

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Tar Hollow State Forest

For the Period of

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



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OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

I. STRATEGIC PLAN *(Effective 2008)*

Our Vision: Ohio's state forests will be the best managed forestlands 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 the use of web based information resources, Project Learning Tree, and the Information and Education Program Administrator.

III. Forest Overview

History & Description: Tar Hollow State Forest original name comes from the pitch tar extracted from local pine trees and processed into lubricants and elixirs. The Federal Government originally purchased Tar Hollow lands in the 1930's. These lands were transferred to the State of Ohio to be managed by the Ohio Division of Forestry. The Division was mandated to reforest eroded farmland, produce and harvest timber products, provide employment, recreation and protect these lands from fire.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.): Schedules cruises are listed below by compartment. These inventories are based on a 20-year cruise cycle, but may change in the future to accommodate growth and yield models.

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

Forest	Compartment/ m.u.	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Tar Hollow	D-3	288708	65	Pre-salvage Thinning	127
Tar Hollow	C-13	89904	0	Sanitation Thinning	51
Tar Hollow	E-1	233950	112	Shelterwood	21

The following is a listing of the inventories that were completed this past year and have resulted in proposed harvests for fiscal year 2011.

Forest	Compartment/ m.u.	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Tar Hollow	A-4 / m.u.a	224,184	403	Presalvage Thinning	77
Tar Hollow	B-19 / m.u. a	105,768	189	Sanitation Conversion	8
Tar Hollow	C-19 / m.u. e	83,600	150	Sanitation Thinning	44
Tar Hollow	M-1 / m.u. a	23,000	42	Overstory Removal	10
Tar Hollow	M-1 / m.u. g	52,000	94	Improvement Thinning	26

The following is a listing of the management activities that will be implemented this year and were previously presented in an open house.

Forest	Compartment / Mgt. Unit	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Tar Hollow	A-7 / m.u. a	232,878	419	Improvement Harvest	111
Tar Hollow	B-17 / m.u. c	210,00		Pine Thinning	17
Tar Hollow	C-5 / m.u. b	249,220	128	Regeneration Harvest	20
Tar Hollow	C-5 / m.u. b	73,348	40	Presalvage w/ group openings	22
Tar Hollow	C-5 / m.u. f	72,425	52	Group opening	5
Tar Hollow	C-5 / m.u. g	32,000	36	Sanitation Thinning	20
Tar Hollow (Grouse Area)	E8,9 / m.u.a	108,750	195	Regeneration Harvest	10
Tar Hollow (Grouse Area)	E8,9 / m.u.b	54,860	98	Regeneration Harvest	5
Tar Hollow (Grouse Area)	E8,9 / m.u.c	82,719	149	Regeneration Harvest	7
Tar Hollow (Grouse Area)	E8,9 / m.u.d	115,164	207	Regeneration Harvest	14

Below is a listing of the compartments that will be inventoried this year for potential management activities in fiscal year 2012.

Forest	Compartment	Acres
Tar Hollow	A-1	189
Tar Hollow	A-8	211
Tar Hollow	B-16	165
Tar Hollow	C-23	109
Tar Hollow	C-25	100
Tar Hollow	C-29	6

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: Much of the land base at Tar Hollow State Forest was acquired with federal funds under the Resettlement Act. When these lands were transferred from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the State of Ohio in 1958, only 25% of the mineral rights were transferred. The remaining 75% of the mineral rights were kept and are now administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. In 1992, these mineral rights were sold to the public by competitive bidding. As a result in 1998, the first wells were drilled. There have been a total of five wells drilled and only two were productive.

During this fiscal year, we do not anticipate any additional drilling. If there are proposed wells, the surface protection of these sites will be handled through the Special Use Permit System and all land or resource disturbances will be managed through a designated Contract/Permit Compliance Officer.

Invasives: Common invasive at Tar Hollow State Forest include the following: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle), *Rosa multiflora* (Multiflora Rose).

Recently the Division of Forestry received a grant from the U.S. Forest Service to develop an Ohio Woodland Job Corps 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: Tar Hollow State Forest is encompassed by roughly 54 miles of boundary. Current rotation for painting entire boundary is 4 years as such approximately 14 miles, more or less, will be painted to meet the goal. The state boundary is blazed with yellow paint.

Licenses/Leases: None

Insects & Disease: Not only in Tar Hollow 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. There has been 30-acres of defoliation in one area from Gypsy Moth and the area was treated by the Department of Agriculture this past year. Oak decline is another concern but research is on going to determine its exact cause.

