



**PATTON TOWNSHIP  
CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**OPEN SPACE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING AGENDA**

**March 9, 2023  
Board Meeting Room  
Municipal Building  
5:30 PM**

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88930372161>

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair will call the meeting to order.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the February 9, 2023 OSSC meeting are provided for review, potential edits, and approval

**3. BEE HOUSE PROPOSAL AT COMMUNITY GARDENS**

The Open Space Property Manager has received correspondence from Ms. Cheryl McCloskey, a garden renter at the community gardens. Ms. McCloskey wishes to install a solitary bee house on her rented garden plot at the Community Gardens.



Dimensions of the  
bee house:

10.5" high  
6.75" across  
3.5" deep

In July 2022, the Committee reviewed a similar proposal.

Ms. McCloskey's proposal is attached for review and consideration.

**4. THIRD-PARTY MONITORING REPORT**

Sanders Environmental has prepared the 2022 Monitoring Report for Third Party Monitoring Services at the Haugh Family Preserve.

A representative from Sanders Environmental will be available to answer any questions the Committee may have.

**5. BIODIVERSITY OVERVIEW OF THE HAUGH FAMILY PRESERVE & THE GRAY'S WOODS PRESERVE**

Betsy Leppo and Ephraim Zimmerman, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, will be providing a PowerPoint presentation overviewing biodiversity information and implications for management activities at the Gray's Woods Preserve and Haugh Family Preserve.

This item is for informational purposes only and no action is required by the Committee.

**6. SPRING OPEN SPACE PROPERTY TOUR**

The spring open space tour is scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023. As daylight is limited at this time of year, the Committee will need to determine a start time for the tour. As in previous tours, the Committee has met at the pavilion at Circleville Park and the tour time is between one and two hours.

The Open Space Property Manager would also like to have a head count of individuals attending so that the Township knows how many UTVs to rent for the tour.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Continue work on GWP Conversation Plan
- Review JWC study results
- Review preliminary work plan for 2023
- Propose use regulations for Seward Property

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**ATTENDANCE**

OSSC Members

Lisa Preis, Chair  
Ralph Mumma  
Heidi Miller  
Ann Donovan

Consultants

Joe Wilson, Wilson Ecological Consulting, LLC  
Katie Ombalski, Woods & Waters Consulting, LLC  
Mike Wolf, Appalachian Forest Consultants, LLC

Township Staff

Douglas Erickson, Township Manager  
Alexandra Castrechini, Township Engineer  
Nicole Harter, Zoning Officer & Open Space Property Manager

Audience

Betsy Leppo (via Zoom)  
Ephraim Zimmerman (via Zoom)

***\*\*Meeting was Hybrid.\*\****

The February 9, 2023 Open Space Stewardship Committee (OSSC) meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM by Chair, Ms. Preis.

The meeting minutes from January 12, 2023 were brought before the Committee for review and approval. There were no objections to the meeting minutes as submitted and the minutes were approved as submitted.

Ms. Ombalski and Mr. Wolf provided a PowerPoint presentation of the draft Forest Management Plan. Mr. Wolf had asked that copies of the Appendices be provided to the Committee. Ms. Harter noted that she would provide links for the Committee to review the Appendices.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

**TO:** The Open Space Stewardship Committee

**FROM:** Cheryl McCloskey, <sup>cm</sup>Garden Plot Renter @ Haugh Family Preserve

**DATE:** February 5, 2023

**SUBJECT:** REQUEST TO HAVE AN INSECT HOUSE (SOLITARY BEE HOUSE) PLOT #7

I am requesting to install an insect house (solitary bee house) in garden plot #7. Thank you for your consideration. If the request is approved, please let me know my next steps.

# **MONITORING REPORT**

**Third Party Monitoring Services**

**Haugh Family Farm Open Space**

**Patton Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania**

Report Dated: February 9, 2023

Prepared by:



**SANDERS**  
ENVIRONMENTAL INC.

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Undertaken for:

**Patton Township**  
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State College, PA 16823

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*None at this time.*

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## SECTION 1.0: BACKGROUND

The Haugh Family Farm Property was purchased in 2006 as open space for Patton Township. A perpetual conservation easement was attached to the property. The conservation easement includes the need for third party monitoring of the activities on the property. The monitoring includes review to verify that ongoing activities and proposed activities are in accordance with the established conservation easement and management plans for the property. Prior to 2021 this service was provided by Alder Run Engineering.

In 2021, Sanders Environmental Inc. (Sanders) began providing this service for Patton Township.

