# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

# **Division of Forestry**

### **Annual Work Plan**

For

Hocking State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year FY11
(July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011)



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<u>6-18-2010</u> (Date)	Date

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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

- Manage Hocking State Forest under the multiple use concept promoting land management, forest sustainability, and back country recreation.
- Implement new policies as presented in the revised Land Management Manual that will support third party certification.
- Continue to develop employee skills and abilities through training thereby improving productivity and efficiency.

#### III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Since 1924, Hocking State Forest has been managed through application of the multiple use concept. Foresters are able to enhance areas for visitors to enjoy many outdoor activities including hiking, camping, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, rock climbing and rappelling, and horseback riding. These benefits are in addition to growing highly desirable timber for wood products.

One very unique challenge that Hocking State Forest encompasses is that most of its land base is fragmented with private ownership sometimes surrounding entire tracts of land of State Of Ohio lands. Access, land topography, and water courses also challenges land managers to fulfill land management goals and objectives. Forest vegetation is a special attraction of Hocking State Forest. Plant species commonly found farther north mix with typically southern species to provide an unusual variety of native plant life and associated wildlife.

With it unique rock formations and cliffs edges, different types of wildlife are commonly observed by many visitors. Also, with these unique sandstone formations, what lies below the surface has created a natural storage field for natural gas. Numerous gas storage wells and transmission line transverse all of Hocking State Forest.

Plantations of red and white pine plantations still exist from plantings of seedlings on abandoned farm fields. These stands of native and planted pines often indicate where corn and wheat once grew on subsistence farms in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Early aerial photos clearly show how forest management has changed forest vegetation.

Hocking State Forest also surrounds many State Parks and State Nature Preserves including Hocking Hills State Park, Ash Cave, Cedar Falls, Cantwell Cliffs, Rock House, Conkle's Hollow, Sheick and Little Rocky Hollows. Many visitors travel directly through a managed forest just to visit their favorite park.

#### IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.): Following is a listing of management activities that have been presented through an open house, marked, and will be sold in the next several months.

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial
Hocking	D-13	188,292	383	17	0	0
Hocking	D-15	794,480	2,138	55	27	0
Hocking	C-10 Pine	0	1,366	27	0	0
Hocking	D-3 Pine	0	1,378	6	0	24
Hocking	C-3	58,438	3850	25	0	33

Following is a listing of management activities that were inventoried this past year and are being proposed to be implemented this coming winter.

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial
Hocking	B-10	584536	2125	32.5	22.5	79
Hocking	D-14	154767	1280	0	0	56.5

Following is a table listing the compartments that will be inventoried this year.

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Hocking	B-6	205
Hocking	C-11	48

Following is a listing of compartments that will receive noncommercial timber stand improvement activities.

	State Forest			Work
Ī	Hocking	D-14	103	Mechanical Control of Grapevines
Ī	Hocking	Various	1050	Chemical invasive and grapevine control

Merchandising: All proposed timber sales are reviewed prior to individual sale with the assistance from the District Forester and the Land Management Forester in Chillicothe District office. If potential of the individual sale warrants the possibility of merchandising type sale, it may be advertised as such. One sale at Hocking State Forest the may warrant Merchandising in FY11 is compartment D13 and includes 20 acres.

Minerals: Columbia Gas Transmission has a vast storage area for Natural Gas in Hocking State Forest. Many well sites dot the surface where wellheads are located to store Natural Gas shipped to Ohio from the Gulf of Mexico and Natural Gas shipped on the REX Pipeline. These fields are used to store reserves of natural gas and to supply gas to Columbus, Dayton and other metropolitan areas when supply is needed. Numerous transmission lines transverse the topography and connect to major distribution lines throughout Central Ohio. Land managers work closely with Columbia Gas staff to ensure safety of visitors to Hocking State Forest.

*Invasives:* Invasive species are a challenge at Hocking State Forest. Tree of heaven, multiflora rose, autumn olive are some of the woody invasive species that have been targeted for control. Vegetative management on right of ways, roadside edges, and regeneration areas are monitored by foresters for control. Participation in the Ohio Woodland Job Corps will greatly assist getting started on management of some of these species. All invasive control projects utilize the noncommercial project proposal process. Acreage targets are listed in the noncommercial timber stand improvement table.

Boundary: All of the Division of Forestry boundaries are maintained to ensure location of property lines in the field. Once every four (4) years, boundaries are repainted to ensure location and to review if any obstructions have been placed on Division of Forestry lands. ODNR Division of Forestry Forest Officers work closely with Land managers to ensure security of land boundaries. Hocking State Forest crews manually paint approximately 20 miles of boundary each year at Hocking State Forest to complete this mandated policy of boundary maintenance. All boundaries are painted in yellow for easy recognition in the field.

