

# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

## Division of Forestry

### Annual Work Plan

For

### Mohican-Memorial State Forest

For the Period of

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



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June 3, 2009  
(Date)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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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

Bullet Statements: Actions that directly support Strategic Plan Goals & Objectives

- Provide recreational trails and facilities that offer a “back to basics” experience and ensure the protection of the natural resource by assessing conditions, proper maintenance and repairs when necessary.
- Continue to develop and promote the Discovery Forest and work with outside agencies on long-term research in the area of disease resistance for American chestnut and Elm trees.
- Maintain a highly trained staff by conducting monthly safety meetings, offering training opportunities in the areas of forest management, firefighting and law enforcement.

## III. Forest Overview

### *History & Description:*

Mohican-Memorial State Forest is located in southern Ashland County, midway between Columbus and Cleveland. It is easily reached from I-71 and State Routes 97 and 3. The natural attributes of the area combined with state and nearby commercial facilities have made this region one of the more popular year-round attractions of the state.

Mohican-Memorial State Forest is managed under the multiple-use concept for timber and wildlife habitat, forestry research and demonstrations of good forest land management, primitive recreation and natural beauty, tree seed for forest nurseries and protection of soils and watershed.

Timber products obtained from harvest, stand improvement and thinning operations include saw logs, veneer logs with some pulpwood and firewood. Pine plantation thinnings yield fence and guard posts and poles.

During the spring and fall fire seasons, a major objective of the forest organization is to prevent, detect and suppress wildfires that occur on state and private land within the protection district.

The many gas wells and transmission lines that you see are a result of the development of a natural gas storage field underlying the forest.

Land acquisition for the forest began in 1928 and has continued with the accumulation of over 4,500 acres (exclusive of state park land). The land use history of the forest is typical of eastern Ohio. Original forests were cleared for agriculture, but eventually erosion ensued and fertility decreased. Farms were abandoned and subsequently reverted to brush and woodland.

At the time of acquisition, planting of trees on abandoned land was a high priority activity. This resulted in the many plantations of white and red pine and mixtures of these and other pine species that you see today. Much of the tree planting was done by personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps whose camp was located on the forest during the 1930s. Native hardwood of the oak-hickory and beech-maple types and associated species of gum, aspen, ash, cherry and walnut occur on unplanted areas. Native white pine and hemlock are also found.

#### **IV. Resource Management**

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

*Following is a table listing the compartments that will be inventoried this year.*

<b>State Forest</b>	<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>
Mohican	C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, C-7	296

No timber harvests are scheduled.

#### *Merchandising:*

Logs generated from the Columbia Gas's Right-Of-Way clearing operations will be graded and offered for sale to the public through the sealed bid process.

#### *Minerals:*

Monitor activities and communicate with Columbia Gas regarding their operation of the natural gas storage field under the forest. This field has 54 storage wells and about 13 miles of pipeline right-of-way located on the forest.

#### *Invasives:*

No activities are planned but the forest is open to opportunities to control invasive species within the forest such as: bush honeysuckle, Multiflora rose and garlic mustard.

#### *Boundary:*

Approximately 8 miles of forest boundary will be repainted with yellow and/or red paint. Signage and boundary markers will also be checked and replaced as necessary.

#### *Licenses/Leases:*

Monitor Columbia Gas's leases and agreements to assure compliance when operating on the forest.

Monitor The Energy Cooperative (electric company) leases and agreements to assure compliance when operating on the forest.

### *Insects & Disease:*

Cooperate with the Ohio Department of Agriculture with their monitoring efforts of the Emerald Ash Borer.

Monitor for Gypsy Moth activity on the forest.

Cooperate with the American Chestnut Foundation in their research effort to bring back American Chestnut trees to North America.

Cooperate with the Ohio Department of Agriculture and the US Forest Service with their monitoring efforts of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

### *Utilization & Marketing:*

Should the need arise, we will offer to the public firewood permits to allow the clean up of trees along roadways and facilities that have been brought down by weather related events.

### *Research:*

Work with the US Forest Service with the Elm tree research project. The planted Elm trees are hoped to be resistant to Dutch Elm Disease. There are currently 30 trees planted in the research project that began in the summer of 2003.

Maintain the two acre American Chestnut planting in cooperation with the American Chestnut Foundation. This planting is enclosed by an eight foot high deer fence and was planted with 100% American Chestnuts in the spring of 2008. One hundred and forty-four hybrid American chestnut trees were added in the spring of 2009.

### *Summary (2-3 year projects):*

Most all of the above projects are ongoing and are expected to last a number of years. The cruise schedule calls for compartments C5 C6 and C7 to be cruised in 2011 and C8, C9, C10 and C11 to be cruised in 2012. All these compartments are in the "C" zone.

