

# THE TICKER

A Weekly Public Affairs Update for the PFPA Membership

PRODUCED BY:  
PENNSYLVANIA FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION  
"YOUR CAPITOL INSIDER"



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Reported by: Paul Lyskava, PFPA Executive Director

## GOP Leaders Work on Stopgap Budget

Republican legislative leaders will attempt to pass a stop-gap budget to restore crucial funding to service providers if there is no significant progress in their budget negotiations with Gov. Tom Wolf. The State Senate may return to Harrisburg next week, while the State House will return on September 21.

The temporary budget would focus on providing funding to local education, social service and correction agencies that operate on state dollars. To date, Gov. Wolf has not said if he would sign a temporary budget.

Last week, the Governor meet with smaller groups of legislative negotiators, although no additional progress was made on a budget settlement.

To date, the Governor has also not yet responded to last month's GOP proposal to provide additional funding for education if the Governor would support their proposed plan to address state pension reform.

## PGC and Fish & Boat Commission Offer Wildlife Plan for Comment

These agencies are seeking comments to Pennsylvania's Wildlife Plan, which was originally developed in 2005. The federal government now requires an update of the plan.

The new plan includes a list of state species of greatest conservation need, extent and condition of their habitat, threats to those habitats, and conservation actions to address those threats.

The plan identifies 664 species of greatest conservation need. This includes 90 birds, 19 mammals, 65 fishes, 18 amphibians, 22 reptiles, and 450 invertebrates. Among the additions to the mammals are a number of bat species.

A total of 860 conversation actions were identified for vertebrate species – the most common being planning, direct management of natural resources, law & policy, and technical assistance.

Comments will be received through September 11 on PGC or Fish & Boat websites.

## Other Updates

The Allegheny National Forest will conduct a White Ash Seed Collection Workshop on Saturday, September 12, 2015 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Buckaloons Campground Pavilion. For additional information, contact Greg Sanford (gsanford@fs.fed.us) 814-363-6056 Or Andrea Hille (ahille@fs.fed.us).....The state Independent Fiscal Office projects that state natural gas impact fee revenue collected during 2015 could be anywhere from \$15 million to nearly \$34 million less than the \$223 million collected in 2014.....Polling shows that 71 percent of U.S. residents would support a 10-cent increase in the federal gas tax, to 28 cents per gallon. It would be the first increase in the federal tax since 1993.....Pittsburgh suburb of Mt. Lebanon is considering a deer sterilization program in efforts to reduce vehicle/deer collisions. Any sterilization plan would require approval by the PGC.....Parts of Pennsylvania have seen an explosion of Poison Hemlock, a pretty, but invasive weed that is poisonous to both humans and livestock.....

## PFPA News

- ✿ With the General Assembly returning to Harrisburg this month, our political action committee, TimberPAC, needs to replenish its resources to help its legislative allies prepare for the next year's elections. Included in this *The Ticker* is additional information about TimberPAC.
- ✿ PFPA Executive Development Workshop; PFPA Annual Meeting and Penn-York Lumbermen's Club September meeting take place this month.

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**“DYK” – Did You Know?** — Recent polling shows that attitudes supporting public institutions is strongest towards the military (72 percent) and small businesses (67 percent). – *Gallop Polling*