Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Tar Hollow State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **2012**

(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

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OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

I. STRATEGIC PLAN (*Effective 2008)*

Our Vision: Ohio's state forests will be the best managed forestlands 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 Tar Hollow State Forest under the multiple use concept promoting land management, forest sustainability, and back country recreation.
- Implement policies presented in the revised Land Management Manual that will maintain third party certification.
- Continue to develop employee skills and abilities through training thereby improving productivity and efficiency.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Tar Hollow State Forest original name comes from the pitch tar extracted from local pine trees and processed into lubricants and elixirs. The Federal Government originally purchased Tar Hollow lands in the 1930's as a project by the Resettlement Administration. These lands were transferred to the State of Ohio in 1958 to be managed by the Ohio Division of Forestry. The Division was mandated to reforest eroded farmland, produce and harvest timber products, provide employment, recreation and protect these lands from fire.

IV. Resource Management

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

The following areas were marked in FY2011 but have not yet been sold:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	**Compartment**	**Vol. Bd. Ft.**	**Tons**	**Clearcut**	**Shelterwood/ Deferment**	**Select/Partial**
Tar Hollow	A-4	195,000	351			78
Tar Hollow	E-11, E-15, E-16	252,000	840	42		
Tar Hollow	E-1, M-1	163,000	455		35	
Tar Hollow	A-2, M-1	388,000	1,338	44		

The following areas will be marked in FY 2012:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	**Compartment**	**Vol. Bd. Ft.**	**Tons**	**Clearcut**	**Shelterwood/ Deferment**	**Select/Partial**
Tar Hollow	A-1	195,000	1320		66	
Tar Hollow	A-8	661,900	1190			204
Tar Hollow	B-6	394,300	1540		45	32
Tar Hollow	C-6	517,800	2080		104	
Tar Hollow	C-23	1,021,000	2060	33	70	
Tar Hollow	C-25	325,000	1020		42	57
Tar Hollow	D-17	320,000	400	20		

This year, in select state forests, the division will transition to a stand based cruising model built upon data obtained by the 2009 forest inventory project. Silvicultural activities will be proposed in fiscal year 2013 based on the stand verification cruise reports completed by division personnel. Listed below are a combination of stands that will comprise the individual reports during the period of this workplan.

Cruises Schedules				
Forest		**Compartments***		**Acres**
Tar Hollow		A-3, A-10. A-11, A-12		512
Tar Hollow		A-12, A-13, A-14, A-17		282
Tar Hollow		D-4, D-5, D-6, E-5, E-6, E-7, E-15		557
Tar Hollow		C-4, C-5, D-18, G-2, G-3		253
Tar Hollow		C-16, C-17, C-18, C-20		188

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: Much of the land base at Tar Hollow State Forest was acquired with federal funds under the Resettlement Act. When these lands were transferred from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the State of Ohio in 1958, only 25% of the mineral rights were transferred. The remaining 75% of the mineral rights were kept and are now administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. In 1992, these mineral rights were sold to the public by competitive bidding. As a result in 1998, the first wells were drilled. There have been a total of five (5) wells drilled and only two (2) were productive.

During this fiscal year, we do not anticipate any additional drilling. If there are proposed wells, the surface protection of these sites will be handled through the Special Use Permit System and all land or resource disturbances will be managed through a designated Contract/Permit Compliance Officer.

Invasives: Common invasives at Tar Hollow State Forest include the following: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle), and multiflora rose. The Division of Forestry received a grant from the US Forest Service to implement the Ohio Woodlands Job Corps for the control of invasive plants within the state forest system. From this grant twenty-two (22) people were employed, temporarily, to work on invasive plant control and timber stand improvement while receiving job-training skills. Two cohorts of the original OWJC program have been completed. There are additional funds from the grant to bring back several people to continue the invasive work for another six months. Division staff will continue identify areas to control throughout the year through the project proposal process. Priority areas are forest corridors, research areas, and areas slated for regeneration treatments.

