Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Shawnee State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **2012**
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

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June 11, 2011
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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 Shawnee State Forest under the multiple use concept promoting land management, forest sustainability, and back country recreation.
- Implement policies presented in the revised Land Management Manual that will maintain third party certification.
- Continue to develop employee skills and abilities through training thereby improving productivity and efficiency.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Shawnee State Forest, also called "The Little Smokies of Ohio," has developed into the largest of the 20 state forests, with approximately 63,747 acres located in Scioto and Adams Counties. The Forest is a fantastic recreation feature in Southern Ohio, and is also a working forest. It is managed to provide a variety of multiple uses on a sustained yield basis.

Once inhabited by the Shawnee Indians, Shawnee State Forest came into existence in 1922 with the purchase of 5,000 acres of land, which had been cut over for timber and ravaged by fire. During that same year, land acquisition was begun for the Theodore Roosevelt Game Preserve. In the mid-1800s and early 1900s, building stone was quarried from Vastine and Cabbage Patch hollows. The stone was moved by railroad to the Ohio River and loaded on barges. Much of the stone was used in the construction of buildings in Cincinnati.

In the 1930s, six (6) Civilian Conservation Corps camps were located in the forest. During this period, many of the roads were constructed in the then nearly inaccessible area. Many other accomplishments resulted, including five small lakes that were built to serve as water supplies for the camps.

Following the creation of the Department of Natural Resources in 1949, the recreational facilities at Roosevelt Lake were transferred to the Division of Parks. The Roosevelt Game Preserve, by a 1951 agreement between the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, became a part Shawnee State Forest.

In 1972, nearly 8,000 acres of the forest was administratively designated as a wilderness area. In 1988, a House Bill was passed to statutorily protect this area. Timber management activities and public motorized travel have been eliminated in the area. A Backcountry Management Area was created in 1998 to further diversify Shawnee State Forest's management and recreational opportunities.

Another major influence on Shawnee State Forest was the Ice Storm of 2003. This ice storm resulted in much downed woody debris. Many trees became uprooted and fell over; some snapped off at the trunk, and excessive amounts of limbs were broken from the treetops. This weather event created a higher fuel loading on the forest floor, stressed living trees, and caused a reduction in growth and vigor, along with other impacts to the forested environment.

The ice storm also introduced additional stress on the already declining white oak (*Quercus alba*) population. This white oak decline is a symptom of many different influences including root disease and years of stress introduced by several species of insect. Throughout the forest, much white oak mortality can be found.

The above descriptions are just some of the influences on the management of Shawnee State Forest. The Division of Forestry is striving to address the impacts while continuing to improve recreational opportunities. It is a working forest, so timber harvesting, tree planting, wildlife habitat, forestry research, watershed and soil protection, and production of tree seeds are all in a day's work for forest employees and many local residents.

It should also be noted that during the spring and fall forest fire danger periods, Division of Forestry crews detect and suppress wildfires that occur on state and private lands within the surrounding protection area.

The following document will highlight the annual work planning for Shawnee State Forest. It is written on a fiscal year basis and will provide direction for the upcoming year's activities. Employees are directed to complete projects with public and employee safety being top priority.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices: Workflow Timeline:

Summer:

- Continue to verify inventory data and write prescriptions for the stands that should be harvested.
- Review prescription reports written during the previous year to determine what will be marked and marketed for future sales.

Fall:

- Complete inventory verification and prescription writing
- Begin painting sale boundaries

Winter:

- Within the upcoming selection harvest sales, mark trees to be removed with paint. Write Marking Estimates
- Collect volume data by cruising shelterwood and regeneration harvest sales. Write Marking Estimates

Spring:

- Continue marking harvests. Finalize Marking Estimates
- Continue volume cruising. Finalize Marking Estimates
- Begin inventory verification and prescription writing

*Timber sale administration occurs throughout the year depending on weather; however, the majority of administration occurs from early spring to early winter.