Licenses/Leases: This is an ongoing event at Hocking State Forest with natural gas storage, right of way entry requests for access of utilities, land management Activities, and access to isolated areas from public roads. Each request is reviewed by the manager and submitted to the District Forester for individual review.

Insects & Disease: Land managers at Hocking State Forest continually review forests invasion or occurrence of disease or insects. Gypsy moth prevention includes spaying of isolated areas; Hemlock Wooley Adelgid has had random sampling and review; Emerald Ash Borer is monitored by the Ohio Department of Agriculture as well as state forest staff. All of these monitoring and samplings occur with partnerships from Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State Extension, and Division of Forestry specialists to constantly monitor forest health of Hocking State Forest.

*Utilization & Marketing:* Forest products will continue to be offered for sale through both the traditional state forest timber sales (stumpage) and merchandising sales. Additionally, firewood permits will be available for sale to the public.

Research: Currently no ongoing research projects are taking place within the Hocking State Forest. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or group. The only requirement being a special use permit that needs to be applied for and approved for the activity.

Summary (2-3 year projects): Implement a stand based cruise schedule based on the comprehensive inventory and a growth and yield model. Try to identify sites at least two years ahead of scheduled treatment.

#### V. <u>Maintenance</u>

Buildings: All buildings at Hocking State Forest were built between 1937 to 1971. Maintenance items are prioritized annually and as maintenance budgets allow, small projects are completed using Hocking State Forest Crew. Buildings at Hocking State Forest include the following: Five (5) Bay Storage Building; Ten (10) Bay Storage Building; Service Center; Office Building; Warehouse; Oil House; Pump House; Post Plant Building; Laundry Building; Gatwood two (2) Bay Storage Building. Projects planned for completion in FY11 include:

- 1. Concrete block installation of old walk thru door in Service Center
- 2. Gutter and downspout repair on 5 bay storage building
- 3. Gutter and downspout repair on 10 bay storage building
- 4. Garage Door installation on Warehouse
- 5. Garage Door installation on 5 bay storage building
- 6. Vinyl siding installation on gable ends of Warehouse
- 7. Electric service installation in Gatwood Storage Building

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Most infrastructure at Hocking State Forest is aging and in need of repair. Items currently being reviewed thru ODNR Division of Engineering include:

- 1. Wastewater system replacement (out to bid and pending)
- 2. Water system was installed in Mid 1950's and is need of major improvements

Vehicles/Equipment: All vehicle service is completed by Hocking State Forest Crews and is completed on a planned schedule. Equipment listing is below:

Equipment	Model	Year	Highway Use	Forest Use	Application
					Land
Ford Pickup	F150	1999	Yes	Yes	Management
					Land
Ford Pickup	F150	2008	Yes	Yes	Management
Ford Pickup	F250	2009	Yes	Yes	Law Enforcement
					Land
GMC Pickup	1500	2006	Yes	Yes	Management
Famil Distant	E050 0	0000		V	Land
Ford Pickup	F250 Crew	2006	Yes	Yes	Management
Freightliner	FL-112	2002	Yes	Yes	Equipment Transfer
Freignuinei	FL-112	2002	162	165	Equipment
Chevrolet	C65	1978	Yes	Yes	Transfer
Chevrolet	C60	1973	Yes	Yes	Material Transfer
Chevrolet	C70	1989	Yes	Yes	Material Transfer
Cheviolet	070	1909	162	165	Land
Dodge	2500	2005	Yes	Yes	Management
Douge	2500	2003	103	103	Fire, Trails, Land
John Deere	450G	1982	No	Yes	Mgt
001111 2 0010	1000	.002	110	100	Fire, Trails, Land
IHI Crawler	30	2004	No	Yes	Mgt
FC Dozer	D7000	1999	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
Case Skid Steer	440	2007	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
John Deere	5200 Tractor	1996	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
John Deere	6400 Tractor	1996	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
	0.00			1.00	Fire, Trails, Land
Caterpillar	D3B Dozer	1981	No	Yes	Mgt
•					Fire, Trails, Land
Belshe	Trailer 20"	1980	Yes	Yes	Mgt
					Fire, Trails, Land
Beverage	Trailer Utility	2002	Yes	Yes	Mgt
					Fire, Trails, Land
Honda	300 Quad	1999	No	Yes	Mgt
Honda	450 Quad	2003	No	Yes	Law Enforcement
					Fire, Trails, Land
Honda	350 Quad	2001	No	Yes	Mgt
l la a da	500 O	0005	NIa	Van	Fire, Trails, Land
Honda	500 Quad	2005	No	Yes	Mgt
Clark ForkLift	GPS 15	1993	No	Yes	Material Transfer
Bush-hog Mower	3710	2006	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Bush-hog	3/10	2000	INU	169	Nuaus, Access
Mower	590	1980	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Bush-hog	550	1300	1,10	100	110000, 7100000
Mower	592	1965	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Dixie Chopper	Mower	2009	No	Yes	Lawn Care
Toro	Mower	2004	No	Yes	Lawn Care
Steiner	Mower	1978	No	Yes	Lawn Care
3.001		1070			Fire, Trails, Land
Finn	Blower	1972	Yes	No	Mgt
****		<u> </u>			