Boundary: Tar Hollow State Forest is encompassed by roughly 54 miles of boundary. Current rotation for painting entire boundary is four (4) years as such approximately 14 miles, more or less, will be painted to meet the goal. The state boundary is blazed with yellow paint.

Licenses/Leases: None

Insects & Disease: Not only in the forest but also throughout the entire area monitoring stations are in place for the gypsy moth. That project is managed by the Department of Agriculture. In the spring of 2011 a mating disruption spraying procedure was done on a large area of the forest where trapping results had indicated a potential outbreak risk. Forest staff will monitor this area closely over the next year. Staff also informally monitor for a number of other forest pests,

including emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle as well as numerous other pests.

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: Over the years, numerous studies have taken place within Tar Hollow State Forest with Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio University (OU), and the US Forest Service (USFS). Currently the following studies are active: USFS – National Fire Segregate Study; and USFS – Invasive Plant Study.

Summary (2-3 year projects): Implement post harvest cruising to better develop the growth & yield model. Develop a backlog of scheduled sales to project at least 2 years of proposed treatments.

V. Maintenance

Buildings:

- Tar Hollow office building located on Clark Hollow
- Two (2) service buildings located on Clark Hollow
- Gashouse located on Clark Hollow
- Old CCC office located on Piney Creek
- Service building located on Piney Creek
- Old barn located on Piney Creek
- Fire tower located on South Ridge
- Two (2) restrooms at the Horseman's Camp located on Poe's Run
- One (1) outhouse located at the Boy Scout Camp in Dullen Hollow

These facilities are maintained in a safe and sanitary condition for both the public and the employees. The majority of these facilities were repaired in the last few years. Anticipated facility repairs include the following: replace bridge decking on the bridge going into the Horseman's Camp, improve restroom facilities at the Horseman's Camp, and replace and paint the steps and decking on the Brush Ridge fire tower located on South Ridge Road.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): No significant projects are anticipated.

Vehicles/Equipment: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Roads: Maintain roughly 17 miles of paved roads and 14 miles of gravel roads. Maintenance includes mowing, ditching, grading, patching, cleaning headers and making sure that 269 culverts are operating correctly, repairing or replacing culverts, and litter control. It has been proposed to gravel 14 miles of roads and

put rip rap along several sections of forest roads to eliminate creek bed erosion through the Cooperative Roadway Maintenance Program.

Forest Road Mileages are as follows:

Forest Road #1 – 2.2 Miles	**Forest Road #9 - 3.7 Miles**
Forest Road #2 – 3.1	**Forest Road #10 -3.6**
Forest Road #3 – 5.2	**Forest Road #11 -2.1**
Forest Road #4 – 2.0	**Forest Road #12 - .9**
Forest Road #6 -- .7	**Forest Road #13 – .3**
Forest Road #7 – 1.5	**Forest Road #16 -1.3**
Forest Road #8 –4.3	**Forest Road #39- 2.6**

Anticipated forest road repairs are as follows: patch pot holes located throughout the Tar Hollow State Forest as needed, and continue to maintain the minor slips on both Forest Road #8 (Poe's Run) and Forest Road #7 (Sugar Run Road).

In addition to public roads, all forest access roads will be formally inventoried, mapped, and an inspection report will be completed. The results of the inspection report will guide the maintenance efforts of the forest staff.

Signage: The Scioto Trail crew is responsible for all routine maintenance of all the forest signs to insure good legibility and aesthetics. They are also responsible for making, painting, and replacing wooden signs. The forest signs are inspected on a regular basis.

Residences: There is one (1) state residence located in Tar Hollow State Forest and is currently occupied.

Dams: None

Capitals Projects: None

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to identify projects with priorities focused on public and employee health and safety.

