



More Trees, Healthy Forests

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

Open House Summary

Eastern State Forests

**Fernwood
Harrison
Yellow Creek
Beaver Creek
Mohican**

Fiscal Year 2009

Open House Invitation

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry cordially invites you to attend one of five open houses located throughout Ohio. The location and dates of our open houses are as follows:

September 10, 2008

Time: 3 pm – 7 pm

Location: Maumee State Forest Office, 3390 County Road D, Swanton, Ohio 43558

Telephone: 419-822-3052

September 3, 2008

Time: 6 pm – 8 pm

Location: Eastern State Forests and Mohican, New Philadelphia Office, 2205 Reiser Ave SE., New Philadelphia, Ohio 44663 Telephone: 330-339-2205

September 2, 2008

Time: 4 pm – 6 pm

Location: District 4, Athens District Office, 360 E. State St, Athens, Ohio 45701

Telephone: 740-593-3341

September 3, 2008

Time: 5 pm – 7 pm

Location: District 5, Chillicothe Office, 345 Allen Ave., Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

Telephone: 740-774-1596

August 26, 2008

Time: 3 pm – 7 pm

Location: District 6, Shawnee State Forest Office, 13291 US 52, West Portsmouth, Ohio 45663

Telephone: 740-858-6685

Each year the Division of Forestry opens our doors to interested citizens and neighbors and displays our upcoming forest management activities for the upcoming year. A number of activities including timber harvesting, prescribed burning, timber cruising, grapevine control, recreation trails, and facility maintenance that are proposed for the upcoming year are on display.

Interested citizens are encouraged to attend and meet local forest managers and staff who will be present to answer any questions that you may have. In addition, citizens are encouraged to comment on cards that will be provided concerning any topic relating to state forest management.

Thank you for your participation in state forest management. We look forward to meeting you!

David Lytle
Chief and State Forester

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Purpose

Ohio DNR Division of Forestry **open houses** are held each year as an opportunity for citizens to learn more about state forest management for the upcoming year . This document is provided to interested citizens and visitors to state forests. Citizens are encouraged to attend any one or all of our upcoming open houses located throughout the state this summer. At each open house, citizens will have a chance to visit with local forest managers and staff to ask questions on the details of these projects. This is a great opportunity for interaction with your state foresters.

This document outlines important activities such as timber harvests, prescribed burning, recreational trail activities, and other activities that are scheduled for the upcoming 12 months on the Eastern Region State Forests managed by the ODNR - Division of Forestry.

The information contained in these open house documents is accurate to the best of the Division's knowledge and is intended for interested citizens. However, citizens should be aware that the items listed here are scheduled and anticipated activities. While being good stewards, it often becomes necessary to alter, change, add, drop, or re-evaluate projects due to changing conditions.

Overview of State Forests

Ohio operates 20 state forests, covering more than 185,000 acres in 21 counties, mostly in Ohio's unglaciated southeastern region. The history of Ohio's State Forests officially began in 1916, but its roots go back much further. Before Ohio was settled, it was virtually all forested. But by the late 1800s, many of those forests had been cut down, leaving the state with only 20 percent forest cover.

Today's state forests are a reflection of decades of stewardship. With careful nurturing by generations of dedicated, trained and committed foresters, Ohio's forests have become models of resource management and protection.

Lands virtually devoid of merchantable timber now boast an inventory in excess of 1.2 billion board feet. At the same time, more than 400 million board feet of forest products have been removed and processed over the last 50 years through carefully planned and executed forestry operations. The current value of the revenue to the state for these products removed would be in excess of \$100 million.

But state forests are more than timber. State forests are outdoor havens for millions of recreational visitors, habitat for almost 100 endangered species, and home to some of the oldest tended trees in the United States.

Today, the Division of Forestry manages with its original purpose in mind. Yet, management has broadened to ensure that other natural resource values, including endangered species, wildlife habitat, and backcountry recreation are protected or enhanced.

