Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Perry State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **2013**
(July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)

Prepared By:

David L. Glass, Manager

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Approved By:

Nate Jester, District Manager

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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

- Manage Perry State Forest under the multiple use concept promoting land management, forest sustainability, and back country recreation.
- Implement new policies as presented in the revised Land Management Manual that will support third party certification.
- Continue to develop employee skills and abilities through training thereby improving productivity and efficiency.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Since acquiring this property in 1961, the Division of Forestry has implemented many land management forestry practices at Perry State Forest including tree planting, dam improvements, grapevine control, boundary installation and maintenance, crop tree releases, and timber harvests.

Prior to State of Ohio ownership, most of Perry State Forest was mined for coal. Many areas were mined prior to any reclamation laws and resulted in very rugged, sometime barren terrain. Little vegetation of any kind was present in the 1960's. Limited reclamation has been completed, including a large section along CR 48. Trees and plantations now dot the once barren landscape. Several reforestation and tree plantings have been established on the forest.

Perry State Forest is located in Clayton Township, Perry County near New Lexington, Ohio, and is host to one of the most visited APV areas in the State of Ohio.

With the APV area, miles of challenging trails are open to the public from April 1st to December 1st of each year. Marked trails and a designated scramble area are provided for visitors to enjoy and test their driving abilities.

No field staff report daily to Perry State Forest. Day-to-day operations are managed out of Hocking State Forest and crews report from Blue Rock State Forest near Duncan Falls, Ohio. The old service center at Perry State Forest is leased to Clayton Township Trustees. Blue Rock crews utilize one (1) storage building at Perry State Forest for equipment and trail supply storage.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.): 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
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Clearcut / Openings	Shelterwood / Deferment	Selection / Improvement
Perry	A-4	71730	200	10		

Following is a listing of management activities that were inventoried this past year and are being proposed to be implemented this coming winter.

The following areas will be marked in FY 2013:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Clearcut / Openings	Shelterwood / Deferment	Selection / Improvement
Perry	A-19	14,570	367		16	

These planned harvests resulted from previous cruising and are expected to be marked in FY 14 or beyond.

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Clearcut / Openings	Shelterwood / Deferment	Selection / Improvement
Perry	A-7	411,070	3,708	14	75	

There may be background data assessment for a future forest inventory update. Some field cruising may be completed for the purpose of building a more accurate forest inventory.

Following is a listing of compartments that will receive noncommercial timber stand improvement activities.

State Forest	**Compartment**	**Total Acres**	**Work**
Perry	A-4	243	Chemical control of Ailanthus
Perry	A-4	243	Chemical/Mechanical control of grapevine
Perry	Various	700	Chemical control of Ailanthus--OWJC

Merchandising: There are no plans to merchandize any timber sales at Perry State Forest.

Minerals: Many natural gas wells are in Perry State Forest. Most of these were drilled in the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's. Transmission lines transverse Perry State Forest. The Rocky Express Pipeline (REX) construction at Perry State Forest has been installed and is in operation. Minor repairs to right of way and right of way boundary work are planned for FY13. Representatives contact Division of Forestry staff to schedule upcoming work projects.

The Division of Forestry is currently reviewing and pursuing the potential for oil and gas activity on each state forest. In coordination with other Divisions within the Department of Natural Resources, Best Management Practices have been developed and suitability analyses have also been conducted. During this analysis, specific areas within the land holding Divisions of the Department have been identified as potential locations for the various types of oil and gas activity. Also, the mineral rights for each property are also being researched and identified in preparation for potential leasing activity. These leases may be with the state or with other private mineral rights owners on state lands. In either case, the Division is fully prepared to manage and implement these activities with the least amount of disturbance necessary to accomplish the task.

Invasives: Invasive species are a challenge at Perry State Forest. Tree of heaven, multifora rose, autumn olive are some of the woody invasive species that have been targeted for control. Vegetative management on right of ways, roadside edges, and regeneration areas are monitored by foresters for control. All invasive control projects utilize the noncommercial project proposal process. Acreage targets are listed in the noncommercial timber stand improvement table.

Boundary: All of the Division of Forestry boundaries are maintained to ensure location of property lines in the field. Boundaries are repainted on a four (4) year rotation to ensure location and to review if any obstructions have been placed on Division of Forestry lands. Forest Officers ensure security of land boundaries. Blue Rock State Forest crews work at Perry State Forest and manually paint approximately ten (10) miles of boundary each year. All boundaries are painted in yellow for easy recognition in the field.

Licenses/Leases: This is an ongoing event at Perry 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 individual review. Many requests will require a special use permit and bonding.

