

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Blue Rock State Forest

For the Period of

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



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6-15-2009
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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: The Federal Government during the 1930's under the Resettlement Administration originally acquired most of the marginally productive farmland. Surface ownership was later transferred to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry while the Federal Government retained three-fourths interest in the oil and gas rights. Subsequent reforestation and the application of forest management and protection practices have transformed low quality farmland into one of Ohio's most beautiful and productive forests.

Blue Rock State Forest is located in Blue Rock Township, Muskingum County south of Duncan Falls, Ohio. The 4579-acre Forest is accessed primarily via State Route 60 and Cutler Lake Road and is about 12 miles southeast of Zanesville, Ohio.

Field staff report daily to Blue Rock State Forest with day-to-day operations being managed out of Hocking State Forest. Blue Rock Forest crews also work at the Old Zanesville Nursery State Forest.

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	Sold
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial	Yes/No
Blue Rock	A-18 Hdwd	420,180	1,878	13	39	37	No
Blue Rock	A-18 Pine	42,278	4,538	8	0	56	Yes
Blue Rock	A-25 Pine	0	3,100	15	0	11	Yes

The 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
Blue Rock	A-13	491634	3516	40	14	73
Blue Rock	A-21	228,830	7,478	20	18	82

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Blue Rock	A-23	115

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: Many Natural Gas wells are currently located on Blue Rock State Forest. The Federal Government has $\frac{3}{4}$ interests in all oil and gas rights. The REX Pipeline is currently under construction at Blue Rock State Forest and is planned to be completed during FY10

Invasives: 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. Forest Officers work closely with Land managers to ensure security of land boundaries at Blue Rock State Forest. Forest crews manually paint approximately 13 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 Blue Rock 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 Forest Manager and submitted to the District Forester for review.

Insects & Disease: Not only in the 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: Special Use Permits will be required for all research projects. Information obtained from these projects will be supplied back to the Division of Forestry.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

V. Maintenance

Buildings: Blue Rock State Forest has 4 buildings (Service Center Headquarters, Fuel Building, Equipment Storage Building, and Carpenter Shop), which are maintained by Blue Rock State Forest Crew. Building maintenance planned for FY10 includes:

1. Painting of equipment storage roof.
2. Replacement of gutters on equipment storage building.
3. Service Forest Headquarters drainage improvement on backside of building.
4. Fuel storage tank repainting and signage replacement.
5. Service Center Headquarters electric heater replacement.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Domestic water supply will be tested for portability by the local health board.

Vehicles/Equipment: All vehicles and equipment are listed below:

Blue Rock State Forest Equipment FY10

Equipment	Model	Year	Highway Use	Forest Use	Application
Ford Pickup	F250	1997	Yes	Yes	Land Management
Dodge Pickup	Dakota	2001	Yes	Yes	Land Management
Ford Expedition	F150	2004	Yes	Yes	Law Enforcement
Ford Dump	Ford Super Duty	1999	Yes	Yes	Material Transfer
John Deere	350 C	1978	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Ford	5030 Tractor	2001	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
Ford	4630 Tractor	1991	No	Yes	Trails, Land Mgt
Flatbed	Trailer 20"	2001	Yes	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Flatbed	Trailer Utility	2005	Yes	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Honda	450 quad	2003	No	Yes	Law Enforcement

Polaris	Ranger Quad	2007	No	Yes	Fire, Trails, Land Mgt
Equipment	Model	Year	Highway Use	Forest Use	Application
Woods Bushhog	7 Ft Cutter	2006	No	Yes	Roads, Access
Bush-Hog Blade	7Ft Blade	2001	No	Yes	Roads, Access
John Deere	Garden Tractor	1991	No	Yes	Lawn Care
Dixie Chopper	Mower	2009	No	Yes	Lawn Care

Planned repairs for FY10 include:

1. Possible vehicle replacement of Patrol Vehicle (funding dependent)
2. Routine maintenance in accordance with Division of Forestry policy
3. Replacement of tires on lowboy trailer
4. Cutting edge replacement for the grader blade
5. Winch cable replacement on JD 350C Dozer
6. Installation of the carpenter equipment salvaged from Marietta Nursery.