## SECTION 2.0: SCOPE OF WORK

In accordance with the approved Scope of Work for the project, Sanders has prepared this annual review of the activities that have occurred on the Haugh Family Farm Property for the time period between December 14, 2021 and December 31, 2022. Two site visits are made to the site each calendar year, and one written report is submitted per year.

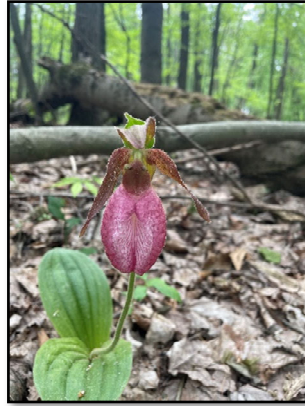
This report includes a summary of the activities at the Haugh Family Farm Open Space and a determination of whether the activities are in accordance with the conservation easement and management plans previously developed for the property. Each activity was examined with respect to the requirements and regulations included in the *Haugh Family Farm Property Declaration of Conservation Easement* (Conservation Easement) and related management plans including the *Forest Stewardship Plan*, *Baseline Report*, *Wetlands Stewardship Plan*, and the *Farm Land Conservation Plan*.

## SECTION 3.0: FIELD VISIT NOTES

During the first annual visit in May, Sanders staff toured the property with Nicole Harter, Patton Township Open Space Manager, and Alexandra Castrechini, Director of Engineering, Planning, and Zoning. Past and ongoing projects were discussed along with plans for an updated Forest Management Plan and overall Conservation Plan being developed by Woods and Waters Consulting. The new plan will cover three properties in Patton Township; Haugh



Family Farm Preserve, Gray's Wood Park, and Gray's Wood Preserve, only the Haugh Family Farm Preserve is being monitored by Sanders. Sanders observed some new tree plantings along the road ROW and observed some beautiful spring plant diversity on the outing.



**FIGURE 1: LADY'S SLIPPER ORCHID**

During the October visit, Sanders staff traversed the property and observed various activities including agricultural and recreational use.

#### **SECTION 4.0: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITIES**

The management activities that are proposed, have occurred, and/or are ongoing at the Haugh Family Farm Open Space were determined based on discussions held during the May visit and attendance at the July Stewardship Committee Meeting. Additional questions were discussed with Nicole Harter via email, who is serving as the Patton Township Open Space Manager. Sanders staff visited the property on May 23 and October 18, 2022, to observe the activities that were occurring at the site. The activities described in this report are continuations of activities listed in previous reports.

All ongoing activities were previously determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement and associated management plans for the Haugh Family Farm Open Space, but have been included in the appendices of this report as well to update the Open Space Stewardship Committee on the status of these activities. These ongoing activities have been discussed in detail in prior reports, which are referenced where appropriate. Completed activities that were “one-time” activities determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement and

addressed in prior reports, such as maintenance of the State Game Land Range access road, are not included in this report.

**SECTION 4.1: PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

The following activities are proposed for areas on the Haugh Family Farm Open Space in the upcoming years.

<b>ACTIVITY NAME</b>	<b>4A: MAINTENANCE OF VEGETATION/CONTROL OF INVASIVE OR UNDESIRABLE SPECIES/PLANTING OF DESIRABLE SPECIES— STANDS 24, 26, 28, 29, AND 32</b>
<b>ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</b>	The maintenance of vegetation and control of invasive species was discussed at the October 2015 meeting of the Open Space Task Force. Control of invasive species was proposed in Stands 24, 26, 28, and 29. Stand 32 consists of approximately 10 acres of powerline area, and is predominantly shrub vegetation, herbaceous vegetation, and tree seedlings and saplings. Management recommendations for Stand 32 in the Forest Stewardship Plan include treating current vegetation with herbicide, followed by mowing and establishment of more favorable herbaceous food and cover for wildlife. Planting of grasses and legumes is proposed.
<b>STATUS</b>	This work has not yet been performed. Some invasive treatment work has been proposed for Stand 32 in mid-January 2023.
<b>RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS</b>	The control of invasive species is a resource conservation objective of the Conservation Easement, and as such, the control of invasive species in all stands is in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The proposed management of Stand 32 is also in accordance with the Conservation Easement. Promotion of forest and woodland resources and promotion of biological diversity, including removal of invasive species, are resource conservation objectives defined in the Conservation Easement. The removal of vegetation to accommodate replanting with a diversity of Native Species of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plant material is permitted by Section 4.03(b)(v) of the Conservation Easement. The proposed management activities for this stand are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property.

