

2012 Bethlehem Water Authority Prescribed Burn Information Sheet

Site Description: Hunter-access property managed by The Nature Conservancy
County: Monroe
Township: Tunkhannock
Size: Up to 2,000 acres in 15 or more units

Site Description: This site consists of mowed and partially-mowed units along the eastern boundary of Bethlehem Water Authority land adjacent to State Game Land 38. There are 15 identified units ranging from 12 to 258 acres with the potential for additional units that may bring the total acreage to 2,000. These units are dominated by an open canopy of pitch pine, scrub oak, red maple, gray birch, and tree oaks. Mowing in the spring of 2012 removed an extensive understory of teaberry, black huckleberry, sheep laurel, rhododendron, and blueberry. Mowing is projected to continue into 2013. The overall structure of the vegetation within the unit was lowered to a slash and heath mix.

Funding Source: This project is being funded by grant monies made available through the United States Department of Agriculture Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). The primary objective of VPA-HIP is to make private land available for access by the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting and fishing.

Management Goals: To promote low-growing ericaceous shrub species and reduce loading of mowed fuels.

Specific Objectives

- Top kill 25-75 percent of shade tolerant hardwood species, such as maple and birch.
- Reduce the average height of shrub layer to less than half a meter for up to one year post-burn to promote lower-growing ericaceous shrub species.
- Reduce the loading of 10-hour and 100-hour time-lag fuels by at least 50 percent.
- Keep overstory tree mortality of pitch pine and mature oak to less than 10 percent.

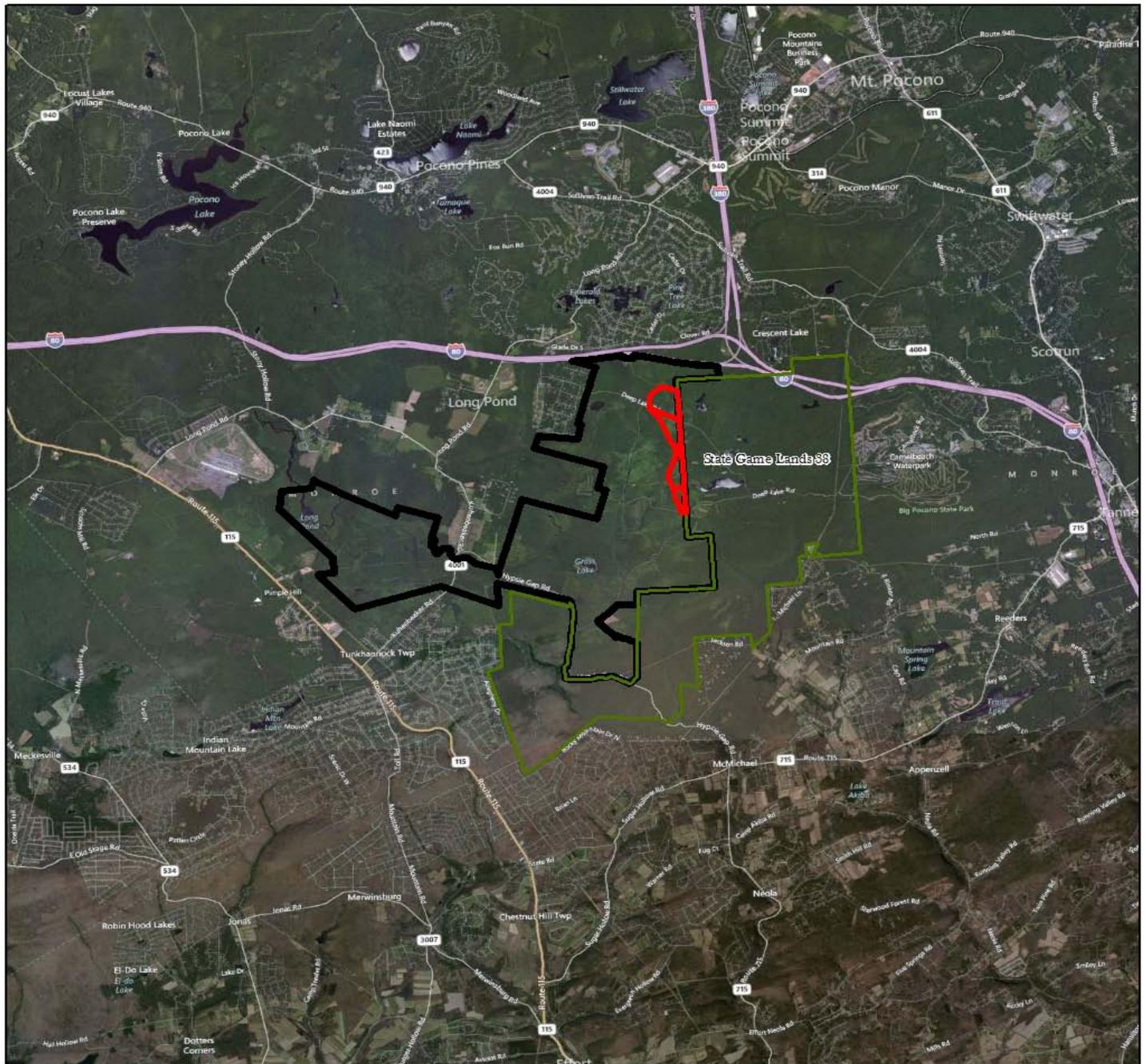
Fire Behavior Monitoring: Fire behavior will be monitored throughout the burn. If conditions exist that will exceed the maximum predicted fire behavior, the Burn Boss will re-evaluate whether objectives can still be safely achieved and will direct mitigation actions, or suspend or extinguish the burn.

Mop-up and Patrol: Mop-up will be conducted immediately after the completion of each burn. The burn unit perimeter will be completely extinguished at least 20-feet in to ensure fireline integrity. Smoldering and open flame inside the burn unit perimeter beyond the 20-foot extinguished edge will be allowed if desirable fire effects continue to be achieved and smoke does not cause an issue with public health or safety.

Scheduling: The optimal time for burning mowed fuels is during the growing season when dead fuels are cured, but surrounding live fuels have high fuel moistures; approximately June through October. Exact dates will depend on many factors including state of vegetation green-up, fire weather, forecasts and crew availability. Duration of individual burns are expected to last 6-12 hours per unit depending on the size of the unit.

Current Status – Pending.

Bethlehem Water Authority Prescribed Burn Monroe County, Pennsylvania Area Map



Legend

-  Burn Units
-  State Game Lands 038 Boundary
-  Bethlehem Water Authority



Map Created by: Daniel Z Jones
Pennsylvania Game Commission
Imagery: Bing Maps (ESRI online)