are state forests? Backpacking trails are particularly important for equine users.

Overnight support facilities on trails.

### **Center Valley, PA**

Safety - conflicting (potential) uses; communicate at state forests/state parks re: rifle season, bear.

“Click and Buy” for trail signage.

Signage standards - important trail markings - color coded; not used twice

Maps

Suggestions/loop ideas for trails - work with local groups, link to them.

Parking an issue at trailheads.

Include link to local groups - may need to be resourced.

Would like web-based way of communicating.

Online usually the easiest, first step of getting trail info.

Specific details reg. contact with local organization.

Link to the economic side - places to stay.

Roads are sub-par for road riding - berm, tar and chips.

Question about coordination between regions (county level and beyond); (with regard to trail planning); (consistency of the plans desired)

Cooperation with other agencies particularly PGC - a desirable element of the process (a mech. to support would be desired).

Move attention to water trails – PA FBC maps are good.

Question: How would difficulty ratings be done? - coordinate with existing rating systems.

Alternate routes when difficulty levels change - signage guidelines.

Thorny liability issue with ROW through private land.

Overnight parking and shuttle service to facilitate overnight use and general trail use.

Opportunities to be more obvious about designating/signage (re: highway overpasses)

Connect with local population that maintain and operate trails for the best information (non-profits, friends groups).

Trail service project opportunities - keyed to local needs and with “how-to” (like PA Cleanways) for trails.

Dept. Agriculture: Preservation easement language - trail use (Potter-Gregg Twp. - Penns Valley RT)

Landowner liability clause needs to be addressed and expanded to all rec. use beyond hunting (expand beyond existing law).

Pending changes – publicize this to landowners.

Look to state teaching institutions to develop trail connections and work-service projects.

Mapping system needs more detail better marking directions and hazards.

Linking outdoor rec/trails to the medical community.

Educate physicians on the additional benefits of outdoor recreation (hiking) vs. indoor fitness (treadmill).

Coordination with Volksmarchers.

Question about coordination with PGC given the trail networks are extensive.

People with physical limitations and reliance on motorized trail and desire to go to destinations

(expanding involve veterans, wounded warriors) - special attn. here.  
Rec. 30: PA Mountain Biking Assoc.  
Look at GA Chattahoochie NF for models.  
OHV access; where to go from here? Beyond Rock Run.  
Identify challenging legal areas and involve OHV groups.  
Permit/revenue to access these areas.  
Climbing community-trail design out and back - PGC policies on trail dev. within these areas.  
Special use permits for an organized OHV ride and again challenging route. PennDOT coordination needed.  
Uniform/standard policy to have a designated use on selective days on their road - up to local decision making.  
Comment re: trail development.  
Grants for design/build projects.

#### **Goal 4: Enhance outdoor recreation through better state agency cooperation.**

##### **Mars (North Pittsburgh), PA**

Agency duplication requires more coordination and efficiency.  
PennDOT specs are difficult to mesh with small trail needs.  
One-stop initiative for trails - DCNR.  
Clearinghouse example: [www.wallsarebad.com](http://www.wallsarebad.com)  
Recomm. 8 - all non-motorized, including bikes and horses.  
Especially connector trails across PGC lands.  
Consistency in seasons and regulations between agencies.  
Snowmobiles have different seasons DCNR vs. PGC.  
Listen to our customers beyond today. Citizen input key.  
L&I and DCNR need to work more on PA Conservation Corps.  
Agency project staff need to work more closely on specific projects.  
CCAP & PPAs - make better use of them. Get them signed on.  
MPOs need to play a role.  
Make sure SCORP is integrated in other strategic plans. Especially future plans.  
Add Turnpike Commission to coordinate trail development.  
Build Conservation Districts into grant reviews.  
Emphasize need to open agriculture easements to multiple uses.  
More time outside to stay in touch with the resource.  
(#2) Don't develop criteria that bias towards under-represented communities.  
(#2) Alternative hours to be more available to all potential grantees. Better outreach on grants.  
TAC volunteer - Ben Brugmans  
PennDOT/DCNR coordination is very important to fix.  
Make PennDOT listen when impacting a trail.  
Work with trails, be flexible.  
Acceptable levels of service for facilities - PRPS.  
"Create and reward"

More outdoor recreation and manufacturing, “green” products.  
Manufacturing = Economic value = Protected resource  
Open school grounds to more community recreation - stimulus \$ could help pay.  
Revive maps (Donna Gambol) for CLI's and others -- also hunting, fishing maps.  
Keep TAC tent large and all-inclusive.

### **State College, PA**

Concern over state park closures.  
Development of OHV trails  
- align with PennDOT initiatives.  
- better environmental impact with development of more facilities.  
Encourage non-traditional usage (i.e., climbing).  
Don't leave out state forests - protect what we have from mineral extraction.  
More cooperation with Allegheny National Forest.  
Agreement on policy between agencies.  
Seamless recreation between agencies.  
Integrating geo-spatial data systems. Who coordinates this data?  
One-stop shopping for recreation grants. Very important! Focus on 7.  
PGC seems to be a missing link to trail linkages.  
Strong concern over policy of game lands. Provision of mapping.  
Effective for evaluating process.  
Move groups around.  
TAC should not be stagnant, get new and fresh faces.  
Encourages keeping pulse of trends.  
Monitor via electronic communication.  
Open discussion through a forum.  
Classification of “green” - what does this mean?  
Coordinate local/municipal/county to get them to work together. Communities know their needs the best.  
Some overlap with #8 and trails - having one recommendation - remove; redundant.  
#8 could focus more on other things besides trails. Recreation opportunities.  
#9 work with farmers, not just Dept. of Ag  
#11 invite all people and move around. Be inclusive. Invite all different groups.  
Focus on working with PRPS and other like groups.  
Include input between intra-agency coordination.  
Why is recommendation 4 so specific? Is it model for other places?  
Fix Rec. 1 Principles, not Principles.  
Make greater use of official map under the state planning code, county or municipality.  
New recommendation  
Rec. #4 - add SGP to Greenway organizations in general.  
Sewer and water authorities to obtain rights-of-way.  
Negotiate that pipe line would provide rec. opportunities.  
#7 include ATV users. More focus on ATV.  
ATV and inclusive recreation. Snowmobilers get more access and may be more dangerous.

