

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Mohican-Memorial State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year 2014
(July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014)



Prepared By

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June 15, 2013
Date

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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

- 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, and firefighting.

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 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.

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.

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. There are many gas wells and transmission lines on the forest as a result of the development of a natural gas storage field underlying the forest.

IV. Resource Management

Mohican-Memorial State Forest is composed of 36% Mixed Mesophytic (Moist Sites – Poplar, Maple, Ash, and Beech) Hardwood stands, 24% Oak / Hickory stands, and 40% Pine Plantations (Mostly White Pine and Red Pine).

Mohican-Memorial State Forest has an estimated standing timber inventory of 32 million board feet of hardwood sawtimber and over 250,000 tons of pine. Forest inventory data show that the

annual growth of hardwood sawtimber is approximately 647,000 board feet per year of hardwood sawtimber growth and nearly 9,000 tons per year of pine growth.

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

Hazard tree removals.

Due to the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), and its devastating impacts on Ash trees, Division staff will take measures to ensure the health and sustainability of Mohican – Memorial State Forest. In the coming fiscal year, staff will salvage dead and dying ash trees that are presenting a safety hazard to the public. The salvage trees will be processed and sold to local sawmills or offered for public firewood permits.

Several areas of mortality of White Oak trees exist on the Forest that are presenting a safety hazard to the public as well as a forest health problem. These areas of white oak have experienced several reoccurring gypsy moth attacks as well as other insect damage. Staff will salvage dead and dying white oak trees in these areas that are presenting a safety hazard to the public. The salvage trees will be processed and sold to local sawmills or offered for public firewood permits.

The entire network of public roads in the forest are scheduled to be repaved and improved in the coming fiscal year. In order to protect and maintain these road improvements, a number of hazard trees and right-of-way trees will be removed to facilitate the road improvements and protect visitors. These salvage trees will be processed and sold to local sawmills or offered for public firewood permits.

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. HCVF areas at Mohican are found in zones A and B. HCVF areas will be monitoring as time and budgets allow.

Merchandising:

Any logs generated from the Columbia Gas's Right-Of-Way clearing operations, and hazard tree removal will be graded and be offered for sale to local sawmills through the sealed bid process.

Minerals:

Columbia Gas Transmission holds a lease with the State of Ohio for operation of 54 natural gas storage wells and about 13 miles of pipeline right-of-way located on the forest. In fiscal year 2014, Columbia Gas will continue its right-of-way maintenance project that began in 2007 with tree clearing on approximately 3 miles of pipeline rights-of-way. This is an on-going project. Rights-of-way will have trees removed in a 30 foot width over gathering pipelines and a 50 foot width on main transmission lines. This activity occurs during the winter months when recreational visitation is low.

Invasives:

Invasive plant species are targeted for control by forest operations. In fiscal year 2014, state forest personnel will continue to target bush honeysuckle, ailanthus, English ivy, and other invasives as they are encountered on the forest.

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

Columbia Gas's leases and agreements will be monitored 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 has been developed. The area deals 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.

Gypsy Moth activity on the forest will be monitored and communicated as events occur.

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:

Public firewood permits are available at the state forest office on a first-come, first-serve basis. Permits are issued as the need for firewood removal arises. Firewood permits are intended for homeowner use only and not for commercial firewood businesses. Interested individuals may contact the state forest office for information regarding firewood permits.

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. No cruises are scheduled for Fiscal Year 2014

V. Maintenance

Buildings:

There are 12 buildings and/or structures located on Mohican – Memorial State forest. These include:

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

In addition to the buildings listed above, the old Department of Youth Services facility has 10+ buildings. The Department of Youth Services vacated their facility on July 1, 2010, , and by agreement the buildings and any contents left on the premises become the property of the Division of Forestry. The Division and the ODNR 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.

Utilizing funding provided by Columbia Gas Transmission, the Division will be conducting a number of improvements and maintenance projects at the Memorial Shrine. These projects include landscape tree replacement, window replacements, a new flagpole, tree trimming and masonry work.

Other building maintenance projects include a new garage door at the service center, new siding on the service center, and new gutters on all the shop buildings.

In addition to building maintenance, the Division will maintain the grounds around the Memorial Shrine, Forest Office, Fire Tower, Old Bridle Day Use Area, Service Center, North and West Entrance Signs.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities):

- 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 continue until new tenant is in place.
- The vault latrines will have the septic pumped by a qualified service contractor as needed.

Vehicles/Equipment:

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

Vehicles:

- 2009 Ford Pickup Truck
- 2000 International Dump Truck
- 2011 GMC Pickup Truck
- 2011 Dodge Crew Cab Pickup

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
- Scag Zero Turn Mower

Roads:

- The paved forest road is scheduled to re-paved with new culverts and berms in fiscal year 2014 and 2015. This will be a significant project that will impact forest visitors. This project is in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation and is funded through the ODOT cooperative roadway maintenance fund.
- State Forest staff will mow the roadsides approximately 3 times per year.
- State Forest staff will reduce the number of hazard trees along the roadside over the winter months.
- All parking areas on the state forest will be maintained.
- Limited access roads are monitored annually. Any repairs and/or maintenance needs will be done by the forest or the appropriate agency using the road(e.g. Columbia Gas and other utility companies).

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:

There are no capital projects proposed currently.

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.

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, and 2 miles of hiking trail, and the Hog Hollow foot bridge replacements.
- The state forest has completed a picnic shelter at the group bridle use area on SR 97 in cooperation with the local chapters of the Ohio Horseman's Council (OHC). The picnic shelter was purchased through donations from members of the OHC and built by state forest personnel.

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.
- The State Forest maintains 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:

There are no ATV areas. There is one trail open for snowmobile riding in the winter months.

Shooting Ranges:

There are no public shooting ranges on the forest.

Grants:

There are no open grants currently on the forest. In fiscal year 2012, Mohican SF was awarded \$2,500 from the National Wild Turkey Federation for planting of soft mast shrub species on the forest to promote wild turkey habitat. This project was completed.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

With the exceptions noted above, only routine maintenance to the trail systems and other facilities is expected.

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 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.

Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and Forest Fire Protection (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).

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

Due to re-organization, the Division of Forestry’s Law Enforcement staff was transferred to the Division of Parks in Fiscal Year 2013. These officers continue to enforce laws on State Forests, as well as continuing to investigate and enforce Ohio’s wildfire laws.

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

Chad Sanders	Forest Manager - Interim
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 will attend the 2 forest management training sessions scheduled.
- The Forest Manager will attend the Annual Forest Health meeting.

Safety:

- Monthly safety meeting will be held for all employees.
Affected employees will attend annual respirator training and fit testing.
- Employees will be provided with one pair of safety toe 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	August 1, 2013
OHC State Ride and Chili Cook-Off	September 14, 2013
Gold Star Mother's Memorial Service (Shrine)	September 29, 2013

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
Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center
Energy Cooperative
Muskingum Water Conservation District

Volunteers:

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

Interpretive Programs:

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

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance):

SFY 2014

(estimated)

Budget DNR150025 Mohican Region

500	Payroll-Fund GRF			\$216,408
510	Personal Services			\$250
	Misc Prof Development			\$250
520	Supplies & Maint-Fund 5090			\$50,000
530	Equipment			
550	Subsidies			
570	Capital			
590	Settlements & Bonds - Refunds			
591	Debt Service			
			Total	\$266,658

Revenue:

Columbia Gas Mineral Leasing	\$15,000.00
Log sales from Columbia Gas Clearings	\$26,065.00