Ohio DNR – Division of Forestry
Summary of Monitoring Results for Fiscal Year 2011
July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Introduction

On an annual basis, the Division offers a publicly available summary of results for the various monitoring activities that occur on state forests. This summary is a component of our public input process as well as a component of our management review process. The intent of this monitoring summary is to show progress and / or challenges as an implication of our management of state forests.

A. Progress on implementation of the Strategic Plan for State Forests

In 2008, the Division completed a strategic planning effort with the following five objectives. Each Objective is listed with corresponding progress made in the last year.

Objective 1: Manage forest to ensure the health and sustainability of forest systems.

Progress Highlights:

- In the last year, the Division completed third party verification of conformance to both the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards. State Forests are the only dual-certified forestland in Ohio and have been certified as "Well-Managed".
- In the last year, State Forest land management program placed a higher focus on managing for Oak /Hickory regeneration through the use of timber harvests and prescribed fire.
- The Land Management Manual was revised to include updated policies to better conserve soil, water, and sensitive forest resources.
- The Division of Forestry collaborated with the Division of Wildlife to update stand- and landscape-level wildlife habitat guidelines.
- Maumee State Forest was awarded a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to restore unique "Oak Openings" forest communities that are vital for many sensitive plant and wildlife species.

Objective 2: Produce high-quality forest products that contribute to local communities.

Progress Highlights:

- Using recently acquired inventory data, the Division of Forestry calculated annual growth rates that are estimated to occur on state forests and established an annual harvest goal 40% of net annual0 growth.
- In the past year, the Ohio Woodlands Job Corp completed thousands of acres of pre-commercial timber stand improvement activities.

- In 2010/2011, the Division completed its third operational year of the log merchandising program.

Objective 3: Provide recreational opportunities that require a large forest land base.
Progress Highlights:

- A recreational "working group" was formed composed of various foresters and staff to review and revise appropriate policies and procedures for the recreation program.
- Many miles of trails were rehabilitated at several forests to ensure resource protection and user safety.
- Proposals were formulated to expand APV trails at Maumee State Forest and Fernwood State Forest to meet the needs of motorized trail users.

Objective 4: Provide unique forestry education sites and promote outreach and long-term research.
Progress Highlights:

- In the past year, the Division of Forestry purchased the remaining interests in the Vinton Furnace property creating the 21st state forest. The new Vinton Furnace Experimental State Forest will continue to play an important role in forest research. In partnership with the US Forest Service, the property will be home to multiple forest research projects and educational sites.
- The Division continues to facilitate and promote forestry through efforts such as teacher field days, NIPF woodland owners, trade shows, events, and the Ohio State Fair.

Objective 5: Maintain a highly trained and well-equipped work force.
Progress Highlights:

- The Division's training program continues to be enhanced with several training sessions held this year.
- The Division was privileged to assist the state of Texas in wildlife suppression over the course of the past year by providing personnel and equipment to battle wildfires across Texas. The effort has also benefited our state by producing more highly trained and experienced wildland firefighters.
- A renewed focus on safety has led to the formation of various committees and safety events.
- The Division is participating in a department-wide effort to enhance efficiency in training and equipment use.

