## **National Summit for Gateway Communities**

**A State Perspective** 

**Cindy Adams Dunn Pennsylvania DCNR** 

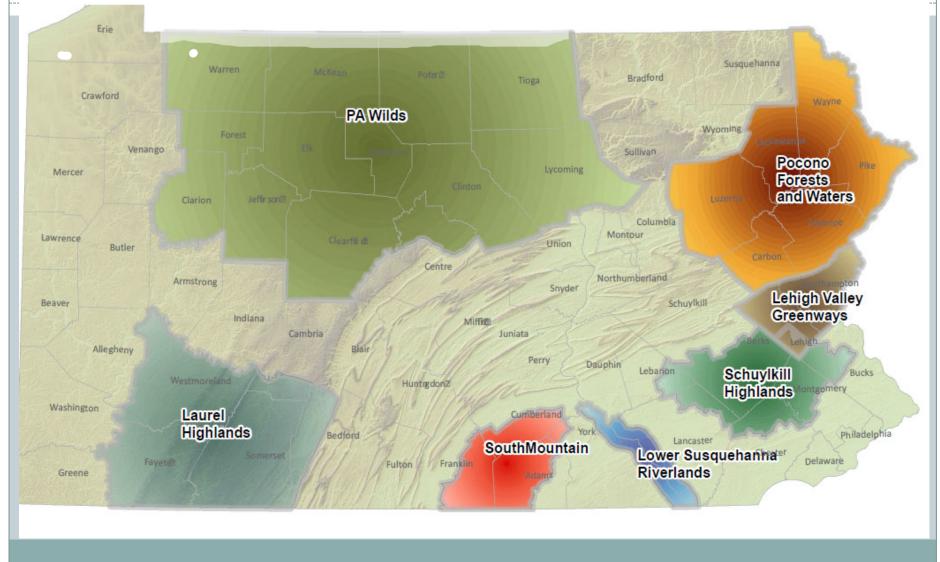
Downtown Wellsboro, Tioga County Gateway to the Pine Creek Gorge/Grand Canyon of PA

### PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources A Snapshot

- 121 state parks: one within
  25 miles of every resident
  - Gold Medal State Park System.
  - Every dollar spent on state parks generates \$12 in value added income to PA.
  - Annual Attendance of over 38.4 million.
- 2.2 million acre state forest system
  - FSC certified under the Forest Stewardship Council standards.

- \$30-45 million annual grant program
  - Grants for conservation and recreation projects in communities.
  - Fund partnerships, regional initiatives and community engagement.
  - Our Conservation Landscapes & Heritage Areas are key partners.

# Pennsylvania's Conservation Landscapes



# **Pennsylvania Wilds**

### **Fast Facts:**

- One of state's official tourism regions.
- Large rural area/working landscape that's a quarter of state's land area but only 4% of the population.
- Two National Wild & Scenic Rivers.
- The largest wild elk herd in the Northeast.
- Some of the darkest skies in the country.
- A rich oil and lumber heritage.
- Roughly the size of Massachusetts or Vermont with as much public land as Yellowstone. Public land includes:
  - 50 State Game Lands
  - 29 State Parks
  - 8 State Forests
  - Allegheny National Forest



- 50+ stakeholder organizations
- 300+ local governments
- 12 County Intergovernmental Cooperative Agreement



### A declaration of principles FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS TEAM

We the residents, business community, marketers, planners, representatives and stewards of the rivers, streams and lakes, towns and villages, parks and forests, wildlife and dark skies that comprise the region known collectively as THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS, hereby commit ourselves to fulfilling the following mission and upholding and living by the unique core values that define THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS and the authentic experiences it represents.

#### OUR MISSION

Celebrate and nurture our natural wonders by connecting people with nature.

**OUR PHILOSOPHY** The way of nature is our way of life.

OUR METHOD Welcome those who share our passions.

OUR PROMISE The road less traveled makes all the difference.