Include ATV travel to receive more economic impact. ATV muffler laws could be included in the plan.

Efforts to promote responsible use of ATVs and mountain biking to limit erosion of trails.

Enhance use of geo-spatial technology. Mimic Maryland green print map [www.greenprintmarylandmap.com](http://www.greenprintmarylandmap.com).

### **Center Valley, PA**

Too many recommendations - prioritize.

Urban recreation policy for smaller funding; tech support; innovation/demo \$.

Urban recreation conference needs follow-up

More motorized trails for folks with disabilities.

Refine DGS rec. to figure out how to incentivize recreation in a sale situation.

More CLIs in rural areas - Juniata/Mifflin counties.

Keep what we've got - open space preservation.

PennDOT inconsistency among districts a big issue; DCNR, too.

Trail maintenance and standards should not be top down but grassroots up; empower and fund; trails are local; standardization not a big priority.

Rotate secretaries among agencies.

PennDOT relax its guidelines on signs, etc.

How do you standardize difficulty ratings? Info. ok.

More disabled trails done by local groups.

#7 highly endorsed - add municipalities.

Dept. of Corrections - put inmates to work maintaining trails.

SCA - AmeriCorps - make more use on conservation projects in PA.

W. Rockville/Bucks County good example of municipality that built a trail but restricts its use.

Draft PSATS to work on new development trail restrictions.

#7 more with PennDOT's scenic byway program.

Cut data regionally as in past SCORPs.

Micro-grants to recreation groups rather than top-down approach and trail maintenance, ed., training, especially youth - also train the trainer. PA Equestrian model that DCNR funds could be expanded to KTA, canoe clubs, etc.

Developers should be required by ordinance to provide rec. opportunities or higher in-lieu fees - recreation fees or promote trade-offs in density for rec. facilities (like open space).

Relax matching grant eligibility timeframe to promote more rec. development while waiting for a grant.

Following the break-out sessions, meeting participants were asked to fill out a worksheet to help the SCORP planning team understand the recommendations most relevant to their work and personal interest. This information has been collected in a spreadsheet and will be used as yearly implementation plans are developed.

### 3) Comments submitted to [www.paoutdoorrecplan.com](http://www.paoutdoorrecplan.com)

In an effort to reach as many citizens as possible, a new website was to provide a two-way communication mechanism for the plan. Draft recommendations and research summaries were posted for public comment from May 20 – July 21, 2009. The “Comments” section allowed for individuals to comment on the draft information and recommendations via the internet. As comments were entered, they were posted on the website to maintain the transparency of the process.

#### May 26, 2009

Topic: PRPS Local Rec and Park Survey

I would like to attend the Jun 2 meeting well-prepared. In order to be able to intelligently comment on future plans, it would be nice to see the PA Rec Participation Survey to use it as a needs assessment in comparison to the 2003 survey. How about posting it? Or send a copy to me directly. Michele L. Barbin, Snow Shoe, PA

Topic: Tail Gap Priorities Survey

The GAP is, of course, the obvious top priority in trails. Second on my list and the list of many residents and organizations is the Frick Park Trail along Nine Mile Run to the Monongahela river in Pittsburgh. There are tens of thousands of people living within a mile or so of Frick Park that would gain trail access to the river and the Duck Hollow Trail. The completion of this already engineered trail would yield a tremendous per capita return for dollars spent. Please move forward with the construction of this trail. Andrew Munster Swissvale, PA

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

I once authored a document in which I suggested a Keystone Discovery Trails System that connected foot trails to establish a matrix of interconnected trails in all regions of PA. (I could download this to someone if you would like to read the entire paper). Additionally, a major trail of national significance, the Great Eastern Trail, is not included in the map. It would be naive to think that a trail from Florida to NY State would not some day become the 4th National Scenic Trail in PA; it should be a major part of the Scorp section on foot trails. It includes the Standing Stone Trail, MidState Trail, and Tuscarora Trail in PA. Carl Lorence

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

Dear Friends, Thanks for your work. I had difficulty identifying if the Grand History Trail was included, especially the Adams County portion. We did a feasibility study for the Hanover to Gettysburg connector, and are currently working on obtaining some rights of way along that alignment. I did see that it was not included as a gap, but I feel it needs to be added as a very important gap to be completed. This will then link in the York Heritage Trail, then continue on to Baltimore, Annapolis and Washington. Eventually it will be a loop. If you include the Hanover to Gettysburg Connector, then at least it recognizes the importance of getting folks to Gettysburg by bicycle. How can we get this important connector gap included? Thanks... Tom Jolin, Secretary Health Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian, Ins.

