

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Scioto Trail State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **2013**
(July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)



Prepared By:

Brian Kelly, Manager
(Name & Title)

5/26/2012
Date

Approved By:

Nate Jester, District Manager
(Name & Title)

6/25/2012
Date

Table of Contents

I.	Strategic Plan
II.	Summary of Strategic Plan Actions Bullet Statements: Actions that directly support Strategic Plan Goals & Objectives
III.	Forest Overview History & Description
IV.	Resource Management Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.) Merchandising Minerals Invasives Boundary Licenses/Leases Insects & Disease Utilization & Marketing Research Summary (2-3 year projects)
V.	Maintenance Buildings Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities) Vehicles & Equipment Roads Signage Residences Dams Fire Tower Capitals Projects Summary (2-3 year future projects)
VI.	Recreation Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.) Campgrounds ATV Areas Shooting Ranges Grants Summary (2-3 year future projects)
VII.	Wildland Fire Suppression Preventions Prescribed fire

Inter-Agency Fire Crew
Training
Fire Department Contacts
FireWise
FEPP/FFP
Grants
Summary (2-3 year future projects)

VIII. Law Enforcement.....

Philosophy/Purpose
Training
Equipment
Patrol Priorities
Special Projects
Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, Court, Boundary, etc.)
Summary (2-3 year future projects)

IV. Employee Development

Employee Lists/Vacancies/Table of Organization
Training (tuition reimbursement, etc.)
Other Employee Development

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events
Partnerships
Volunteers
Interpretive Programs
Summary (2-3 year future projects)

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance)
Revenue
Summary (2-3 year projected budget)

XII. Safety

OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

I. STRATEGIC PLAN *(Effective 2008)*

Our Vision: Ohio's state forests will be the best managed forestlands 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 Scioto Trail 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: Scioto Trail State Forest is named after a Native American warrior path known as Scioto Trail that ran from Chillicothe to Portsmouth. During World War I, Scioto Trail State Forest was used as an artillery range for Camp Sherman. Seventy-five millimeter guns and six-inch howitzers were set up at the mouth of Stoney Creek on the Scioto River and fired at targets in the general area of Stewart and Caldwell Lakes. The major land acquisitions for this forest were made between 1922 and 1937 for an average of \$7.70 per acre.

IV. Resource Management

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

The following areas were marked previously but have not yet been sold:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Clearcut / Openings	Shelterwood / Deferment	Selection / Improvement
Scioto Trail	C-5	1,027,791	2,182		172	

The following areas will be marked in FY 2013:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Clearcut / Openings	Shelterwood / Deferment	Selection / Improvement
Scioto Trail	C-11, E-6, E-7	369,000	4,260		71	6
Scioto Trail	C-7	255,500			14	60
Scioto Trail	C-7, C-8, C-11	802,642		10	106	63

These planned harvests resulted from previous cruising and are expected to be marked in FY 14 or beyond:

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Acres	Acres	Acres
				Clearcut / Openings	Shelterwood / Deferment	Selection / Improvement
Scioto Trail	C-11, E-6, E-7	141,000	1,100		25	33
Scioto Trail	C-8	479,750	1,615		33	75.5

Approximately 5% of the acreage in the forest will be assessed for potential silvicultural prescriptions during FY 13. The exact locations of the cruises have not yet been determined. The cruises will follow the stand-based cruising model used in FY 12.

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 competitive 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 merchandising throughout the year. The old airfield at Scioto Trail State Forest is the location of the main merchandising yard.

Minerals: The Division of Forestry is currently reviewing and pursuing the potential for oil and gas activity on each state forest. In coordination with other Divisions within the Department of Natural Resources, Best Management Practices have been developed and suitability analyses have also been conducted. During this analysis, specific areas within the land holding Divisions of the Department have been identified as potential locations for the various types of oil and gas activity. Also, the mineral rights for each property are also being researched and identified in preparation for potential leasing activity. These leases may be with the state or with other private mineral rights owners on state lands. In either case, the Division is fully prepared to manage and implement these activities with the least amount of disturbance necessary to accomplish the task.

Invasives: Common invasives at Scioto Trail State Forest include the following: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle), and multiflora rose. The Division of Forestry received a grant from the US Forest Service to implement the Ohio Woodlands Job Corps for the control of invasive plants within the state forest system. From this grant, two (2) crews of five (5) people were employed, temporarily, to work on invasive plant control and timber stand improvement while receiving job-training skills. Both cohorts of the original OWJC program have come to an end. Division staff will

continue identify areas to control throughout the year through the project proposal process.

Boundary: There is approximately 48 miles of state boundary. Approximately one fourth of the boundary is painted each year on a scheduled rotation.

Licenses/Leases: None

Insects & Disease: Not only in the forest, but also throughout the entire area, monitoring stations are in place for the gypsy moth. That project is managed by the Department of Agriculture. This past year a large portion of the southern part of the forest was sprayed with a mating disruption pheromone. Forest staff informally monitor for a number of forest pests, including emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, and Asian long-horned beetle as well as numerous other pests.