## **V. Maintenance**

### *Buildings:*

Perform general maintenance, routine cleaning and repair to the 14 buildings and structures located on the forest.

1. Forest Office
2. Old Crew Office (schedule to be demolished)
3. Office Well House
4. Service Center
5. Long Garage
6. Saw Shop
7. Gas House (scheduled to be dismantled)
8. Memorial Shrine
9. Shrine Latrine
10. Shrine Well House
11. Bridle Latrine #1
12. Bridle Latrine #2
13. Mountain Bike Latrine
14. Fire Tower

Complete the “Memorial” walkway at the Memorial Shrine.

Complete, to the extent we can, the “Friends of the Shrine” walkway at the Memorial Shrine. This project does not have enough paver to complete the project to its entirety.

Re-roof latrines at the Memorial Shrine and the Old Bridle Day Use Area.

Maintain the grounds around the: Memorial Shrine, Forest Office, Fire Tower, Old Bridle Day Use Area, Service Center, North and West Entrance Signs.

Demolish the old crew office building located next to the forest office.

Salvage the old gas house for the lumber. The lumber used to build this structure is American chestnut.

Lawn mowing is done by a service contract with Progress Industries for the Shrine, Old Bridle Day Use Area and Fire Tower.

Bridle Volunteers provide lawn care for the New Bridle Day Use Area.

Grounds maintenance for the Forest Office, Service Center and Discovery Forest will be done by the forest crew.

No other major repairs are planned or anticipated.

*Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities):*

A natural gas generator will be requested for the office. The generator will serve the office during power outages and make use of natural gas afforded to the state by lease agreement.

Work with Mohican State Park to maintain the Public Water System wells at the Shrine and Forest office to Ohio EPA standards.

No major repairs are planned or anticipated.

*Vehicles/Equipment:*

Continue the preventive maintenance, timely service and repairs to the unit's fleet of vehicles and equipment.

Vehicles:

- 2000 Ford Taurus
- 2003 Ford Expedition
- 1995 Chevy Pickup Truck
- 2001 Dodge Dakota
- 1997 Ford Pickup Truck (scheduled for replacement)
- 2000 International Dump Truck

Equipment:

- John Deere 350 Bulldozer
- Ford 6640 Tractor
- New Holland TS-90 Tractor
- Ford 5030 Tractor
- 20,000 lb GRVW Lowboy Trailer
- Polaris ATV (6 wheel drive)
- Polaris ATV (4 wheel drive)
- Honda ATV (4 wheel drive)
- John Deere 1420 Riding Mower

Request the 2000 Ford Taurus with 112,000-plus miles be replaced. The vehicle is starting to have mechanical problems resulting in costly repairs.

*Roads:*

Mow/trim approximately 5 miles of park road sides 3 times annually.

Maintain all parking areas.

Lumber for a vehicle bridge replacement has been requested from Zaleski State Forest. The bridge is used to gain access to the forest by the forest crew. It is also used as a crossing for the Blue Trail. The bridge is located on the north side of Township Road 3234 where the Blue Trail crosses the road.

*Signage:*

Conduct annual inspection of forest signs, repairing and/or replacing as necessary.

Work with Mohican State Park on standardizing recreational signage within the forest and park.

*Residences:*

There are no residences located on the forest.

*Dams:*

There are no dams located on the forest.

*Capitals Projects:*

The Memorial Shrine walkway is in need of repair and grouting. Each side of the building needs the flower beds raised and a drainage system installed to protect the foundations from water damage. This project was submitted in 2008.

*Summary (2-3 year future projects):*

No major repairs to the buildings and/or structures are anticipated in the next two to three years. Other than listed above, no additional vehicle/equipment is anticipated to be requested for replacement. The exception may be the John Deere 350 Bulldozer. It is old and subject to mechanical failure that can result in costly repairs. We will monitor how costly repairs are becoming vs. a replacement request.

## **VI. Recreation**

### *Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.):*

Recreational bridges will be inspected annually for their integrity, needed repairs or replacement.

Evaluate the bridle and hiking trail systems for maintenance, repairs and improvements.

Continue working with Volunteers to maintain 25 miles of bridle trail and two bridle day use areas.

Continue working with Volunteers to maintain 2 miles of hiking trail.

Continue to work with the Volunteers on the Hog Hollow foot bridge replacements.

Volunteers to maintain the 25 miles of mountain bike trail. We will support, to the extent we can, the Volunteers efforts in maintaining this trail system.