Topic: PRPS Local Rec and Park Survey

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Snow Shoe, PA

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

The GAP is, of course, the obvious top priority in trails. Second on my list and the list of many residents and organizations is the Frick Park Trail along Nine Mile Run to the Monongahela river in Pittsburgh. There are tens of thousands of people living within a mile or so of Frick Park that would gain trail access to the river and the Duck Hollow Trail. The completion of this already engineered trail would yield a tremendous per capita return for dollars spent. Please move forward with the construction of this trail. Andrew Munster Swissvale, PA

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

Can you tell me what #11 and #13 trail gaps are on the map? There is no map key. I work for a township with a linked trail plan in upper Bucks County--West Rockhill. We support a linked statewide greenway system and so do our residents. Thanks, Judy Decker

**May 29, 2009**

Topic: State Park Visitors Survey

DCNR Bureau of State Parks, As a PA resident with a disability, your recent announcement of the possible or probable closing of Yellow Creek Park in Indiana county is a tragedy, not to mention the waste of tax payers money. I've been camping there for about the last five years, the cabins are fully accessible and with the wheelchair accessible pontoon boats you can't beat it. Every year our group keeps getting bigger, last year we rented three cabins and two pontoon boats over a long weekend. It seems a shame to even think about closing it. You added the Yurts to it the past three years and this year you are presently building a new bath house next to the cabins. Yellow Creek Park is one of PA's best kept parks, a secret get away. It's close to IUP and the town of Indiana, stores are fifteen minutes away, and not to mention it's a Green Park. If it's not the money maker you want, advertise! I'll probably have a harder time getting a cabin but it won't stop me from traveling from Pittsburgh along with my friends from Tallahassee. But all in all before doing anything drastic, visit the park, talk to the park manager Kenneth Bisbee(a hell of a nice guy), and look to see how much the park has to offer, to the public and especially to us with disabilities. Sincerely, Gary Brunazzi

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

What better way to connect people to the outdoors than by investing in safer bike facilities on streets so that people can safely pedal from their homes to the trails and parks without having to drive there? Millions of people in this country already use our streets to enjoy the outdoors by using them for biking and walking, and millions more would if they were made safer.

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

Has anyone been involved in the Sandcastle Gap in the Great Allegheny Passage negotiations?

**June 1, 1009**

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

Looking through the available documents, I see no attention given to the trends in 4x4 (legally registered passenger vehicles) driving for recreation in PA. We use 4x4 recreation as a means to get our children into the forest for fresh air, camping, hiking and education while enjoying the socialization of organized 4x4 driving with a club. I'd like to see the state land make some existing (but closed) challenging trails available to attract more enthusiasts to PA. Plus, the more challenging trails that are available, the less illegal activity will occur trying to find it. Sincerely, Dave DeChristopher, Ephrata, PA 17522

Topic: State Park Visitors Survey

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this piece of work effort. Actually I am using this vehicle to raise a point of view I believe ought to be given serious consideration; that is, whether 'pets' have any place in our state parks, trails, recreation areas, etc. I do not have a pet. But I have been to several states which allow pets. Let me be specific; for the most part, my comments will refer to dogs. About 6 years ago, the Commonwealth of PA began a 'pilot' of allowing dogs in the camping area. I have been camping in PA's State Parks for over 40 years. When a dog that 'got away' ran into my campsite at Promised Land, that was the last time I visited that park – which was my favorite place to camp. Several years ago, my wife was bitten by a dog who 'doesn't bite'. Lastly, look at Jacobsburg State Park here in the Lehigh Valley; it is now known as Dog Park. The dogs run wild and their crap is all over the trails. Please, Please do not cave into pressure from the few dog owners. Please use this opportunity to reign-in the policy of allowing 'pets' in the recreation areas reserved for humans. Regards! Bill Hart Northampton, PA

Topic: Improving PA Economy/Health

Add a comment... HEALTHY Armstrong at <http://healthyarmstrong.org/> is an active organization that is attempting to do many of the suggestions made in this section. The Armstrong Trail is a participant of this initiative and promotes the health benefits of active lifestyles and connections to nature. Ron Steffey

Topic: Improving PA Economy/Health

There is a huge opportunity to gain a large amount of revenue from the 4x4 community. There is a huge demand for offroad access to legal places to enjoy our sport. It can help the local economy. Ridgway, for instance, would be greatly impacted by good economic growth if we could have more access to public lands, such as the A.N.F. There could be a trail system just like the ATVs have, but with a greater economic impact due to the lack of places for O.R.V. community to enjoy our sport, they would come from around the country if you had a trail set up to draw them in. Thank you

## **June 2, 2009**

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

I would like to see more 4x4 (jeep) trails opened up. The best way to protect our forests is to provide challenging off road trails. A simple look around while driving down the road will tell you there are a lot of jeeps in Pa. We seek nothing more than the ATVs where given. A legal place to enjoy our sport. Our petition even has more support than theirs did (<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/OpenPaJeepTrails/index.html>). The illegal trail riding that occurs in our state and national forests will only be stopped by a legal challenging trail system. Craig Groeger President of Rocks-N-Roost Off Road Club Ridgway Pa. (RocksNRoost.com)

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

I'll also recommend that the trail along Nine Mile Run in Pittsburgh's Frick Park be completed as a connector to the Steel Valley Trail system being developed along the Monogahela River. As already noted, the tens of thousands living in this part of the Pittsburgh area would gain easier access from Frick Park to the river trails. Please take a closer look at Nine Mile Run.

## **June 4, 2009**

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

Hunting needs to be a high profile activity since most who do these other activities are also hunters just enjoying the fruits of their conservationist activities in the off season. There has been a large disconnect with "city folk" and nature which has grown over the years, and hunting is a great way to keep folks, especially kids, in touch with nature and wildlife. It also seems like this special interest group "scorp" is big on trails. I would venture to say that hunter foot traffic keeps the majority of these trails open and worn.

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

I would like to see more motorcycle trails opened up. There are many, many miles of snowmobile trails across the state even though research has shown they are the least used vehicle when compared to cycles, 4 wheelers, and 4wd's. Most of these trails could be dual purpose. And among these trails we need ones upon which younger unlicensed youth may ride on as well. This is the age at which you learn these sports, not by waiting till you are 16 or 17 when you can get a license.