The following areas are marked but have not yet been sold:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	**Compartment**	**Vol. Bd. Ft.**	**Tons**	**Clearcut**	**Shelterwood/ Deferment**	**Select/Partial**
Shawnee	D-27	596,803	2623	7	64	
Shawnee	F-7	361,057	900		24	98
Shawnee	A-21	204,330	792	30		
Shawnee	F-10	310,894	1,504		77	
Shawnee	F-11	191,196	637	23		
Shawnee	B24/25	202,757	634	40		

The following is a listing of the sales that will be marked in FY 12:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	**Compartment**	**Vol. Bd. Ft.**	**Tons**	**Clearcut**	**Shelterwood**	**Select/Partial**
Shawnee	A-12	1,588,000	4,880	23	221	
Shawnee	A-33	345,000	1,200		60	
Shawnee	B-4	202,000	1,220	30		
Shawnee	D-45	342,000	2,000	100		
Shawnee	F-6	387,000	936		29	100
Shawnee	F-13	657,000	1,480		74	
Shawnee	G-16	199,000	940	47		
Shawnee	G-5	199,000	806	25		
Shawnee	Ice Damage Misc. Comp. (See Map)	1,756,833	6,200	248		

This year, in select state forests, the division will transition to a stand based cruising model built upon data obtained by the 2009 forest inventory project. Silvicultural activities will be proposed in fiscal year 2013 based on the stand verification cruise reports completed by division personnel. Listed below are a combination of stands that will comprise the individual reports during the period of this workplan.

Cruises Schedules		
Forest	**Compartments***	**Acres**
Shawnee	A-25, A-26, A-27, A-28, A-29, A-30, A-31, B-6, B-14, B-15, B-16	614
Shawnee	A-31, A-32, A-33, A-34, B-1	188
Shawnee	B-27, B-28, C-1, C-2, C-30	275
Shawnee	E-5, E-6, E-8, E-9	270
Shawnee	E-7	203
Shawnee	E-13, E-14, G-2, G-3, G-4, G-6, G-7	679
Shawnee	G-10, G-11, G-12, G-13, G-17	382
Shawnee	F-6, F-7, F-8, F-9, F-10, F-11, F-12, F-13, F-15, F-16, F-17, F-18	734
Shawnee	F-23, F-24, F-25, F-52	338
Shawnee	G-36, G-37, G-38, G-40, G-42, G-43, G-44, G-45, G-46, G-51	420

**Only selected stands in the compartments will be visited.*

Merchandising: The Division of Forestry will continue merchandising a limited portion of its scheduled management activities. This effort will consist of hiring a Master Logging company, through completive bidding, to cut and deliver tree length logs to a centralized location where Division of Forestry personnel will manufacture them into sellable and sorted products. This process maximizes the Division's rate of return for its products. The Division's staff will continue to identify sales for merchandizing throughout the year. To date no merchandizing sales have occurred at Shawnee.

Invasive Species and Timber Stand Improvement: There are many locations throughout Shawnee State Forest that suffer from invasive species. Four

crewmembers with the Ohio Woodlands Job will have the opportunity to continue invasive species treatments. The OWJC program will occur at Shawnee from June to December 2011. Division staff will identify areas to control throughout the year through the project proposal process.

Boundary: The property boundary surrounding Shawnee State Forest is estimated to contain over 200 miles of line. Boundary is typically maintained on a five (5) year cycle. In FY 12 the forest crew will again begin to refresh the boundary paint surrounding the forest. This year the crew will paint ¼ of the total boundary yielding approximately 50 miles of maintenance for the year. All forest boundaries will be marked according to Division Policy. Any evidence of encroachment is reported to the Forest Officer for investigation.

Minerals: There are no wells or other mineral activities at Shawnee.

Insects & Disease: Foresters and staff will continue to monitor for invasive / exotic / epidemic insects and diseases. Various methods are employed in this identification process. Foresters and staff are trained to identify the causal agents during fieldwork. Insect and disease surveys conducted by employees and organizations, not directly related to Shawnee State Forest, are often utilized. These include but are not limited to the Ohio Department of Agriculture Gypsy Moth Aerial Survey. Any impacts from the current outbreak of the jumping oak gall will be monitored by forest staff.