**SECTION 4.2: ONGOING OR RECENTLY COMPLETED ACTIVITIES**

In order to make this document more concise, only status updates with activity that has taken place since the previous report will be listed here. For details on past projects or ongoing projects with no new status updates, please visit the corresponding Appendix and Table attached to this report.

### 4.2.1: FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN ACTIVITIES

Forest Stewardship Plan activities are those activities relating to Forest Management practices such as timber harvests and cuts, invasive species control, plantings of new trees or more desirable understory species etc.

4D: Some mowing and brush removal (weed whacking/trimming) activity was completed in Stands 24, 25, 31, and 32 primarily along the powerline right-of-way. This mowing was to encourage the growth of plants found desirable by the frosted elfin butterfly, a rare insect that is under review for federal listing. A research group involving the US Fish and Wildlife Service, PA Natural Heritage Program, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is working on habitat improvements to study and increase populations of the butterfly.

<b>ACTIVITY NAME</b>	<b>4B: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - STANDS 24, 25, 31, and 32</b>
<b>ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</b>	Forest management activities consisting of mowing/trimming of brush and vegetation have occurred in Stands 24, 25, 31, and 32. The mowing was specifically to encourage the growth of yellow wild indigo, a primary food source for a rare butterfly (frosted elfin) found on the site along the powerline right-of-way.
<b>STATUS</b>	The brush/vegetation mowing occurred in 2022.
<b>RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS</b>	The management of Stands 24, 25, 31, and 32 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for these stands are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. The promotion of biological diversity is a resource conservation objective defined in the Conservation Easement.

### 4.2.2: FARM LAND CONSERVATION PLAN ACTIVITIES

Agricultural activities include farm-related projects and alterations to the approximately 236 acres of active farm land within the Conservation Easement.

No new or proposed Farm Land activities beyond standard agricultural practices have taken place since January 2022. Agricultural practices as described in the Farm Land Conservation Plan are expected to continue in 2023.

### 4.2.3: WETLAND STEWARDSHIP PLAN ACTIVITIES

Wetland Stewardship Plan activities involved with wetland conservation, preservation, and improvement. This may include installation of wildlife structures, invasive plant control, trash/debris clean up and removal, signage prohibiting dumping, etc.

No new or proposed wetland-related activities have taken place since January 2022.

### 4.2.4: INFRASTRUCTURE, RECREATION, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Infrastructure activities include improvements, new construction, and significant maintenance of roadways that may impact the Conservation Easement as well as access points, parking areas, paved trails, buildings, etc. Recreation activities include maintenance of walking, hiking, and ski trails as well as use and maintenance of the Garden Plots.

No new or proposed Recreation activities have taken place since January 2022. The Garden Plots will continue to be operation in 2023.

## SECTION 5.0: CONCLUSIONS

There are numerous proposed, ongoing, and completed activities at the Haugh Family Farm Open Space, as described in the previous sections of this narrative. The applicable sections of the Conservation Easement or associated management plans have been examined, and the relationship of the activities to the regulations and recommendations of the Conservation Easement and/or management plan have been determined. It is the opinion of Sanders that all of the ongoing and proposed activities described in the previous sections of this narrative are in accordance with the Conservation Easement and associated management plans for the Haugh Family Farm Open Space.

## Appendix A: Forest Stewardship Plan Activities

ACTIVITY NAME	<b>A1: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES-STAND 16</b>
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	A selective harvest of 1/2 to 2/3 of the standing overstory trees to benefit the oak regeneration that has occurred following gypsy moth defoliation was proposed for Stand 16. Fencing was installed following completion of the timber harvest.
STATUS	The timber harvest occurred in the winter and spring of 2017.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The management of Stand 16 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for these stands are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. These activities were last described in detail in the April 4, 2014, Monitoring Report.