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

We have great trails for walking, biking and horses, but we need more trails for motorized vehicles.

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

I would just like to express my extreme dissatisfaction at the lack of any off highway vehicle access for full sized vehicles in Pennsylvania. In other states throughout the country there are places where owners of Jeeps and other full sized 4x4s can take their vehicles. There are several places in southwestern Pennsylvania that could be opened to full sized off highway vehicles that would not impact nature and at the same time provide this large segment of the tax paying population a place in which they can enjoy their sport. I hope that in the future the complete disregard for this segment of Pennsylvania's outdoor enthusiasts will be remedied.

Topic: Purpose of SCORP

I would like to take my OHV on trails in the state park. I will not make a mess.

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

I am interested not only in trail use by walking, biking and equestrian, but also desire to have trails for use by motorized vehicles. Jeff Saal

## **June 5, 2009**

Topic: State Park Visitors Survey

We have dogs and don't visit a lot of parks because they can never be off their leashes. I have been in various states out West where they do have leash laws but ALSO a "dog park"-designated areas where the dogs can run around free-to-be. It's really fun, people tend to clean up so they aren't chastised by others, everyone chats, and then the dogs can go back on their leashes at camp; much more relaxing.

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

We need atv trails like west virginia has ! Just look at the money they bring in from pa residents ! I would much rather spend my money where i live but this state likes to take away areas we have rode for years and make walking trails that are used by no more than 10-15 people in a good month ! I live in fayette county and must drive to somerset county to ride a nice trail system , and it is not even a state ran facility but a private atv resort ! The trails the state does have are not nearly challenging or long enough to justify driving an hour and a half ! Pa. is third in the nation in atv ownership , give us places to ride and the money will come rolling in ! Charge a yearly trail permit fee of 100-150 \$ for each atv more for non-residents of course . This is a viable option for this state ! thank you for your time . Dave Clark

Topic: Statewide Resident Survey

I feel that the state should consider and include designated access to state lands by Motorized vehicles. This is a legitimate form of recreation desired by many tax paying residents of Pennsylvania. If the state includes legitimate access there will be fewer instances of inappropriate use. George Geiser Champion Pa.

## June 8, 2009

### Topic: Statewide Resident Survey

Add a comment...We agree, in general, with the overall survey that access to green space, wooded trails for hiking, biking, dog walking in each of our local communities is crucial for a healthy quality of life. We also need to continue the effort to reclaim river access for the citizenry, particularly from old railways and abandoned industrial sites. We want more land protected with particular attention to riparian areas of waterways and wetlands. We hate motorized vehicles on trails, finding them destructive to the land, streams and wetlands. Their noise destroys the outdoor experience and undoubtedly disturbs wildlife. Our favorite outdoor activity is hiking. We love and appreciate our state parks and would prefer that they be kept in as natural state as possible to preserve the woodland experience. Penn's Woods need on-going protection. Thank you, Joseph & Arlene Mercurio, New Kensington, PA

### Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

Snowmobile Trail connectors for the following areas: 1)A legal crossing of Rt322 in Centre County connecting Rothrock and Bald Eagle State Forests 2)Penn's Creek Crossing in Bald Eagle State Forest 3)Renova or Hyner connection for Clinton and Potter County Riding areas 4)Black Moshanon connection to Clinton County 5)Laurel Highlands to Ohiopyle connection 6)Parker Dam SP connection to Sinemahoning Area 7)Prince Gallitzin SP trails connected to nearby State Game Land Trails and on to Black Moshanon Trails 8)Gallitzin State Forest connection to Blue Knob Ski Resort 9)Trail Connections to Gas, Food and Lodging especially needed in: Laurel Highlands Black Moshanon SP Parker Dam SP

### Topic: Statewide Trails Network

Snowmobile Trail connectors for the following areas will add greatly to a state wide snowmobile trail system: 1)A legal crossing of Rt322 in Centre County connecting Rothrock and Bald Eagle State Forests 2)Penn's Creek Crossing in Bald Eagle State Forest 3)Renova or Hyner connection for Clinton and Potter County Riding areas 4)Black Moshanon connection to Clinton County 5)Laurel Highlands to Ohiopyle connection 6)Parker Dam SP connection to Sinemahoning Area 7)Prince Gallitzin SP trails connected to nearby State Game Land Trails and on to Black Moshanon Trails 8)Gallitzin State Forest connection to Blue Knob Ski Resort 9)Trail Connections to Gas, Food and Lodging especially needed in: Laurel Highlands Black Moshanon SP Parker Dam SP

### Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

The DCNR Snowmobile Hotline and Website needs updated on a daily basis to reflect current conditions. This is especially important before, during and after holiday weekends or when conditions are changing.

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

Snowmobiling in PA is such an incredible outdoor winter experience. To better the snowmobile experience in PA: 1)Accurate up to date snowmobile trail maps and signage with GPS for all these areas 2)Quality grooming done on snowmobile trails as needed 3)The Snowmobile Safety Course offering certification for adults as well as youths

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

To better the great snowmobile experience in PA: DCNR's Snowmobile Trail conditon website needs update more frequently. Possible enhancement of the site would be a webcam view of the trais but more important would be daily updates.

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

Yes, we need "accurate trail maps" with GPS mapping in the Clinton & Potter Co. snowmobile trail system. Keep up the good work and thank you.