Roads: There exists one forest road on Blue Rock State Forest- Forest Road 8. This is a paved road with a length of 1.3 miles and was recently resurfaced. Most access roads are used for land management purposes and are not open to the public travel. Forest Road 8 and the bypass from Browning Road (0.3 miles) to Ridgeview will require maintenance yearly including grading, ditching, mowing, and sign replacement.

Following is a list of access road maintenance:

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. All road gates are checked for locks, condition, and replaced with pipe-fabricated gates as needed.
4. Signage replacement is completed as needed.
5. Access road off of Coon Ridge at last parking area will be rehabilitated after log salvage activities.

Signage: All entrance signs will be reviewed for condition in FY10 and repaired or replaced as needed.

Residences: None at Blue Rock State Forest

Dams: None at Blue Rock State Forest

Capitals Projects: None scheduled

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): Blue Rock State Forest has many recreational opportunities. This includes twenty-six miles of bridle trails. All trails will be monitored after each significant storm event for maintenance needs.

Campgrounds: None at Blue Rock State Forest

ATV Areas: None at Blue Rock State Forest

Shooting Ranges: One shooting range exists on the unit. However, the range requires no maintenance from the forest crew. The area is leased to a private group who is responsible for all maintenance of the area.

Grants: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Blue Rock State Forest is responsible for these duties in Guernsey, Perry, Noble, Muskingum and a portion of Licking 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. This protection area has 48 fire departments and over 1,000,000 acres of land.

Prevention: No prevention activity is planned for this year.

Prescribed Fire: No prescribed fires are currently planned for Blue Rock 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 at a minimum once per a year.

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: The unit will continue to support and participate in 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. The 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, First Aid and TASR certifications. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

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 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: Identify and request special projects to address specific issues and problems to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for forest users. Special Projects have been planned for the Zanesville State Nursery Forest to reduce illegal drug traffic and vehicle traffic at this location during restricted hours.

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: Blue Rock State Forest

David Glass, Manager
Charlie Lee, Forester
Schaad Johnson, Forest Officer
Paul Abele, Equipment Operator
Doug Purdum, Conservation Aide

Day-to-day operations are conducted out of Blue Rock State Forest. Day-to-day management decisions are handled out of Hocking State Forest with the Forest Manager and Forester visiting Blue Rock State Forest as needed.

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Blue Rock State Forest crews will maintain a highly trained and well equipped work force via on going training, tuition reimbursement for education requested, and work with other State Forests to mobilize all resources available.

Safety: Safety first...no exception. Violations will be given for none compliance.

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

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Blue Rock State Forest will host the annual Handicap Turkey Hunt in April 2010. Nearly 150 people will attend. The Y-Bridge Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation sponsors this event with the Division of Wildlife assisting. Blue Rock State Forest also will be represented at Open Houses held at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest August of 2009.

Partnerships: Cutler Lake State Park, National Wild Turkey Federation, Division of Wildlife, and Boy Scouts of America.

Volunteers: The staff will work to identify future volunteer groups to assist with trail maintenance.

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

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance):

500	Payroll-Fund GRF		\$186,756
510	Personal Services- Fund 5090 25% per quarter		\$250
	Misc Prof Development		\$250
520	Supplies & Maint- Fund 5090 25% per quarter		\$35,000
	Blue Rock		\$25,000
	Zanesville		\$10,000
530	Equipment		\$0
550	Subsidies		\$0
570	Capital		\$0
590	Settlements & Bonds - Refunds		\$0
591	Debt Service		\$0
		Total	\$222,006

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

Revenue: Revenue sources for Blue Rock State Forest include: Royalties from gas wells, timber sales proceeds, Fuel Wood permits, and Special Use Permits.

Summary (2-3 year projected budget):