








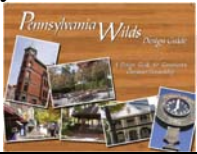

## LUMBER HERITAGE AND PA WILDS CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE



May 1991	City of Williamsport applied for funding for a Feasibility Study for the Lumber Heritage Park. Feasibility Study was funded, but consultant was not hired and the funds were returned to DCA.
Spring 1992	The Pennsylvania Heritage Park Program within the Department of Community Affairs, the Pennsylvania Heritage Commission, and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts sponsored a Northern Tier Documentation Project for a projected “Lumber Industry Heritage Park” with State Folklorist Kenneth A. Thigpen project director with local residents as staff. The counties involved were chosen as a “best guess” of the ones to become part of the heritage park: Potter, Tioga, Cameron, Clinton, Lycoming and Sullivan. The charge was “to document the region’s intangible cultural heritage and to involve local folk artists, retired workers and ethnic community leaders in developing a cultural conservation plan”. The goal was that the human and cultural dimensions of the lumber heritage not be overlooked. Reports, televised and audio interviews were submitted together with a cultural plan at the completion of the project in July 1993 to the Department of Community Affairs.
Late 1993	The Heritage Affairs Commission and Department of Community Affairs were successively dissolve, and the documents and artifacts remained in Harrisburg. Upon investigation when spurred by local inquiries, the Council on the Arts retrieved the materials and turned them over to the local project participants with the recommendation that the group organize and publicize what the PCA felt was documentation of an extraordinary, living culture.
January 1994	The counties of Cameron, Elk, McKean and Potter requested that North Central Regional Planning and Development Commission submit feasibility Study Application for the Lumber Heritage Park. Feasibility Study Application was tabled due to re-organization of the state agencies during 1994-1995.
January 1995	Lumber Heritage Region State Park Steering Committee initiates a feasibility study to analyze the significant contributions of the lumber industry.
February 1995	The Northern Tier Cultural Alliance was formed at Mansfield University by the Documentation project participants, sponsored by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and the University. First goal was the publication of the reports of the project and editing of the video materials, with a view to establishing a Center for Folk and Traditional Arts for the Northern Tier.
January 1996	Feasibility Study Application was submitted to DCNR.
August 1996	Feasibility Study Application was approved.
October 1996	The consultant team of Groendal and Jones was hired to conduct the Feasibility Study. Park was renamed to Region and enlarged to 15 counties through the “grass Roots” local level development/input process. A Core Steering Committee assisted the consultants and provided local coordination in their counties. An extensive inventory of recreational, cultural, and historical resources were completed.

February 1997	An edited and expanded version of the reports of the Northern Tier Documentary project, <i>Headwaters and Hardwoods</i> , was published by the NTCA, authors Robert Currin (Potter), Wilson Ferguson (Sullivan), Daniel Freeburg (Elk), Nelson Haas (Cameron), Bonelyn Kyofski (Tioga), Patricia Macneal (Centre), Douglas Manger (Centre), Robert Martin Jr. (Cameron), Leonard Parucha (Clinton), Ken Reagle (Lycoming), Sandra Rife (Lycoming), Eugene Seelye (Tioga), Kenneth Thigpen (Centre), Ruth Tonachel (Bradford), Sylvia Wilson (Bradford), David Winton (Clinton). Three videos featuring traditional artists were edited and produced.
September 25, 1997	Lumber Heritage Region Feasibility Study is released
February 1998	The petition for designation as a State Heritage Region was presented to the State Interagency Review Committee in Harrisburg. The petition included resolutions of support signed by the Commissioners of all 15 counties and numerous letters of support.
April 1998	Management Action Plan Study Application was submitted to DCNR.
September 1998	Management Action Plan Application was approved.
December 1998	The consulting team of Mackin Engineering Company was hired to conduct the Management Action Plan.
May 1, 2001	North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (North Central), in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (DCNR) and the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) hire Fermata, Inc., a Texas consulting firm specializing in wildlife watching and nature tourism, to develop a study on elk watching and nature tourism.
September 25, 2001	Lumber Heritage Region officially dedicated as Pennsylvania's 11 <sup>th</sup> Heritage Region.
	
October 5, 2001	Governor Mark Schweiker was inaugurated as Pennsylvania's 44 <sup>th</sup> Governor.
October 8, 2001	Tom Ridge was sworn in as the first Office of Homeland Security Advisor in the history of the United States of America.
March 2002	A draft proposal for elk watching and other nature tourism in the area generally known as the elk range is unveiled at Benazette Township Community Center
August 2002	DCNR announces the release of the Elk Watching and Nature Tourism Plan to better manage and promote elk viewing and other nature tourism in an 835 square-mile area in Elk, Cameron, Clinton, Clearfield, Center and Potter counties known as Pennsylvania's Elk Country.
	
