



To serve you as your state forester and chief of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry is a great honor for me. I extend my appreciation to ODNR Director David Mustine for appointing me to assist him in guiding the department as we support Governor Kasich's plan of bringing jobs to Ohio, while serving as dedicated stewards of our environment.

I have met many of you during my career with the Division of Forestry, and as past president of the Ohio Forestry Association and past chair of the Society of American Foresters. Your commitment to improving Ohio's woodlands and the state's \$15 billion wood industry is recognized and appreciated.

The Division of Forestry is entrusted with managing Ohio's 21 state forests as well as programs related to forestry stewardship and assistance, forest health and products, forest certification and public outreach throughout Ohio. I am especially grateful for the division's staff – their invaluable skills, knowledge and professionalism continue to carry this division as we work daily to further our mission...

ODNR Division of Forestry's mission:

To promote and apply management for the sustainable use and protection of Ohio's private and public forest lands.

The mission has not changed but the budget environment has. To help the people of Ohio to get through these tough economic times, Governor Kasich is bolstering industry and increasing efficiency. In support of this, we will operate the Division of Forestry in a tight and effective manner. Two goals that we will pursue in the division are to explore the development of a Chain-of-Custody program for our state forest certified logs and to review possibilities of a certification program for private landowners.

This column is one of the venues through which I plan to share with you more news, thoughts, ideas, and goals for the division. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Ohio's woodlands, and please continue to reach out to the foresters in our division for advice and assistance.

Robert Boyles,
Chief, ODNR Division of Forestry

Chief Boyles began his career at ODNR as a coordinator for the department's Reclamation program in northeast Ohio. Bob started with the Division of Forestry as a field forester at Shawnee State Forest, then as an assistant district forester for the Athens and Chillicothe district offices, and most recently was Southern Ohio District Forester.