Scheduled Maintenance on the above mention equipment is as follows:

- 1. Routine Maintenance on all highway vehicles
- 2. Highway Vehicle inspections completed annually
- 3. Annual service to off-road equipment (oil, filter, lube, etc.)
- 4. Steering Clutch/Brake repair to Cat D3 dozer
- 5. Bolt replacement on steel tracks on Case 440 Skid Steer
- 6. Repainting of Cat D3 Dozer
- 7. Service and repair of lawn maintenance equipment
- 8. Service and repair of trail maintenance equipment

Roads: Hocking State Forest has no designated forest roads. Most roads at the forest are used for land management purposes and are not open to public vehicular travel. Maintenance planned for FY11 include the following:

- 1. All service roads are mowed annually- approximately 60 miles.
- 2. All service roads and culverts are checked after main storm events and cleared if needed to ensure drainage functions.
- 3. Brush removal is planned for Cedar Falls Road, Airplane Rock Road, Cantwell Cliff Road, Spruce Run Road, and Gordon Road.
- 4. All road gates are checked for locks, condition, and replaced with pipefabricated gates as needed.
- 5. Drainage work is planned in Spruce Run, Big Woods, and Cedar Falls Roads.
- 6. Signage replacement is completed as needed.

Signage: All wood signs are reviewed annually for possible repair or replacement as needed. All signage around access road entrance gates will be replaced where needed and three (3) new entrance gates will be installed (Kreashbaum) area in FY11.

Information signs are planned this year around selected post harvest areas to inform the public on what type of harvest activities have recently occurred and what future management activities are planned for these areas.

Residences: Hocking State Forest currently has three (3) remaining residences all of which are currently vacant and planned for demolition. These homes are at Cantwell Cliffs (House and Barn); and near the Forest Headquarters. Hocking State Forest Crew will reclaim all of these sites after the homes are removed, pending advertisement. The pole building on the Gatwood tract will be saved and utilized for equipment or material storage.

Dams: No water holding dams at Hocking State Forest require inspection.

Capitals Projects: Some of the requested projects at Hocking State Forest include:

- 1. Water system replacement
- 2. Septic system pump station renovation

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to identify projects with priorities focused on public and employee health and safety.

#### VI. Recreation

*Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.)*: Hocking State Forest has many recreational opportunities. This includes forty miles of bridle trails, and nine miles of hiking trails. All trails will be monitored after each significant storm event for maintenance needs. In this fiscal year treads will be replaced on the Ash Cave Fire Tower to ensure public safety.

Campgrounds: Hocking State Forest only has one (1) campground and it is designated for horsemen only. This primitive campground continues to be very popular and is used by horsemen at all times of the year. Over 60,000 riders per year visit the trails at Hocking State Forest. This level of activity requires many maintenance needs throughout the year. Standard maintenance activities include: regular monitoring and cleaning of sanitary facilities; disposal of animal wastes; and repair of horse ties and parking pads.

ATV Areas: None at Hocking State Forest

Shooting Ranges: None at Hocking State Forest

*Grants:* Additional RTP grant funds will be sought during the fiscal year for bridle trail repair and improvements. RTP funds have been used in the past for trail grading, stabilization, improved drainage, and resurfacing. Long Hollow trail, Spruce Run, and sections of the Red trail and Purple trail are priorities for future work.

#### VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Hocking State Forest is responsible for these duties in Hocking and Fairfield Counties. Division employees serve as initial attack resources within the forest boundaries and assist VFD's outside the forest boundaries, when requested. Most requests involve the use of heavy equipment.

Prevention: No prevention activity is planned this fiscal year.

Prescribed Fire: Two prescribed fires are proposed for this year in compartment B-7. These areas total approximately 650 acres.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: The Interagency Fire Crew supports the national effort to suppress wildland fire to protect lives, personal property and natural resources. Participation is strictly voluntary, but all employees are encouraged to participate in the program.

*Training:* Members of the Interagency Fire Crew will attend one (1) Interagency Refresher Class. The Fundamentals of Wildland Fire course will be taught in each county, if requested.

Fire Department Contacts: The Forest Officer will attend at least one VFD association meeting in the protection area each month. Annually the officer will contact each department and complete the division's VFD contact information forms.

FireWise: Hocking will continue to support the FireWise program.

FEPP/FFP: The Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program is a program administered by the Division of Forestry that loans equipment to fire departments for their use in fire control. Division of Forestry staff a minimum of once each year must inspect loaned equipment.

