

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Mohican-Memorial State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year 2011
(July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011)



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June 24, 2010
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OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

I. STRATEGIC PLAN *(Effective 2008)*

Our Vision: Ohio's state forests will be the best managed forest lands in the country, and will be widely recognized as such.

To fulfill this vision, the Ohio Division of Forestry commits to meeting five objectives. We will:

- Manage forests to ensure the health and sustainability of forest systems
- Produce high-quality forest products that contribute to local communities
- Provide recreational opportunities that require a large forest land base
- Provide unique forestry education sites and promote outreach and long-term research
- Maintain a highly trained and well equipped work force

To fulfill these objectives, the Division of Forestry will develop and implement strategies and plans that allow us to accomplish the following goals by 2011:

- Manage forests to ensure the health and sustainability of forest systems
 - *Implement a proven, verifiable approach to sustainable management*
 - *Manage for site-appropriate, native forest systems and species*
 - *Maintain long-term forest productivity through conservation of soil, water, and forest resources*
 - *Retain or promote stand- and landscape-level wildlife habitat*
 - *Assess the distribution and impact of non-native invasive species*
- Produce high-quality forest products that contribute to local communities
 - *Base State Forest harvest volumes on the goals and guidelines for each forest system, current stand and forest-wide inventories, and science-based silviculture*
 - *Develop marketing strategies to capture the maximum value of forest products*
- Provide recreational opportunities that are compatible with sustainable forest management
 - *Develop a comprehensive recreation plan for the state forest system*
 - *Build recognition for unique and varied recreation opportunities on state forests*
- Provide unique forestry education sites and promote outreach and long-term research
 - *Support forest research with an emphasis on sustainable forest management (silvicultural, prescribed fire, native systems, etc.)*
 - *Develop opportunities to showcase forest management practices to the general public, private landowners, and forest industry*
- Maintain a highly trained and well equipped work force
 - *Develop a training, continuing education, and/or certification standard for all division staff*
 - *Inventory and evaluate equipment and facilities and develop maintenance and replacement schedules*
 - *Develop equipment and facilities budgets based on current and projected needs*
 - *Ensure all staff have appropriate health and safety training*

II. Summary of Strategic Plan Actions

Bullet Statements: Actions that directly support Strategic Plan Goals & Objectives

- Provide recreational trails and facilities that offer a “back to basics” experience and ensure the protection of the natural resource with proper maintenance and repairs.
- Continue to develop and promote the Discovery Forest and work with outside agencies on long-term research in the area of disease resistance for American chestnut and Elm trees.
- Maintain a highly trained staff by conducting monthly safety meetings, offering training opportunities in the areas of forest management, firefighting and law enforcement.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description:

Mohican-Memorial State Forest is located in southern Ashland County, midway between Columbus and Cleveland. It is easily reached from I-71 and State Routes 97 and 3. The natural attributes of the area combined with state and nearby commercial facilities have made this region one of the more popular year-round attractions of the state.

Mohican-Memorial State Forest is managed under the multiple-use concept for timber and wildlife habitat, forestry research and demonstrations of good forest land management, primitive recreation and natural beauty, tree seed for forest nurseries and protection of soils and watershed.

Timber products obtained from harvest, stand improvement and thinning operations include saw logs, veneer logs with some pulpwood and firewood. Pine plantation thinnings yield fence and guard posts and poles.

During the spring and fall fire seasons, a major objective of the forest organization is to prevent, detect and suppress wildfires that occur on state and private land within the protection district.

The many gas wells and transmission lines that you see are a result of the development of a natural gas storage field underlying the forest.

Land acquisition for the forest began in 1928 and has continued with the accumulation of over 4,500 acres (exclusive of state park land). The land use history of the forest is typical of eastern Ohio. Original forests were cleared for agriculture, but eventually erosion ensued and fertility decreased. Farms were abandoned and subsequently reverted to brush and woodland.