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

The Trails for off roading should not just be for ATVs and Snowmobiles. The routes though our beloved state should also be open to other 4X4 such as jeeps trucks and other vehicles capable of traverseing our lands

## **June 10, 2009**

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

Each and every PA state park should have natural surface trails open to mountain bikers. We are normal every day people who enjoy riding our bikes on dirt trails. We also LOVE to volunteer to help improve and maintain these trails to sustainable standards. We use the trails on a daily basis, conditions permitting, and act as an unofficial park patrol. We are the eyes and ears of the public and we cover a lot of ground and can help make sure everyone is safe. We also travel in groups often and have disposable income that we like to spread around to local businesses around the parks. Excluding this user group from state parks is bad policy and management. Kids LOVE riding bikes and more and more of them are discovering this healthy lifestyle, as well as many adults. This is an excellent method of connecting people to the outdoors.

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

I feel very strongly that each and every PA state park should have natural surface trails open to mountain bikers. I am a 33 year old state resident that enjoys being outside, and I hope to share that love of the outdoors with my children. It is imperative to the long-term health of Pennsylvania that we keep our young people interested in the outdoors and aware of the incredible opportunities for adventure in PA! Excluding certain user groups from State Parks, for whatever reason, will not help the state in the long run. Other states, such as Colorado, Utah, Vermont, California, Oregon, North Carolina (should I go on?) promote their states to young people as fun and adventurous destinations. While PA might not have the same big name

parks as these other places, we do have great state parks. Keep them open to all user groups! Promote them on the internet, in magazines, or even television. Let all PA residents know that their State Parks are just that - theirs!

Topic: State Park Visitors Survey

Surveying visitors from only 6 of the 117 State Parks does not provide a large enough sampling to develop accurate conclusions of Park users statewide. Only one State Park survey was conducted in the Pennsylvania Wilds region, which contains 29 State Parks and 12 counties, mostly rural in nature. Next update of the Recreation Plan should contain a broader survey effort.

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

I have looked at the map identifying the trail gaps and to my dismay there are none shown in the northcentral Pa area except for one in Clearfield County. It appears that we have been excluded from this process all together. There are many, many existing trails, both non-motorized and motorized in the counties of McKean, Potter, Elk, Cameron, Jefferson, and Clearfield, but I do not see any of these on any State maps. I checked with some of our local trails organizations and none received a survey concerning trail gaps or priorities to fill out for this Recreation Plan update. We have many local trails organizations, but no regional ones as yet. We need to include the information so that it does not look like there is absolutely nothing for trails in the northcentral area. You can contact me, Deborah Lunden, McKean County.

## **July 2, 2009**

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

Hello, We note that the Montoursville to Muncy, and the Muncy to Union County trail segments are not shown on the trail gap map. These trails are identified as a high priority in the adopted Lycoming County Recreation, Parks and Open Space/Greenway Plan, which was funded by DCNR. Lycoming County has invested \$50,000 in a feasibility study for the Montoursville to Muncy trail segment. We are also budgeting an additional \$50,000 for the Muncy to Union County segment feasibility study. These trails will link to the Muncy Heritage Park and eastern Lycoming County, the Pine Creek Trail, the Jersey Shore connector, and the Williamsport River Walk, which are all shown on the Trail Map. For more detailed information about Lycoming County trails, please contact either me or Mark Murawski, Transportation Planner, at 570-320-2138. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Kevin McJunkin, Environmental Planner, Lycoming County Planning & Community Development

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

On 19 July, 2009 the Paulhamus-Garby Trail Link will be dedicated. This will link the Donut Hole Trail and the Chuck Kieper Trail. This information provided by James Nevins, I&E Coordinator for The Western Clinton Sportsmen's association. For complete details contact State Forester Ted Liginza in DCNR District 10.

## **July 8, 2009**

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

Please make more vehicle trails available to those of us that responsibly want to travel recreationally on the back roads of PA. We practice the 'Tread Lightly' rules & often leave the space cleaner than when we arrived. Thank you!

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

I would love to see more "Driveable Trails" opened. My family and I greatly enjoy traveling open trails in our Jeeps.

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

I live in the southeastern part of the state. We have a couple of pay-to-play parks within a couple hours drive, but not everyone can afford to go to these places. We have state game lands, with fire trails, why not allow us to access these for extended enjoyment of our natural resources? I think that if these areas were opened up, the state would benefit from it. We have so many tourists coming into this area to see the Amish and visit all the strip malls, why not let them see another side of our state? You could post signs to remind folks to "pack out what you pack in". Most of us are responsible hobbists, it's the rare few who give us a black eye. I've seen plenty of hikers leaving their trash behind on trails, yet they seem to be the ones pointing fingers at us. All we are asking for, is an opportunity to further enjoy or hobby/sport.

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

Trail networks for not only ATVs, but also, SUV type vehicles should be set up. There are many responsible wheelers out there, most belong to organized clubs that promote safe, legal, and fun trails rides. The state of Pa. does not know of the vast, untapped wealth of free labor just waiting to be used to do such a network. Ask State Rep. Gary Haluska, as the Rock Run atv park spent over 6 million to create a trail network for the ATV riding. The cost of putting in SUV type trails? ZERO, as many clubs donated their time and resources to create the SUV trail network at Rock Run. ADDITIONALLY, once you have such a network in place, you will see a substantial increase in both use and revenue generated by tapping this resource.

## **July 9, 2009**

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

Please consider more opportunities for the 4x4 enthusiasts! Look at the revenue that states like West Virginia and Kentucky have raked in by providing challenging trail systems for road legal Jeeps and trucks. The western part of PA is thick with 4x4 clubs willing to volunteer their time and energy if only the state would consider their sporting desires. [rocksnoost.com/index.html](http://rocksnoost.com/index.html)  
[www.hrja.org](http://www.hrja.org) [www.bigrubbers4x4.org](http://www.bigrubbers4x4.org) [www.trcr.org](http://www.trcr.org) [www.blwa.org](http://www.blwa.org) [www.eriejeeppeople.com](http://www.eriejeeppeople.com)  
Brett Skinner - Erie, PA

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

I wanna wheel!

