

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Zaleski State Forest

For the Period of

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



Prepared By:

Thomas C. Shuman,
Forest Manager

6/15/09
(Date)

Approved By:

(Name & Title)

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

- Implementation of forest inventory for updated cruising methodology.
- Involvement in managing invasive plant species: co-operation 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 access to a web based information resource, Project Learning Tree and the Information and Education Program Administrator.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Prior to the 1800's, Native Americans occupied the area known as Zaleski State Forest. Burial mounds are still evident throughout the forest area and offer a reminder of their cultural existence. The largest mound is located adjacent to the Forest of Honor. During the early 1800's, a vibrant iron ore industry developed. Between 1818 and 1873, 69 pig iron furnaces flourished throughout the Hanging Rock region. One furnace happened to be financed by a French nobleman named Count Zaleski. Two furnaces were located within the area known today as Zaleski State Forest; the Hope Furnace, of which remnants still remain at the headwaters of Lake Hope; and another, was located where the office and service center currently exist.

In the late 1800's, better iron ore reserves were discovered in Michigan and Missouri, causing the iron industry to quickly fade within the Hanging Rock region. Remnants of the iron era are abundant throughout the forest; the old contour strip mine pits remain abundant, and occasionally remnants of charcoal burn mounds can be found. By the turn of the century, the iron industry was completely gone from Zaleski along with the timber. What followed was an influx of subsistence farms. However, the steep slopes and thin soil were very unproductive. It was during this era that the fertility of the area was drastically reduced and poor agricultural practices resulted in heavy erosion and sedimentation. It was also during this time period that coal extraction became an important industry. Most of the coal was mined from small drift mines; old mine entries can still be found throughout the forest.

In 1931, the State of Ohio made its first acquisition of 3,400 acres of the Strong Estate, which included land previously owned by the Zaleski Company. In 1935, under the direction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture the Zaleski Land Utilization Project was established. This 46,000 acre project in Vinton County was part of 2,000,000 acres in Southeastern Ohio that was designated an economic problem area by the Federal government. The objective of the Zaleski project was to return the land to its most productive capacity by generating a forest community, providing flood control and preventing soil erosion and by so doing, establishing an economic base to maintain a rural population. In 1958 all of these lands were transferred and merged into the ODNR Division of Forestry.

During the 1930's, the WPA program accomplished an immense amount of improvements. It was during this era that the Lake Hope dam was constructed,

14 vacation cabins were built, abandoned farm lands were planted to trees (mostly softwoods), 35 miles of roads and 21 miles of fire breaks were constructed, a fire detection tower was erected, a game refuge was established, and numerous wildlife waterholes were built.

IV. Resource Management

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

The following is a listing of inventories that have resulted in propose management activities for fiscal year 2010.

The following areas were marked in FY2009 but have not yet been sold:

State Forest	Compartment	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Zaleski	D35/36	-	908	Pine Clear-cut	27
Zaleski	D35/36	2900	680	Pine Thinning	39
Zaleski	D35/36	252950	815	Shelterwood	43
Zaleski	D35/36	107050		Intermediate Thinning	34
Zaleski	D35/36	49773	140	Regeneration Clear-cut	7
Zaleski	A-31	390582	475	Shelterwood	52
Zaleski	A-31	447548	480	Regeneration Clear-cut	42

The following activities will be marked this coming winter

State Forest	Compartment	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Zaleski	D-7, D-8, D-9	1,014,595	2,560	Regeneration Clearcut (Grouse Management Area)	128
Zaleski	C-11	146,064	480	Regeneration Clearcut	24
Zaleski	C-11	174,376	263	Intermediate Thinning	65
Zaleski	B-11	160,439	289	Intermediate Thinning	65
Zaleski	C-14	191,373	309	Regeneration Clearcut	18
Zaleski	C-14	236,063	425	Intermediate Thinning	118
Zaleski	A-12	506,275	911	Shelterwood	98
Zaleski	A-12	158,140	400	Regeneration Clearcut	20
Zaleski	C-35	182,568	329	Intermediate Thinning	28.08
Zaleski	A-18	83,652	0.0	Intermediate Thinning (crew)	38

The following is a compartment that was inventoried this past year and has resulted in proposed management activity for fiscal year 2011.

State Forest	Compartment	Board Feet	Tons	Recommendation	Acres
Zaleski	D-21	17,688	137	Pine Clearcut	18

Four compartments will be inventoried this year and they are listed below.