B. Forest Condition

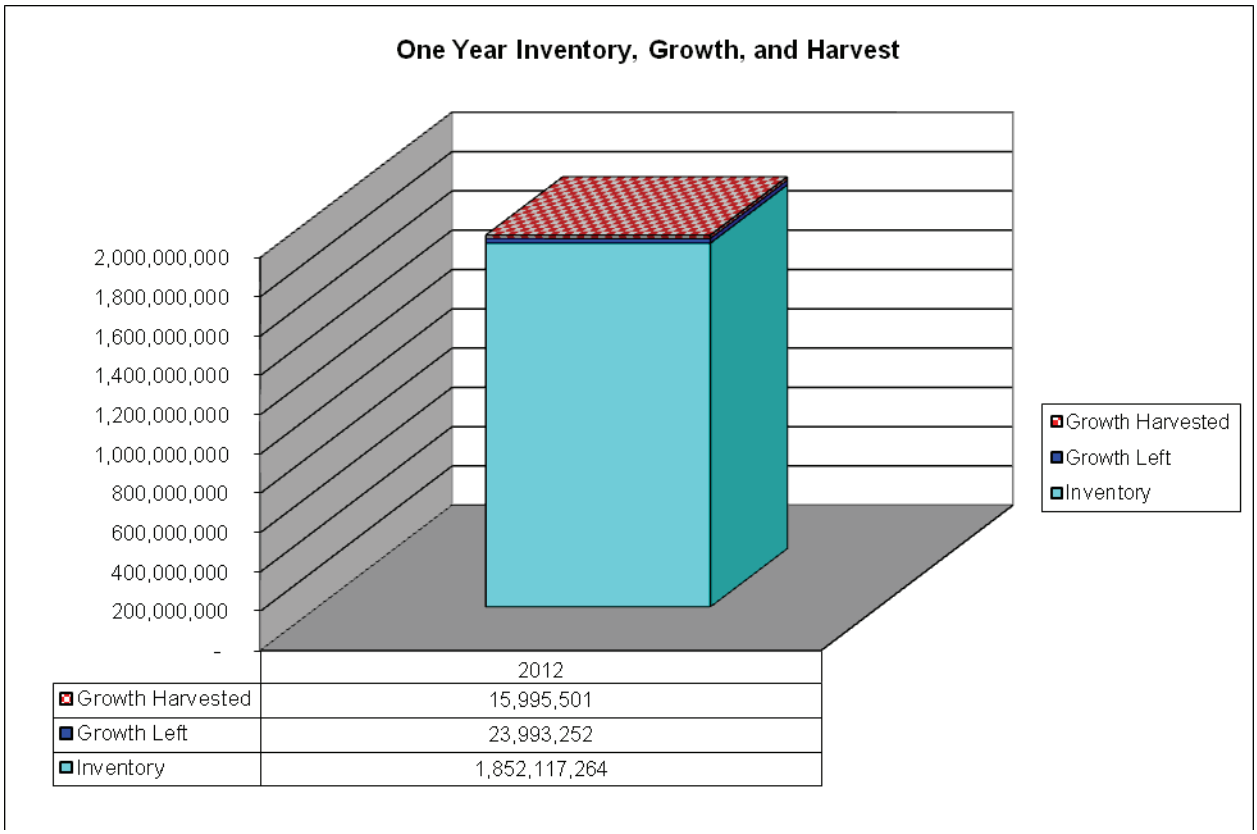
1. Compartment Review – The compartment review process is a long-term mechanism to monitor the condition of the forest. Each state forest is divided into compartment of roughly 300 acres each. Compartments are reviewed on a 20-year cycle so that each compartment is reviewed once every 20 years. Approximately 9,000 acres are reviewed each year. Compartment reviews also generate prescriptions for various activities including timber sales, prescribed fires, or timber stand improvement.

2. Logging Inspections – State Forest timber sales are inspected on a regular basis, usually once per week or sometimes daily depending on conditions. Inspections ensure that contractors are complying with the terms and conditions set forth in the timber sale agreement. Inspections are also an important part of protecting sensitive forest features, soil, and water quality. By finding issues early through inspections, mitigation and corrective actions can be imitated in order to avoid long-term impacts to the resource. This year nearly 400 inspections were completed. While some inspections did note minor BMP's violations during in-progress timber sales; all timber sales received satisfactory comments for their final inspections with no long-term BMP issues. The inspection process is a vital way to protect water quality.

