



SYSTEM OF DISCOVERY

Interpretive Signage Program



The Lumber Heritage Region is deeply rooted in the traditions of oral storytelling, passing along to succeeding generations the important legacies of past eras.

Who's Doing It?

Rich in the culture and traditions of forestry and the logging industry, Pennsylvania's 15-county Lumber Heritage Region is dedicated to preserving and relating the history and heritage of the people and their relationship with the forests of rural Pennsylvania.

What Are They Doing So Well?

The Lumber Heritage Region is deeply rooted in the traditions of oral storytelling, passing along to succeeding generations the important legacies of past eras. In 2004 LHR launched an intensive effort to bring these stories to life through a regional Interpretive Plan that has initially focused upon the installation of an extensive system of strategically placed interpretive signs, depicting stories about the lumber era and the historic impact the lumber industry had on the region and its people.

Who Are Their Partners?

The Interpretive Signage Project drew upon an extensive network of residents from throughout the region, distinguished by their local knowledge and pride in the area. County historical societies, local historians, forestry and logging industry professionals, state, county and local officials, tourism and business leaders, and private citizens all contributed to the

effort. Financial support was provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

How Does This Work?

The Interpretive Signage Project strives to articulate the region's wealth of natural, cultural and historical resources through a series of signs at key gateway communities. The signs outline a particular story or historical event that enhances the reader's appreciation for the region and its storied past. Each of the thirty signs are consistent in layout, color and style, with historical photography and featuring informative panels that provide a regional overview and an engaging story specific to that location.

The Interpretive Signage Project aims to capture the essence of the region through a defined visitor experience that encourages greater appreciation and understanding of the area's natural and cultural heritage.



LUMBER HERITAGE REGION
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THIS PROJECT AT A GLANCE:

Type of Project:

Interpretive Signage Program – System of Discovery

Cost of Project:

Grant funding in the amount of \$138,000

Funding Provided by:

- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Heritage Parks Program
- PA Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA-21).

Timeframe of Project:

The Interpretive Plan took approximately two years to complete, followed by another year from conception to installation for the Interpretive Signage Project.



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Where Does This Fit With The Goals?

The Interpretive Plan addresses three primary action steps contained in LHR's Management Action Plan, synergistically blending educational programming into an interpretive gateway signage system that serves as the backbone for a thematic tour.

What Did It Cost, and Who Paid?

Grant funding in the amount of \$138,000 for the design, fabrication and installation of the signs was provided by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Heritage Parks Program and the PA Department of Transportation's Transportation Enhancement Act (TEA-21). Locations, stories and themes were developed by a team of consultants with input from area volunteers.

What Are The Outcomes?

To be installed in 2008, the signs have already garnered widespread community support and interest as reproductions are being used in a traveling display that

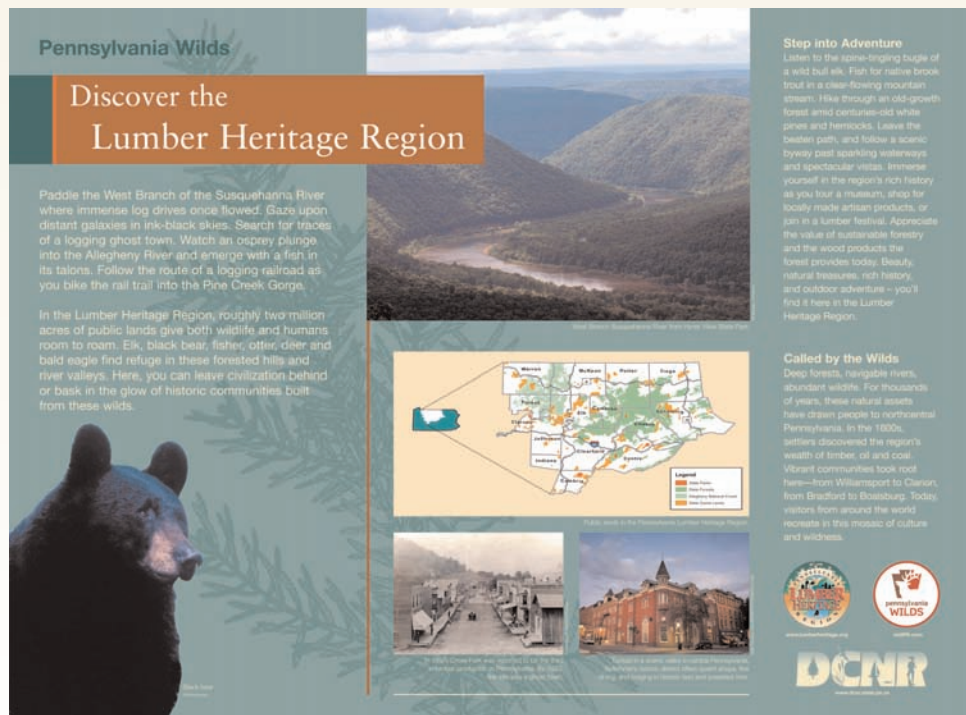
attracts thousands of interested viewers at events across the region, instilling greater community pride and public awareness.

Any Advice?

Ensuring historical accuracy proved challenging. While LHR was very successful at bringing together diverse groups and interests, considerable time could have been saved by engaging knowledgeable or professional historians at project onset, rather than later in the process. As a result, the signage project underwent multiple revisions before all elements were determined historically correct. Engaging knowledgeable local citizenry also proved invaluable.

For More Information:

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Lumber Heritage Region signs interpret the abounding natural, cultural, and historic resources throughout the region.