



## NEWS RELEASE

# National Park Service

**Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania 18324**

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### **Wildland Fire Fuel Reduction Projects at Delaware Water Gap NRA**

BUSHKILL, PA – Superintendent John J. Donahue announced that park staff are undertaking fire fuel reduction projects within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to reduce the risk of any wildland fire spreading to private property. The work is being carried out by TNA Construction, LLC, from Bloomfield, Indiana.

Two projects, one of which began this week, are part of a national effort named the “wildland urban interface” (WUI) initiative, which will significantly reduce the risk of fires spreading from forested public lands to adjacent communities. The wildland urban interface is defined as any place where potentially flammable vegetative fuels meet or overlap with home sites. As homes in natural settings have become much more desirable, there has been a dramatic increase in construction up to and within wooded areas. Often these homes are not adequately protected, resulting in more and more homes burning each year. Federal, state and local agencies have accordingly allocated funding to WUI projects to reduce this risk.

The first project involves clearing the fire road on Mount Minsi up to the park’s radio repeater and then clearing vegetation 200 feet around the repeater. The second project involves boundary thinning from Little Egypt Road to just north of Big Egypt Road in Lehman Township. Trees less than five inches in diameter will be removed and any trees that are not removed will be limbed to a height of six feet. Brush will be cleared within 100 feet of the park boundary. The projects should be completed by the end of the summer.

Residents living in close proximity to or within woodlands are strongly urged to learn more about what they can do to reduce the risk of their homes burning in a fire. Informational materials on home protection can be obtained from the Firewise web site at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

“The park is making a sustained effort to minimize the risk of wildland urban interface fires,” said Superintendent John J. Donahue, “but we need our neighbors to also take a close look at their own properties and reduce any similar risks. The Firewise website is an excellent place to start.”

Residents can also contact their local forestry offices for further information. The New Jersey Forest Fire Service office covering the western New Jersey area near the park is in Andover and can be contacted at 973-786-6350. The Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (DCNR) office overseeing areas near the park in northeastern Pennsylvania is in Swiftwater and can be reached at 570-895-4000.

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