Licenses/Leases: No licenses or leases are expected in the next fiscal year.

Utilization & Marketing: Along with the products resulting from silvicultural treatments, firewood sales allow for additional marketing of wood products. These public firewood sales utilize wood that normally would not have any other value and provides a venue for Shawnee Forest staff to dispose of wood from storm debris and hazard trees. Public firewood sales also promote positive public relations.

The Forest Operations Crew will:

- When feasible, remove hazard trees from the higher use areas such as roadsides, hiking trails, camps, and bridle trails.
- Remove downed trees and woody debris from roads, roadsides, hiking and bridle trails, and camps when obstructing travel and recreation.

The Shawnee Forest Manager will work with the District Manager to determine what woody material, and how much woody material; will be utilized during firewood sales. Firewood may also be relocated, by the forest crew, to a central location in order to allow for more public convenience and safety during firewood collection. Logging debris, suitable for firewood, may also be utilized. In years past, a flat area in the old CCC camp has been used.

In FY 2010, Shawnee State Forest issued 101 firewood permits. A similar number of permits are expected to be sold in FY 2012.

- The Forest Manager will distribute and track Firewood permits. A spreadsheet with number of permits sold per fiscal year will suffice. Forest Officers and other staff may also issue firewood permits according to policy

Research: Over the years, numerous studies have taken place on the forest. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or group. A special use permit must be applied for and the activity must be approved by the Chief of the Division of Forestry.

High Conservation Value Forest Monitoring: Maintaining and promoting the features that make areas designated HCVF's is important to the Division of Forestry. To accomplish this task we will partner with the Division of Wildlife's Biodiversity Program to monitor a select number of Zone 1 areas each year. This year Snake Hollow and Rock Run Zone I-A areas will be monitored.

Summary (Future Projects): Implement post harvest cruising to better develop the growth & yield model. Develop a backlog of scheduled sales to project at least 2 years of proposed treatments.

V. Maintenance

Buildings: Throughout Shawnee State Forest, there are a total of nine (9) buildings: office, carpenter shop, mechanics garage, parking garage, heavy equipment garage, wash house, oil house, restroom building at the Bear Lake Horse Camp, and two (2) residences. Copperhead Fire Tower is also included in this section. The Forest Operations Crew will be responsible for the following:

- Routine maintenance on all buildings.
- Routine upkeep on all buildings. Workspaces will be kept neat and organized.
- Staff will be responsible for keeping their offices clean and organized. Office space must be reasonably neat and presentable at all times. Each will also contribute to keeping the bathrooms in the office clean and sanitary.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): There are no projects planned this fiscal year.

Vehicles/Equipment

Backhoe,Case	Four Wheelers (2)

Dozer, 450G John Deere	Tar Kettle
Dozer, 450H John Deere	APV – Polaris Ranger (2)
Tractor and Trailer (1)	Chainsaws (14)) *includes OWJC
Dozer Transports (3)	Weedeaters (12) *includes OWJC
Skid Steer, Case	Blowers (5)
Road Graders, Champion (2)	Commercial Air Compressor w/ trailer
Dump Trucks, (3)	Cement Mixer, Gasoline
Loader, Prentice	Wood Spliter
Trailers (5)	Generators (2)
Pickup Trucks (14) *includes OWJC trucks	Water Pump
Pumper Trucks (2)	Air Compressors (3)
Vans (1)	Power Washer
Tractor, Massey Ferguson	Mechanics and Carpentry Tools, Misc
Tractors (6)	Forestry Tools, Misc
Riding Mowers (7)	Hand Tools, Misc

The actual vehicle inventory may vary. The above list is useful for work planning only. All Forest Staff will be responsible for the following:

- All vehicles and equipment will be maintained and in working order.
- Diesel fuel, gasoline, oil, and other maintenance supplies will be purchased as necessary.
- The Maintenance and Repair Worker 2 will keep fuel books and maintenance records current.