State Forest	Compartment	Acres
Zaleski	A-16	326
Zaleski	C-13	483
Zaleski	B-6	68
Zaleski	A-21	523

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 complete 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. *There may be one sale cut for the merchandising program. The sale is located in Athens County - C-35; See marking plan above.*

Minerals: One (1) well has been identified to drill near Carbondale at Zaleski. No further progress has been made.

Invasives: Recently the Division of Forestry received a grant from the US Forest Service to develop an Ohio Woodland Job Corps for the control of invasive plants within the state forests system. From this grant two crews 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: Boundary maintenance is an important function in the management of the forest. Properly maintained boundaries prevent encroachment from neighboring properties and from state activities encroaching onto neighboring properties. To accomplish this task, Zaleski State Forest conforms to the Division's boundary maintenance policies. One fourth of the entire forest boundary is inspected and/or repainted each year. West Shade River is completely painted every four years due to the small size. Any evidence of encroachment is reported to the Forest Officer for investigation.

Licenses/Leases: One mineral lease has been purchased at Zaleski. The lease is located in the Carbondale area.

Insects & Disease: Not only in the Zaleski State Forest but also throughout the entire area monitoring stations are in place for the Emerald Ash Borer and Gypsy Moth, two insects of concern. Both are being managed by the Department of Agriculture. Oak decline is another concern but research is on going to determine its exact cause.

Utilization & Marketing: The only state owned and operated sawmill is located at Zaleski State Forest. The purpose of the mill is to produce rough sawn lumber for any state or local governmental agency, as needed. Each year, the Division solicits orders for the mill and the orders have been averaging roughly

50,000 bdf/yr. Raw logs are acquired through silvicultural prescriptions on Zaleski and primary conversion is completed by the crew with state owned equipment. This complete process requires several crew days per year. Excess lumber from mill orders is offered for sale to the public.

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

Research: Over the years, numerous studies have taken place within the forest with Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio University (OU), and the US Forest Service (USFS). Currently the following studies are active: OSU – Oak Regeneration through prescribed fire; USFS – national fire Segregate; OSU – Impact of Harvesting on Breeding Birds; and a herpetology study with OU.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

V. Maintenance

Buildings: The Zaleski State Forest Headquarters, just north of the town of Zaleski, houses all of the administrative support for the Unit, as well as maintenance services. The following is a list of all buildings and anticipated major maintenance.

Building	Anticipated Maintenance
Headquarters	New roof and heating system to be installed, replace gutters on generator shed
Long Garage	Routine
Drying Shed	Paint roof and gable ends
Mill Shed	Routine, possibly paint
Warehouse	Replace lower boards on back side
Old Shop	Repair/replace/cover over windows
Wash House	Scrape/paint door
Gas House	Routine

A new roof will also be installed on the Headquarters building utilizing Green Building Fund monies. All buildings had a Bureau of Workers Compensation safety inspection this past year. Deficiencies were noted in all buildings and the crew will work to diligently repair all minor infractions.

Zaleski State Forest also maintains the old Civilian Conservation Camp located on Wheelabout Road.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): A new outdoor wood fired boiler will be installed at Zaleski to heat the Headquarters building. This will again utilize Green Building Fund monies. An underground fuel oil tank that serves the current heating system will be removed and a new above ground tank will be installed for back-up heat for the heating system.

Vehicles/Equipment: The following is a list of all vehicles and heavy equipment at Zaleski State Forest.

Vehicle/Equipment Type	Used By	Anticipated Maintenance
Pickup S15-163	Forest Technician	Routine
Pickup S15-270	Forest Officer	Routine
Pickup S15-330	Forest Manager	Possible replacement or trade; 100,000+ miles but good condition
Pickup S15-809	Forest Technician	Replacement; 150,000+ miles
Semi-tractor S15-383	Crew	Routine
Log Truck S15-458	Crew	Routine; Hydraulic cylinders leaking, replace seals
Dump Truck S15-829	Crew	Routine
Pickup S15-910	Crew	Routine
Pickup S15-943	Crew	Routine
Pickup S15-973	Forester	Routine
Pickup S15-978	Crew	Routine
291-S15 Lowboy Trailer	Crew	Routine; Brakes need checked and possible replacement; 2 new tires
592-S15 14' Trailer	Crew	Routine
Honda 350 APV	All	Routine; New tires
Honda 300 APV	All	Routine
Honda 350 APV	All	Routine; New tires
Honda 500 APV	All	Routine
John Deere 450 H Bulldozer	Crew	Routine
John Deere 350 B Bulldozer	Crew	Routine; Possible clutch work
Case 680 Backhoe	Crew	Routine; Fix windshield wipers, Hydraulic cylinders leaking, replace seals
Kubota Tractor and Mowtrim	Crew	Routine; New blades
Case 695 Tractor	Crew	Routine; New tires; fix air conditioning
John Deere 5300 Tractor	Crew	Routine
John Deere 770 Road Grader	Crew	Routine; New tires, back-up alarm replacement
Cat 910 Loader	Crew	Routine, Hydraulic cylinders leaking, replace seals
Taylor Forklift	Crew	Routine