ACTIVITY NAME	<b>A2: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES-STANDS 21 AND 22</b>
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Forest management activities were conducted in Stands 21 and 22. Trees to be removed (thinned) and trees to remain were marked, and trees removed. The timber stand improvement project left greater than 50% of the trees undisturbed, and will improve natural regeneration. Fencing was installed in summer 2014. Herbicide will be applied to control rose privet, honeysuckle, and bittersweet, which is thick on the edges of these stands. Herbicide may be applied to treat hay scented fern as well.
STATUS	The timber harvest activities were conducted in spring of 2014, and fencing was installed in summer of 2014.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The management of Stands 21 and 22 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for these stands are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. These activities were last described in detail in the March 28, 2013, and April 4, 2014, Monitoring Reports

ACTIVITY NAME	A3: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES-STANDS 11, 17, AND 18
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Forest management activities were conducted in Stands 11, 17, and 18. Small red maples were cut to encourage the growth of slower-growing oak species. Stumps were cut 3 to 6 inches from the ground to encourage better regrowth. An herbicide approved for aquatic use may be applied to control or eliminate invasive understory species and undesirable vegetation such as bush honeysuckle, and to retard the growth of red maple species, depending on post-harvest conditions. Additional thinning activities may be needed after regrowth occurs.
STATUS	The thinning harvest occurred in the spring of 2012.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The management of Stands 11, 17, and 18 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for these stands are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. These activities were last described in detail in the March 31, 2012, Monitoring Report.

ACTIVITY NAME	A4: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES-STAND 10
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Forest management activities were conducted in Stand 10. These activities included the application of chemical treatment to undesirable tree species and application of herbicide to invasive understory species to control undesirable vegetation and to eliminate vegetative competition with new tree seedlings. A regeneration harvest or shelter harvest occurred, and deer fencing was installed. An additional selective harvest of ½ to 2/3 of the standing overstory trees to benefit established oak seedling was conducted following an avian study in this stand. Future activities may include 3 <sup>rd</sup> stage shelter harvest, treatment of tree of heaven and hay scented fern species with herbicide, and pruning of grapevines.
STATUS	The initial shelter harvest and application of chemical treatment were conducted previously, with additional shelter harvest conducted in the winter of 2014-2015. Deer fencing around Stand 10 was removed in the summer of 2014. An avian study was conducted in the summer of 2014.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The management of Stand 10 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for Stand 10 are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. These activities were last described in detail in the March 31, 2012, and April 4, 2014, Monitoring Reports.

ACTIVITY NAME	<b>A5: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES-STANDS 1 AND 5</b>
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Forest management activities were previously conducted on Stands 1 and 5. These activities included the application of chemical treatment and thinning harvests. New seedlings were planted in the spring and summer of 2012. After the initial thinning harvest, plans for these stands included future application of herbicide and additional thinning activities which may be needed after re-growth occurs. Additional white pine seedlings may be planted, Japanese bittersweet may be cut down to ground level, and Japanese knotweed killed with herbicide. Sprouts in between the previously cut rows may be cut with the clearing saw. A botanical study was previously conducted in these stands. The remaining overstory trees were cut to allow the existing understory vegetation, such as oak species, to expand in the stands.
STATUS	Application of chemical treatment was conducted in Stand 1 in September of 2011. Thinning harvests occurred in both Stands 1 and 5 over the summer of 2011. A total of 2,500 white pine seedlings were planted in these areas in the spring of 2012 to try to establish native white pine seedlings instead of the red pine that is present in these stands. A botanical survey was conducted in these stands in spring and summer 2014. A contractor removed remaining overstory trees in these stands in 2019/2020 and seedlings of desirable species were planted.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The management of Stands 1 and 5 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for these stands are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. These activities were last described in detail in the March 31, 2012, Monitoring Report. The additional removal of trees and planting of seedlings, is also in accordance with the Conservation Easement and the Forest Stewardship Plan. Complete removal of some of the planted red pine species is addressed in the Forest Stewardship Plan.

ACTIVITY NAME	<b>A6: FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - STANDS 7B AND 25</b>
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	Forest management activities consisting of mowing of brush and selective timber harvesting, plus spraying of invasive plant species, have occurred in Stands 7B and 25. An additional activity for the removal of metal refuse and debris encountered (in 7B) during the brush mowing was conducted. (Note: refuse and debris were remaining from activities prior to the acquisition of the Open Space and is not due to recent dumping.) The application of herbicide for management of invasive species may occur.
STATUS	The brush mowing/timber harvest occurred in the winter of 2013-2014. Spraying for invasive plant species occurred in the summer of 2015 and 2021.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The management of Stands 7B and 25 was determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The ongoing management activities for these stands are defined in the Forest Stewardship Plan for the property. These activities were last described in detail in the April 4, 2014, Monitoring Report.