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

If I was given the opportunity to establish a priority for foot trails I would state the following: The Great Eastern Trail consists of the Tuscarora, Standing Stone and MidState trails in PA. It would be naive to think that a trail from Florida to Lake Champlain, NY would not someday be designated a National Scenic Trail, the 4th in PA. Some of the containing states have already established policies/procedures for establishing the trail in their area. Within PA, there are small gaps in the MidState and Standing Stone Trails but "club" action will eventually clear these up. Unfortunately, the closures will be with a handshake, not an easement. It is clear to me that lacking a statewide "coordinator" for foot trails, legislation, similar to the 1978 AT Act, should be enacted for the Great Eastern Trail to ensure the GET has "protected" status and that public resources are provided for land acquisition. It will overcome local zoning deficiencies and the like. I would also suggest that the President of the GET Association be given a seat at the table. Carl Lorence Projects Manager Standing Stone Trail Club, Inc [www.hike-sst.org](http://www.hike-sst.org) for links to the GET and free trail maps.

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

Edwin K. Charles Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania [edmateach68@verizon.net](mailto:edmateach68@verizon.net) July 2009 In the early morning of April 23, 1917, six men started up Mahanoy Mountain. This climb led to the beginning of the Alpine Club, the first environmental club in Pennsylvania. The original members of the Pennsylvania Alpine Club were; Colonel Henry Shoemaker, G. W. Wagenseller, Henry F. Charles, W. M. Schnure, F.G. Bettis, and Edwin F. Charles. This new organization's goal "Was to explore the Pennsylvania mountains and climb the high peaks of the state, to study the flora and fauna, and to obtain such data as would help in creating a greater love for the beauties of the state and inculcate a desire for conservation of the states natural resources."\* By the mid 1920s the Alpine Club had up to 2,500 members and 17 chapters, including many prominent men such as Governor William Sproul, Gifford Pinchot, Dr. J.T. Rothrock, and many others. In 1924 they climbed 53 of Pennsylvania's peaks. "No one can estimate accurately the value of the work of the Alpine Club because it deals largely with spiritual values. But so much is certain; no one ever ascends a Pennsylvania mountain or visits a Pennsylvania forest park without coming away resolved that the hand of greed shall be stayed and that the wonderful handiwork of God as seen in the woods shall be preserved."\*\* Proposal: • Let us renew the goals and ideas of the Alpine Club and start a new chapter for men, women, children, and organizations in Pennsylvania. • Let's get back to nature, physical fitness, family time, club activities, spiritual reflection, and community outreach. • Environmental education, tourism, economic development, along with preservation and conservation will enrich the individual as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. • Individual journals and fact sheets including lists of view fields, mountains, and scenic overlooks. (An example is the National Parks' stamp passport.) • Susquehanna Water Gap's should be saved. These are the best view fields in Pennsylvania and trails should be created to their summits. • Ownership of the land, liability, and access for trails must be verified. Some prominent mountains in Pennsylvania to climb are: 1. Mahanoy

in Northumberland County 2. Mt. Logan in Clinton County 3. Blue Knob in Bedford County 4. Negro in Somerset County (Mt. Davis is the highest point in Pennsylvania) 5. Parnell in Franklin County 6. Red Top in Center County 7. High Top in Snyder County 8. Hyner 9. Hawk 10. Grand Canyon Vista 11. Jacks Narrows 12. Mt. Nittany in Centre County 13. Delaware Water Gap 14. Susquehanna Water Gaps (5 Gaps) 15. Doubling Gap 16. Pole Steeple 17. Waggoners Gap 18. Hemlock 19. Shikellamy \*Lewis Edwin Theiss, "Pennsylvania Alpine Club", American Forestry, January 1923, page 47.

Topic: Overview PA issues/trends in 2009

There must be a concerted effort to provide owners of off road vehicles (4x4) areas where they can drive. Access road, logging roads, etc. To have total restriction from such activities only encourages those who disregard the laws to do so more. Many responsible offroad groups would volunteer to help clean and keep clean areas where they would be allowed to drive.  
Brian Davis

## **July 13, 2009**

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

Please focus on multi-use trails so that horseback riding is allowed. Thank you.

Topic: Aligning State Planning

Increasing access for pets creates conflicts that impose one segment's preferences on another's. Barking dogs are a nuisance to users who like to camp, picnic and hike in peace; those who choose to not have pets and the attendant distractions are imposed upon by others, reducing the quality of their outdoor experience. State parks are polluted with animal feces, which ends up on children's shoes. Defecating dogs in public places are unsavory. The niche that prefers pets in all state parks, particularly in expanded campground sections, are a loud minority that negatively affects the other's experience.

Topic: Trail Gap Priorities Survey

ATV trails are not consistent with the major needs expressed by the people surveyed: physical and mental health. Nor are they consistent with nature experiences and green spaces enjoyed through all the senses. Finally, they are not friendly to our environment. Trails should foster healthful recreation that does not interfere with other users through noise and other pollution.

Topic: Connecting People to Outdoors

Current State Parks programs are first-rate ways to recreate, connect with outdoors and learn. Environmental Ed Specialists make the programs meaningful and fun, particularly summer programs aimed at kids ages 3 and up. The programs are great as they are; attendance is all we need to improve. I suggest resources for Environ Ed Specialist to advertise more directly.