Division of Forestry Mission Statement

Our Mission is to Promote and Apply Management for the Sustainable use and Protection of Ohio's Private and Public Forest Lands

▶ We will

- Reforest rural lands, where appropriate, through the growing and selling of high-quality forest tree seedlings, emphasizing hardwoods.
- Encourage the best management of Ohio's non-industrial private forests through stewardship-oriented assistance that meets landowner management objectives.
- Provide multiple public benefits from forests owned and managed by the ODNR-Division of Forestry that include being a source of aesthetics, forest products, recreational opportunities, quality streams and diverse wildlife habitats. These properties will be individually managed to enhance their unique features.
- Establish, maintain, and improve urban forests through expanding cooperative efforts with Ohio's communities.
- Encourage rural economic health by emphasizing quality products from Ohio's woodlands and wood-using industries.
- Provide wildfire management leadership including prescribed fire.
- Promote the health of Ohio's forests.
- Facilitate understanding of the vital role of forests in Ohio's environment and economy.
- Develop and maintain partnerships, such as Ohio Tree Farm Committee, Ohio Forestry Association, woodland owner groups, 4-H, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Society of American Foresters, and others, that support these goals and objectives.

▶ We will foster

- An educated and informed workforce
- An innovative workplace that promotes excellence and personal growth
- The trust of the public that is earned on a daily basis.

Strategic Plan

The Division of Forestry has formulated a new Strategic Plan to guide State Forest management for the upcoming 2-5 years. The Strategic Plan is an effort to focus our management activities on the highest priorities. The Strategic Plan also incorporates the important step of Certification of our State Forests. Governor Strickland issued a Directive on October 25, 2007 for the ODNR-Division of Forestry to achieve third-party certification.

The Division of Forestry encourages you to comment, respond, or make suggestions to our new Strategic Plan prior to implementation. The plan is outlined below. Feel free to comment on one of the provided comments forms or on a separate sheet of paper.

State Forest Land Management

All state forestland is divided into “zones” that direct the recommendations for management. These zones are intended to provide for management activities on our forest while protecting sensitive features.

Management activities on state forests are designed to improve our forests. They promote the health and vigor of the forest, provide for timber production, improve recreational opportunities, and protect our natural heritage. Activities such as timber harvesting undergo a rigorous review process, before final decisions are made. State foresters make considerations for potential impacts to a variety of features in order to ensure good stewardship.

Timber harvests on state forests are sustainable. Approximately 2 % of the entire acreage of state forests receives some type of harvesting in any given year. On average, 75% of timber harvests are partial harvests or thinning harvests where only selected trees are cut and many trees remain on the site. Clearcutting is limited to no more than 25 acres in size and represents an average of 25% or less of the total harvested acreage each year. Revenue from forest management activities such as timber harvesting is shared with local county, township, and school district governments. As required by law, the Division distributes 65% of the net proceeds from timber sales back to the local county, township, and school district in that particular area. This is known as the “Trees to Textbooks” program.

Timber Sales

Our State Forests are “working” forests. Timber harvesting is a valuable tool in the management of a forest. Harvesting protects, promotes, and provides for healthy forests. Harvesting can re-align the species composition of a forest to a more natural and historic state. An example would be to favor oak-hickory forests by removing more shade tolerant species such as maple.

The Division of Forestry administers timber harvest each year on state forests. Proposed timber harvests undergo an internal review process that considers impacts to sensitive features or species while conserving forest productivity.

The following timber sales have been reviewed and are scheduled to be sold. It is anticipated that these will be sold in the next six to 12 months. Maps of these timber sales will be available at each open house. Each timber sale will be assigned a four-digit contract number at the time of sale such as 09xx.

*****There are no timber sales scheduled at Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek, Beaver Creek or Mohican for the upcoming year.***

Marking Plan

The review process on the following compartments has not been completed. These compartments are scheduled to be reviewed, marked and cruised within the next 12 months. The volumes and acreage are estimates. During the review process the boundaries and acreage, volumes, and conditions may change. This list represents a snapshot in time of forecasted timber sales. Maps of these areas will be available at each open house.