Roads and Bridges: Shawnee State Forest includes over 70 miles of roads, over 60 bridges, and approximately 1000 culvert and header systems. Forest Operations Crew and the Forest Manager will be responsible for the following planned workload as well as other issues as they arise:

- Perform Ohio Department of Transportation Scope of Services request once per fiscal year by inventorying road conditions as well as drain tile and header conditions.
- Inspect headers annually, clean and maintain as needed.
- Utilize Massey Ferguson tractor with ditcher head to maintain ditches along hard roads as needed.
- Utilize road graders to grade gravel roads and maintain ditches as needed
- Clear debris from roads as needed.
- Litter pick up as needed.
- Perform annual ODOT work order request.
- Assist in annual ODOT inspections.
- Patch potholes as needed.
- Repair slips as needed.
- Repair bridges and guardrails as needed.

- All access roads will be formally inventoried, mapped, and an inspection report will be completed. The results of the inspection report will guide the maintenance efforts of the forest staff.

Approximate Road Mileages
(Dec. 2001)

Forest Road #1 – 16.7 Miles	**Forest Road #17 -- 2.3 Miles**
Forest Road #2 -- 13.1	**Forest Road #18 -- 0.6**
Forest Road #3 -- 3.8	**Forest Road #19 -- 2.3**
Forest Road #4 -- 4.6	**Forest Road #22 -- 0.2**
	Forest Road #23 -- 0.8
Forest Road #5 -- 0.9	**Forest Road #25 -- 0.6**
Forest Road #6 -- 11.8	**Forest Road #33 -- 0.4**
Forest Road #8 -- 1.5	**Forest Road #34 -- 0.1**
Forest Road #9 -- 2.1	**Forest Road #35 -- 0.3**
Forest Road #13 -- 3.9	**Forest Road #40 -- 0.1**
Forest Road #14 -- 4.1	**Forest Road #54 -- 0.2**
Forest Road #16 -- 0.3	

NORTH SIDE -- 35.9 MILES
SOUTH SIDE -- 34.8 MILES
TOTAL -- 70.7 MILES

Mowing: Roadside mowing at Shawnee Forest is utilized in order to increase visibility and public safety and will be conducted according to the Forest Manager's discretion. When roadsides are not mowed properly, forward visibility, ditch visibility, and road edge visibility may become a safety issue. Damage to ditch and drainage systems as well as road surfaces may also occur due to overgrown vegetation. Roadside mowing is extremely important in maintaining infrastructure and public safety.

Shawnee State Forest's roadside mowing practice also recognizes plants of special concern and roadside habitat as an important aspect of the forest ecology and visitor enjoyment. These mowing practices are the result of considerations to public safety, the importance of roadside ecology, and the enjoyment of roadside habitats as a form of recreation. Forest staff will strive to implement roadside mowing practices that balance these diverse necessities of our road systems.

- Early mowing will be minimized but will provide for public safety. The remaining portions of the roadside habitat will not be mowed until after mid-October (after the leaves fall) allowing for the roadside plants to thrive throughout the growing season.
- Minimum mowing on forest roads leading to residences may be mowed for public safety at any time. After mid-October, the further reaching boom mowers will then be utilized.

- Mowing will begin in June. At this point in the growing season, it is very crucial to mow the immediate roadsides due to the lack of visibility of oncoming traffic, the road edge, the ditches, bridges, and culvert headers.
- From June until mid-October, minimum-mowing techniques will be utilized to accomplish the public safety mowing described above. In most areas, this mowing will create a mow zone that is several feet in from the road. This will occur on all of the estimated 70 miles of road.
- After mid-October, additional mowing will occur on one third of the road system per year. The mowing will be as far back as a boom mounted mower will reach and will focus on controlling the encroachment of woody plants. This will create a three (3) year rotation approach to mowing, in which each third of the road system will receive treatment once every three years. Variations and adjustments may be made to address public safety.

Special roadside management areas:

- Rd. 16 (Lampblack Bridle Trail) No mowing until after mid October.
- Bridle Trails #5 and #7 will be mowed "between Nov. 15 and March 15 after plants set fruit." Per BCMA plan.
- North side of Rt. 125 – From Shawnee Lodge sign west to the end of State property. Approximately 100 yards. Do not spray. Four signs to that effect placed there 6/13/02.

