

Glatfelter Tree Farm



History

The term "tree farming" was first fashioned in the 1940's to introduce the public to sustainable forest terminology they could understand. The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) was created in 1941 in response to the need to protect forest resources on private lands, provide advice and assistance to forest owners and ensure the continued supply of wood and other forest products.



The first tree farm was established in Montesano, WA in 1941.

The developers of the tree farm believed America's private forests were being cut at an unsustainable rate. They hoped that the outstanding practices employed by tree farms would become an example to other forest owners, by showing them the benefits of scientific forestry.

Within a few years, ATFS spread to virtually all forested states in the United States. In 2009, ATFS had certified more than 25 million acres of privately owned forestland. ATFS has a forest certification standard requiring private forest landowners develop a management plan based on strict environmental standards and pass an inspection by an ATFS inspecting forester.

Tree Farm #1

The Glatfelter property became Pennsylvania's first designated Tree Farm in 1947. Tree Farm #1, and has been a local natural and recreational resource while being actively managed for timber production. In 2007, the Glatfelter Pulp Wood Company put the property up for sale, drawing concern from local citizens on the list of potential buyers. Even though the property would have to be rezoned in order for it to be developed, members of the surrounding communities were worried about the threat to the property's water resources, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

In March 2008, the Conservation Fund purchased the property and has since served as a temporary owner while more than \$13 million



was raised to complete the project and transfer it to the commonwealth. As one of his last acts in office Governor Edward G. Rendell invested \$4 million to help protect 2,500 acres of forested land in a part of western Adams County that

has lost a significant amount of open space in recent years. The money will be given to the Conservation Fund, since the land will eventually be added to the Michaux State Forest.



Former Governor Ed Rendell

"The Glatfelter Tree Farm is a vast and wild tract in an area currently under intense development pressure from residents migrating from Baltimore and Washington, D.C.," Governor Rendell said. "This investment and the eventual transition of the property into the state forest system will help conserve the headwaters of two high quality, cold-water streams and a vast network of woodland trails, and make them available to the public for recreation and enjoyment."

DCNR Bureau of Forestry

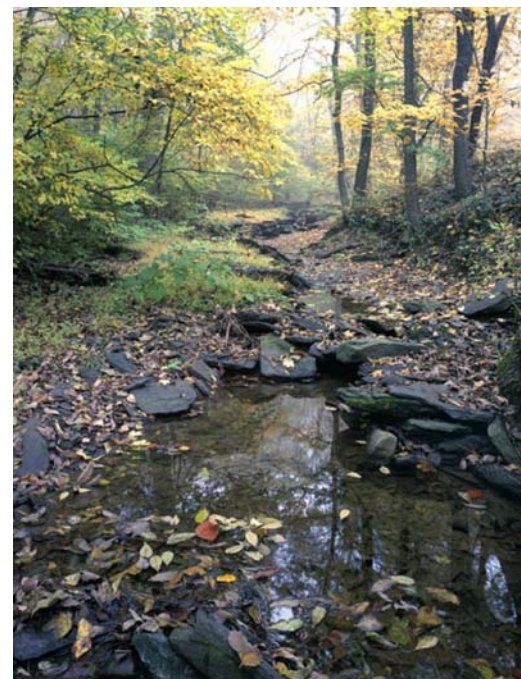
Established on July 1, 1995, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is charged with maintaining and preserving the 117 state parks; managing the 2.1 million acres of state forest land.

The Bureau of Forestry's mission is to ensure the long-term health, viability and productivity of the Commonwealth's forests and to conserve native wild plants.

Under the guidelines of the transfer, DCNR Bureau of Forestry managed and patrolled the Glatfelter Property during the interim ownership. The property was initially closed to the public, but is now open since the land has been transferred to the commonwealth.

"Folks expressed interest in purchasing this property for conservation - we felt compelled to act," said Todd McNew, Pennsylvania representative for The Conservation Fund. "This grant represents a milestone. It is the first piece of funding needed to ensure that we are able to permanently protect this land. We are deeply grateful to DCNR and Governor Rendell for this investment."

The Glatfelter acquisition provides another area where the community can participate in recreational activities. The property is an ideal place for hunting and has numerous coldwater streams that are great for trout fishing. An extensive trail network is available to those looking for an afternoon of hiking.