*Grants:* The Division of Forestry administers several grant opportunities for volunteer fire companies. Hocking Forest will promote the opportunities to local VFD's.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Explore the use of prescribed fire for oak regeneration purposes. Become more active in fire prevention programs such as FireWise.

#### **VIII.** Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus): State Forests currently have ten (10) commissioned law enforcement officers and three (3) commissioned managers. The purposed of the positions is to enforce the forest rules depicted in the Ohio Revised Code. One very important aspect of the program is resource protection. Forest Officers protect property boundaries from encroachment, recreation resources from undesignated uses, guard against timber theft and watch for watershed degradation. Specific law enforcement polices and procedures are delineated in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual.

Training: Commissioned officers will receive the following training: Weapons qualifications, law enforcement in-service training, remain current with CPR and First Aid, TASR certification. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

Equipment: Officer will be issued all equipment listed in the division's law enforcement manual. Each officer will be expected to properly maintain all issued equipment. It is planned in FY10 to replace rope rescue equipment (ropes and harnesses) used in rope rescue operations at Hocking State Forest

Patrol Priorities: Priorities for patrol will be established utilizing the following criteria:

- 1. Responding to emergencies and help requests with jurisdiction
- 2. Protect and assist visitors through routine patrol of all facilities and incident investigation
- 3. Issue warnings and citations for violations
- 4. Investigate and assign wildfire reports for violations
- 5. Assist in special projects with other forests and agencies

Special Projects: Special projects are worked depending upon need. Undesignated trail use and illegal trash dumping at Hocking State Forest are two targeted project areas for FY11.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): The Forest Officer will visit county courts and prosecutors at least once per year for updates on bond schedules, court dates, and judge and prosecutor information.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to focus on projects to protect user safety and positive visitor experiences.

#### IV. <u>Employee Development</u>

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

David Glass, Manager Charlie Lee, Forester James Pfarr, Forest Officer Heath Boggs, Equipment Operator Tony Duncan, Equipment Operator Mark Lowe, Equipment Operator

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Hocking State Forest will maintain a highly trained and well equipped work force via on going training, tuition reimbursement for education requested. Each employee will attend annual CPR and First Aid class. Forest Manager and Forester will attend the Forest Health meeting.

Safety: Each employee will attend a monthly safety meeting. Required personnel will participate in the annual respirator fit test.

#### X. <u>Public Information/Outreach</u>

Planned Events: Hocking State Forest will be represented at Open Houses held at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest Headquarters August of 2009.

Hocking State Forest crews also assist closely with the following Information and Education Programs:

- 1. Farm Science Review
- 2. Hocking Hills Winter Hike
- 3. Paul Bunyan Show

Partnerships: Hocking State Forest has worked and will continue to work with various groups including:

- 1. The Ohio Trail Partnership (OTP)
- 2. Hocking College Rappelling Students
- 3. Hocking County Commissioners
- 4. Township Trustees
- 5. Hocking Hills State Park
- 6. Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

*Volunteers:* Volunteers assist with many projects here at Hocking State Forest. Members providing assistance include:

- 1. Buckeye Trail Association
- 2. Ohio Horsemen's Council
- 3. Rock Climbing and Rappelling Visitors

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Hocking State Forest will continue to use as many volunteer hours as possible.

#### XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): Following is last year's budgetary allotments:

SFY 2010

Budget	DNR150095	Hocking Region		
500	Payroll		GRF	\$376,409
		BOGGS,HEATH A	EQUIPMENT OPR1	****
		DUNCAN, TONY A	EQUIPMENT OPR2	****
		GLASS,DAVID L	FOREST MANAGER 3	****
		LEE JR,CHARLES H	FORESTER	****
		LOWE,MARK R	EQUIPMENT OPR2	****
		PFARR,JAMES M	FOREST OFF 2	****
		OT		\$2,695
		Federal Fire OT		\$1,120
510	Personal Services		Fund 5090	\$250
		Misc Prof Development		\$250
520	Supplies & Maint		Fund 5090	\$76,064
		General Operating		\$45,000
		Vehicles		
		Utilities		
		Supplies		
		Dozer Repair Transfer		\$7,079
		RTP Grant Supplies		\$23,985
530	Equipment		Fund 5090	\$0
550	Subsidies			\$0
570	Capital			\$0
590	Settlements & Boi	nds - Refunds		\$0
591	Debt Service			\$0
			Total	\$452,723

Revenue: Revenue sources for Hocking State Forest include: Royalties from Columbia Gas Storage Wells, Timber Sales proceeds, Fuel wood permits, Special Use permits.

Summary (2-3 year projected budget): Future budgets cannot be anticipated since the State of Ohio budget for the next two fiscal years has not been passed by the General Assembly.