

For immediate release

Contact the PA Route 6 Alliance – 814-435-7706

The PA Route 6 Alliance has announced that Acting Secretary of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Cindy Dunn, will be the keynote speaker at their Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, May 14 in Carbondale. The meeting will highlight the future of the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor and the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program.

“We are excited to have Acting Secretary Dunn as our speaker,” PA Route 6 Alliance executive Director Terri Dennison said. “Her long career with advocacy groups and with DCNR gives her a valuable understanding of our work as a Heritage Area.”

Governor Tom Wolf has appointed Ms. Dunn to be the sixth secretary of the DCNR, returning to the agency where she worked under three governors in multiple positions over the last two decades. Since November 2013, Ms. Dunn had served as the president and chief executive officer of PennFuture, a statewide environmental advocacy organization. Prior to her time at PennFuture, Ms. Dunn served as DCNR’s Deputy Secretary of Conservation and Technical Services from 2007-2013, where she led DCNR’s conservation landscape program and oversaw the community conservation partnerships grant program, which provides \$30-\$60 million annually for conservation and recreation throughout the commonwealth. Ms. Dunn’s other leadership posts at DCNR include director of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation as well as director of the Office of Education, Communications and Partnerships. Ms. Dunn first joined DCNR in the mid ‘90s as director of community relations and environmental education.

The Annual Meeting will convene at 11 a.m. at the Best Western Pioneer Plaza in Carbondale and will include a period of networking with sponsors and exhibitors followed by the PA Route 6 Annual Business Meeting. Keynote speaker, Acting DCNR Secretary, Cindy Dunn, will discuss the agency’s strategic planning efforts and PA Heritage Areas.

During the meeting the revised Management Action Plan will be reviewed, including the goals, strategies, and projects for the next ten years. The 2014 Economic/Tourism Impact Study of State Heritage Areas will also be presented.

The meeting will conclude with a ceremony awarding this year’s “DO 6” Winners in the categories of: Heritage Partnership Award; Leadership Award; Heritage Community of the Year Award; Heritage Tourism Award; Artisan of the Year Award; and Lifetime Achievement Award.

The meeting and awards program will take place on Thursday, May 14th at the Best Western Pioneer Plaza, Carbondale, PA, starting at 11AM. The cost of the luncheon is \$30. Registrations are due by April 29th. Online registration and downloadable registration forms are available at [www.paroute6.com/annual\\_meeting](http://www.paroute6.com/annual_meeting).

Event sponsorships are also available to organizations, businesses, and groups who may want to display their products, projects, services. Sponsorship information and registration is also available online at [www.paroute6.com/annual\\_meeting](http://www.paroute6.com/annual_meeting).