Promote, develop and maintain the Discovery Forest facility and trail system.

### *Campgrounds:*

Campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, and other places where forest visitors congregate will be periodically inspected for hazard trees. Trees identified as being a possible hazard to forest visitors will be removed by the forest crew.

Maintain 10 Park and Pack camp sites. Continue working with Ashland County- West Holmes Career Center, Natural Resource class, in removing hazard limbs in and around the camp sites.

### *ATV Areas:*

Continue working with Volunteers to maintain 6 miles of the snowmobile trail system.

### *Shooting Ranges:*

There are no public shooting ranges on the forest.

### *Grants:*

The northern forests have submitted for a National Recreation Trails Program (NRTP) grant for equipment to maintain and repair trail systems on four state forests (Fernwood, Harrison, Maumee and Mohican).

*Summary (2-3 year future projects):*

With the exception of foot bridge replacements, only routine maintenance to the trail systems and other facilities is expected. Foot bridge replacements on the Hog Hollow Trail are expected to take a number of years to complete due to the number of bridges, funds and availability of a labor force. The goal is to complete one or two bridges per year until the remaining 12 have been replaced.

**VII. Wildland Fire**

*Suppression:*

Aggressively suppress wildland fire starts within the forest.

When requested, support area fire departments in their suppression efforts with equipment, personnel and planning.

1. Bakersville VFD
2. Bladensburg Fire District
3. Coshocton City FD
4. Danville Fire Department
5. F. C. V. VFD
6. Glenmont Volunteer Fire Department
7. Holmes County Fire District #1
8. Jackson Township Fire Department
9. Killbuck Volunteer Fire Department
10. Loudonville Fire Department
11. Monroe-Lucas Volunteer Fire Department
12. Perrysville and Green Township VFD
13. Three Rivers Fire District
14. Walhonding Valley Fire District
15. West Lafayette Fire Department
16. Western Holmes County Fire District
17. Worthington Township Volunteer Fire Department

*Prevention:*

Support area fire departments and schools with their fire prevention activities.

Continue to work with Volunteers to maintain the Mohican Fire Tower for its historic and fire prevention message.

*Prescribed Fire:*

No prescribed fires are planned for the forest.

*Inter-Agency Fire Crew:*

Mohican staff members will be allowed to participate in the Division's Inter-Agency Fire Crew program.

*Training:*

Training will be offered to employees as workloads and the budget allows.

Annual red pack inspections (personal protective clothing and equipment) and fire shelter deployment training will be conducted in late winter before fire season.

*Fire Department Contacts:*

Contact each of the 17 cooperating fire departments in the Mohican Fire Protection Area to update our fire department information sheets.

Attend a fire association or fire department meeting in each of the 5 counties in the Mohican Fire Protection Area

*FireWise:*

Continue to promote the FireWise program within the Mohican Fire Protection Area.

*FEPP/FFP:*

Continue to complete annual inspections of federal property within our fire protection project.

- 1997 Ford Pickup Truck – West Lafayette Fire Department
- Military, 2 ½ ton, 6 x 6 – Walhonding Valley Fire District
- 1.5 kilowatt Portable Generator – Walhonding Valley Fire District
- 1982 Mack 5,000 gallon Tank Truck – Western Holmes County Fire District

Continue to promote the participation of fire departments in the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP).

*Grants:*

Promote grant opportunities to area fire departments.

*Summary (2-3 year future projects):*

In general, the Mohican Fire Protection Area does not have a major wildland fire problem. Even so, our goal is to be prepared to support and assist cooperating fire departments within the protection area with: prevention activities, wildland fire suppression and wildland fire training.

**VIII. Law Enforcement**

*Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus):*

State forests currently have 10 fully commissioned law enforcement officers plus 3 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

*Training:*

The Forest Officer will attend annual In-Service training, weapons re-qualification, first responder training (CPR and First Aid) and other mandatory training as required by the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy regulations, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Division of Forestry law enforcement policies.

Non-mandatory training will be offered to the officer as workloads and the budget allows.

*Equipment:*

Officer will be afforded all equipment listed in the Division's Law Enforcement manual.

Officer will be provided a patrol vehicle with a MARCS radio system, MCT, overhead light bar, siren and other equipment as listed in the Division's Law Enforcement manual.

No major equipment purchases/requests are anticipated.

*Patrol Priorities:*

1. Respond to emergencies and requests for help and give assistance within Officer's training and capabilities.
2. Protect and assist forest visitors through routine patrol and incident investigation.
3. Issue warnings or citations as warranted for Ohio Revised Code and Forest Rules violations.
4. Investigate assigned wildfire reports and issue warnings or citations for Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1503.18 violations.
5. Assist in special projects with other forests and other ODNR Divisions.

