

## SAFER Apps Pennsylvania Field Trip

### Monday 22 June 2026

The project **Science to Advance Freshwater Ecosystem and Community Resilience in the Appalachians (SAFER Apps)** is a planning grant, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), with the broad goal of bringing together university researchers, conservation organizations, government officials, planners, and other academic partners to consider the flood resiliency needs of communities in the Appalachian mountains and opportunities for conservation measures to advance flood resilience.

National Science Foundation planning grants *support initial conceptualization, planning and collaboration activities that aim to formulate new and sound plans for large-scale projects in emerging research areas for future submission to an NSF program.*<sup>1</sup> The SAFER Apps planning grant is funded under NSF's relatively new program [Confronting Hazards, Impacts, and Risks for a Resilient Planet](#) (CHIRRP). All CHIRRP projects are expected to achieve three outcomes: (1) advance understanding, forecasting and/or prediction of future Earth system hazards and risks, (2) engage communities in development of research questions and approaches, and (3) produce actionable, science-based solution pathways for adaptation methodologies, products, and services.

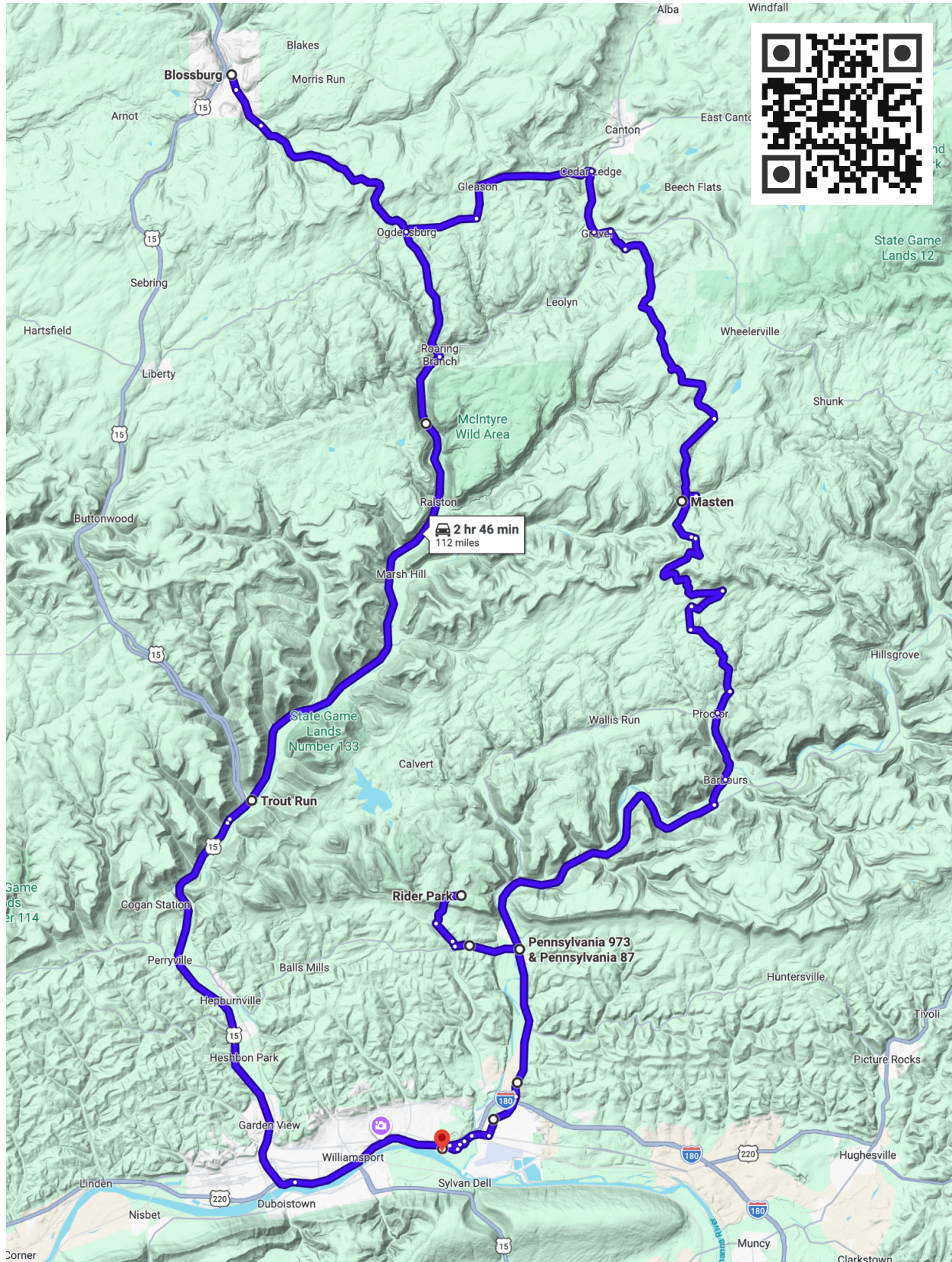
Our third SAFER Apps field trip provides an opportunity to continue to build cross-state relationships, foster understanding of challenges faced by communities and conservation organizations, and explore tools the research community might advance to contribute to flood resiliency in mountain settings.