ISP Minerals

For more than 85 years, ISP Minerals Inc. has been a leading producer colored mineral granules to the North American residential and commercial roofing markets. The granules are shipped to shingle manufacturers, and are used on shingles for about 1 million homes per year.

ISP's plant in Hamiltonban Township is one of four around the country, serving the Northeast and parts of the South. The plant operates on 650 acres and employs nearly 200 people, bringing in \$30 million a year to the local economy. The current quarry, used since 1992, is cut down 200 feet into the ground, surrounding workers in a green canyon of metabasalt.



ISP mines metabasalt, or greenstone, from the plant in Hamiltonban Township.

ISP Minerals Charmian Plant in Blue Ridge Summit, PA. In operation for the past 85 years.

If the land swap with DCNR falls through the ISP Minerals plans to cut employees. After 85 years, the mine is running out of room and needs to expand. The proposed land swap would provide the company with a piece of land that would enable it to be productive for the next 30-50 years.

If the deal is eventually denied, it could mean the end of ISP Minerals at the Hamiltonban Township location. A 20 percent cut in production is planned for the fall of 2011 if the swap is not successful. "There is an immediate impact if this does not happen," said company President Ken Walton

Land Swap

Both ISP and the community are waiting to hear from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as to whether the proposed land swap with the state will be approved. ISP would receive 110 acres at the southern end of the preserved Glatfelter Tree Farm No. 1, which is adjacent to the current quarry. In exchange, ISP would give the state three inholdings, which are private properties within the preserved forestland, totaling 112 acres.

Opponents have argued that the land was preserved with taxpayer money and should remain that way, even though the land swap would preserve the same amount of land.

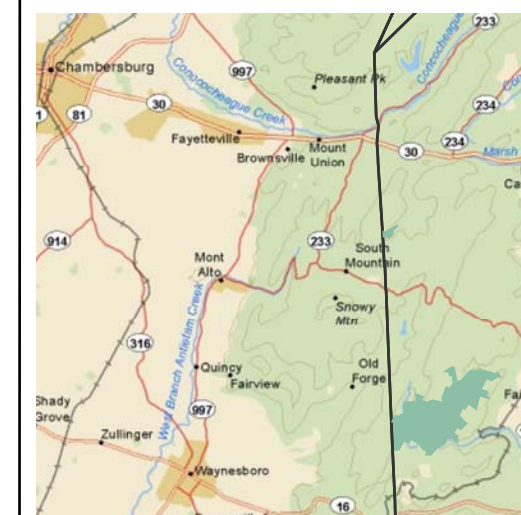
Some opponents of the swap are concerned with the environmental impacts associated with the expansion of the mine. Tom's Creek, and its tributary running through the property, are protected. To help protect this valued stream ISP Minerals more than doubles the state-mandated 100-foot buffers between the tributary and the quarry. Stormwater is pumped through a three-pond system where sediment is filtered out as an additional precaution. This prevents water from being released, and when it is, it exceeds state standards for water quality. Filtered stormwater is usually pumped back to the plant and reused to keep the dust down on roads and the quarry.

ISP officials are happy with their environmental record, and any time there was a violation, it is quickly fixed. A file review at the state Department of Environmental Protection showed five dust-related violations since 1998, all of which were corrected. The violations generally came from equipment malfunctions, according to DEP documents, with fines for the violations totaling \$7,000. ISP spent \$2.5 million in the last two years in environmental control, and 50 percent of the horsepower used is devoted to controlling dust, and maintaining the environment. Previously-mined quarries have all been reclaimed, and are now filled in with growing grass and trees.

Adams County Commissioner had originally supported the swap, but stated recently they will rescind their support if DCNR does not hold a public hearing for county residents to learn more and have the opportunity to comment. The current Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, has yet to provide any direction or guidance concerning how to handle the controversy.

DCNR is currently reviewing comments made by the public from 30-day comment period on their concerns over the proposed land swap. In the end DCNR hopes to appease the public while supporting a company that has been a part of the community for nearly 90 years.

Where Its Located



The Glatfelter property is located along the border of Franklin and Adams County, just west of Farfield, PA.