Topic: Statewide Trails Network

I would love to get involved with the TEP. This all looks like a step in the right direction. I am going to forward this download to as many people as possible. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

## **4) CNRAC Listening Sessions: Public Comments for SCORP from Interactive Sessions**

In 2008, in coordination with, and support from, the DCNR, the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council (CNRAC) agreed to host a series of six public interaction sessions that would re-visit this strategic plan. The purpose of these meetings was to attempt to determine how well the Department had gone about implementing the goals, and related recommendations found in the plan, and to assess whether those plan goals and recommendations were in fact the rights ones to implement. In addition, to maximize the opportunity for input, participants were asked to provide feedback into the present updating process for the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

Attendees were asked:

- What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
- How can the recreational activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
- What should be the highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?

### **August 26, 2008 Monroeville, PA**

1. What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Educate kids to bring message home to family
  - Better information on resources and how to access them
  - Better website information - embrace technology
  - More advertising (i.e., through TV, radio, and text messages)
  - Link public transportation to facilities
  - Partnering with local tourist promotion agencies (TPAs) for information
  - Specific programming for specific age groups
  - Partner with environmental groups in schools and colleges
  - Partner with schools to get kids outdoors
  - More events/competitions to increase participation
  - More positive media coverage of outdoor recreation
  - High quality and detailed maps
  - Marketing opportunities to inform what opportunities are available

- Help coordinate multi-municipal activities
  - Coordinate master plan or atlas of what is available
  - More introductory programs to educate public on activities
  - Funding for programmatic staffing to implement programs
2. How can the recreational activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
- Explore other types of recreation for specific age groups
  - Promote more cooperative ventures between communities and counties
  - Utilize existing facilities to educate about conservation and programming and to teach recreational pursuits
  - Provide additional grants information about upgrades and expansion of facilities
  - By providing more modern cabins in the Laurel Highlands
  - Wireless internet at facilities
  - Recognize people have different needs and plan for the broadest audience possible
  - Electronic updates should be available regarding specific activities at specific parks/regions
  - Improve web presence
  - Consistent signage (i.e., less signs, but more informative)
  - More access to equipment to get folks interested in activities
  - By providing shuttle services to specific events to assist participants
  - More funding for infrastructure
  - Maintenance of current facilities to ensure high quality experience
  - Ensure everything is ADA accessible
3. What should be the highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
- Maintenance of facilities built
  - Preserving/increasing public access to waterways through increased funding
  - Acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation
  - Help fund training of volunteers and friends groups
  - Alternative fuels for conservation
  - Riverfront/waterways connections/river access
  - Laurel Mountain Ski Resort
  - Linking trails to form networks
  - More and better information and educational opportunities
  - Designated areas for ATVs
  - Outdoor programming
  - Environmental education outdoors
  - Trails – planning and construction
  - Strategic land acquisition
  - Amenities, such as bath houses and parking areas
  - Schools to incorporate outdoor experiences
  - Building connections between service providers and amenities
  - Connecting communities with trails to amenities such as parks, etc.
  - An awareness campaign

- Urban recreational opportunities
- A region-wide inventory of existing facilities to assess needs
- Trail connectors – completing missing links
- Marketing to get the public to facilities
- Increased investment in AMD remediation which will lead to better water quality and healthier ecosystems
- Need assistance to work with rail companies to encourage rails with trails

## **September 9, 2008**

### **Hawley, PA**

1. What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Create a marketing plan (TV, radio, internet)
  - Develop one information clearinghouse that is geographically-based for all state agencies and other entities.
  - PA Department of Education involvement
  - More structured outdoor activities for children, such as fishing instruction
  - Tie in marketing efforts with the private sector (i.e., the resort industry)
  - Work with the tourist bureaus to develop regional tourism packaging and marketing
  - Increase and improve trail mapping to increase awareness
  - Create a new “Get Outdoors” Smokey Bear
  - Interpret and inform the general public about resource management practices
  - Support private camp conservation
  - Assist with municipal planning and zoning
  - Connect to hospitals and wellness organizations, and social/psychiatric organizations
  - Provide funding for non-profits and others for outdoor recreation programming
  - Create greater access for recreation, and provide more promotion of access ways
  - Focus on resources close to where people live (i.e., promote the riding of bikes and walking to school)
2. How can the recreational activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
  - Increase trail availability
  - Make trails more accessible and visible. A seamless trail system is needed. You should be able to get on trails where you live and not go by car to get to a trail.
  - By reaching urban areas and making them aware of opportunities
  - Educating and providing for “low impact” recreation activities
  - More water access is needed
  - Strategic prioritization of funding to benefit regional successes
  - By providing educational outdoor programming assistance
  - Health and wellness stations in outdoor recreation settings
  - Gear programs to the elderly
  - Develop better trail systems between communities
  - Encourage regional recreation departments

- Encourage more outdoor swimming experiences that are not in a pool
  - There should be more things to do along the trail. You should be able to take a trail to someplace - to schools, to shopping, etc.
  - Perform adequate maintenance at existing facilities
  - Provide ADA access to lakes and waterways for fishing
  - More and better bathroom facilities
3. What should be the highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
- Acquisition of available land for conservation
  - Education and marketing
  - Multi-use of all available state lands
  - Greenways and trails
  - Programming and funding opportunities for non-profit organizations
  - Clean-up of abandoned mine drainage (AMD) sites
  - Urban areas
  - Conservation easements and land acquisition
  - Protect what is already there
  - Environmental education
  - Urban revitalization
  - Purchase more land to add to the state forest system
  - Trails/sidewalks to help get to trail-bike lanes off roads or separated from cars
  - More public water access
  - Education and advocacy to foster interest in doing things
  - Easements to areas without public access
  - Public land needs to pay more taxes than preserved land