Utilization & Marketing: 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 Tar Hollow State Forest with Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio University OU), and the US Forest Service (USFS). Currently the following studies are active: USFS – National Fire Segregate Study; and USFS – Invasive Plant Study.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

V. Maintenance

Buildings:

- Tar Hollow office building located on Clark Hollow
- Two service buildings located on Clark Hollow
- Gas house located on Clark Hollow

- Old CCC office located on Piney Creek
- Service building located on Piney Creek
- Old barn located on Piney Creek
- Fire tower located on South Ridge
- Two restrooms at the Horseman’s Camp located on Poe’s Run
- One outhouse located at the Boy Scout Camp in Dullen Hollow

These facilities are maintained in a safe and sanitary condition for both the public and the employees. The majority of these facilities were repaired in the last few years. Anticipated facility repairs include the following: improve restroom facilities at the Horseman’s Camp, and replace and paint the steps and decking on the fire tower located on South Ridge Road.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Repair a water line in the old Tar Hollow office building,

Vehicles/Equipment: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Roads: Maintain roughly 17 miles of paved roads and 14 miles of gravel roads. Maintenance includes mowing, ditching, grading, patching, cleaning headers and making sure that 269 culverts are operating correctly, repairing or replacing culverts, and litter control. It has been proposed to gravel 14 miles of roads through the Cooperative Roadway Maintenance Program.

Forest Road Mileages are as follows:

Forest Road #1 – 2.2 Miles	Forest Road #9 - 3.7 Miles
Forest Road #2 – 3.1	Forest Road #10 -3.6
Forest Road #3 – 5.2	Forest Road #11 -2.1
Forest Road #4 – 2.0	Forest Road #12 - .9
Forest Road #6 -- .7	Forest Road #13 – .3
Forest Road #7 – 1.5	Forest Road #16 -1.3
Forest Road #8 –4.3	Forest Road #39- 2.6

Anticipated forest road repairs are as follows: patch pot holes located throughout the Tar Hollow State Forest, fix the minor slip on Forest Road #8 (Poe’s Run), and fix a minor slip located on Forest Road #7 (Sugar Run Road).

Signage: The Scioto Trail crew is responsible for all routine maintenance of all the forest signs to insure good legibility and aesthetics. They are also responsible for making, painting, and replacing wooden signs. The forest signs are inspected on a regular basis.

Residences: There is one state residence located in Tar Hollow State Forest and is currently occupied by an ODNR Division of Wildlife Officer. The maintenance of the residence is the responsibility of the renter.

Dams: N/A

Capitals Projects: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): The State Forest System offers a wealth of outdoor recreational opportunities to the citizens of Ohio. Outdoor recreational opportunities include the following: hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, mushroom hunting, bird watching, photography, and viewing the fall foliage. There are a total of 33 miles of bridle trails that are maintained on a regular basis. Bridle trails are cleared of debris at least once a year and inspected for maintenance after each major weather event. There exist 16 miles of the Logan Hiking Trail that is maintained by the Boy Scouts of America.

Campgrounds: Tar Hollow State Forest has a Horseman's Camp that is located on Poe's Run. This camp has a total of 46 site, restrooms, water, and is free of charge. The camp is cleaned, mowed and horse manure bins cleaned up on a regular basis. There is also a Boy Scout Camp that is located in Dullen Hollow off of Forest Road #9 (Lipscomb Road). This facility is equipped with a restroom and a large primitive campsite area. This camp is used by numerous scout troops located throughout Ohio.

ATV Areas: N/A

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Future projects include the following: the Boy Scout Camp in Dullen Hollow will be improved with some picnic tables and benches for the fire ring, and fix and/or design new tie system at the Horseman's Camp.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: See Scioto Trail Forest Plan.

Prevention: See Scioto Trail State Forest

Prescribed Fire: Prescribed fire can be an excellent management tool and is practiced on state forest on an annual basis. There are several proposed prescribed burns planned for Tar Hollow State Forest and will be conducted over the next few years. The actual number of fires per year will be dependent upon workloads and weather conditions. Following is a listing of compartments that will receive prescribed fires in the near future: B-2,3,&6; B-10,11,&12; D-8,9, & 10. Actual acreages will be available when the burn plans are written

Inter-Agency Fire Crew: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Training: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Fire Department Contacts: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

FireWise: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

FEPP/FFP: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Grants: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

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 Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Equipment: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Patrol Priorities: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Special Projects: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Safety: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Other Employee Development: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: An annual teacher's field day is held at Tar Hollow State Forest. Each June, teachers are invited to participate in the field day to discuss and learn various aspects of resource management. Last year's event attracted 30 teachers from around the state. Next year's topic has yet to be determined.

Tar Hollow State Forest will be represented at Open Houses held at the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest August of 2009.

Partnerships: Township trustees, US-Forest Service, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Boy Scouts of America, Ruffed Grouse Society, Ross County Sportsman Club, Division of Wildlife, Tar Hollow State Park, and National Wild Turkey Federation.

Volunteers: Ohio Horsemen's Council, Buckeye Trail Association, and Boy scouts of America.

Interpretive Programs: Continue to maintain all research, prescribed fire, and forest management interpretive signs.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): The Division is currently in the process of developing a budget for Tar Hollow State Forest. In the past the budget was part of the District Budget.

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

Revenue: Revenue from Tar Hollow State Forest is generated from timber sales, gas wells, firewood permits, and special use permit applications. 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):