At the time of acquisition, planting of trees on abandoned land was a high priority activity. This resulted in the many plantations of white and red pine and mixtures of these and other pine species that you see today. Much of the tree planting was done by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps whose camp was located on the forest during the 1930s. Native hardwood of

the oak-hickory and beech-maple types and associated species of gum, aspen, ash, cherry and walnut occur on unplanted areas. Native white pine and hemlock are also found.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.):

Compartments C-1 through C-7 in the “C” Zone, 296 acres total, are scheduled to be cruised

No timber harvests are scheduled

Merchandising:

Any logs generated from the Columbia Gas’s Right-Of-Way clearing operations will be graded and be offered for sale to the public through the sealed bid process.

Minerals:

Monitor activities and communicate with Columbia Gas regarding their operation of the natural gas storage field under the forest. This field has 54 storage wells and about 13 miles of pipeline right-of-way located on the forest.

Invasives:

June 5, 2010, 12 volunteers spent 2 hours pulling Garlic Mustard on the forest and park. The volunteers were able to fill over 30 trash bags with the plant. The volunteers are planning a similar day in the spring of 2011 and hope for a larger turnout.

Working with the Division’s “Ohio Woodland Job Corp.” a five-person crew will focus on the removal of Bush Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose.

Boundary:

Approximately 8 miles of forest boundary will be repainted with yellow and/or red paint. Signage and boundary markers will also be checked and replaced as necessary.

Licenses/Leases:

Monitor Columbia Gas's leases and agreements to assure compliance when operating on the forest.

Monitor The Energy Cooperative (electric company) leases and agreements to assure compliance when operating on the forest

Insects & Disease:

An educational area in the Discovery Forest on the Emerald Ash Borer will be developed. The area will deal with the effects of the insect, ODA's quarantine and ideas for landowner on what they could do with the Ash trees on their wood lots.

Cooperate with the Ohio Department of Agriculture with their monitoring efforts of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Monitor for Gypsy Moth activity on the forest.

Cooperate with the American Chestnut Foundation in their research effort to bring back American Chestnut trees to North America.

Cooperate with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the US Forest Service with their monitoring efforts of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Utilization & Marketing:

Should the need arise, we will offer to the public firewood permits to allow the clean up of trees along roadways and facilities that have been brought down by weather related events.

Research:

Work with the US Forest Service with the Elm tree research project. The planted Elm trees are hoped to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. There are currently 30 trees planted in the research project that began in the summer of 2003.

Maintain the two acre American Chestnut planting in cooperation with the American Chestnut Foundation. This planting is enclosed by an eight foot high deer fence and was planted with 100% American Chestnuts in the spring of 2008. One hundred and forty-four hybrid American chestnut trees were added in the spring of 2009.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

Most all of the above projects are ongoing and are expected to last a numbers of years. The cruise schedule calls for compartments C5 C6 and C6 to be cruised in 2012 and C8, C9, C10 and C11 to be cruised in 2013. All these compartments are in the “C” zone.

V. Maintenance

Buildings:

Perform general maintenance, routine cleaning and repair to the 12 buildings and structures located on the forest.

1. Forest Office
2. Office Well House
3. Service Center
4. Long Garage
5. Saw Shop
6. Memorial Shrine
7. Shrine Latrine
8. Shrine Well House
9. Bridle Latrine #1
10. Bridle Latrine #2
11. Mountain Bike Latrine
12. Fire Tower

The Department of Youth Services has vacated their facility, the Mohican Youth Correctional Facility, which is located on the forest. By agreement the buildings and any contents left on the premises become the property of the Division of Forestry. The Division and the Department are actively seeking a new tenant/buyer for the facility. Until such time a new owner/tenant is found we will maintain the facility’s buildings, infrastructures and grounds to minimum standards.

An engraved granite bench, purchased by the Federation of Women’s Club, will be placed along the Shrine walkway.

Complete, to the extent we can, the “Friends of the Shrine” walkway at the Memorial Shrine. This project does not have enough paver to complete the project to its entirety.

Engraved pavers from the Shrine Walkway Project sales will be installed in the Memorial and Friends walkways.

