Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Shade River State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **FY11**
(July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

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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 Shade River 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 the early 1950's, a few abandoned farm fields were planted with different species of pines including white, red, and loblolly pine. In addition, many acres of native Virginia pine, shortleaf pine, and pitch pine are present. Modern forest practices are evident throughout the forest. Forest management practices completed by the Division of Forestry personnel include: crop tree release, grapevine control, forest health monitoring, prescribed fire, woodlot thinning and wildlife openings. Timber harvests serve as an example of how our forests should be managed and the benefits associated with proper management.

Shade River State Forest is located in Olive Township, Meigs County near Reedsville, Ohio. The Ohio River is on the south, while Forked Run State Park is on the Southwest side of Shade River State Forest.

No field staff reports to Shade River State Forest. Day-to-day operations are managed out of Hocking State Forest. The old Service Center Complex at Shade River is leased to Olive Township Trustees.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.):

There are no currently no sales to be sold at Shade River. The following is a listing of the inventories that were completed this past year and have resulted in proposed harvests for fiscal year 2011.

				Acres	**Acres**	**Acres**
State Forest	**Compartment**	**Vol. Bd. Ft.**	**Tons**	**Clearcut**	**Shelterwood**	**Select/Partial**
Shade River	A-9	425,435	1,421	0	62	78

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres	Work
Shade River	A-9	85	Mechanical and Chemical Control of Grapevines

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Shade River	A-6	319

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: Several natural gas wells are in Shade River State Forest. Most of these were drilled in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. Transmission lines transverse Shade River State Forest. The forest staff will continue to work with mineral right owners to comply with all terms and conditions of each lease.

Invasives: Invasive species are a challenge to Land Managers at Shade River State Forest. Multiflora Rose and 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 Woodlands Job Corp for the control of invasive plants within the state forests system. From this grant one (1) crew of five (5) 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 and will utilize the division's project proposal system to assign projects.

Boundary: All of the Division of Forestry boundaries are maintained to ensure location of property lines in the field. Once every four (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 the Forest Manager to ensure security of land boundaries. Hocking State Forest crews will be responsible for boundary work at Shade River. All boundaries are painted in yellow for easy recognition in the field.

Licenses/Leases: This is an ongoing event at Shade River 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 review.

Insects & Disease: Annual monitoring is conducted for Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer and is managed by the Ohio Department of Agriculture. State forest staff will continually monitor the forest for potential infestations of disease and insects.

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

Research: Currently no ongoing research projects are taking place within the Shade River 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): 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 buildings at Shade River State Forest are leased to Olive Township Trustees. These buildings include the old Service Center building, wood equipment building, and small concrete block building which is used for oil and fuel supplies.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Maintenance of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is the responsibility of the Olive Township Trustees. ODNR Division of Engineering assists with annual inspection of this facility to ensure its proper function.

Vehicles/Equipment: Reference Hocking State Forest

Roads: Roads #4, #5, and #10 will be maintained in accordance with the Division policies and standards. Road mileage is as follows: Road #4 is 0.12 miles long; Road #5 is 0.6 miles long; and Road #10 is 0.7 miles long. Maintenance planned for FY10 includes the following:

Several access roads are used for land management purposes and are not open to the public. They will be maintained as follows:

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. Brush removal is planned for roads #4, #5, and #10.

Signage: All wooden signs will be replaced or repaired as necessary.

Residences: N/A

Dams: N/A

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

Shade River State Forest outdoor recreation has historically limited primarily to hunting, berry picking, bird watching, and fall color visitation. A few trails were developed but abandoned due to lack of use and lack of staffing resources.

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): A few trails were developed but abandoned due to lack of use and lack of staffing resources. These trails will not be maintained in the next year.

Campgrounds: N/A

ATV Areas: N/A

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: N/A.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue current recreation management.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: Meigs County is part of the Zaleski State Forest fire protection area.

Prevention: See Zaleski State Forest Plan

Prescribed Fire: No prescribed fires are currently planned for Shade River State Forest

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: See Hocking State Forest Plan

Training: See Zaleski State Forest Plan

Fire Department Contacts: See Zaleski State Forest Plan

Fire Wise: See Zaleski State Forest Plan

FEPP/FFP: See Zaleski State Forest Plan

Grants: See Zaleski State Forest Plan

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to foster relationships with volunteer VFD's through training, visitation, and joint suppression efforts.

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus): State Forests currently have ten (10) commissioned law enforcement officers and three (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 polices and procedures are delineated in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual.

Training: See Hocking Forest Plan

Equipment: See Hocking 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: Unit Manager and Forest Officer will coordinate projects that require multiple officers to properly implement. Projects will address problems that threaten a safe and enjoyable environment for lawful forest users.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): Reference Hocking 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: Reference Hocking State Forest Plan

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

Safety: See Hocking State Forest Plan

Other Employee Development: See Hocking State Forest Plan

X. Public Information/Outreach

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

Partnerships: Shade River State Forest works closely with many user groups including the Olive Township Trustees, Meigs County Engineer, Meigs County Commissioners, and Forked Run State Park.

Volunteers: None

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):

XI. Budget

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

Revenue: Revenue from Shade River State Forest is generated from timber sales, firewood permits, special use permit applications, and royalties from natural gas and oil deposits. A percentage of this income is returned to the local township, county, and local school district through the Trees to Textbooks Program.