Roads: There are numerous old township roads that are in various stages of abandonment, maintained township roads, county roads, and state routes at Zaleski, and West Shade River. The Division of Forestry also maintains over 51 miles of forest access roads at Zaleski. This includes one mile of Class I roads (improved blacktop), 31 miles of Class II (high-standard limestone), and 16 miles of Class III (dirt roads). All of these roads, with the exception of the Class III

roads are maintained for vehicular travel. All roads are graded, mowed and ditched, a minimum of one time a year. The ODOT Cooperative Roadway Program will be funding culvert and headwall replacement this year for East Raccoon, Bolster and Coalmont Hollow Roads. The following is a list of the maintained forest roads, the mileage and anticipated maintenance for the coming year.

Forest Road Number	Forest Road Name	Mileage	Anticipated Maintenance
1	Will Tract	5	Routine; Needs ODOT culvert and headwall replacement; repair a few washed out culverts
3	Low Water Bridge	2	Routine; Needs ODOT culvert and headwall replacement
7	Webb Hollow	2.9	Routine; Needs ODOT culvert and headwall replacement
13	Coalmont Hollow	1.5	Routine; ODOT culvert and headwall replacement in planning stage
14	Bolster Hollow	2.4	Routine; ODOT culvert and headwall replacement in planning stage
15	Long Ridge	6.5	Routine; Needs ODOT culvert and headwall replacement
15	Irish Ridge	2.5	Routine; Needs ODOT culvert and headwall replacement
18	Hunt Hollow	1.5	Routine; Clean out sediment under bridge
19	East Raccoon	4.5	Routine; ODOT culvert and headwall replacement in planning stages; repair a few washed out culverts
N/A	Waterloo Forest Loop	2.2	Routine; Clean out sediment under bridge

Signage: Wooden signs are replaced and re-painted as needed. Backpack and bridle trail signs are also replaced when needed.

Residences: Zaleski has one residence at the old CCC Camp. It is currently unoccupied.

Dams: None

Capitals Projects: Through the Green Funds, the roof and heating system will be replaced this year at the Forest Headquarters.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Further ODOT Cooperative Roadway Programs as funds allow. Disposal/lease/etc. of old CCC Camp.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): There are 23 miles of backpack trail and approximately 50 miles of bridle trails at Zaleski. Trails are inspected for safety and overall condition a minimum of twice per year and after major weather events. Repairs and maintenance will be performed as needed.

Campgrounds: There is one hunter's camp, one horseman's camp and three backpack camps at Zaleski. Camps are checked and cleaned weekly during peak season

ATV Areas: None

Shooting Ranges: Zaleski has one shooting range. The range is cleaned weekly during peak season. New mats for targets will be installed as time and funds allow. Area will be mowed biweekly and cleaned weekly.

Grants: None

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Over the next two years and as funding and time permits the crew will continue to Improve bridle trail drainage, and re-locate the backpack trailhead to the Hope Schoolhouse.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Zaleski State Forest is responsible for these duties in Vinton, Meigs, and Athens Counties. Division employees serve as initial attack resources within the forest boundaries and assist VFD's outside the forest boundaries, when requested. Most requests involve the use of heavy equipment.

Prevention: Smokey Bear and other fire prevention programs will be put on as time and resources allow. Coordination with the I&E and Fire Management sections will help to put on as many high quality programs as possible.

Prescribed Fire: Zaleski State Forest is planning to have two prescribed burns this year. One will be 30 acres in a pine seed tree to promote native pine regeneration and the other is a 223-acre growing season burn to study the results of burning after leaf out. These are located in Compartments D-19 and D-26&27, respectively.

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: The Interagency Fire Crew supports the national effort to suppress wildland fire to protect lives, personal property and natural resources. Participation is strictly voluntary, but all employees are encouraged to participate in the program. Zaleski has five employees that have qualified for their red cards this year for the Inter-Agency Fire Crew.

