

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Hocking State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year FY10
(July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)



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6-10-2009
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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

- Implementation of forest inventory for updated cruising methodology.
- Involvement in managing invasive plant species: cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Resources Service through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program's hiring of an Invasive Species Forester.
- An enhanced communication program with the use of web based resources, Project Learning Tree and the Information and Education Program Administrator.

III. Forest Overview

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

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

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

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

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

IV. Resource Management

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

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Acres			Sold
				Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial	Yes/No
Hocking	B-2/B-3	240,593	483	4	19	14	Yes
Hocking	B-5	491,530	744	0	13	128	No
Hocking	D-13	188,292	383	17	0	0	No
Hocking	D-15	794,480	2,138	55	27	0	No
Hocking	C-10 Pine	0	1,366	27	0	0	No
Hocking	D-3 Pine	0	1,378	6	0	24	No

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

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Acres		
				Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial
Hocking	C-3	168184	3569	25	15	57

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Hocking	B-10	204
Hocking	D-14	147

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 merchandizing throughout the year.

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

Invasives: Invasive species are a challenge to Land Managers at Hocking State Forest. Tree of Heaven, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive are some of the woody Invasive Species that have been targeted for control. Foresters for control monitor vegetative management on Right of Ways, Roadside edges, and regeneration areas.

Recently the Division of Forestry received a grant from the US Forest Service to develop an Ohio Woodland Job Corps for the control of invasive plants within the state forests system. From this grant one crew of six people will be employed, temporarily, to work on invasive plant control and timber stand improvement while receiving job-training skills. Division staff will identify areas to control throughout the year.

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

Licenses/Leases: This is an ongoing event at Hocking State Forest with Natural Gas Storage, Right of Way Entry Requests for access of utilities, Land Management Activities, and access to isolated areas from public roads. Each request is reviewed by the Forest Manager and submitted to the District Forester for review.

Insects & Disease: Not only in Hocking State Forest, but also throughout the entire area monitoring stations are in place for the Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth, two insects of concern. Both are being managed by the Department of Agriculture.

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

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

Summary (2-3 year projects):

V. Maintenance

Buildings: All buildings at Hocking State Forest were built between 1937 and 1971. Maintenance items are prioritized annually and as maintenance budgets allow, small projects are completed using Hocking State Forest crew. Buildings at Hocking State Forest include the following: 5 Bay Storage Building; 10 Bay Storage Building; Service Center; Office Building; Warehouse; Oil House; Pump House; Post Plant Building; Laundry Building; Gatwood 2 Bay Storage Building; Projects planned for completion in FY10 include:

1. Gutter and downspout replacement of office building
2. Concrete block installation of old walk thru door in Service Center
3. Gutter and downspout repair on 5 bay storage building
4. Gutter and downspout repair on 10 bay storage building
5. Garage Door installation on Warehouse
6. Garage Door installation on 5 bay storage building
7. Painting of Pump House
8. Vinyl siding installation on gable ends of Warehouse
9. Evidence Room completion in Laundry Building

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

1. Wastewater system replacement
2. Water system was installed in Mid 1950's and is need of major improvements

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

Equipment	Model	Year	Highway Use	Forest Use	Application
Ford Pickup	F150	1999	Yes	Yes	Land Management
Ford Pickup	F150	2008	Yes	Yes	Land Management
Ford Pickup	F250	2009	Yes	Yes	Law Enforcement
GMC Pickup	1500	2006	Yes	Yes	Land Management
Ford Pickup	F250 Crew	2006	Yes	Yes	Land Management
Freightliner	FL-112	2002	Yes	Yes	Equipment Transfer
Chevrolet	C65	1978	Yes	Yes	Equipment Transfer
Chevrolet	C60	1973	Yes	Yes	Material Transfer
Chevrolet	C70	1989	Yes	Yes	Material Transfer
Dodge	2500	2005	Yes	Yes	Land Management
John Deere	450G	1982	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt

IHI Crawler	30	2004	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
FC Dozer	D7000	1999	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
Case Skid Steer	440	2007	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
John Deere	5200 Tractor	1996	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
John Deere	6400 Tractor	1996	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
Caterpillar	D3B Dozer	1981	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Belshe	Trailer 20"	1980	Yes	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Equipment	Model	Year	Highway Use	Forest Use	Application
Beverage	Trailer Utility	2002	Yes	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Honda	300 Quad	1999	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Honda	450 Quad	2003	No	Yes	Law Enforcement
Honda	350 Quad	2001	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Honda	500 Quad	2005	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Clark ForkLift	GPS 15	1993	No	Yes	Material Transfer
Bush-hog Mower	3710	2006	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Bush-hog Mower	590	1980	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Bush-hog Mower	592	1965	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Dixie Chopper	Mower	2009	No	Yes	Lawn Care
Toro	Mower	2004	No	Yes	Lawn Care
Steiner	Mower	1978	No	Yes	Lawn Care
Finn	Blower	1972	Yes	No	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt

