

Pennsylvania State Forests: Our Role in Basin Exploration and Development, Teddy W. Borawski, Nathan S. Bennett, and Amy E. Randolph, PA-DCNR, Bureau of Forestry, Harrisburg, PA 17105, tborawski@state.pa.us, nabennett@state.pa.us, arandolph@state.pa.us

Exploration and production of oil and natural gas on Pennsylvania State Forest lands began in 1945. Historically, a majority of the 1,300 wells drilled on State Forest land have targeted shallow, Upper Devonian gas reservoirs. However, notable production from moderately deep formations (e.g., 6,000–10,000 feet) has also occurred. Although somewhat limited in geographic extent, production from the Grugan Field, which lies almost entirely beneath State Forest land, continues to play a vital role in shaping natural gas production throughout Pennsylvania. If the past is any indication of the future, Pennsylvania's State Forests will continue to be a key component in Appalachian exploration and development.

This study serves to provide a historical look into the oil and gas program administered by the Minerals Section of the Bureau of Forestry. This comprehensive look at natural gas production will seek to establish not only statewide production volume(s) but also an inflation adjusted economic look into what natural gas production has provided to Pennsylvania conservation efforts. Additionally, production will be delineated by gas field to better establish where the most significant activity has occurred in relation to sub-surface geologic structures as well as what producing formation(s) have been the most prolific across State Forest lands. Lastly, the future of oil and gas development on State Forest lands will be examined with specific focus placed on exploration trends and how these trends may affect to an upcoming lease sale.