

# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

## Division of Forestry

### Annual Work Plan

For

### Shade River State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year FY10  
(July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)



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6-12-2009  
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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

- Implementation of forest inventory for updated cruising methodology.
- Involvement in managing invasive plant species: cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Resources Service through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program's hiring of an Invasive Species Forester.
- An enhanced communication program with the use of web based resources, Project Learning Tree and the Information and Education Program Administrator.

## 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.):*  
The following is a listing of management activities that have been presented through an open house, marked, and will be sold in the next several months.

				Acres	Acres	Acres	Sold
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial	Yes/No
Shade River	A-2	374,747	1,102	9	48	9	Yes

There were no compartments that were inventoried this past year and resulted in no proposed management activities.

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Shade River	A-9	387

*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:* Many 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 Woodland Job Corp for the control of invasive plants within the state forests system. From this grant one crew of six 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.

*Boundary:* All of the Division of Forestry boundaries are maintained to ensure location of property lines in the field. Once every 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:* Special Use Permits will be required for all research projects. Information obtained from these projects will be supplied back to the Division of Forestry.

*Summary (2-3 year projects):*

**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.

*Signage:* All entrance signs will be replaced in FY10 and all other wood signs will be reviewed annually for possible repair or replacement as needed.

*Residences:* N/A

*Dams:* N/A

*Capitals Projects:* None scheduled

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

## VI. Recreation

*Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.):* Shade River State Forest is a host of the following recreational uses:

1. Hunting and fishing
2. Bird watching
3. Fall color visitation
4. Forked Run State Park, Southwest corner of Shade River State Forest

*Campgrounds:* N/A

*ATV Areas:* N/A

*Shooting Ranges:* N/A

*Grants:* N/A.

*Summary (2-3 year future projects):* Continue current recreation levels at this time.

## 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:*

*Training:*

*Fire Department Contacts:* See Zaleski State Forest Plan

*Fire Wise:* See Zaleski State Forest Plan

*FEPP/FFP:* See Zaleski State Forest Plan

*Grants:*

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

## VIII. Law Enforcement

*Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus):* State Forests currently have 10 commissioned law enforcement officers and 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 policies 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:* Identify and request special projects to address specific issues and problems in order to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for forest users.

*Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.):* The Forest Officer will visit county courts and prosecutors at least once per year for updates on bond schedules, court dates, and judge and prosecutor information

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

## IV. Employee Development

*Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:* Shade River State Forest is staffed from Hocking State Forest.

David Glass, Manager  
Charlie Lee, Forester  
James Pfarr, Forest Officer  
Heath Boggs, Equipment Operator  
Tony Duncan, Equipment Operator  
Mark Lowe, Equipment Operator

*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):* Shade River State Forest will continue to try to improve use of volunteer hours. We understand the importance of assistance through volunteers and we hope to be able to accommodate such requests.

**XI. Budget**

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

**(NOTE:** Budget figures provided by Columbus Fiscal and developed with the District Forester and Forest Manager. Attach Copy.)

*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.

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