Specifically, on this field trip we aim to:

- expose visiting participants to flood impacts experienced in the mountainous settings of northcentral Pennsylvania in the Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming Creek, and Tioga River basins
- learn from professionals engaged in community response, flood risk mitigation, and flood resiliency planning, with a focus on engagement with “nature-based solutions” for flood mitigation and discourse on formal and informal infrastructure in rural, mountainous settings
- learn from staff of conservation organizations on the roles they play in engaging communities in river stewardship, advocacy, and flood resiliency projects
- identify opportunities where new research or better translation of existing research could help enhance resilience to flood-related hazards in mountainous settings across the northern and central Appalachians

---

<sup>1</sup> From the National Science Foundation's Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide, page II-43 at [https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/nsf24\\_1.pdf](https://nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/nsf24_1.pdf).



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Cell service is spotty to non-existent in much of this area we'll be touring. **Drivers should be sure to download offline maps before departing.**

We'll be doing a bit of hiking and there's rain in the forecast. **We recommend that you wear sturdy shoes and bring a rain jacket, hat, and water bottle.**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE & ROUTE (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/74K3qtrHPwamc3738>)

**8:45 am: Canfield Island** parking area (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tSErEkACKasAtmDK8>) near I-180 exit 23 – traveling group meets and loads into Penn State vehicles (**leaving promptly!**)

**9:15 am: Rider Park** (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/8PTThN8BLacLwyxX48>) – introductions and overview, hike to Katy Jane East Overlook for view up Loyalsock Valley and out over Allegheny Plateau

**10:30 am: Slabtown Bridge** (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2fQN7kCrRESXFCGj8>) and USGS gage at PA-973 and PA-87, just north of Loyalsockville (park in gravel lot at west end of bridge)

**11:30 am: Masten** (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/1r4EbqmPGq1hdeo1A>) – flood impacts on gravel roads, bridges and culverts along Pleasant Stream with Eric Chase (Penn State Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads) and Jamie Shallenberger (Susquehanna River Basin Commission)

**12:45 pm: Lunch at The Farmer's Table**, 242 Main Street, Blossburg PA (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/XbHESBwXCgkrg8Us8>)

**1:45 pm: Island Park**, Water Street, Blossburg PA (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/VUENdAR8DgwZCN268>) – start here for discussion of flood impacts in town with Erica Tomlinson (Tioga County Conservation District) and George Boyd (Blossburg Borough Manager); continue to water treatment plant and acid mine drainage treatment facilities

[the specific route to Trout Run will depend on how much time we end up spending in Blossburg; if we have time, travel via PA-14 and maybe stop at Rock Run near Ralston (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/frPbHBktccyAfHmWA>) and/or lower Pleasant Stream Road reroute (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/aAG6GjZFSi61aieL9>); if short on time, take US-15]

**4:30 pm: Trout Run Volunteer Fire Company** (<https://maps.app.goo.gl/NM5Di9p6WaJq4MSA8>) – impacts, search and rescue, and recovery from Debby and prior floods with Bob Whitford (former fire chief)

[return to starting location (Canfield Island); day trippers return home if not joining for dinner; others get a little time to shower/relax/reconnect before dinner]

**7:00 pm: Follow-up Discussion over Dinner in Williamsport** for all interested; options include The Brickyard Restaurant and Ale House, The Crooked Goose, Jackass Brewing, The James, Laziza Cuisine (Pakistani), and New Trail Brewing (food trucks)

## PARTICIPANTS

|           |               |                                                                |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Danny     | Brumbaugh     | Clearwater Conservancy                                         |
| Reneé     | Carey         | Northcentral PA Conservancy                                    |
| Eric      | Chase         | Penn State University, Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads          |
| Elizabeth | Crisfield     | Clearwater Conservancy                                         |
| Patrick   | Eisenhauer    | PPL Electric                                                   |
| Levi      | Gelnett       | PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)     |
| Scott     | Koser         | Trout Unlimited PA                                             |
| George    | LLoyd         | Borough of Blossburg                                           |
| Rob       | Nicholas **   | Penn State University, Center for Climate Risk Management      |
| Mike      | O'Connor      | PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)                          |
| Ben       | Pratt         | Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)                      |
| Kelsey    | Ruckert       | Penn State University, Earth & Environmental Systems Institute |
| Jamie     | Shallenberger | Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)                      |
| Erica     | Tomlinson     | Tioga County Conservation District                             |
| Beverley  | Wemple **     | University of Vermont, Water Resources Institute               |
| Bob       | Whitford      | Trout Run Volunteer Fire Company                               |
| Ashley    | Wilmont       | Penn State University, Earth & Environmental Systems Institute |
| Don       | Young         | PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)                          |
| Nico      | Zégre **      | West Virginia University, Mountain Hydrology Laboratory        |

\*\* SAFER Apps principal investigator

If you run into trouble, call, text, or email **Rob Nicholas (814-470-7114, ren10@psu.edu)** or **Ashley Wilmont (814-548-6296, adw5172@psu.edu)**. Voice or text is likely to work best on Monday.