January 21, 2003	Edward G. Rendell was inaugurated as Pennsylvania's 45 <sup>th</sup> Governor.
February 12, 2003	The By-Laws of the Lumber Heritage Region of Pennsylvania were approved.
2003	Governor Rendell forms a task force of Cabinet officials, local leaders, state and federal legislators, economic development officials and tourism agencies to begin planning how to use the vast public lands of Pennsylvania's northern tier to boost the region's economy. The Pennsylvania Wilds is born.
	
February 2004	Lumber Heritage Region solicits RFP's for the Lumber Heritage Interpretive Plan, a study to highlight natural, cultural and historical stories within the region's 15 county territory. Fermata Inc. is chosen to develop the study.
	

August 2004	The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) contracted Fermata, Inc. to develop a strategic recreation plan for DNC lands within the Pennsylvania Wilds.
October 2004	Governor Rendell convenes the Pennsylvania Wilds Task Force to encourage the growth of outdoor and heritage tourism, promote the growth of private accommodations and service providers and accelerate the implementation of the <i>Elk Watching and Nature Tourism Plan</i> .
October 2004	Task Force members originally focused on the counties of the elk range but decided to include the entire 12-county region.
	
August 2005	Lumber Heritage Region's Interpretive Plan is released.
September 2005	<i>Outdoor Recreation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Pennsylvania Wilds</i> is completed by Fermata, Inc.
October 2005	PA Wilds Planning Team comprised of the 12county planners, the four LDD's, PSATS, and LHR is created to assist with the implementation of the <i>Outdoor Recreation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: The Pennsylvania Wilds</i> .
March 2006	12 counties in Pennsylvania Wilds agree to the latest geographic cooperative agreement in Pennsylvania.
April 2006	The Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team develops a list of operating principles.
May 2006	DCNR publishes <i>A Recreation Plan for the State Parks and State Forests in the Pennsylvania Wilds</i> .
June 2006	About 44,000 gallons of Sodium Hydroxide (lye) spilled into the Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek when a Northfolk Southern train derailed.
July 2006	Governor Rendell awards \$1.8 million for recreation, conservation, and planning projects in the Pennsylvania Wilds. This includes a \$ 61,000 grant to the PA Wilds Planning Team for a regional impact study, and a \$ 22,000 grant to Lumber Heritage Region to develop a network directory for wood artisans.
2006	Additional funding for the PA Wilds Planning Team regional impact study is provided by a \$ 43,000 grant from DCED's Shared Municipal Services program, \$ 43,000 from DCED's Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance Program, and \$ 50,000 from the Appalachian Regional Commission.
September 2006	Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team selects Mackin Engineering Company of Pittsburgh, PA to consult on a study that examines planning issues for building sustainable communities around outdoor recreation.
October 2006	Summit hosted by North Central on Business Assistance Supporting the Pennsylvania Wilds Initiative. DCED Secretary Dennis Yablonsky issues a request to develop ideas for improved economic development within the Pennsylvania Wilds.
December 2006	PSATS launches four initial regional listening meetings for the area's local governments to discuss their level of preparedness to respond to the Pennsylvania Wilds.
December 2006	DCNR completed negotiations and signed a 30-year partnership agreement with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to create an elk watching and conservation education center in Benezette Township, Elk County.
January 2007	DCNR publishes <i>Progress through Partnerships A Three Year Report on the Pennsylvania Wilds</i> .

January 2007	Members of the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team attend the Balancing Nature and Commerce in Communities that Neighbor Public Lands workshop.
February 2007	Summit hosted by North Central on Transportation Issues Impacting the Pennsylvania Wilds.
May 2007	Summary of Findings and Recommendations – Pennsylvania Wilds Business Assistance Task Force.
June 2007	PSATS hosts four regional follow-up meetings to the regional listening meetings held in December 2006.
June 2007	SB 913 is introduced proposing to shift \$ 40 million dollars the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund to Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program.
July 2007 	A draft of the <i>Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide: A Design Guide for Community Character Stewardship</i> is released.
September 2007	The first Pennsylvania Wilds Conference is held in Williamsport.
November 2007	As a component to the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Study, a report titled <i>Emergency Services Issues</i> is on by J.R. Henry Consulting, Inc.
November 2007	The first Pennsylvania Wilds Balancing Nature & Commerce for Sustainable Development is held in St. Mary's.
November 2007 	A draft of the <i>Pennsylvania Planning Study</i> prepared by Mackin Engineering Company of Pittsburgh, PA is released.
December 2007	The shared administrative position between the Lumber Heritage Region and the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team is established.
February 20, 2008	PA Wilds “Progress Report and Update for County Commissioners & Legislators” Dinner Meeting is held at the Red Fern in St. Mary's.