Utilization & Marketing: Forest products will continue to be offered for sale through both 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 Scioto Trail State Forest. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or groups. A special use permit must be applied for and approved for the activity.

Summary (2-3 year 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: Scioto Trail staff is responsible for maintaining nine (9) service buildings, a fire tower, two (2) restrooms, a shelter house at the fire tower, a seed cooler, and a weather station. They are also responsible for maintaining the Southern Region Forest Headquarters located in Chillicothe. Following is a list of the buildings at Scioto Trail State Forest:

- Scioto Trail State Forest Headquarters located on Stoney Creek Road
- Service building located on Stoney Creek Road
- Gas house located at the Forest Headquarters
- Small service building located at the Forest Headquarters
- Warehouse and compound located on Lake Road
- Seed cooler located on Lake Road
- Carpenter shop located on North Ridge Road
- Central shop located on North Ridge Road
- Grease rack/garage building located on North Ridge Road
- Vacated office located by the fire tower

- Service building by the fire tower
- Sign shop located by the carpenter shop
- Fire tower located on North Ridge Road
- Shelter house by the fire tower
- Two outhouses located at the fire tower
- The Southern Region Headquarters located in Chillicothe
- A weather Station located outside of the Scioto Trail State Forest

Anticipated building and facility repairs are as follows: Replace fascia and gutters on the millshed, paint gables on the millshed, paint soffit and gables on the office, and tear down old office on top of the hill due to termite infestation.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Scioto Trail State Forest is responsible for the waterline from the main headquarters to the residence and central shop and requires some maintenance each year.

Vehicles/Equipment: Scioto Trail is responsible for the maintenance of 22 vehicles. Vehicles will be repaired and maintained in house unless it is beyond our scope of ability.

The following includes a list of heavy equipment:

930 Cat Road Grader	Witzco Lowboy Trailer
John Deer 444 Wheel Loader	John Deer 450G Dozer
John Deer 750 Dozer	John Deer 450H Dozer
Kubota Tractor w/ Side Mount Mower	John Deer 2240 Tractor
Ford 4600 Tractor	John Deer 6210 Tractor
Ford 1920 Tractor	Freightliner Tractor Trailer
New Holland Mowtrim	International Bucket Truck
Ford Backhoe	International Dump Truck (3)
Freightliner Transport (2)	Ford Prentice Loader
International Flatbed Truck	Heavy Trailers (2)
Forklift (2)	Prentice Bucksaw Kit

Routine maintenance will be performed on all equipment in accordance with Division and Department policies.

Roads: There are approximately six (6) miles of paved roads and 18 miles of gravel roads. Regular maintenance of these roads includes the following: Gravel roads will be graded and ditched each year; clear all downed trees; roadside mowing; ditching, making sure the headers and 342 culverts are clear and operating correctly, replacing culverts, and litter control.

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.
- Perform annual ODOT work order request.
- Assist in annual ODOT inspections.

Forest Road mileages include the following:

Forest Road #1 – 3.6 Miles	Forest Road #5 - 4.3 Miles
Forest Road #2 –5.5	Forest Road # 6 – 6.1
Forest Road #3 –1.5	Forest Road # 7 - .7
Forest Road #4 –3.2	

In addition to public roads, all forest 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.

The following roads will be formally inspected in Fiscal Year 2013:

- Forest Road # 2 (North Ridge)
- Forest Road # 3 (Lake Road)

Signage: The Scioto Trail staff is responsible for all routine maintenance of all the forest signs to insure good legibility and aesthetics. They are also responsible for making, painting, and replacing all wooden signs. Signs are inspected on a regular basis.

Residences: There are two (2) state residences located in Scioto Trail State Forest. One is located by the fire tower and the other is located by the Forest Headquarters. Employees for the Division of Forestry occupy both residences. The renter is responsible for majority of the repairs.

Dams: N/A

Fire Tower: Replace and paint the steps for the fire tower.

Capitals Projects: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue and maintain the statewide Best Management Practices (BMP) training facility, continue to maintain the minor slip on Martin Road, continue to work on and monitor slip on Hatfield Road, and continue to fill pot holes as needed on all forest roads.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): There are approximately 26 miles of bridle trails that are open to horses, hikers, and mountain bikers. Approximately four (4) miles of the Buckeye Trail pass through Scioto Trail State Forest and are maintained by the Buckeye Trail Association.

All bridle trails will be cleared of debris a minimum of once a year and inspected after each significant weather event. Mechanical maintenance of the bridle trails will be conducted as needed.

