



-  PFPA supported the 2018-19 State Budget passed by the Legislature in October, which included a 10 percent increase for the Hardwoods Development Council, expanding its line item to \$424,000.
-  PFPA continued to oppose the creation of a gas severance tax, which could include additional taxation on timber harvesting.
-  In 2015, the Legislature created a Forestry Task Force in the Joint Conservation Committee to explore the impacts of the DCNR State Forest Management Plan; the impacts of invasive forest pests; the relationship between industry and municipalities; and the decline of timber harvesters in the state. PFPA participated on this committee. This report was released in February 2017. PFPA continues to work with DCNR on this.
-  PFPA continues to advocate for implementation of the recommendations contained in the Governor's Green Ribbon Task Force on Forest Products, Conservation and Jobs, which was released in October 2016. This document included 15 major policy recommendations on job creation, conservation and workforce development. A summary of these recommendations is listed at the end of these highlights. In 2018, PFPA participated in the Task Force meeting where no official action was taken.
-  PFPA worked with the Forest Service, DCNR, and Department of Agriculture on expanding timber production on ANF. In June 2017, legislation was passed that would enable the State of Pennsylvania to enter into a Good Neighbor Agreement with the US Forest Service regarding the Allegheny National Forest.
-  PFPA continues to represent the industry in Harrisburg, by serving on numerous state agency advisory committees.
-  PFPA raised more than \$8,000 for the Log a Load for Kids program, which will be distributed to the five Children's Miracle Network hospitals in Pennsylvania.
-  PFPA held its Annual Day on the Hill and Legislative Reception in April 2018. At the legislative reception, PFPA members met with senators, representatives, state agency staff personnel, senior legislative staff members and guests from academia and other associations. The following day, members of PFPA made visits to different lawmakers on the hill, including Senate President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House.
-  The PA WoodMobile continues to shine. In 2018, the WoodMobile spent a week in the inner cities across the state in promotion of the National Forest Products Week. In 2017, the new WoodMobile has participated in over 106 events over the course of 136 days in 41 counties, with a total attendance of more than 90,000. Since the program's inception in 2002, more than 1.8 million participants have visited the PA WoodMobile, including more than 210,000 students.
-  PFPA is working with the DCNR and the Department of Agriculture to address continuing invasive pest issue, most importantly the Spotted Lanternfly. PFPA worked to secure more than \$16 million in Federal funding to assist in this effort.
-  PFPA continues to work against proposals that would harm its members with additional regulation or taxation.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018 PFPA ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

## Pennsylvania Green Ribbon Task Force Update

### Pennsylvania Green Ribbon Task Force Update

The Pennsylvania Green Ribbon Task Force was put together by DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn with the blessing of Governor Tom Wolf. The team of 36 task force members was assembled with members from the forest products industry, academia, nonprofits, and government agencies. The team met from January through June. The report was released at the end of October 2017.

Most of the recommendations will need added money or legislation in order to be implemented.

#### **The top five forest conservation sustainability recommendations:**

- 1) Adopt a statewide forest conservation easement to conserve privately owned forestland while preserving access for sustainable timbering and other forest-dependent activities that support good jobs.
- 2) Establish a carbon offset program to attract a pool of voluntary contributions to finance forest conservation.
- 3) Revise the current state Clean and Green Program and the current Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program to better support forest communities and ensure forest is comparable with other needs.
- 4) Provide additional funding to combat invasive plant and pest damage and adopt a plant labeling program to ensure that consumers don't inadvertently contribute to the spread of invasive species.
- 5) Adopt legislation and identify funding to enable DCNR to assist the US Forest Service in increasing management activities on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF).

#### **The top five workforce development and jobs recommendations:**

- 1) Adopt legislation to exempt loggers from PennDOT road-bonding requirements, age-related workplace restrictions, and other benefits available to those in the traditional agriculture industry.
- 2) Expand safety and other training to encourage insurance companies to lower worker's compensation rates for forest industry workers, or find workable models that could be used in Pennsylvania.
- 3) Broaden recruitment efforts to attract students already interested in technology, machinery, other in-demand occupations and forestry careers.
- 4) Develop more formal and informal pipelines between industry and schools through internship, apprenticeships, and industry partnerships.
- 5) Broaden discussion and the inclusion of forestry and forest occupations in formal and informal K-12 education, including FFA, 4-H, Envirothon, Boy and Girls Scouts and children's literature.

#### **The top economic development and products recommendations:**

- 1) Increase sustainable staff and funding for the Hardwood Development Council to expand its work on many of the recommendations included here.
- 2) Create a PA Hardwood Stands for Quality slogan and marketing campaign to promote Pennsylvania hardwoods.
- 3) Conduct forest tours and develop demonstration areas to showcase best practices in forest management on federal, state and private forestland.
- 4) Conduct a comprehensive study to quantify and document the values of Pennsylvania forests.
- 5) Expand public awareness and education efforts to promote the importance of forests to clean water.