State Forest	Compartment	Board Feet	Total Acres	Acres Clearcut	Acres Partial / Select Cut
Harrison	2,3,4	330,000	130	10	120
Yellow Creek	4 (Pine)	3000 tons pine	71	71	0

Prescribed Fire

Wildland fire is a historical component to a healthy forest. In Ohio, fire plays an important role in many of the ecosystems represented on state forests. The benefits of fire are far reaching such as promoting native vegetation, improving forest health, revitalizing ecosystems, creating wildlife habitat, and reducing dangerous forest fuels.

In an effort to return the historical role of fire in the forest, the Division conducts prescribed-low intensity-burns on state forests each year. Trained fire managers conduct fires to remove leaf litter, undesirable species, and create better conditions for forest health.

The following prescribed burning activities are forecasted for the next 12 months. Interested citizens should be aware that prescribed burning is heavily dependent on weather and other atmospheric conditions. The timing and operations of burning are often modified due to changing conditions. In addition, some portions of these areas may be burned while on other portions burning may be delayed for 1 or more seasons. This list will likely be modified as conditions change. For more information or details regarding anticipated prescribed burns please visit one of our district open houses.

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Fernwood	McIntyre Tract	610

Compartment Cruising

A compartment represents 300 to 400 acres of forestland in a state forest. Foresters cruise these compartments and write a prescription for future activities that may be considered or needed in these stands. Each year, state foresters visit and evaluate approximately 5% of the acreage of state forests through the compartment cruising cycle. This process ensures that forest management and timber harvests are sustainable.

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Fernwood	8	237
Harrison	6	352

Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek and Beaver Creek

Other Resources Management Treatments: Several activities are scheduled for the upcoming fiscal year. These activities are designed to nurture these young forests to maturity.

- Timber Stand Improvement Pilot Project: Initiate a timber stand improvement pilot project to begin to clean up stands throughout the State Forests in the eastern region. The objective of this project will be to improve the health, vigor, and quality of our state forest stands by controlling invasive species and reducing competition. An additional benefit of this project will be income from the utilization of removed material in the pallet and blocking markets to offset the costs of TSI operations. We also expect to improve aesthetics, and reduce recreational safety hazards in our State Forests with minimal administration costs.
- Approximately 280 acres will be treated for grapevine control at Yellow Creek State Forest in compartment B1, B2, and A5.
- Mechanical Site Preparation: Subsoiling to a 3-4 inch depth at planting sites in Fernwood, compartment C15-18, and Harrison compartment C3 and C4 totaling 300 acres.
- Site Preparation: Herbicide application on 3 acres at Harrison compartment C4.
- Tree Planting: Plant 2000 mixed species at Harrison compartment C4.

Recreation and Special Use Permits

Thousands of visitors enjoy the trail system on our state forests. Visitors can use bridle, backpack, hiking, mountain biking, and APV trails. Each year there are a host of maintenance activities that need to be accomplished on our trail system. The Division of Forestry welcomes volunteer labor and contributions to trail improvements.

Mohican-Memorial State Forest: The Mohican Trails Club has volunteered to replace foot bridges on the Hogg Hollow trail. Approved plans from ODNR Engineering department have been received and materials have been bought to build a couple of bridges. The volunteers are planning to replace the missing bridge as their first project.

The Wayne County Chapter of the Ohio Horsemen's Council has submitted a recreation expansion request for a "New Connector Bridle Trail". The proposed trail would offer a shorter loop option for the blue trail. The connector is approximately 1.25 miles of which approximately .5 miles would use Township Road 3234. The Township Road is being used to get around private properties that border state forest property.

Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek and Beaver Creek:

Trails: Complete rehabilitate 22 mile trail System at Harrison State Forest ... (remove Beaver Dam @ Twin Lakes overflow – restore Yellow Trail, Grade and rehab trail surface on Red Trail system, brush out and regrade Blue Trail). Review proposals for Beaver Creek Rails to Trails project.

Campgrounds: Remove hazard trees from camp and picnic areas. Purchase and install new picnic tables, and trashcans in all areas

Infrastructure Maintenance and Improvements

Each state forest provides unique opportunities for visitors to enjoy trails, hunt, fish, picnic, bird watch, and many other uses. It is extremely important as part of our management commitment, to provide a valuable experience to our visitors. Each year, there are a host of improvements and maintenance activities to be done.

Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek and Beaver Creek

Structures:

- Complete Fernwood Facility “Power-up” (Replace Heating and Cooling System, and install Security System).
- Install Gutters-Downspouts, and repair roof leaks on Fernwood Pole Barn.
- Paint Office and replace Gables and Soffits on Gas House.

Signage:

- Install Entrance Signs at Beaver Creek, Fernwood, and Harrison State Forests

Grounds:

- Treat and remove vegetation from Security Fence @ Fernwood.
- Treat and remove woody vegetation from Fernwood Helipad, Reseed.
- Cut and Spray M-Rose in Hidden Hollow Campsites.
- Plant and maintain Red Osier Dogwood in campsite filler strips.
- *Contract Mowing, Latrine Cleaning, and Trash collection.

Fire Protection

In addition to providing fire control on the publicly owned lands, State Forest managers are responsible for fire protection areas covering many counties. The Ohio Revised Code gives the Division of Forestry the authority to enforce wildland fire laws on private lands. Within the protection area, the forest staff works to provide training, technical support, and suppression assistance to local Volunteer Fire Departments. The division’s wildland fire policies and procedures are documented in the Wildland Fire Manual.

Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek and Beaver Creek

Prevention

- Introduce and Promote Wildfire Prevention Programs through local Fire departments utilizing Smokey’s “A Fire Prevention Teachers Workbook”
- Coordinate 7 Firewise Community Projects
- Promote roadside Fire Danger Signs in Belmont, Columbiana, Harrison Counties

Enforcement

- Investigate all Debris Burning Fires in Columbiana and Belmont Counties
- Patrol same Counties on *Critical Fire Potential Days

Suppression

- Stage available Resources and Equipment @predetermined location, notify local Departments of availability status, and respond as needed/requested during potentially critical fire days

Rx Fire

- Develop Rx Plan and schedule burn @ Fernwood, McIntyre Tract

Contacts

- Attend (minimum) 2/year VFD Association meetings in each County (7), Provide information as outlined/directed, update Fire Department Data Sheets

FEPP

- Encourage FEPP placement and coordinate local process

Training

- Offer, and Provide Basic Wildfire Suppression training in Columbiana, Harrison, Tuscarawas, and Stark Counties

Law Enforcement

State forests currently have 10 fully commissioned law enforcement officers plus 4 commissioned managers. The purpose of retaining commissioned officers is to enforce the Forest Rules that are depicted within the Ohio Revised Code. One very important aspect of the Law Enforcement program is that of resource protection. Forest Officers protect property boundaries from encroachment, recreation resources from undesignated use, guard against timber theft and watch for signs of watershed degradation. Specific law enforcement policies and procedures are delineated within the Division of Forestry's Law Enforcement Manual

Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek and Beaver Creek

Facilities

- Patrol and Conduct Building Checks each Shift
- Install access cable gates at Beaver Creek ...(*Beach area, Gas line Right of Way, Old Strip Mine area, Squatters Cabin Site*)
- Install new Locks and routinely oil at all cable access gates ...(*all Forests*)
- Patrol, and enforce litter, vandalism, Forest Regulations, and ORC in all Forest areas

Signage/Boundaries

- Maintain "No Dumping" signs at Beaver Creek ...(*replace, GREASE, Replace posts as needed*)
- Replace vandalized signs at all Forests as needed
- Inventory sign type and location, maintain inventory for replacements
- Check and repaint established boundary at Beaver Creek

