



Lumber Heritage Region

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS ALONG THE BENNETTS BRANCH

- Elk and Cameron Counties

THIS PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Type of Project—

This was a project was a Mini-Grant project awarded to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Funding —

The LHR contributed \$5K toward this Project and Mengle Foundation provided \$7K along with \$4K from The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy Canoe Access Development Fund.



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The Bennett Branch Working Group was formed to meet and discuss the possibilities for enhanced recreation in the Bennett Branch Watershed.

WPC used the provided funds to work with its group to replicate the signage kiosks installed at the access site in Force at two more sites along the stream.

The group worked with their partners and LHR to develop an online presence for public access sites, rec-

reational opportunities and historical/cultural information in the Bennett Valley through the development and publication of a interactive, web-based map. The map is housed on the WPC website where other maps of the region can be found.

Interpretive signage was place at the canoe launch in Driftwood. This is the location of a previous LHR project with the Cameron County Conservation District.





ELK & NATURE TOURISM PLAN

THIS PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Type of Project—

Planning Study to create a plan for elk and nature tourism in the elk range.

Funding —

The LHR contributed \$115,000 toward this Project. Key implementing agencies include NCRPDC, DCNR, the Game Commission, PENNDOT, and the Pennsylvania State Police. The study was funded with the support of DCNR, ARC, US Forest Service, and the Game Commission.



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In 2001, the LHR, the North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission, DCNR and the Game Commission contracted with FERMATA Inc., to develop a plan for elk watching and nature tourism for the counties included in the Game Commission's Elk Range. This plan predates the Pennsylvania WILDS and was a catalyst for its formation.

Many elements of the plan have been carried out by DCNR and others in their projects within the Pennsylvania WILDS

The subject of this plan is visitor management, including elk viewing and nature tourism, not elk management, which is the responsibility of

the Game Commission. The main objective of the project is to develop a five-year plan for elk viewing and other nature-related tourism that will:

- Provide recommendations to improve visitor services and guide the development of appropriate infrastructure.
- Support the long-term ecological needs of an expanded wild elk herd.
- Stimulate economic benefits for local communities and minimize conflicts with private landowners and other forest users.
- Educate tourist and residents about responsible stewardship of the elk herd and the region's other natural resources.