Training: Members of the Interagency Fire Crew will attend one interagency refresher class. The Fundamentals of Wildland Fire course will be taught in each county as requested.

Fire Department Contacts: Visits will be made to at least one association meeting per month. The Forest Officer will make contact with each fire department, update the Fire Department Information Sheet, document the visit and file a report to the Forest Manager once per year.

FireWise: N/A

FEPP/FFP: The Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program is a program administered by the Division of Forestry that loans equipment to fire departments for their use in fire control. Division staff a minimum of once each year must inspect loaned equipment.

Grants: The division administers several grant opportunities for volunteer fire companies. Zaleski Forest will promote the opportunities to local VFD's.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Further contacts, training and communications to the local VFD's

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus): State Forests currently have 10 commissioned law enforcement officers and 3 commissioned managers. The purposed 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 polices and procedures are delineated in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual.

Training: Commissioned officers will receive the following training: Weapons qualifications, law enforcement in-service training, remain current with CPR and First Aid, and TASR certification. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

Equipment: Equipment: Officer will be issued all equipment listed in the Division's Law Enforcement Manual. Each officer will be expected to properly maintain all issued equipment.

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 to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for forest users. The Officer at Zaleski leads two special projects per year.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): The Forest Officer will visit each county court system and prosecutors office once per year. These visits will be used to update information on bond schedules, court dates, prosecutor and judge information. An updated information sheet will be submitted to the Forest Manager after each visit.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue special projects on an as needed basis identified by the Forest Officer and approved by the Forest Manager.

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

Forest Manager	Thomas Shuman
Forest Officer	Nicholas Appleman
Forester	Danzil Walker
Forest Technician	Ronald Collins
Forest Technician	Christopher Kerr
Equipment Operator	Clayton Acord
Equipment Operator	Cory Kerr
Equipment Operator	Eric Thomas
Maintenance Repair Worker	Brian Porter

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Employee development is extremely important at Zaleski State Forest. Properly trained employees enable the forest to supply the public with the services they expect. One staff member has participated in tuition reimbursement through the union and is finishing his 4-year college degree. He will be taking advantage of this opportunity again this year. Safety is also very important and training provides for a safe work environment. Training programs planned for the year include:

- A. Monthly Safety meetings for employees.
- B. Annual CPR training and bi-annual First Aid Training.
- C. Training necessary for employees to keep their Ohio Commercial Pesticide License.
- D. All Forest Officers will attend trainings and firearms qualifications as required by Division of Forestry Policy.
- E. Annual Fireline Refresher and other appropriate fire training classes

Safety: Each employee will attend a monthly safety meeting. Required personnel will participate in the annual respirator fit test and all vehicles are inspected annually for safety compliance.

Other Employee Development: Each employee will attend a monthly safety meeting. Required personnel will participate in the annual respirator fit test.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Contact or personally meet with the county commissioners, township trustees and school boards in Athens and Vinton Counties at least once per year. Zaleski State Forest will be represented at Open Houses at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest August of 2009.

Partnerships: Lake Hope State Park, Township Trustees, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, local VFD's, Division of Wildlife, Ohio Horsemen's Council, Ohio State University School of Natural Resources, Ohio University, US Forest Service, and Hocking Technical College.

Volunteers: One volunteer group will continue to work at the local chapter of the Ohio Horsemen's Council on small projects and maintenance of the Horse Camp.

Interpretive Programs: Continue to maintain the Forest Management Auto Tour; and participation in school conservation programs, as time and funds are available.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Develop new partnerships with volunteer groups as applicable.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance):

SFY 2009
Budget DNR150130 Zaleski Region

500 Payroll-Fund GRF		\$526,609
	FOREST MGR 3	
	FORESTER	
	FOREST OFF 2	
	FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	
	FORESTRY TECHNICIAN	
	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	
	4	
	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	
	2	
	MAINT REP WKR 2	
	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR	
	1	

	NAT RES SPEC		
	Fire OT		
	Overtime		
510	Personal Services- Fund 5090 25% per quarter		\$250
			\$250
520	Supplies & Maint- Fund 5090 25% per quarter		\$65,000
	General Operating		\$65,000
530	Equipment		\$0
550	Subsidies		\$0
570	Capital		\$0
590	Settlements & Bonds - Refunds		\$0
591	Debt Service		\$0
		Total	\$591,859

Revenue: Revenue from Zaleski State Forest is generated from timber sales, firewood permits, special use permit applications, a small amount of revenue from sawmill product sales, 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):