

Bethlehem Authority Police Report

Feb 2022

1. All Deer hunting is now over. The deer harvest numbers for the Authorities participation in the Deer Management Program should be available some time in March.
2. The equipment received from the 1033 program we entered last year has been very beneficial in checking the area at night for persons attempting unlawful access into the fence areas of both reservoirs. Each use showed only deer and other wildlife in areas that are historically suspected of unlawful hunting activity. More items have been awarded to us and are being acquired this week.
3. The snow and cold temperatures have brought out Cross Country Skiers into the Wild Creek and Penn Forest areas. Along with the snow, light snowmobile activity has also occurred in the same areas. Minor ATV traffic was found in the Long Pond area and appears to have only been one weekend.
4. Bald Eagles were observed back on the nest once again at Wild Creek. Eagle sightings are becoming more frequent lately with numerous immature Eagles flying over the Penn Forest Reservoir. Also, Robins have been observed in the area since Martin Luther King Jr day. There must something we don't know about the weather. I spoke with Scott Burnet President of the Lehigh Valley Audubon Society. I was informed that the individual I spoke to last month was giving me information from the 2020 Christmas Bird Count. The 2021 Bird Count did not take place due to Covid issues with members. Scott would like to schedule a day where the members can be toured through different areas of the property to view other birds and habitat. I told him we should be able to work something out. He will be in touch when the weather warms up.
5. Logging has been slow as weather issues have slowed progress with the logger needing to keep trails clear for safe access. Several equipment breakdowns have also plagued the progress.

6. This Officer was contacted by PA State Police Lehighton Barracks for assistance in locating an individual that fled on foot into the Wild Creek area of Bethlehem Authority land. I responded and found the Troopers on Hell Hollow Rd. I assisted with information on fire lanes and terrain. I remained on scene until the search was canceled. Troopers never needed access into any gates.

7. The UTV was very beneficial the past few weeks as the snow was not too deep. The machine did work harder than usual, but was still able to move officers through the area. The track attachments for this vehicle have been ordered. When they arrive it will be easier to traverse in deep snow and muddy terrains.

8. Someone cut a tree down alongside Hysie Gap Rd in the Long Pond area of Authority property. The tree was at the shoulder of the road and when it fell it took down power lines. Only one cut was made on the tree after it fell. PP&L personnel on scene stated the line was still energized. The person, or persons, must have been getting shocks from the line and couldn't finish. PA Game Commission personnel have been made aware and will assist by watching for any such activity.