Training

- Offer and provide Basic Wildfire Suppression training in Columbiana, Harrison, Tuscarawas, and Stark Counties
- Conduct and/or coordinate Wildfire Prevention programs as outlined in "Wildland Fire Work Plan"

Information and Education

Mohican-Memorial State Forest:

Discovery Forest: A two-acre orchard of American Chestnut trees was created in the Discovery Forest in the spring of 2008. This orchard was established in the pine clear-cut. These 100% American Chestnut trees will be protected from deer browsing by an eight-foot high fence that encloses the orchard. The orchard was planted with 250 American Chestnut trees this past spring. Additional trees will be planted this coming spring. It will take several years to completely fill the orchard with trees. The Discovery Forest is continuing to develop. Signage has been established at the facility. Educational materials and a self-guide tour map are in planning.

Fernwood, Harrison, Yellow Creek and Beaver Creek

Forest Heritage Festival

- Provide manpower ... (set up, operate displays, and provide programs)
- Administer Website

Environmental Education

- Provide Speakers and Coordinate ... (*Harrison 5th grade Environmental Ed/Tree Planting Days, Fernwood 6th Grade Land Lab*)

Wildfire

- Provide timely interviews and PSA's for Radio, Newspaper and other Media outlets prior to and during potentially critical fire periods
- Coordinate Wildfire Training seminars

*Outreach

- Nurture Recreation Program Volunteers ... (*to maintain Harrison and Fernwood trails, and provide "Camp Hosts" at each campground*)
- Develop a "Grapevine" of cooperating Forest Neighbors to assist in the protection of Forest Resources
- Establish a Corp of "Forest Green" Volunteers to adopt, and maintain clean sections of State Forest roads and trails

Appendix 1

State Forest Strategic Plan

**Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry**



**State Forest Strategic Plan
2008**

DRAFT

Vision:

Ohio's state forests will be the best managed forestlands in the country, and will be recognized as such.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. Manage forests to ensure the health and sustainability of forest systems***
- 2. Produce high-quality forest products that contribute to local communities***
- 3. Provide recreational opportunities that require a large forest land base***
- 4. Provide unique forestry education sites and promote outreach and long-term research***
- 5. Maintain a highly trained and well-equipped work force***

Goals and Strategies

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

- *Goal: Implement a proved, verifiable approach to sustainable forest management*
 - Strategy: Achieve Certification of our state forests using the standards of The Sustainable Forestry Initiative and The Forest Stewardship Council in 2009
 - Strategy: Maintain commitment to SFI and FSC by meeting annual requirements.
- *Goal: Manage for site-appropriate, native forest systems and species*
 - *Strategy: Review and revise state forest-specific land management objectives, goals, and zoning for forest management by 2009, and utilize appropriate silvicultural guidelines to promote site appropriate native species.*
 - Strategy: Address conifer plantation management by establishing a conifer plantation management policy by 2009.
- *Goal: Maintain long-term forest productivity through conservation of soil, water, and forest resources*
 - Strategy: Review harvest standards for water quality, soil conservation, utilization, and monitoring and incorporate needed changes into harvest planning and timber contracts by 2009
 - Strategy: Review SMZ standards and adjust for consistency with FSC-SMZ guidelines.
 - Strategy: Review Wet Weather Logging policy and implement needed changes by 2009.
- *Goal: Retain or promote stand- and landscape-level wildlife habitat*
 - Strategy: Request the development of stand- and landscape-level habitat guidelines specific for Ohio forests from the Division of Wildlife, and implement into our harvest planning process.

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

- *Goal: Base harvest volumes on the goals and guidelines for each forest system, current stand and forest-wide inventories, and science-based silviculture*
 - Strategy: Establish a base-line inventory for all state forests by first formulating specifications for the level of intensity and criteria for data collection in the next 6 months; followed by a plan of action to accomplish the project.
 - Strategy: Implement and test Growth & Yield model to calculate Annual Allowable Harvest in the next two years.