3. High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Monitoring - HCVF monitoring will occur each year on selected portions of HCVF areas. Over a 5-year time frame, all HCVF will be monitoring at least once. This year the Division of Forestry conducted a monitoring protocol to monitor the HCV's that exist in the delineated HCVF's consistent with the FSC HCVF assessment protocol. Four separate HCVF areas were monitored by a Division of Wildlife botanist. Monitoring data sheets and comments were provided for each site as well as a map of the area visited. Approximately, 2,500 acres were visited in the summer of 2011. Overall, the HCVF's visited this year were found to be in relative stable condition. Minor impacts from littering, illegal ATV riding, and or weather events were noted in this year's monitoring. Several areas containing non-native invasive species were located. And finally, several rare species were found to exist in these areas. The complete monitoring data sheets and comments are used internally for forest managers to determine the appropriate course of action if any is needed to maintain the HCV's that these areas possess.

4. Inventory and Growth and Yield – Using state forest inventory data that was procured in 2009, the Division of Forestry has calculated an estimated 1.9 billion board feet of standing sawtimber inventory on state forests. Growth rates from this data were

determined using the USFS Forest Vegetation Simulator. The acreage available for these calculations were constrained based on a number of environmental factors including removing areas of High Conservation Value. The constrained growth rate across all state forest is estimated to be over 41 million board feet of sawtimber per year. In order to promote sustainability, protection of sensitive resources, produce forest products, while achieving biodiversity goals the Division of Forestry will set an annual allowable harvest target at 40% of the annual constrained growth. 40% of the annual constrained growth is roughly equal to 16 million board feet of sawtimber.



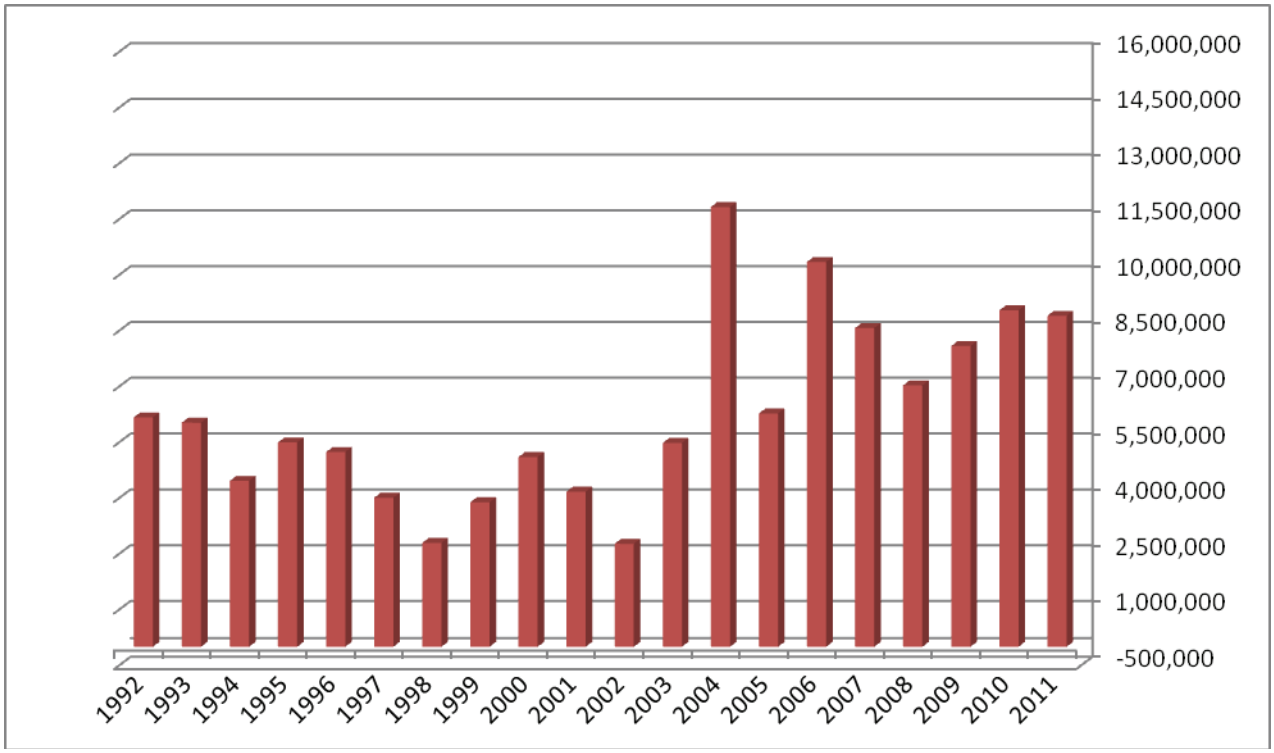
C. Yield of Forest products and Chain of Custody