Area Mowing:

- Field mowing will occur as needed on several fields through out Shawnee State Forest. There are approximately 11 fields that will be brush hogged once a year after mid October. This includes fields on Road 1, Road 3, the Buena Vista residence and tree plantation. There are occasions where additional area mowing may occur at the Forest Manager's discretion.
- Finish mowing occurs as needed depending on growth. These areas include, but may not be limited to: Shawnee State Forest Headquarters, Bear Lake area, Road 1 entrance, Hobey Hollow entrance, intersection of Roads 1 and 4, the triangle on Road 4, Lombardsville entrance, Copperhead Vista, two places on Road 3, Wolfden Lake area, Picnic Point, Tanager Vista, Nace's Run Vista, Road 13 Vista, Road 2 Vista, McBride Lake Area, Shawnee Lake Area, Churn Creek Lake Area, Road 23 Vista, and other entrances.
- Moore's Run Bridal Trail entrance is mowed by the Ohio Valley Horseman's Association, Scioto County Chapter.

Weeding:

- Trimmers are utilized around road signs, bridges, headers and other areas as needed.

Overall:

- Assess area mowing to identify places where mowing can be postponed until fall to allow for increase roadside habitat ecology and visitor enjoyment.

Signage: Signage will be replaced as needed. They will either be purchased or constructed by forestry staff. Evaluations will be made, as needed, pertaining to the state of degradation, need for maintenance or replacement, and locations of signage. Signs should also be posted in areas where harvesting, prescribed burning, and trail work is being conducted. If necessary, these informational signs may also be placed at the Shawnee State Forest Headquarters and other kiosks throughout the forest. Planned work is as follows:

- Foresters will develop a plan for placing harvest information signage along the Day Hike Trail.
- All staff will identify new opportunities to place informational signage within Shawnee State Forest.

Residences: At this time, Shawnee State Forest has two residences; one at the headquarters and one near Buena Vista. The headquarters residence will be maintained and occupied, while the Buena Vista residence shall remain vacant. Issues with residences shall be addressed as they arise.

Dams: Shawnee Forest contains five (5) lakes, each having its own dam and spillway system.

Name	**Class**	**Surface area**	**Storage Capacity**
Bear Lake	I	4.0 acres	25 acre feet
Churn Creek Lake	exempt	1.5 acres	07 acre feet
McBride Lake	II	1.4 acres	11 acre feet
Pond Lick Lake	I	4.0 acres	29 acre feet
Wolfden Lake	I	2.8 acres	19 acre feet

All Dams and Lakes

- Forest Manager will maintain Emergency Action Plan (EAP), Emergency Response Flowchart, and Maintenance records for each dam.

- Forest Managers will conduct monthly monitoring and inspections of the entire spillway and a yearly thorough inspection of entire dam construction.
- Annually remove brush and trees according to 10ft rule from all of the principal spillway inlet and outlet channels.
- Crew will bi-annually exercise, inspect, and lubricate (if necessary) the lake drain valves on all lakes.

Pond Lick Lake (Shawnee)

- Seed disturbed areas
- Repair cracks and missing stone in outlet chute and spillway outlet channel

Bear Creek Lake

- Seed sparse areas on the crest
- Repair fencing around dam structure

McBride Lake

- Remove fencing around dam structure

Churn Creek Lake

- Near the spillway outlet of Churn Creek Lake is a slip in the earthen levee. The soil is eroding and water can be found seeping through the dam. After consultation with the ODNR - Division of Engineering, it has been determined that the best solution in remedying this problem would be to breach the dam and return the stream to its normal flow. The division is proposing to drain the lake, breach the earthen spillway, and grade the stream channel and restore the original drainage. The staff at Shawnee Forest will be consulting with the Division of Engineering throughout this process. The Forest Manager will consult with various specialists to determine the most appropriate method of breaching the levee.

Capitals Projects: No projects will be completed for this fiscal year

Summary (2-3 year projects: Evaluate potential for updating heating to wood-fired boiler system. Continue to identify projects with priorities focused on public and employee health and safety.