VI. <u>Recreation</u>

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): The State Forest System offers a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities to the citizens of Ohio. Outdoor recreational opportunities include the following: hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mushroom hunting, bird watching, photography, and viewing the fall foliage. There are a total of 33 miles of bridle trails that are maintained on a regular basis. Bridle trails are cleared of debris at least once a year and inspected for maintenance after each major weather event. The entire length of the Logan Hiking Trail, 16 miles, is maintained by the Boy Scouts of America.

Campgrounds: Tar Hollow State Forest has a Horseman's Camp that is located on Poe's Run. This camp has a total of 46 sites, restrooms, water, and is free of charge. The camp is cleaned, mowed and horse manure bins cleaned up on a regular basis. There is also a Boy Scout Camp that is located in Dullen Hollow off of Forest Road #9 (Lipscomb Road). This facility is equipped with a restroom and a large primitive campsite area. This camp is used by numerous scout troops located throughout Ohio.

ATV Areas: N/A

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Future projects include the following: replace bridge decking on the bridge leading to the Horseman's Camp, improve the Boy Scout Camp in Dullen Hollow by adding some picnic tables and benches for the fire ring, and continue to fix and/or design new tie system at the Horseman's Camp.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: See Scioto Trail Forest Plan.

Prevention: See Scioto Trail State Forest

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire can be an excellent management tool and is practiced at Tar Hollow on an annual basis. There are several proposed prescribed burns planned for Tar Hollow State Forest and will be conducted over the next few years. Three (3) fires are planned in the following compartments: B-7 (92 acres) ; B-8,9 (105 acres); B-9,11 (317 acres). Completion of these fires will be dependant on weather conditions and workloads of available staff.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Training: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Fire Department Contacts: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

FireWise: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

FEPP/FFP: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Grants: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Become more active in fire prevention programs such as FireWise.

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have eight (8) commissioned law enforcement officers and two (2) commissioned managers. The purposed 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 Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Equipment: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Patrol Priorities: Will focus on high-use recreational areas such as the horse camp, Dullen Hollow Scout Camp, and remote areas suspected of illegal activity.

Special Projects: Unit Manager and Forest Officer will coordinate projects that require multiple officers to properly implement.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): See Scioto Trail 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: See Scioto Trail State Forest Plan.

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Safety: Forest employees participate in monthly training sessions and many other safety oriented discussions in the field. The Division also participates in the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program and will continue to repair minor infractions that resulted from these inspections. Division Staff is also required to attend the Annual Division of Forestry Safety Training. Other safety trainings will be utilized as opportunities arise.

A safety plan is currently being developed for each State Forest and will be included in future Annual Work Plans. Division staff will be conducting internal

hazard and safety assessments and will provide mitigating practices to eliminate or reduce the risk. Forest Staff will also utilize the policies and guidelines contained within the Division Safety Manual to further improve the agency's safety culture.

Any type of emergency (medical, fire, police, etc.) will be acted upon by staff member(s) consistent with their training, experience and ability to act.

Other Employee Development: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: An annual Teacher's Field Day is held at Tar Hollow State Forest. Each June, teachers are invited to participate in the field day to discuss and learn various aspects of resource management. Last year's event attracted 30 teachers from around the state. Forest staff will continue to support the programming and logistics for the field day.

Tar Hollow State Forest will be represented at Open Houses held at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest July of 2011.

Partnerships: Township trustees, US-Forest Service, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Boy Scouts of America, Ruffed Grouse Society, Ross County Sportsman Club, Division of Wildlife, Tar Hollow State Park, and National Wild Turkey Federation.

Volunteers: Ohio Horsemen's Council, Buckeye Trail Association, and Boy Scouts of America.

Interpretive Programs: Continue to maintain all research, prescribed fire, and forest management interpretive signs.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to foster relationships with teachers through educational events at Tar Hollow.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

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

Summary (2-3 year projected budget): Future budgets cannot be anticipated since the State of Ohio budget for the next two fiscal years has not been passed by the General Assembly.