In Fiscal Year 2011, there were 29 stumpage timber sales that were sold by competitive bid. There were an additional 7 timber sales offered to the Glatfelter facility in Chillicothe, Ohio to fulfill our obligation in the fiber supply agreement. And finally there were three sales that were harvested with using a service contractor and sold as part of our log merchandising program.

In Fiscal Year 2011, over 7.7 million board feet of hardwood sawtimber was harvested in stumpage timber sales or supply agreement timber sales. Nearly 1.2 million board feet of

hardwood sawtimber was harvested in merchandising log sales. The total board feet harvested in fiscal year 2011 was 8.9 million board feet.

Last 20 years of timber harvest levels on State Forests.



D. Social and Economic Impact monitoring (open house and recreation)

1. Timber Sale Revenue Distribution – The table below summarizes the total stumpage revenue received by the Division of Forestry in Fiscal Year 2010 and distributed to local governments according to ORC 1503 in Fiscal Year 2011.

Total R043 Revenue	$2,274,279.26
Cost	$909,711.70
Local Gov't Portion	$886,968.91
GRF Portion (10% of Net)	$136,456.76
Forestry Portion (25% of Net plus Cost)	$1,250,853.59

Local Government Distribution	
ADAMS	
COUNTY	$5,386.65
FRANKLIN TWP	$179.93
GREEN TWP	$5,206.72
ADAMS COUNTY/OHIO VALLEY LSD	$359.86
MANCHESTER LSD	$10,413.43
TOTAL PAYMENT	**$21,546.59**

ATHENS		
	COUNTY	$37,534.26
	WATERLOO	$37,534.26
	ALEXANDER LSC	$75,068.54
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$150,137.06**
HOCKING		
	COUNTY	$9,611.94
	LAUREL TWP	$6,532.50
	SALT CREEK TWP	$3,079.44
	LOGAN-ELM LSD	$6,158.88
	LOGAN-HOCKING LSD	$13,065.00
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$38,447.76**
JEFFERSON		
	COUNTY	$15,364.66
	CROSS CREEK TWP	$15,364.66
	INDIAN CREEK LSD	$30,729.31
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$61,458.63**
MEIGS		
	COUNTY	$7,727.31
	OLIVE TWP	$7,727.31
	EASTERN LSD	$15,454.62
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$30,909.24**
MUSKINGUM		
	COUNTY	$5,640.56
	BLUE ROCK TWP	$5,640.56
	FRANKLIN LSD	$11,281.11
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$22,562.23**
PERRY		
	COUNTY	$487.50
	CLAYTON TWP	$487.50
	NEW LEXINGTON CSD	$975.00
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$1,950.00**
PIKE		
	COUNTY	$746.11
	BENTON TWP	$258.61
	PERRY TWP	$487.50
	WESTERN LSD	$1,492.24
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$2,984.46**
ROSS		
	COUNTY	$10,964.66
	COLERAIN TWP	$487.50
	HARRISON TWP	$10,477.16
	SOUTHEASTERN LSD	$20,954.34
	ZANE TRACE LSD	$975.00
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$43,858.66**
SCIOTO		
	COUNTY	$42,652.03
	BRUSH CREEK TWP	$1,700.20
	NILE TWP	$23,288.99
	UNION TWP	$13,431.31
	WASHINGTON TWP	$4,231.54
	NORTHWEST LSD	$30,263.03
	WASHINGTON-NILE LSD	$55,041.05
	TOTAL PAYMENT	**$170,608.15**
VINTON		
	COUNTY	$85,626.54
	BROWN TWP	$34,940.05