- Strategy: Review our current policies on forest inventories for prescription cruising and adjust or develop new harvest schedules/policies accordingly. The land management staff of the Division of Forestry will be charged selecting a system that will most efficiently and accurately prescribe harvest schedules by 2010.
- Strategy: Establish a plan to accomplish a Pre-commercial Silvicultural Activities in order to nurture young stands into quality, healthy, mature stands.
- *Goal: Develop marketing strategies to capture the maximum value of forest products*
 - Strategy: Immediately identify sales to conduct a pilot merchandized product sale in 2008, from logs harvested from various state forests. Merchandizing and marketing efforts located in Scioto Trail State Forest and shall utilize contract logging services and in-house logging. Evaluate the results of project compared to traditional stumpage timber sales.
 - Strategy: Add value by exploring utilization options, alternative markets, niche markets, and low-grade material markets.
 - Strategy: Implement a Timber Sale Administration training program to maximize our return from stumpage sales. Task to be accomplished by seasoned administrators by 2008.
 - Strategy: Review and revise Land Management Manual to adjust business practices for consistency by 2009.
 - Strategy: Improve and publicize a firewood program on state forests by 2008.

Objective3: Provide recreational opportunities that require a large forest land base

- *Goal: Develop a comprehensive backcountry recreation plan for the state forest system*
 - Strategy: Inventory Recreational Opportunities on each state forest
 - Strategy: Ensure User Safety
 - Strategy: Ensure Resource Protection
 - Strategy: Evaluate User Satisfaction (Quality of Experience)
- *Goal: Build recognition for unique and varied recreation opportunities on state forests*
 - Strategy: Emphasize backcountry (or back to basics) experience
 - Strategy: Work with DOF Communication Team to develop strategies to accomplish this goal

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

- *Goal: Develop opportunities to showcase forest management practices to the general public, private landowners, and forest industry*

- Strategy: Establish, maintain and promote demonstration sites at state forests
- Strategy: Utilize and improve existing outreach programs to promote forest management to targeted audiences (students, woodland owners, media, recreational users, policy makers).
- Strategy: Utilize new technology as a communications tool
- Strategy: Promote the historical conservation legacy of the state forest system as part of the Division’s strategic communications
- Strategy: Integrate state forest management into the Division’s strategic communications efforts
- *Goal: Support forest research with an emphasis on sustainable forest management (silviculture, prescribed fire, native systems, etc.)*
 - Strategy: Establish a forest research review team

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

- *Goal: Develop a training, continuing education, and/or certification standard for all division staff*
 - Strategy: Maintain a master training schedule for the DOF
 - Strategy: Develop a training guide for DOF employees
 - Strategy: Select and maintain a database to track employee training and certifications
 - Strategy: Establish training requirements by job classification
 - Strategy: Create and implement a new employee “mentor” program
- *Goal: Inventory and evaluate equipment and facilities and develop maintenance and replacement schedules*
 - Strategy: Establish written equipment replacement standards and schedule with a field request procedure
 - Strategy: Select and maintain a master facility and equipment database
 - Strategy: Establish a facility and equipment maintenance schedule and inspection procedure
 - Strategy: Conduct a facility and equipment needs assessment
- *Goal: Develop equipment and facilities budgets based on current and projected needs*
 - Strategy: Create a dedicated facilities budget separate from the regional maintenance and operating budget
 - Strategy: Develop the equipment budget to account for projected scheduled replacements
 - Strategy: Explore alternative funding sources
- *Goal: Ensure all staff has appropriate health and safety training*
 - Strategy: Determine what training is required by law, policy and position
 - Strategy: Establish an inspection procedure for equipment and facilities

- Strategy: Ensure safety and health training is a priority
- Strategy: Improve safety awareness that is job specific