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Subject: PABIODIV: Wind Farms on State Land
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Forwarded from SAF's E-Forester:

Pennsylvania Mulls Wind Farms on State Land

March 24 -- The Pennsylvania of Department Conservation and Natural Resources is considering the development of wind farms in state forestlands. According to a recent Associated Press article, department officials have been discussing the idea for a few months and are studying whether wind farms on state land will be feasible.

Officials note, however, that identifying suitable locations for wind farms could take time given that the department would first have to address such issues as the effects of wind farms on forest ecosystems, where transmission lines would be located, and how to position them for optimal wind exposure. Thus, department officials expect only a small percentage of the state's 2.1 million acres of state forestland would be suitable. Moreover, the department would have to obtain the authority to OK a wind farm from the state General Assembly.

The state already has five wind farms on private land that produce nearly 130 megawatts of power-the most of any state east of the Mississippi River.

The article went on to say that Pennsylvania is not alone in its interest in erecting wind farms on state lands. At least a dozen other states are engaged in or discussing the same issue.

For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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A public-private partnership to conserve biodiversity statewide

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