EAGLE TWP	$17,049.72
ELK TWP	$18,605.45
KNOX TWP	$9,446.05
MADISON TWP	$5,585.26
VINTON COUNTY LSD	$171,253.07
TOTAL PAYMENT	**$342,506.14**

2. Recreation Program – State Forests track the number of users based on a voluntary registration system. The system, while not a totally accurate representation of the actual use, gives an indicator of trends and quantity of visitors per recreational activity. The table below represents voluntary registration. The actual number of visitors may be substantially greater than the recorded data.

Recreation		**# of Visitors**
Campers -	Backpackers	3436
	Horse	9814
	Family	0
	Hunter	682
APV Riders		4160
Snowmobilers		0
Horse riders		19529
Hunters/Anglers		8765
Hikers		34921
Gun Range Users		265
Rockclimb/Rapellers		3150
Mountain Bikers		568
Harvesters		1792
Misc Day Use		17990

3. Annual Open House and Comments - In the summer and fall of 2010, the ODNR-Division of Forestry conducted a review and consultation process in order to formulate our 5-year forest-specific management plans beginning Fiscal Year 2011. This process included our annual open houses held at 5 separate locations, as well as direct emails, a public meeting, direct solicitation of comments from partner groups, and informal stakeholder contacts.

   Further, the Division of Forestry was audited by a third-party verification company to the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative in the fall of 2010. This audit resulted in several suggested 5-year plan revisions.

   Below is a summary of comments received and the modifications made to the 5-year forest specific management plans.

Comments Received during the review period.

Stakeholder	Summary of Comment	DOF Response
Citizen	The practice of prescribed burning has so many negatives associated with it that it should be dis-continued. Prescribed burning could negatively impact sensitive species.	Peer-reviewed science indicates the value of prescribed fire for regenerating oak and reducing hazardous fuel loading. DOF endeavors to assess impacts to sensitive species prior to burning. Burning is practiced on limited acreage.
Citizen	Pleased that the Division is seeking certification, however, we should determine how state forests fit into the landscape, sequester carbon, and provide ecosystem services.	5-yr plans include a revision that includes biodiversity/landscape level goals.
Citizen	Shawnee State Forest should not have prescribed burning.	Science indicates the value of prescribed burning. Activities at Shawnee State Forest are limited and impacts assessed prior to burning.
Environmental Group	Concerns with the forest management practices of DOF. DOF should re-align practices to meet the needs of citizens as expressed during the FRAS stakeholder input process. Disagreement with prescribed burning and clearcutting.	DOF has revised the 5-year management plans to include biodiversity / landscape level goals that were developed from the FRAS stakeholder input process.
Trail user group	Horse trails are well maintained	Noted
Research group	Recommendation that certain silvilcultural terms be defined or changed. Concerns that Desired Future Condition goals will be able to be implemented particularly for older forests.	DOF has revised its "Desired Future Condition" goals to be more in-line with the goals stated in the FRAS.
Forest Industry Group	State Forests play an important role for Ohio's wood industry and encouragement to achieve the land management goals stated in the plans. DOF should attempt at a greater pace to balance age classes and conditions on the forests since growth as far exceeded removals historically.	DOF has evaluated our growth estimates relating to our harvest estimates and will re-evaluate the appropriate harvest level (related to growth) that can be sustained.
Conservation Agency	DOF's proposed management is consistent with the objectives of this conservation agency. DOF should provide more data relating to cover types, age classes, and	DOF has limited data at present but has put into place, plans and goals to acquire more data for decision support

	landscape data in order to better evaluate proposed treatments.	and stakeholder knowledge.
Trail user group	Better coordination is needed on trail use conflicts and maintenance issues.	Noted.

The above comments are a summary of the written comments received. It should be noted that many verbal comments were received and DOF attempted to note those as well. All verbal and written comments were reviewed by the State Forest Integration Committee.