VI. Recreation

Hiking Trails: Throughout Shawnee State Forest, there are approximately 70 miles of hiking trails available to the public. Following are the planned activities for the year:

- Forest crew will fill backpack trail water tanks (usually once a month from April to Sept.)
- Clear trails of debris as needed
- String-trim trails this summer
- Maintain trail outhouses as needed
- Forest Manager and Forest Crew will evaluate trail upgrades and reroutes for potential projects. Heavy consideration will be given to grading and establishing sediment control measures with machines so that they can be mechanically maintained in the future.

Bridle Trails: Shawnee State Forest contains over 70 miles of bridle trails. Following are the planned activities for the year:

- Grade trails with heavy equipment if necessary

According to the Ohio Horsemen's Council Volunteer Agreement, the Scioto County Chapter will be responsible for the following:

- Clear trails of debris as needed

Campgrounds:

Bear Lake Horse Camp:

There are 60 campsites available to horseman in order to better utilize the trail system and provide for a family camping experience. The Forest Operations Crew will be responsible for:

- Cleaning the restrooms weekly from April through October
- Power washing the restrooms annually in April
- Re-establishing the campsite numbering
- Paint speed bumps with Hazard Yellow paint

The Forest Manager will be responsible for:

- Updating camp kiosk with new information
- Collaborating with OVHA, Scioto County Chapter in monitoring and maintaining camp during high pressure holiday weekends

Forest Officers will:

- Patrol the horse camp and enforce Forest Rules and Laws

Roadside Camping:

In order to provide for a quality hunting experience:

- The Forest Operations Crew may prepare and open Hobey Hollow and No. 10 Jeep Trail, weather permitting.
- The Forest Manger will administer the roadside camping program
- Law Enforcement Officers will issue camping permits
- Law Enforcement Officers will patrol the areas and enforce the rules
- Law Enforcement Officers will be responsible for collecting camping permits from Hobey Hollow kiosk

Roadside camping occurs during the following hunting seasons:

- Deer – special area primitive weapons season, Shawnee only
- Deer (gun): Scioto & Adams Counties
- Deer (primitive weapons): statewide
- Wild Turkey: Spring & Fall Seasons

APV Trails: There are no designated APV trails in Shawnee State Forest.

Shooting Ranges: There are no shooting ranges at Shawnee State Forest.

Grants: No grants are expected for the trail system.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Upgrading the backpack trail so that the majority can be maintained mechanically is the largest priority for the recreation program.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Shawnee State Forest is responsible for these duties in Scioto and Adams Counties, a total of nearly 1,200 square miles. 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.

- The staff will also respond to VFD mutual aid requests within the Shawnee State Forest Protection Area.

- Area Fire Supervisors will maintain call out sheets and will coordinate wildfire response procedures.
- Area Fire Supervisors will report and update the District Manager of fire suppression activities and potential wildfire conditions.

Prevention: Each fire season, the majority of wildland fires are human caused and usually result from debris burning. In order to promote wildfire prevention and awareness:

- The Forest Manager will work with the District Manager to coordinate media activities such as interviews with the local press for television and newspaper articles. Timing critical releases with high danger fire weather will be critical in increasing public awareness.
- The Smokey Bear sign will be updated as needed to raise public awareness according to the current fire danger. To be tracked by the Forest Manager.
- The Smokey Bear suit is also loaned out to local fire departments and other safety oriented organizations to further promote prevention. The Forest Officer will maintain records on suit loans and will track scheduling.

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fires may be conducted according to the ten (10) year burn plan for Shawnee State Forest as presented in several previous Open Houses. The Plan and Division of Forestry Staff will determine locations and timeline. Three prescribed burns are planned for this fiscal year. They are the Brush Fork 1 unit (399 ac) Brush Fork 2 unit (151 ac) and Upper Pond Run Subunit 1 (158 ac). These burns are pending open burning permit approval from the Ohio EPA.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: Qualified and interested staff will be allowed to participate in one interagency fire crew assignment per year. Interagency fire assignments will allow for professional development, information sharing among various agencies, and will also increase our ability to fight fire within our own fire protection district.