Our core values spring from the soul of our organization. We will adhere and live by these beliefs even if doing so becomes unpopular or costs us commercial opportunity.

#### OUR VALUES INCLUDE

Charm not chain | Stewardship of the land | The joy of exploration and discovery Cultivating the relationship between people and the environment Preserving, sharing and creating new stories | Aspiring to excellence in all we do

Our personality traits describe the unique characteristics that separate us from other places in the world. We celebrate these traits and bring them into every facet of THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS. WE ARE: Down to earth; Quirky and authentic, not slick; Wild yet welcoming, Enthusiastic and optimistic; Rugged and resourceful. We commit ourselves to working TOGETHER to fulfill our mission every day, while living by our core values in THE PENNSYLVANIA WILDS.

The Pennsylvania Wilds Center for Entrepreneurship

The Pennsylvania Wilds **Regional Marketing Corporation** 

The Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team

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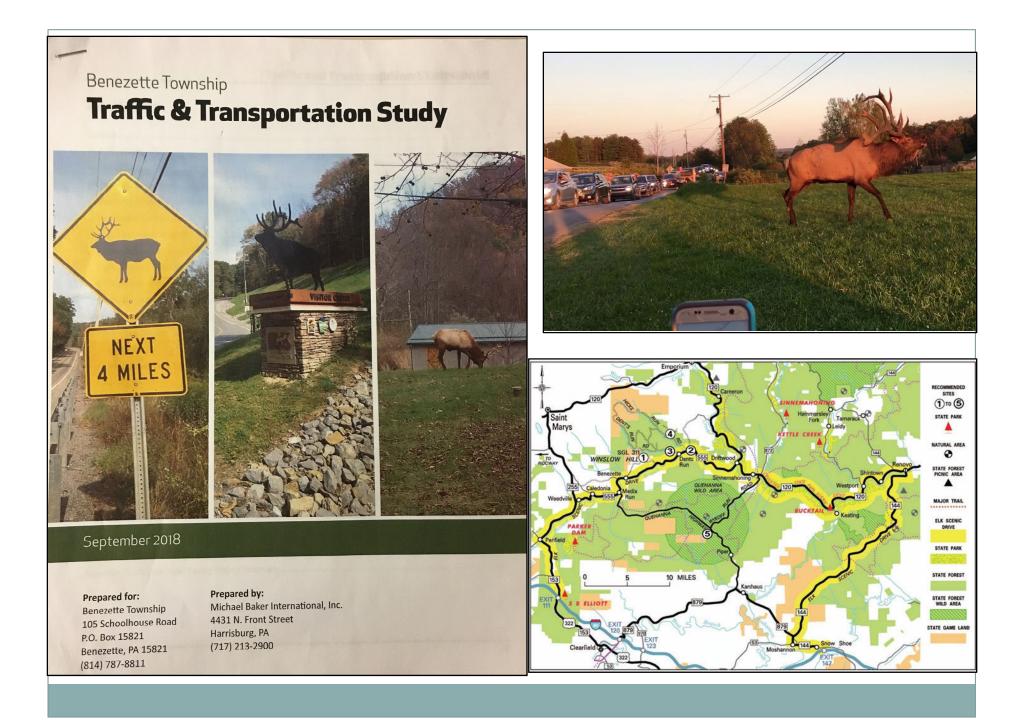
Edward G. Rendell, Governor I. Mickey Rowley, Deputy Secretary, Tourism David Morris, NW Pennsylvania's Great Outdoors Diane Shawley, Warren County