*Special Projects:*

Request special projects as needed to address specific issues/problems to maintain a safe and enjoyable experience for the forest visitor.

Work cooperatively with Mohican State Park on special projects affecting both agencies.

Assist other forests with special projects as workloads and the budget allows.

*Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.):*

Contact each court within the Mohican Fire Protection Area to update court information annually.

Conduct annual highway vehicle safety inspections on 6 unit vehicles.

Annually inspect all highway signs, repairing and/or replacing as necessary.

Annually inspect all gates, repairing and/or replacing as necessary.

*Summary (2-3 year future projects):*

We expect the next 2 – 3 years to proceed as outlined above. No major equipment purchases/repairs are anticipated.

#### **IV. Employee Development**

##### *Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:*

Tim Humphrey	Forest Manager
Matthew Rogers	Forest Officer 2
Mark Thompson	Forest Technician
Scott Cawood	Equipment Operator 2
VACANT	Conservation Aide
VACANT	Natural Resource Specialist

##### *Training (tuition reimbursement, etc):*

All employees will attend the annual refresher training for CPR.

Employees will be allowed to participate in other safety related training as workloads and the budget allows.

The Forest Manager and the Forest Technician will be given a chance to attend the annual Forest Health meeting.

##### *Safety:*

Monthly safety meeting will be held for all employees.

Employees will be provided with one pair of safety toed work boots.

Employees will be provided with two pairs of work gloves.

Conduct annual inspection of lock out/tag out tool boxes.

##### *Other Employee Development:*

Employees will be allowed to participate in professional development and educational training programs as workloads and the budget allows.

**X. Public Information/Outreach**

*Planned Events:*

Open House for Mohican-Memorial State Forest	August 26, 2009
OHC State Ride and Chili Cook-Off	September 19, 2009
Gold Star Mother's Memorial Service (Shrine)	September 27, 2009
Explore the Outdoors campaign	(date to be announced)
VFW District 10's Memorial Service (Shrine)	May 31, 2010

*Partnerships:*

Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs  
U. S. Forest Service  
American Chestnut Foundation  
Columbia Gas Transmission  
Ashland County – West Holmes Career Center  
Ohio State University  
Ohio State University Extension Service  
Mohican Chapter of the National Lookout Tower Association  
Mohican State Park  
Boy Scouts of America  
Mohican Juvenile Correctional Facility  
17 Cooperating Fire Departments in Ashland, Coshocton, Holmes, Knox and Richland Counties.  
Mohican Protection Group  
Ohio Department of Agriculture

*Volunteers:*

Cowboys for Jesus	Agreement expires:	December 31, 2014
Holmes County OHC	Agreement expires:	December 31, 2014
Wayne County OHC	Agreement expires:	December 31, 2012
Mohican Trails Club	Agreement expires:	June 30, 2014
Mohican/Malabar Mountain Bike Club	Agreement expires:	December 31, 2011

*Interpretive Programs:*

A Self-Guide Tour brochure is being developed for the Discovery Forest.

*Summary (2-3 year future projects):*

The Hog Hollow trail is in need of several foot bridge replacements. The Mohican Trail Club has replaced two of the bridges. The first bridge was a 32' bridge and the second was a 40' bridge. We will continue to work with the volunteers to replace one or two of the bridges annually until they are all replaced.

**XI. Budget**

*Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance):*

**SFY 2009**

**Budget                      DNR150025      Mohican Region**

<b>500</b>	<b>Payroll-Fund GRF</b>			<b>\$287,599</b>
<b>510</b>	<b>Personal Services- Fund 5090 25% per quarter</b>			<b>\$250</b>
		Misc Prof Development		\$250
<b>520</b>	<b>Supplies &amp; Maint- Fund 5090 25% per quarter</b>			<b>\$85,000</b>
		General Operating		\$85,000
<b>530</b>	<b>Equipment</b>			
<b>550</b>	<b>Subsidies</b>			<b>\$0</b>
<b>570</b>	<b>Capital</b>			
<b>590</b>	<b>Settlements &amp; Bonds - Refunds</b>			
<b>591</b>	<b>Debt Service</b>			
			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$372,849</b>

*Revenue (FY2009):*

Columbia Gas Leasing Payments	\$14,989.84
Columbia Gas Donation	\$5,000.00
Log sale from Columbia Gas Clearings	\$28,019.88
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$48,009.72</b>

*Summary (2-3 year projected budget):*

Budgets will remain very tight for the next two fiscal years. This will present a challenge for managers to find new ways to keep the day to day operations at an expectable level.