Insects & Disease: Insects of concern include the gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, as well as other more minor pests. The Ohio Department of Agriculture has a formal gypsy moth monitoring program that occurs in the forest. The Division of Forestry participates in the gypsy moth “Slow the Spread” program if an infestation warrants the treatment. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid monitoring is supported by a USDA Forest Service grant. State Forest staff performs informal monitoring for occurrence of a number of diseases and insects. The monitoring and samplings occur with partnerships from Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State Extension, and the USDA Forest Service.

Utilization & Marketing: Forest products will continue to be offered for sale through both traditional state forest timber sales (stumpage) and merchandising sales. Additionally, firewood permits will be available for sale to the public.

Research: Currently no ongoing research projects are taking place within the Perry State Forest. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or group. The only requirement is a special use permit that needs to be applied for and approved for the activity.

Summary (2-3 year projects): Implement a stand based cruise schedule based on the comprehensive inventory and a growth and yield model. Try to identify sites at least two (2) years ahead of scheduled treatment.

V. Maintenance

Buildings: The old service center building at Perry State Forest is leased to Clayton Township Trustees. The other out building is used for storage and equipment housing for Blue Rock State Forest Crews. Pending funding, the roof on the storage building is scheduled to be painted in FY13. The perimeter of this facility is surrounded by chain link fence, and has received some damage from falling trees. A 50 ft buffer was cut in FY10 and grass will be maintained to prevent future damage to the fence and buildings.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): None

Vehicles/Equipment: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Roads: Most access roads at Perry State Forest are used for land management purposes and are not open to the public vehicle travel. Roads #1, #3, and #4 had stone placement in FY07 and will be maintained until future work is planned. Road mileage is as follows: Road #1 is 5.5 miles; Road #3 is 3.5 miles; and Road 4 is two (2) miles in length. Maintenance planned for FY13 includes the following:

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. Brush removal is again planned for #1, #3, and #4 where trees are overtopping road. This will allow for sunlight to get to surface of road.
4. All road gates are checked for locks, condition, and replaced with pipe-fabricated gates as needed. All service gates will be painted safety orange in FY13.
5. All access roads, in FY12 were inventoried, mapped, and inspected. The results of the inspection will guide the maintenance efforts of the forest staff.
6. Signage replacement is completed as needed.

Signage: All of Perry State Forest's entrance highway signs will be reviewed for condition in FY13 and repaired or replaced as needed.

Information signs are planned this year around selected post harvest areas to inform the public on what type of harvest activities have recently occurred and what future management activities are planned for these areas.

Residences: N/A

Dams: Three (3) dams requiring periodic inspection are at Perry State Forest. These dams are:

1. Miles Lake along County Road 48
2. Lake Essington along Natural Resource Road 3
3. Lake Buckeye along Natural Resource road 1

All dams are reviewed weekly for the following:

1. Woody vegetation on dams
2. Seepage
3. Slippage or movement of soil
4. Surface road condition
5. Culvert and spillage conditions and drainage
6. Where ever possible, mowed annually

Capitals Projects: None scheduled

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

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): Perry State Forest has many recreational opportunities. This includes sixteen miles of APV trails and eight miles of bridle trails. All trails will be monitored after each significant storm event for maintenance needs. One culvert is planned for installation on the Blue Trail southeast of Twp. Road 117 and a short reroute is also planned in this same area.

Campgrounds: N/A

APV Areas: There are sixteen miles of marked APV trails although the entire designated APV area is a legal scramble area. Trails will be maintained to control erosion and re-graded using motorized equipment twice a year. All trails will be open and passable during the recreational user season. Sanitary facilities will be monitored and maintained on a weekly basis. Signs will be replaced as

needed. All parking areas, access roads, and emergency roads will be supplemented with gravel. The APV trail system is the only system with seasonal closure. The trail system is closed from deer gun season to April 1st. Each year a section of the APV trail is designated for surface and drainage improvement using RTP funding. In FY 2013, a project is planned on the Blue and Red APV trails. Please see more details below on 4 year rotation plan for trail maintenance. A new Romtec restroom facility will also be installed this year.

Grants: A Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant is used for reimbursement of maintenance costs. Each year all equipment and personnel costs are tracked and the Division is reimbursed at a rate of 80% of costs.