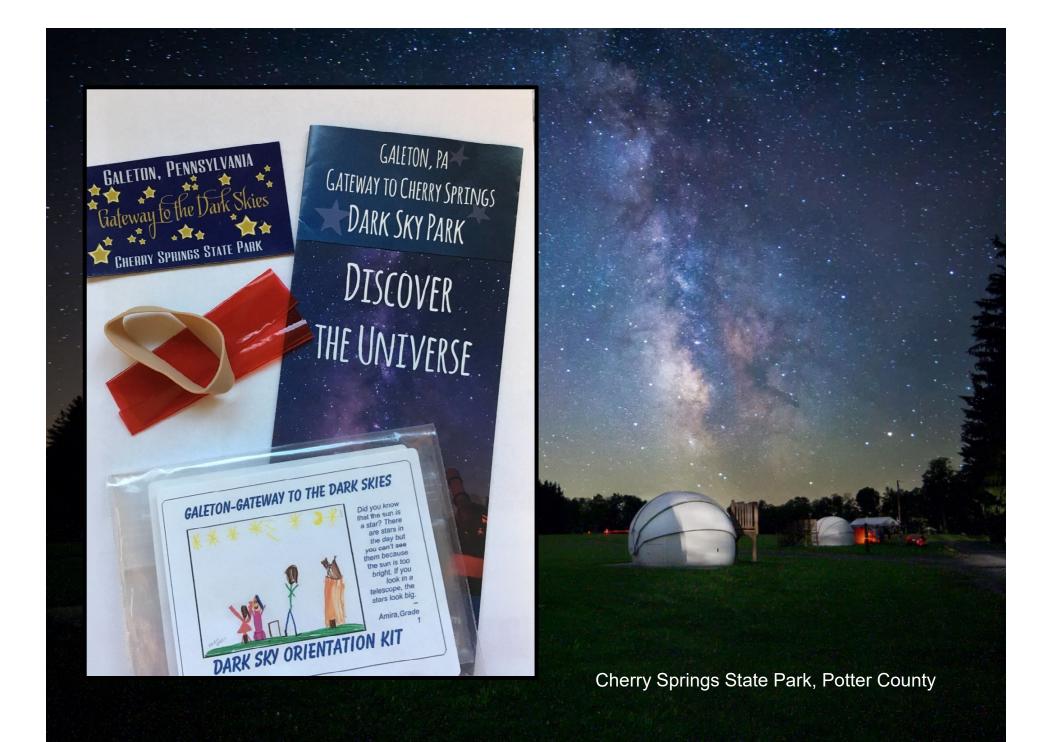
Mike Krempasky, DCNR Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary DCNR David Brooks, Potter County Peter Lopes, Clinton County Jason Fink, Lycoming County

Rina Cutler, Deputy Secretary PennDOT Sandi Spencer, Tioga County Linda Devlin, McKean County Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary DCED Sandy Fink Barrett, Clearfield County

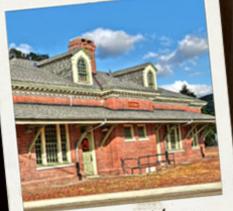








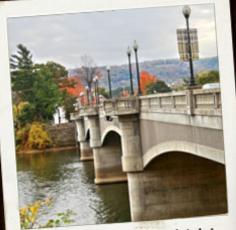




Train Depot - Ridgway Elk County



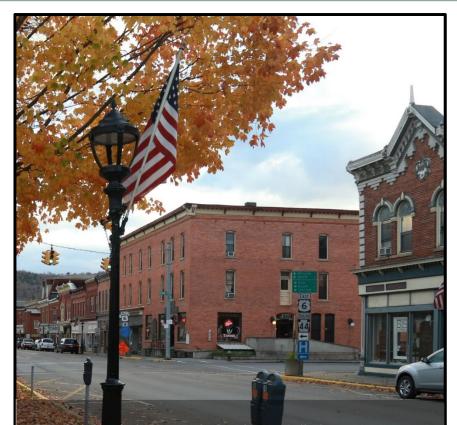
Alabaster Coffee - Williamspot Lycoming County



Warren Business District Warren County



Veteraus Mural Clinton County



"A community's image is fundamentally important to its economic well-being. The Pennsylvania Wilds Design Guide will go a long way toward helping the region preserve its identity, while also prospering economically."

Ed McMahon, Urban Land Institute

Downtown Coudersport, Potter County Gateway to Dark Skies of Cherry Springs





# Pennsylvania's Conservation Landscapes