# Appendix B: Farm Land Conservation Plan Activities

ACTIVITY NAME	<b>B1: AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES</b>
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	This activity initially consisted of the leasing of approximately 237 acres of the property for agricultural production, with an additional acre leased for the garden plots which are discussed separately. See STATUS below as an additional acre of cropland was converted to garden plot in 2017, which brings the area leased as cropland to approximately 236 acres.
STATUS	Agricultural activities continued through the growing season of 2021, and will continue in 2022. An area of approximately one additional acre of cropland was converted to garden plot in the summer of 2017, with a new access constructed to the cropland (as the old access was affected by the establishment of the garden plots).
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	Agricultural activities are conducted in accordance with the Farm Land Conservation Plan prepared by the NRCS. Sustainable agricultural activities are in accordance with the Conservation Easement. This activity has been previously found to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement, and was last described in detail in the March 31, 2012, Monitoring Report.



# **Appendix C: Wetlands Stewardship Plan Activities**

*(None at this time.)*

## Appendix D: Infrastructure, Recreation, and Other Activities

ACTIVITY NAME	D1: CONSTRUCTION OF BIKE PATH
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	A bike path along Circleville Road was constructed in the summer and fall of 2015. This path was constructed within the roadway right-of-way, and as such, was not subject to the requirements of the Conservation Easement.
STATUS	The path was completed in 2015. The construction entrance for the timber harvest at Stand 16, which affected the bike path, has been restored.
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	The construction of trails covered by gravel or other highly porous surface is an improvement permitted under Article 3.02 of the Conservation Easement. However, the path is located within the right-of-way of Circleville Road and therefore is not governed by the requirements of the easement.

ACTIVITY NAME	D2: GARDEN PLOTS
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	<p>This activity initially consisted of the establishment of 49 garden plots on an area approximately one acre in size. Accessory activities included improvements to the existing access for both access and parking purposes; and installation of a water line, small maintenance sheds, fencing surrounding the garden areas, and access gates. Small retaining walls will be installed to make the plots more useable. Some brush was removed from the area near the garden plots in winter and summer 2014. Some trees were cut around the garden plots in the summer of 2015 as part of an effort to re-establish the orchard by replanting fruit trees. In 2017, an area formerly used for crops, adjacent to the existing garden plots, was converted from cropland to garden plots. A new access was established to allow access to the existing cropland areas, as the existing access was affected by the new garden plots. In 2019, two accessible parking spaces were added near the garden plots.</p>
STATUS	<p>The garden plots were initially available for the 2011 growing season. There was increased demand for the garden plots in following years. Garden plots will be available again in 2022. The trimming of brush and understory vegetation from areas adjacent to the garden plots occurred in the spring and summer of 2014, and some trees were cut in preparation for planting of fruit trees to re-establish the orchard in the summer of 2015. Maintenance of vegetation occurred in the spring and summer of 2017, along with the creation of additional garden plots, and the establishment of a new access to the cropland area adjacent to the new garden plot. Two accessible parking spaces were added adjacent to the garden plots in 2019.</p>
RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS	<p>Sustainable agricultural activities are in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The accessory activities are in accordance with various sections of the Conservation Easement that allow improvements associated with existing uses. These activities have been previously found to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement, and were last described in detail in the March 31, 2012, Monitoring Report. The trimming of shrubbery is in accordance with Section 4.03 of the Conservation Easement which allows for agricultural activities and disturbance of resources, and maintenance for access to existing improvements. The cutting of trees and replanting of fruit trees is a sustainable agricultural activity in accordance with the Conservation Easement. The trimming of shrubbery was described in detail in the April 4, 2014, Monitoring Report. The expansion of the garden plots, including establishment of new access and minor brush removal and re-grading, was addressed in a letter report dated March 2, 2017. The establishment of accessible parking spaces is in accordance with Federal law, and was considered to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement under Section 3.02(b)(iv) and (v), which permits improvements/ additional facilities which service existing improvements within the property.</p>

<b>ACTIVITY NAME</b>	<b>D3: PLANNING, ESTABLISHMENT, AND MAINTENANCE OF CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS</b>
<b>ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION</b>	Cross country ski paths or trails were proposed in multiple locations. A proposal providing detailed information was submitted to the Patton Township Open Space Stewardship Committee on November 21, 2011, and a separate third-party monitoring report was prepared for this activity in December 2011. Proposed activities included the use of trails, installation of signage and markers to mark the trail, trail grooming, and trail maintenance.
<b>STATUS</b>	Activities continued in the winter of 2021-2022. Activities occur in areas that were not planted with a winter crop such as winter wheat.
<b>RELATIONSHIP TO CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS</b>	Cross country skiing on trails is a permitted use. The ski trail activities were determined to be in accordance with the Conservation Easement. These activities were last described in detail in the March 31, 2012, Monitoring Report.