The Recreation Services Office of the Division of Parks and Recreation, which administers the RTP grant program, has asked the Division of Forestry to submit a 4 year plan for trail maintenance. Each year, the DOF will implement this and request continued funding thru the RTP application process. Our 4 year plan is listed below:

Year 1-FY13: Trail #1 (Blue) is located in the "Dust Bowl Area" and is located on the NE side of Perry State Forest APV area. Work planned includes: use of Gabion stone to fill large soft areas, installation of 4 large culverts along the Blue Trail, installation of water and sediment elevation drop structure with drainage culvert, carsonite post installation, and grading and shaping of balance of trail. Trail #4 (Orange) is also located in the "Dust Bowl Area" and planned work includes gabion stone installation, 3 culverts installed, and carsonite posts placed along the trail. Trail #6 (Blue)and Trail #5 (Orange) are located Northeast of Lake Buckeye and both are located NW of APV Parking Area. Worked planned for these areas includes Gabion Stone installation in soft areas, emergency access road improved with stone surface and culvert installations, use of arm mower to remove over hanging limbs and brush, carsonite post installations, installation of additional signage, and grading and shaping of balance of trail. Improvements to turn around area in APV parking Lot and installation of the new Romtec latrine will also be completed this FY. Equipment requests for FY13 year includes purchase of skid steer to be designated use at Perry APV and 3 quick attachment buckets (18", 24" and 36") for Cat 305CR track hoe.

Year 2-FY14: Trail #7 (Red) is the longest loop at Perry State Forest APV system and is at times the most difficult to access with emergency equipment. In FY 14, planned work includes improving emergency vehicle access to the NW section of the Red trail by improving access points from Forest Road #1, gabion stone installation in soft spots, installation of 4 drainage culverts, carsonite post installation, and grading and shaping of balance of trail. Equipment requests for FY14 year included the purchase of a Roll Back Truck to move specialized trail equipment from various State Forest units to Perry APV area.

Year 3-FY15: Trail #7 (Red) work will continue with the northern most section worked. This area parallels 4 major pipelines and limiting access to 1 safety crossing will be the priority for this year. Both Spectra Energy and REX pipeline Representatives have been contracted in the past years about supporting crossing improvements and limiting trail activity on their individual ROW. Building of fence and limiting access to maintained ROW will be a part of this project. Trail work in addition to ROW limitations includes using Gabion Stone to improve soft areas, 4 culverts installed in low areas, grading and shaping of balance of trails, and carsonite and signage installation. Equipment requests for this year will be the purchase of new dump truck to assist with hauling of Gabion Stone and equipment transport. Acquisition of adjoining 86 acres from willing private property owner should also be considered in this FY 15 or previous years if funding is available.

Year 4-FY16: Begin 2nd round of improvements on areas previously worked in FY 10 and FY11. Work would include Gabion stone placement in newly formed soft areas, parking lot stone application, replacement of Carsonite Posts, and improvements to culvert headers and improvement to exit channels are planned. Equipment requests should include replacement of track buggy and pickup.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Perry will be applying for a RTP grant for the following:

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1. Installation of turnaround at end of the parking lot of APV area.
2. *Work onTrails1, 4, 5 and 6.*

Shooting Ranges: None at Perry State Forest

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Prevention: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Prescribed Fire: No prescribed fires are currently planned for Perry State Forest. The Division of Forestry fully acknowledges the use of prescribed fire as a management tool and is currently collecting data across the southern district in order to better implement a prescribed fire program. The data collected and resulting analysis, will present both the effects of past prescribed burns and opportunities for additional prescribed fire. Two types of burns are being assessed. This includes site preparation burns to determine the effectiveness of establishing oak/hickory on that particular stand and release burns to encourage the success of already established oak/hickory due to previous management practices. The results of the data analysis may yield additional prescribed fire opportunity for future fiscal years.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Training: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan.

Fire Department Contacts: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

FireWise: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

FEPP/FFP: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Grants: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Explore the use of prescribed fire for oak regeneration purposes. Become more active in fire prevention programs such as FireWise.

VII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have nine (9) commissioned law enforcement officers and one (1) commissioned manager. The purpose of these positions is to enforce Ohio Administrative Code 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 Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Equipment: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Patrol Priorities: The APV area and isolated areas of the forest that have suspected illegal activity.

Special Projects: Projects proposed by the Forest Officer must be approved by the unit and district manager.

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

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Other Employee Development: See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Perry State Forest will be represented at the Chillicothe Open House planned for July of 2012.

Partnerships: Include Township Trustees, Division of Mineral Resource Management, Division of Wildlife, National Wild Turkey Federation

Volunteers: Currently working to improve this at Perry State Forest. Forest Officer Johnson has recently completed work projects using APV rider volunteers to assist with trail improvements.

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): Perry State Forest will continue to try to improve use of volunteer hours.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

Revenue: Revenue from Perry State Forest is generated from Timber Sales, fuel wood permits, and royalties from Oil and Gas deposits. Much of the local generated revenue goes back to the local schools, townships, and county government thru the Trees to Text Book program.

Summary (2-3 year projected budget): Future budgets cannot be anticipated and the Division is currently developing the budget for this fiscal year.

XII. Safety

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.

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.