

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Brush Creek State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year 2010
(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: initiation of the Ohio Woodland Job Corps Program, hiring of an Invasive Species Forester.
- An enhanced communication program with the use of a web based information resource, Project Learning Tree and the Information and Education Program Administrator.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Located in the unglaciated hill country of south central Ohio, Brush Creek State Forest was established in 1928 with the acquisition of 285 acres of land. This and other early land acquisitions were originally part of Shawnee State Forest. As acreage and distance grew, the need to form a separate state forest unit became apparent in order to properly manage these scattered land holdings. In the early 1950's, a new state forest was formed and drew its name from a major stream in the area known as Scioto Brush Creek. Today, Brush Creek State Forest comprises well over 13,000 acres of productive hardwood forest land. Because of its separation into many parts, management for continuous recreational facilities is difficult. Opportunities offered within the forest include timber harvesting, research, and recreation, which include hunting, hiking, car touring and horseback riding.

No field staff reports to Brush Creek State Forest. Day to day operations are managed from Pike State Forest.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.): Schedules cruises are listed below by compartment. These inventories are based on a 20-year cruise cycle, but may change in the future to accommodate growth and yield models.

The following areas were marked in FY2009, but are not yet sold.

State Forest	Compartment	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Brush Creek	C-28	95720	296	Regeneration Clear-cut	10
Brush Creek	C-28	104329	243	Improvement Thinning	27
Brush Creek	D-57	64647	408	Shelterwood	11
Brush Creek	D-57	74100	221	Shelterwood	13
Brush Creek	D-58/D-62	121960	410	Regeneration Clear-cut	20

The following is a listing of the inventories that were completed this past year and have resulted in proposed harvests for fiscal year 2010.

Marking					
State Forest	Compartment	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Brush Creek	A-43	150,000		Shelterwood harvest	50
Brush Creek	A-43	75,000		Shelterwood harvest	25
Brush Creek	A-43	115,000		Shelterwood harvest	23
Brush Creek	B-30	188,000		Single tree selection w/ grp openings	46
Brush Creek	B-30	150,000		Pre-salvage shelterwood	39
Brush Creek	B-30	110,000	60	Group openings	11
Brush Creek	B-30	185,000		Pre-salvage shelterwood	37
Brush Creek	B-30	115,000	60	Group openings	11
Brush Creek	B-30	75,000		Pre-salvage thinnings	25
Brush Creek	B-31	42,000		Single tree selection	14
Brush Creek	D-64	75,000		Sanitation thinning	42
Brush Creek	D-101	183,000	45	Regeneration harvest	20

Below is a listing of the compartments that will be inventoried this year for potential management activities in fiscal year 2011.

Cruises Schedules	Compartment	Acres
Brush Creek	A-4	41
Brush Creek	A-7	105
Brush Creek	B-26	47
Brush Creek	B-45	240

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: There are no mineral leases at Brush Creek State Forest.

Invasives: Common invasives at Brush Creek State Forest include: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle), *Rosa multiflora* (Multiflora Rose).

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: Brush Creek boundary totals 165 miles. Placed on a five-year rotation, 33 miles will be painted yearly.

Licenses/Leases: Currently the office and garage buildings located on State Route 73 are being leased to Rarden Township.

Insects & Disease: The Ohio Department of Agriculture actively monitors for Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth by placing traps within Brush Creek State Forest.

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: None currently on going but the opportunity is present for interested groups or individuals.

Summary (2-3 year projects): Continuation of the merchandising program and traditional stumpage sales. Controlling invasive species where they are most abundant.

V. Maintenance

Buildings: The old residence located on SR 73 will be demolished. Currently it has been inspected for the presence of asbestos. Asbestos was found and has been removed. The office and garage are currently being leased to Rarden Township.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): None

Vehicles/Equipment: Reference Pike Forest Plan.

Roads: Coffee Hollow Road is dually designated as both Township Road 250 A (Franklin Township, Adams County) and Forest Road 1. This road has been maintained by Forestry for many years and this maintenance will continue. This includes clearing of fallen trees, mowing, grading, cleaning ditches, cleaning out headers, and replacing headers and culverts when needed.

Signage: Signs are used to mark and identify trails, identify areas and for information purposes. They are used in the All-Purpose Vehicle area, on horse trails and hiking trails. Currently carsonite and wood signs are used. Appropriate decals are used with the carsonite signs. They are replaced when damaged or vandalized. Wooden signs are routed with the description and painted. Usually they are repainted but at times are in need of replacement so new ones are made.

Residences: There is one state owned residence on State Route 73. This residence is slated for demolition.

Dams: None

Capitals Projects: None

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Remove the large sign at the Grouse Road parking area. Replace 2 culverts in Coffee Hollow. Replace headers in Coffee Hollow.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): There are 11 miles of bridle trails and 4.5 miles of hiking trails. The hiking trails will be checked and cleared of trees as needed once this year. The horse trails will be cleared, graded and water bars re-installed with motorized equipment. We will work closely with both the Scioto and Adams County Chapters of the Ohio Horseman's Council for maintaining horse trails.

Campgrounds: None

ATV Areas: None

Shooting Ranges: None

Grants: None

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Re-routing of Stone Quarry Hiking Trail and reconstruction of the trail sign and re-establishing the vista near the old fire tower site on Crabtree Cemetery Road are recreation program priorities for the future.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. 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. Personnel from Shawnee State Forest will perform all fire suppression duties for Brush Creek State Forest.

Prevention: Reference Shawnee Forest Plan

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

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: N/A

Training: Reference Pike Forest and Shawnee Forest Plan

Fire Department Contacts: Reference Shawnee Forest Plan

FireWise: Reference Shawnee Forest Plan

FEPP/FFP: Reference Shawnee Forest Plan

Grants: Reference Shawnee Forest Plan

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: Reference Pike Forest Plan

Equipment: Reference Pike Forest Plan

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.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): Court contacts will be updated once a year at the beginning of the year. Respond to boundary encroachments by inspecting boundary when/ where encroachments occur, investigate and resolve.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continuation of deterring APV use.

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

Forest Manager-Mark Hassel
Forest Officer-Dave Adkins
Forester-John Bauerbach
Equipment Operator-Ryan Hancock
Equipment Operator-Jeremy Adkins.

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Reference Pike Forest plan.

Safety: Reference Pike Forest plan.

Other Employee Development: Reference Pike Forest plan.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Brush Creek Forest will be represented at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest Open House in August of 2009.

Partnerships: Rarden Township Trustees, Ruffed Grouse Society, and local VFD's

Volunteers: Boy Scouts of America, Ohio Horseman's Council – Scioto and Adams County Chapters.

Interpretive Programs: Through out the coming year, the Forest Manager will develop a number of interpretive signs explaining forest management activities that are adjacent to recreational areas.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance):

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

Revenue: Salvage logs and wood permits

Summary (2-3 year projected budget):