**September 23, 2008**  
**Harrisburg, PA**

1. What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
- The “Trail Town” program is not official, nor clearly understood
  - Better website information
  - More positive statements about the value of outdoor recreation are needed
  - Continue to encourage and promote outdoor activities for children
  - Improve access to recreational facilities - make it easier to get outdoors
  - Create safe and structured opportunities to recreate
  - Provide better site information
  - Develop and promote smarter marketing of resources and coordinate with the local tourism promotion agencies
  - Affect how children view the outdoors
  - Teach outdoor skills
  - Tap into existing outdoor groups (i.e., scouts)
  - Visible outdoor heroes are needed

- Promote reading - it can make outdoor experiences more exciting and appealing
  - The greater the number of people recreating, the more that people will feel safe
  - Make communities more “walkable” – provide more sidewalks and trails
  - Provide destinations within and along trails/parks
  - Present challenges and contests for children and adults
2. How can the recreation activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
- Don’t forget about the “small” projects, regional projects seem to receive greater emphasis
  - Make it “cooler” to go outdoors
  - Make information more easily available and exiting
  - Use technology to capture and direct youthful enthusiasm for the outdoors
  - Provide rewards for ideas to get children outdoors
  - Provide better and more up-to-date information on web (i.e., use more webcams)
  - Provide more trail information and better trail maintenance
  - Construct more loop trails
  - Promote special identities of each place (i.e., parks, trails, etc.)
  - Promote lifetime activities (i.e., make a contest s for children’s participation in the outdoors)
  - Provide or identify money to implement plans
  - Update and/or upgrade recreational facilities
  - Focus on connecting resources (i.e., parks, trails, historical sites, etc.)
3. What should be the highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
- Inner-city/community recreation funding
  - Setting trail priorities
  - Helping with land acquisition to complete prioritized trails
  - Trail maintenance (maintain what we have) of all trails
  - Marketing of special characteristics of outdoor places
  - The provision of non-motorized trails
  - Staff/support of youth conservation groups
  - Endorsement for high school outdoor service projects
  - Coordinating local/regional planning activities for recreation
  - More horse trails
  - Land preservation

## **October 7, 2008**

### **Erie, PA**

1. What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Efforts need to be made to get new folks into the park (i.e., use non-traditional methods)
  - More marketing and more targeted funding
  - Identify audiences
  - Utilize examples from other parts of the state
  - Use demonstration projects to show what could be
  - Promote forests and trees in northwest PA
  - Educate children to reach parents
  
2. How can the recreational activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
  - By developing and promoting 12-month activities
  - Through the provision of equipment availability in order to learn how to do activities
  - By promoting better customer service – educate all staff to provide accurate information
  - Ensure that park infrastructure is updated and maintained
  - Ensure that the first experience to parks and forests is pleasant
  
3. What should be the highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Restroom renovation
  - Improved condition of bathhouses
  - The maintenance of existing facilities and trails
  - Sustainable trail systems and maintenance plans for those trails
  - Funding for protecting open spaces
  - Maintenance of public use facilities
  - Outreach/marketing/education
  - A trail inventory to assess new and regular users of trails to provide better experiences
  - Erie Bluffs State Park

## **October 20, 2008**

### **Philadelphia, PA**

1. What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Connect more with the health care sector
  - Connect with health care professionals to promote outside exercise
  - Package events (i.e., Breast Cancer Walk) on trails and parks
  - Convene a medical field advisory group to discuss health and the outdoors
  - Provide connections between public transportation and outdoor amenities
  - There should be a one-stop shop for locals to make the connections to outdoors via public transportation (i.e., a website for local transportation links to resources)

2. How can the recreational activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
  - By promoting trails and their connectivity
  - By promoting regional trails that connect to everything – schools, homes, commercial districts, etc.
  - Through the use splash buses to get people to trails
  - By using school leadership, DCNR can promote the construction and/or protection of physical features in and around school grounds
  - By connecting with local trails/parks
3. What should be highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Trails
  - Land preservation - we must have land in order to build trails.

**November 5, 2008**

### **Bald Eagle State Park**

1. What is needed to increase awareness of and participation in recreation and conservation in this region?
  - Support youth programs (i.e., promote youth hunts)
  - Encourage the development of trails on State Game Lands (SGL)
  - Better and consistent trail maintenance
  - Better and more way-finding signage
  - More public access to resources
  - More snow for winter activities
  - More events like the River Town Race series
  - Address liability issues for recreation providers
  - Develop outdoor packages (i.e., theAlleghenies.com)
  - One-stop shop for recreation information
  - Market in state, not just outside the state
  - Provide discounts on snow/ATV registrations to club members
2. How can the recreational activities and/or facilities in this region best be improved?
  - Support snowmobile clubs to get the word out
  - Trails need to be better and more usable (i.e., there is a need to mobilize volunteer help)
  - Diffuse use pressures on natural resources
  - Coordination of road closures with county EMA
  - Trails on State Game Lands
  - Through the development and/or support of recreation foresters
  - Community centers
  - Trail maintenance
  - Close gaps on trails
  - Maintain levels of partnerships and maintenance
  - Protect gas lease money for outdoor recreation

- Golf courses in state parks and conference centers with outdoor recreation opportunities
- Connecting the dots with investments
- By providing better and more way-finding signage

3. What should be highest funding priority for outdoor recreation and conservation in this region?

- Providing a bridge across Penn's Creek for snowmobiles
- Continuing to provide open space protection
- Cleaning up the West Branch of the Susquehanna River
- Developing and supporting mega-greenways
- Constructing a multi-user bridge across routes 322/22 between Rothrock and Bald Eagle state forests
- Providing funding for the Heritage Area Program
- Providing funding to improve or maintain state park infrastructure