Re-roof latrines at the Memorial Shrine and the Old Bridle Day Use Area.

Maintain the grounds around the: Memorial Shrine, Forest Office, Fire Tower, Old Bridle Day Use Area, Service Center, North and West Entrance Signs.

Lawn mowing is done by a service contract with Progress Industries for the Shrine, Old Bridle

Day Use Area and Fire Tower.

Bridle Volunteers provide lawn care for the New Bridle Day Use Area.

Grounds maintenance for the Forest Office, Service Center and Discovery Forest will be done by the forest crew.

Submit to engineering a request to replace the furnace in the Saw Shop.

No other major repairs are planned or anticipated.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities):

Replacement spot lights for the Shrine's flag will be replaced with something more vandal resistant.

Exposed electrical wiring in the basement of the forest office will be covered as recommended by BWC safety inspection.

The metal conduit in the well pump house will be removed and replaced with PVC conduit. This was also recommended by the BWC safety inspection.

Work with Mohican State Park to maintain the Public Water System wells at the Shrine and Forest office to Ohio EPA standards.

Day to day maintenance of the Mohican Youth Correctional Facility will be done by a contract vendor.

No other major repairs are planned or anticipated.

Vehicles/Equipment:

Continue the preventive maintenance, timely service and repairs to the unit's fleet of vehicles and equipment.

Vehicles:

- . • 2000 Ford Taurus
- . • 2003 Ford Expedition
- . • 1995 Chevy Pickup Truck
- . • 2001 Dodge Dakota
- . • 2009 Ford Pickup Truck
- . • 2000 International Dump Truck

Equipment:

- . • John Deere 350 Bulldozer
- . • Ford 6640 Tractor
- . • New Holland TS-90 Tractor

- Ford 5030 Tractor
- 20,000 lb GRVW Lowboy Trailer
- Polaris ATV (6 wheel drive)
- Polaris ATV (4 wheel drive)
- Honda ATV (4 wheel drive)
- Steiner 430 Riding Mower

The 2001 Dodge Dakota with over 100,000 will be submitted for replacement.

The 2000 Ford Taurus with 125,000-plus miles has been approved to be replaced.

Roads:

Mow/trim approximately 5 miles of park road sides 3 times annually.

Maintain all parking areas.

Signage:

Conduct annual inspection of forest signs, repairing and/or replacing as necessary.

Work with Mohican State Park on standardizing recreational signage within the forest and park.

Residences:

There are no residences located on the forest.

Dams:

There are no dams located on the forest.

Capitals Projects:

The Memorial Shrine walkway is in need of repair and grouting. Each side of the building needs the flower beds raised and a drainage system installed to protect the foundations from water damage. This project was submitted in 2008.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

With the exceptions noted above, no major repairs to the buildings and/or structures are anticipated in the next two to three years. With the exceptions noted above, no additional vehicle/equipment is anticipated to be requested for replacement. The exception may be the John Deere 350 Bulldozer. It is old and subject to mechanical failure that can result in costly repairs. We will monitor how costly repairs are becoming vs. a replacement request.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.):

Recreational bridges will be inspected annually for their integrity, needed repairs or replacement.

Evaluate the bridle and hiking trail systems for maintenance, repairs and improvements. Continue working with Volunteers to maintain 25 miles of bridle trail and two bridle day use areas.

Continue working with Volunteers to maintain 2 miles of hiking trail.

Continue to work with the Volunteers on the Hog Hollow foot bridge replacements.

Volunteers to maintain the 25 miles of mountain bike trail. We will support, to the extent we can, the Volunteers efforts in maintaining this trail system.

Promote, develop and maintain the Discovery Forest facility and trail system.

Campgrounds:

Campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, and other places where forest visitors congregate will be periodically inspected for hazard trees. Trees identified as being a possible hazard to forest visitors will be removed by the forest crew.

Maintain 10 Park and Pack camp sites. Continue working with Ashland County- West Holmes Career Center, Natural Resource class, in removing hazard limbs in and around the camp sites.