Scheduled Maintenance on the above mention equipment is as follows:

1. Routine maintenance on all highway vehicles.
2. Highway vehicle inspections completed annually.
3. Annual service to off-road equipment (oil, filter, lube, etc.).
4. Final drive repair to JD450G dozer.
5. Final drive repair to Cat D3 dozer.
6. Bolt replacement on steel tracks on Case 440 Skid Steer.
7. Repainting of Cat D3 Dozer.
8. Service and repair of lawn maintenance equipment.
9. Service and repair of trail maintenance equipment.

Roads: Hocking State Forest has no designated forest roads. Most roads are used for land management purposes and are not open to the public travel. Maintenance planned for FY10 includes the following:

1. All service roads are mowed annually approximately 60 miles.
2. All service roads and culverts are checked after main storm events and cleared if needed to ensure drainage functions.

3. Brush removal is planned for Cedar Falls Road, Airplane Rock Road, Cantwell Cliff Road, Spruce Run Road, and Gordon Road.
4. All road gates are checked for locks, condition, and replaced with pipe-fabricated gates as needed.
5. Drainage work is planned in Spruce Run, Big Woods, and Cedar Falls Roads.
6. Signage replacement is completed as needed.

Signage: All entrance signs will be replaced in FY10 and all other wood signs will be reviewed annually for possible repair or replacement as needed.

Residences: Hocking State Forest currently has 4 residences all of which are currently vacant. All four residences are scheduled for demolition.

Dams: N/A

Capitals Projects: No Capital Project funds are available at this time. If funds become available, following is a list of needed repairs:

1. Water System replacement
2. Roof spouting replacement
3. Gutter drainage installation

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Replace water system, roof spouting, and gutter drainage.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): Hocking State Forest has many recreational opportunities. This includes forty miles of bridle trails, and nine miles of hiking trails. All trails will be monitored after each significant storm event for maintenance needs. Hocking state forest did receive a RTP grant for the trail improvement (see grant section).

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

ATV Areas: None at Hocking State Forest

Shooting Ranges: None at Hocking State Forest

Grants: A \$50,000 Recreational Trail Program (RTP) grant has been approved for bridle trail improvements. This grant will expire on 12-01-09. Funds will be used on the Orange Trail from Points "M" to the previously worked section west of point "L". The following Improvements are planned to be implemented:

1. Improve drainage both surface and subsurface
2. Installation of large culverts and gabion basket structures
3. Improve surface of trail using geo-tech fabric, stone, and crusher run material
4. Improve signage and intersection markings

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Trail improvements for Long Hollow Trail, Spruce Run Trail, Red Trail (points D to A), and Purple Trail (points C to G).

VII. Wildland Fire

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

Prevention: No prevention activity is planned this fiscal year.

Prescribed Fire: No prescribed fires are currently planned for Hocking State Forest.

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 interagency refresher class. The Fundamentals of Wildland Fire course will be taught in each county, if requested.

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

FireWise: Hocking will continue to support the FireWise program.

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

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

Summary (2-3 year future projects)

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus): State Forests currently have 10 commissioned law enforcement officers and 3 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: Commissioned officers will receive the following training: Weapons qualifications, law enforcement in-service training, remain current with CPR and First Aid, TASR certification. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

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

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

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

Special Projects: Special projects are worked depending upon need. Undesignated trail use at Hocking State Forest is one type of project that will be scheduled to work this FY10.

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

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

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

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

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

Other Employee Development:

X. Public Information/Outreach

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interpretive Programs: None are planned for this fiscal year.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

XI. Budget

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

500	Payroll-Fund GRF		\$375,951
510	Personal Services- Fund 5090 25% per quarter		\$250
	Misc Prof Development		\$250
520	Supplies & Maint- Fund 5090 25% per quarter		\$50,000
	General Operating		\$50,000
530	Equipment		\$0
550	Subsidies		\$0
570	Capital		\$0
590	Settlements & Bonds - Refunds		\$0
	Debt		
591	Service		\$0
		Total	\$426,201

(NOTE: Budget figures provided by Columbus Fiscal and developed with District Forester and Forest Manager.)

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

Summary (2-3 year projected budget):