Forest employees are to complete Interagency Fire Crew Availability Sheets in late winter / early spring and submit them to the Forest Manager for approval and forwarding to the District Manager for approval.

Training: Well-trained staff with diverse experience levels shall be maintained at all times in order to effectively achieve suppression on wildland fires.

- Fire fighting staff will attend the Interagency Fire Refresher annually
- A Shawnee fire refresher will be conducted annually
- Firefighters will attend NWCG and other fire training as needed
- Training shall be tracked and recorded shortly after completion

Forest Officers also offer several training opportunities to local fire department including a basic wildfire class and a topography class.

- These classes will be offered to departments annually on a scheduled basis. The target shall be at least one six (6) hour basic class in each county per year.
- Forest Officers will create a spreadsheet to track the trainings that are being offered.

Fire Department Contacts: Forest Officers will maintain the contact information for all of the fire departments within the fire protection area. Officers and staff will also strive to maintain open communications with departments and to also improve communications. As mentioned above, an email contacts list will be developed to further facilitate in these areas.

Officers will also attend the following fire department meetings:

- Adams County Chiefs Association meetings – once every three months
- OVFA Scioto County meetings – once a month
- Lawrence County meetings – once a month

FireWise: Shawnee staff will continue to support the FireWise Program.

FEPP/FFP: Each year, Forest Officers will inspect FEPP property that has been assigned to the fire departments by the Division of Forestry. The inspections occur from January 1st to March 1st. There are a total of 28 departments participating in this program and 83 assigned pieces of equipment.

- Officers will inspect the equipment and perform the appropriate reporting by or before the due date
- Officers will update the Forest Manager of their current progress weekly, and should also provide the Forest Manger with a list of the FEPP equipment stationed throughout the protection area

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

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Further contacts, training and communications to the local VFD's. Become more active in fire prevention programs such as FireWise.

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have ten (8) commissioned law enforcement officers and three (2) 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: Well-trained Forest Officers are necessary in order to effectively and safely perform their law enforcement duties. Officers will maintain current qualifications and will attend law enforcement trainings. Planned trainings include but are not limited to:

- Two (2) Days of annual training
- One (1) day of Taser recertification
- Firearms qualification and training
- Additional training as opportunities arise and budgets allow

Equipment: It is the responsibility of each Law Enforcement Officer to maintain their own equipment, including patrol vehicles. Law Enforcement Officers are also responsible for communicating and collaborating with the Forest Manager pertaining to equipment and uniform necessities.

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: Potential projects may be holiday horse camp security and trail patrol, and an illegal APV use detail. Special projects are coordinated through the forest manager and forest officers.

Other:

Forest Officers will:

- Investigate wildfires in Scioto, Adams, Lawrence, and half of Gallia counties.

- Issue verbal warnings and citations when needed.
- Investigate problems on forest property including:
  - -Dumping (trash, methlabs)
  - -Encroachments (Timber sales, boundary disputes)
  - -Vandalism (state structures, state property)
  - -Theft (forest signs, timber, state property)
- Enforce all Forest Rules, Ohio Revised Code
- The Forest Officers will visit each county court system and prosecutors office once per year. These visits will be used to update information on bond schedules, court dates, prosecutor and judge information. An updated information sheet will be submitted to the Forest Manager after each visit.

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

IV. Employee Development

Employee List:

Forest Manager – Nate Jester
Forester – Dale Egbert
Forest Officer – Josh Deemer
Bridge Repair Worker – John Bailey
Equipment Operator – William P. Williams
Equipment Operator – Josh Shepard
Maintenance Repair Worker – Jarrod Montavan

Training: Training will be considered as opportunities arise. Law enforcement and fire training have been addressed in the above sections. CPR and First Aid will be offered to all employees. Other training opportunities may include silvicultural and forestry training, equipment operations, all risk response training, and many on the job training experiences.