ATV Areas:

Continue working with Volunteers to maintain 6 miles of the snowmobile trail system.

Shooting Ranges:

There are no public shooting ranges on the forest.

Grants:

The northern forests have received a National Recreation Trails Program (NRTP) grant for equipment to maintain and repair trail systems on four state forests (Fernwood, Harrison, Maumee and Mohican). The grant period ends October 31, 2010.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

With the exception of foot bridge replacements, only routine maintenance to the trail systems and other facilities is expected. Foot bridge replacements on the Hog Hollow Trail are expected to take a number of years to complete due to the number of bridges, funds and availability of a labor force. The goal is to complete one or two bridges per year until the remaining 11 have been replaced.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression:

Aggressively suppress wildland fire starts within the forest.

When requested, support area fire departments in their suppression efforts with equipment, personnel and planning.

1. Bakersville VFD
2. Bladensburg Fire District
3. Coshocton City FD
4. Danville Fire Department
5. F. C. V. VFD
6. Glenmont Volunteer Fire Department
7. Holmes County Fire District #1
8. Jackson Township Fire Department
9. Killbuck Volunteer Fire Department
10. Loudonville Fire Department
11. Monroe-Lucas Volunteer Fire Department

12. Perrysville and Green Township VFD
13. Three Rivers Fire District
14. Walhonding Valley Fire District
15. West Lafayette Fire Department
16. Western Holmes County Fire District
17. Worthington Township Volunteer Fire Department

Prevention:

Support area fire departments and schools with their fire prevention activities.

Continue to work with Volunteers to maintain the Mohican Fire Tower for its historic and fire prevention message.

Prescribed Fire:

No prescribed fires are planned for the forest.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew:

Mohican staff members will be allowed to participate in the Division's Inter-Agency Fire Crew program as workloads allow.

Training:

Training will be offered to employees as workloads and the budget allows.

Annual red pack inspections (personal protective clothing and equipment) and fire shelter deployment training will be conducted in late winter before fire season.

Fire Department Contacts:

Contact each of the 17 cooperating fire departments in the Mohican Fire Protection Area to update our fire department information sheets.

Attend a fire association or fire department meeting in each of the 5 counties in the Mohican Fire Protection Area

FireWise:

Continue to promote the FireWise program within the Mohican Fire Protection Area.

FEPP/FFP:

Continue to complete annual inspections of federal property within our fire protection project.

- . • 1997 Ford Pickup Truck – West Lafayette Fire Department
- . • Military, 2 ½ ton, 6 x 6 – Walhonding Valley Fire District
- . • 1982 Mack 5,000 gallon Tank Truck – Western Holmes County Fire District

Continue to promote the participation of fire departments in the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP).

Grants:

Promote grant opportunities to area fire departments.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

In general, the Mohican Fire Protection Area does not have a major wildland fire problem. Even so, our goal is to be prepared to support and assist cooperating fire departments within the protection area with: prevention activities, wildland fire suppression and wildland fire training.

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus):

State forests currently have 10 fully commissioned law enforcement officers plus 3 commissioned managers. The purpose of retaining commissioned officers is to enforce the Forest Rules that are depicted within the Ohio Revised Code. One very important aspect of the Law Enforcement program is that of resource protection. Forest Officers protect property boundaries from encroachment, recreation resources from undesignated use, guard against timber theft and watch for signs of watershed degradation. Specific law enforcement policies and procedures are delineated within the Division of Forestry's Law Enforcement Manual

Training:

The Forest Officer will attend annual In-Service training, weapons re-qualification, first responder training (CPR and First Aid) and other mandatory training as required by the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy regulations, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Division of Forestry law enforcement policies.

Non-mandatory training will be offered to the officer as workloads and the budget allows.

Equipment:

Officer will be afforded all equipment listed in the Division's Law Enforcement manual.

Officer will be provided a patrol vehicle with a MARCS radio system, MCT, overhead light bar, siren and other equipment as listed in the Division's Law Enforcement manual.

No major equipment purchases/requests are anticipated.