The following trails will be formally inspected in Fiscal Year 2013:

Trail Sections----1-2-3
Trail Sections----13-11-12
Trail Sections----4-2
Trail Sections----5-6-10-11

Campgrounds: N/A

ATV Areas: N/A

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Over the next two years, all bridle trails will be inspected and mechanical maintenance will be conducted throughout the system as needed.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Scioto Trail State Forest is responsible for these duties in Ross, Jackson and a portion of Gallia 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: Public education and awareness is a key to fire prevention programs. Several prevention programs utilizing Smokey Bear will be performed throughout the year, Ross County Fair and Bob Evans Days are two possibilities.

Prescribed Fire: There are no planned prescribed fires for the coming year.

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 at a minimum once per a year

Fire Department Contacts: The Forest Officer will attend at least one (1) 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: Scioto Trail State Forest will continue to support the Division’s FireWise efforts.

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 staff a minimum of once each year must inspect loaned equipment. The forest staff is also responsible for transporting FEPP equipment throughout the state.

Grants: The Division administers several grant opportunities for volunteer fire companies. Scioto Trail State Forest will promote the opportunities to local VFD’s.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Become more active in fire prevention programs such as FireWise.

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have nine (9) commissioned law enforcement officers and one (1) commissioned manager. The purpose of these 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, and TASER certification. Officers are to complete all Continuing Professional Training (CPT) and LEADS Certification training as mandated by

the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

Reporting: All Forest Officers are to complete and submit annual Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) reports as required. Officers are required by policy to submit copies of their citation logs to the Division Law Enforcement Administrator twice during the fiscal year. Other reports are to be submitted as required by Department/Division policy and the LE Manual.

Equipment: Officers will be issued all equipment listed in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual. Each officer will be expected to properly maintain all issued equipment.

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

1. Responding to emergencies and help requests within 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: Unit Manager and Forest Officer will coordinate projects that require multiple officers to properly implement.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): Attend four fire department association meetings; FEPP inspections; court updates; paint 5 miles of boundary; boundary inspection; respond to boundary encroachments by inspecting boundary when/ where encroachments occur; investigate and resolve; investigate fires according to fire manual direction; participate in fire prevention program; update fire department information sheets.

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

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization: Employees are as follows:

Brian Kelly, Forest Manager
Todd Weaver, Law Enforcement Officer
Jeremy Adkins, Equipment Operator
Heath Boggs, Equipment Operator
Scott Trego, Equipment Operator
Steve Dean, Equipment Operator

Terry Tatman, Carpenter
 Carol Johnson, Conservation Aide
 Anita Strausbaugh, Maintenance Repair Worker

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Annual CPR and First Aid class will be attended by each employee. Forest Manager will attend the Forest Health meeting.

Other Employee Development: Employees will be encouraged to attend programs or trainings that will enhance the employees' job performance

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Scioto State Forest will participate in the Chillicothe Open House in late July. Timber revenue checks will be presented to the County Commissioners and the local School Board once per fiscal year.

Partnerships: Scioto Trail State Park, US Forest Service, Township Trustees, Ohio Forest Fire Lookout Association, and local VFD's.

Volunteers: Buckeye Trail Association and the Ohio Horsemen's Council.

Interpretive Programs: Maintain interpretive signs for prescribed fire and oak mortality.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Emphasis will be to further develop partnerships and to also increase the amount of interpretive signage in the forest.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): The Division is in the process of developing each Unit Budget. The following is last year's budget for Scioto Trail, Tar Hollow, and Richland Furnace.

500	Payroll			\$546,423
		WEAVER,TODD	FOREST OFF 2	\$*****
		KELLY,BRIAN T	FOREST MANAGER 3	\$*****
		Tatman, Terry	CARPENTER 2	\$*****
		TREGO,ROBERT S	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 4	\$*****
		DEAN,STEVEN E	EQUIPMENT OPR2	\$*****

		VACANT-	EQUIPMENT OPR4	\$*****
		JOHNSON,CAROL A	CONSERV AIDE	\$*****
		STRAUSBAUGH,ANITA	MAINT REP WKR1	\$*****
		Adkins, Jeremy	EQUIPMENT OPR2	\$*****
		Boggs, Heath	EQUIPMENT OPR2	\$*****
		OT		\$****
510 Personal Services				\$250
	Misc Prof Development	Fund 5090		\$250
520 Supplies & Maint				\$70,000
	General Operating- Supplies	Fund 5090		\$17,500
	General Operating- Vehicles	Fund 5090		\$20,000
	General Operating- Fuel	Fund 5090		\$25,000
	General Operating-Utilities	Fund 5090		\$7,500
530 Equipment				\$0
550 Subsidies				\$0
570 Capital				\$0
590 Settlements & Bonds - Refunds				\$0
591 Debt Service				\$0
Total				\$616,673

Revenue: Revenue from Scioto Trail 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 thru the Trees to Textbooks Program.

Summary (2-3 year projected budget): Future budgets cannot be anticipated and the Division is currently working on the budget for this fiscal year.

XII. Safety

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.

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.