Safety: Forest employees participate in monthly training sessions and many other safety oriented discussions in the field. The Division also participates in the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program and will continue to repair minor infractions that resulted from these inspections. Division Staff is also required to attend the Annual Division of Forestry Safety Training. Other safety trainings will be utilized as opportunities arise.

A safety plan is currently being developed for each State Forest and will be included in future Annual Work Plans. Division staff will be conducting internal hazard and safety assessments and will provide mitigating practices to eliminate or reduce the risk. Forest Staff will also utilize the policies and guidelines

contained within the Division Safety Manual to further improve the agency's safety culture.

Any type of emergency (medical, fire, police, etc.) will be acted upon by staff member(s) consistent with their training, experience and ability to act.

Other Employee Development: Required personnel will participate in the annual respirator fit test.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events

- Open House at Shawnee State Forest Headquarters and representation at an Open House at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters July of 2012.
- Participate with Shawnee State Park programs, such as Floraquest, when requested
- Media and other opportunities as they arise
- Contact or personally meet with the county commissioners, township trustees and school boards in Scioto and Adams Counties at least once per year.

Partnerships:

- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Wild Turkey Federation
- American Municipal Power
- All volunteer fire departments in the protection area
- Scioto and Adams County Sheriffs
- State Fire Marshal
- The Nature Conservancy
- Buckeye Trail Association
- Township Trustees
- US Forest Service
- Division of Wildlife
- Division of Parks and Recreation
- Division of Natural Area and Preserves

Volunteers:

- Ohio Horsemen's Council – Scioto and Adams Counties Chapters
- Buckeye Trail Association

Interpretive Programs: Continue to maintain the Forest Management Auto Tour; and participation in school conservation programs, as time and funds are available.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Develop new partnerships with volunteer groups as applicable.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget: FY 2012 budget is currently being developed following are figures for FY 2011

SFY 2011 Budget DNR150175 Shawnee Region

500 Payroll-Fund GRF			**$791,173**
	MORGAN,MATTHEW A	FOREST PRM ADM	****
	JESTER,NATHAN P	FOREST MANAGER 3	****
	CHAPMAN,JERRY D	FOREST OFF 2	****
	DEEMER,JOSHWA S	FOREST OFF 2	****
	BAILEY,JONATHAN L	BRIDGE WKR 2	****
	THOMAS,MARY M	OFFICE ASST 2	****
	DEPRIEST,ALLEN	EQUIPMENT OPR2	****
	WILLIAMS,WILLIAM P	EQUIPMENT OPR2	****
	SHEPHERD,JOSHUA D	EQUIPMENT OPR2	****
	WIREMAN	FORESTER	****
	WISNIEWSKI	FORESTER	****
	BOGGS,TIMOTHY A	EQUIPMENT OPR1	****
	MCDOWELL,BENJAMIN C	EQUIPMENT OPR4	****
	STURGILL,GARTH E	CONSERV AIDE	****
	LOGAN,WILLIAM E	CONSERVATION AIDE	****
	was JEWETT	MAINT REP WKR3	****
	EGBERT, DALE	INTERMITTENT FORESTER	****
	OT		****
510 Personal Services			**$250**
	Misc Prof Development	Fund 5090	$250
520 Supplies & Maint-Fund 5090			**$139,752**
	General Operating- Supplies	Fund 5090	$20,000
	General Operating-Vehicles	Fund 5090	$15,000
	General Operating- Fuel	Fund 5090	$35,000
	General Operating-Utilities	Fund 5090	$15,000
	General Operating-Grounds Maint	Fund 5090	$20,000
	General Operating- Equip Maint	Fund 5090	$20,000

	Dean	Fund 5090	$8,000
	Prentice Repair		$2,050
	HVAC project	Fund 5090	$4,702
530 Equipment			**$0**
550 Subsidies			**$0**
570 Capital			**$0**
590 Settlements & Bonds - Refunds			**$0**
591 Debt Service			**$0**
		Total	**$931,175**

Revenue: Revenue from Shawnee State Forest is generated from timber sales, firewood permits, and special use permit applications. A percentage of this income is returned to the local township, county, and local school district through the Trees to Textbooks Program.

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.