Patrol Priorities:

1. Respond to emergencies and requests for help and give assistance within Officer's training and capabilities.
2. Protect and assist forest visitors through routine patrol and incident investigation.
3. Issue warnings or citations as warranted for Ohio Revised Code and Forest Rules violations.
4. Investigate assigned wildfire reports and issue warnings or citations for Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1503.18 violations.
5. Assist in special projects with other forests and other ODNR Divisions.

Special Projects:

Request special projects as needed to address specific issues/problems to maintain a safe and enjoyable experience for the forest visitor.

Work cooperatively with Mohican State Park on special projects affecting both agencies.

Assist other forests with special projects as workloads and the budget allows.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.):

Contact each court within the Mohican Fire Protection Area to update court information annually.

Conduct annual highway vehicle safety inspections on 6 unit vehicles.

Annually inspect all highway signs, repairing and/or replacing as necessary.

Annually inspect all gates, repairing and/or replacing as necessary.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

We expect the next 2 – 3 years to proceed as outlined above. No major equipment purchases/repairs are anticipated.

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

Tim Humphrey	Forest Manager
Matthew Rogers	Forest Officer 2
Mark Thompson	Forest Technician
Scott Cawood	Equipment Operator 2

All employees will attend the annual refresher training for CPR.

Employees will be allowed to participate in other safety related training as workloads and the budget allows.

The Forest Manager and the Forest Technician will attend the 2 forest management training sessions scheduled.

The Forest Manager and the Forest Technician will be given a chance to attend the Annual Forest Health meeting.

Safety:

Monthly safety meeting will be held for all employees.

Effectuated employees will attend annual respirator training and fit testing.

Employees will be provided with one pair of safety toed work boots.

Inspect and replace as needed employees hardhats, eye protection, hearing protection, chainsaw chaps and other PPE equipment.

Employees will be provided with two pairs of work gloves.
Conduct annual inspection of lock out/tag out tool boxes.

Other Employee Development:

Employees will be allowed to participate in professional development and educational training programs as workloads and the budget allows.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events:

Open House for Mohican-Memorial State Forest	July 28, 2010
OHC State Ride and Chili Cook-Off	September 18, 2010
Gold Star Mother's Memorial Service (Shrine)	September 26, 2010

Partnerships:

Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs
U. S. Forest Service
American Chestnut Foundation
Columbia Gas Transmission
Ashland County – West Holmes Career Center
Ohio State University
Ohio State University Extension Service
Mohican Chapter of the National Lookout Tower Association
Mohican State Park
Boy Scouts of America
17 Cooperating Fire Departments in Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes, Knox and Richland Counties
Mohican Protection Group
Ohio Department of Agriculture
Gorman Nature Center

Volunteers:

Cowboys for Jesus	Agreement expires: December 31, 2014
Holmes County OHC	Agreement expires: December 31, 2014
Wayne County OHC	Agreement expires: December 31, 2012
Mohican Trails Club	Agreement expires: June 30, 2014
Mohican/Malabar Mountain Bike Club	Agreement expires: December 31, 2011

Interpretive Programs:

A Self-Guide Tour brochure is being developed for the Discovery Forest.
An Emerald Ash Borer demonstration area is also being developed for the Discovery Forest.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

The Hog Hollow trail is in need of several foot bridge replacements. The Mohican Trail Club has replaced three of the bridges. The first bridge was a 32' bridge, the second and third were 40' bridges. We will continue to work with the volunteers to replace one or two of the bridges annually until they are all replaced.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): _____

(NOTE: Budget figures provided by Columbus Fiscal and developed with District Forester and Forest Manager. Attach Copy.)

Revenue:

Columbia Gas Donation	\$5,000.00
Log sale from Columbia Gas Clearings	\$26,248.75
Log sale from ODOT's S.R. 97 Drape Project	\$2,020.00
Total:	\$33,268.75

Summary (2-3 year projected budget):

Budgets are predicted to remain very tight for fiscal year 2012 and 2013. This will present a challenge for managers to find new ways to keep the day to day operations at an expectable level.