

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Perry State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year FY12
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)



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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 Perry 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 acquiring this property in 1961, the Division of Forestry has implemented many land management forestry practices at Perry State Forest including tree planting, dam improvements, grapevine control, boundary installation and maintenance, crop tree releases, and timber harvests.

Prior to State of Ohio ownership, most of Perry State Forest was mined for coal. Many areas were mined prior to any reclamation laws and resulted in very rugged, sometime barren terrain. Little vegetation of any kind was present in the 1960's. Limited reclamation has been completed, including a large section along CR 48. Trees and plantations now dot the once barren landscape. Several reforestation and tree plantings have been established on the forest.

Perry State Forest is located in Clayton Township, Perry County near New Lexington, Ohio, and is host to one of the most visited APV areas in the State of Ohio.

With the APV area, miles of challenging trails are open to the public from April 1st to December 1st of each year. Marked trails and a designated scramble area are provided for visitors to enjoy and test their driving abilities.

No field staff report daily to Perry State Forest. Day-to-day operations are managed out of Hocking State Forest and crews report from Blue Rock State Forest near Duncan Falls, Ohio. The old service center at Perry State Forest is leased to Clayton Township Trustees. Blue Rock crews utilize one (1) storage building at Perry State Forest for equipment and trail supply storage.

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
Perry	A-18	154,767	1208	10	0	23

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
Perry	A-4	78,210	6230	10	137	0

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Perry	A-7 and A-19	408

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres	Work
Perry	A-4	243	Chemical control of Ailanthus
Perry	A-4	243	Chemical/Mechanical control of grapevine
Perry	Various	700	Chemical control of Ailanthus--OWJC

Merchandising: There are no plans to merchandize any timber sales at Perry State Forest.

Minerals: Many natural gas wells are in Perry State Forest. Most of these were drilled in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. Transmission lines transverse Perry State Forest. The Rocky Express Pipeline (REX) construction at Perry State Forest has been installed and is in operation. Minor repairs to right of way and right of way boundary work is planned for FY12.

Invasives: Invasive species are a challenge at Perry 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. Boundaries are repainted on a four (4) year rotation to ensure location and to review if any obstructions have been placed on Division of Forestry lands. Forest Officers ensure security of land boundaries. Blue Rock State Forest crews work at Perry State Forest and manually paint approximately ten (10) miles of boundary each year. All boundaries are painted in yellow for easy recognition in the field.

Licenses/Leases: This is an ongoing event at Perry State Forest with natural gas wells, 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. Many requests will require a special use permit and bonding.

Insects & Disease: Insects of concern include the gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, as well as other more minor pests. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has a formal gypsy moth monitoring program that occurs in the forest. The Division of Forestry participates in the gypsy moth "Slow the Spread" program if an infestation warrants the treatment. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid monitoring is supported by a USDA Forest Service grant. State Forest staff perform informal monitoring for occurrence of a number of diseases and insects. The monitoring and samplings occur with partnerships from Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State Extension, and the USDA Forest Service.

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 Perry State Forest. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or group. The only requirement is 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 (2) years ahead of scheduled treatment.

V. Maintenance

Buildings: The old service center building at Perry State Forest is leased to Clayton Township Trustees. The other out building is used for storage and equipment housing for Blue Rock State Forest Crews. Pending funding, the roof on the storage building is scheduled to be painted this year. The perimeter of this facility is surrounded by chain link fence, and has received some damage

from falling trees. A 50 ft buffer was cut in FY10 and grass will be maintained to prevent future damage to the fence and buildings.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): None

Vehicles/Equipment: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Roads: Most access roads at Perry State Forest are used for land management purposes and are not open to the public vehicle travel. Roads #1, #3, and #4 had stone placement in FY07 and will be maintained till future work is planned. Road mileage is as follows: Road #1 is 5.5 miles; Road #3 is 3.5 miles; and Road 4 is two (2) miles in length. Maintenance planned for FY12 include the following:

1. All service roads are mowed annually
2. All service roads and culverts are checked after main storm events and cleared if needed to ensure drainage functions.
3. Brush removal is again planned for #1, #3, and #4 where trees are overtopping road. This will allow for sunlight to get to surface of road.
4. All road gates are checked for locks, condition, and replaced with pipe-fabricated gates as needed.
5. 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.
6. Signage replacement is completed as needed. .

Signage: All of Perry State Forest's entrance highway signs will be reviewed for condition in FY12 and repaired or replaced as needed.

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: N/A

Dams: Three (3) dams requiring periodic inspection are at Perry State Forest. These dams are:

1. Miles Lake along County Road 48
2. Lake Essington along Natural Resource Road 3
3. Lake Buckeye along Natural Resource road 1

All dams are reviewed weekly for the following:

1. Woody vegetation on dams
2. Seepage

3. Slippage or movement of soil
4. Surface road condition
5. Culvert and spillage conditions and drainage
6. Where ever possible, mowed annually

Capitals Projects: None scheduled

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.): Perry State Forest has many recreational opportunities. This includes sixteen miles of APV trails and eight miles of bridle trails. All trails will be monitored after each significant storm event for maintenance needs.

Campgrounds: N/A

APV Areas: There are sixteen miles of marked APV trails although the entire designated APV area is a legal scramble area. Trails will be maintained to control erosion and re-graded using motorized equipment twice a year. All trails will be open and passable during the recreational user season. Sanitary facilities will be monitored and maintained on a weekly basis. Signs will be replaced as needed. All parking areas, access roads, and emergency roads will be supplemented with gravel. The APV trail system is the only system with seasonal closure. The trail system is closed from deer gun season to April 1st. Each year a section of the APV trail is designated for surface and drainage improvement using RTP funding. In FY 2012, a project is planned on the Blue and Red APV trails.

Grants: A Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant is used for reimbursement of maintenance costs. Each year all equipment and personnel costs are tracked and the Division is reimbursed at a rate of 80% of costs.

Shooting Ranges: None at Perry State Forest

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Perry will be applying for a RTP grant for the following:

1. Resurfacing of stone in parking lot of APV area.
2. Installation of Loading/Unloading dock at the parking lot.
3. Installation of turnaround at end of the parking lot of APV area.
4. *Installation of Romtech Restroom in APV Parking Area.*

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Prevention: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Prescribed Fire: No prescribed fires are currently planned for Perry State Forest
Inter-Agency Fire Crew: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Training: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan.

Fire Department Contacts: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

FireWise: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

FEPP/FFP: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Grants: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

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.

VII. **Law Enforcement**

Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have eight (8) commissioned law enforcement officers and two (2) commissioned managers. The purpose 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 policies and procedures are delineated in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual.

Training: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Equipment: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Patrol Priorities: The APV area and isolated areas of the forest that have suspected illegal activity.

Special Projects: Projects proposed by the Forest Officer must be approved by the unit and district manager.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

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: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

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.

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: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Perry State Forest will be represented at Open Houses held at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest August of 2011.

Partnerships: Include Township Trustees, Division of Mineral Resource Management, Division of Wildlife, National Wild Turkey Federation

Volunteers: Currently working to improve this at Perry State Forest. Forest Officer Johnson has recently completed work projects using APV rider volunteers to assist with trail improvements.

Interpretive Programs: Throughout the coming year, the Forest Manager will develop a number of interpretive signs explaining forest management activities.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Perry State Forest will continue to try to improve use of volunteer hours.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Revenue: Revenue from Perry State Forest is generated from Timber Sales, fuel wood permits, and royalties from Oil and Gas deposits. Much of the local generated revenue goes back to the local schools, townships, and county government thru the Trees to Text Book 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.