

# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

## Division of Forestry

### Annual Work Plan

For

### Perry State Forest

For the Period of

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



**Prepared By:**

David L. Glass, Manager

6-12-2009  
(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: 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 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, sometimes barren terrain. Limited reclamation has been completed, including a large section along CR 48. Trees 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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Marked trails and a designated scramble area are provided for visitors to enjoy and test their driving abilities.

No field staff reports 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. One storage building at Perry State Forest is utilized by Blue Rock Crews for equipment and trail supply storage.

## 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.

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Acres Clearcut	Acres Shelterwood	Acres Select/Partial	Sold Yes/No
Perry	A-2/A-8	4,904	5,087	0	0	179	No
Perry	A-17	204,764	502	8	0	48	No

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

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial
Perry	A-11	0	3,636	74	0	8

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

State Forest	Compartment	Total Acres
Perry	A-18	271

*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 currently located on Perry State Forest. The REX Pipeline is currently under construction at Perry State Forest and is planned to be completed during FY10

*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 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 Land managers to ensure security of land boundaries at Perry State Forest. Forest crews manually paint approximately 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 Forest Manager and submitted to the District Forester for review.

*Insects & Disease:* Not only in the Perry 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.

*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:* 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 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 Perry State Forest Crews. The roof on the storage building is scheduled to be painted this year, pending funding. The perimeter of this facility is surrounded by chain link fence, and has received some damage from falling trees. A 50 ft buffer will be cut and grass maintained to prevent future damage to the fence and buildings.

*Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities):* None

*Vehicles/Equipment:* All vehicles and equipment used are from Blue Rock State Forest headquarters.

*Roads:* Forest Roads #1, #3, and #4 had stone placement in FY07 and will be maintained till 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 2 miles in length. Maintenance planned for FY10 include the brush removal for Roads #1, #3, and #4 where trees are overtopping road. This will allow for sunlight to get to surface of road.

The following is a list of access road maintenance:

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.

*Signage:* All entrance signs will be reviewed for condition in FY10 and repaired or replaced as needed

*Residences:* None at Perry State Forest

*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 or water showing
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):*

## **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.

*Campgrounds:* There are none.

*ATV Areas:* The ATV trail system is the only system with seasonal closure. The trail system is closed from deer gun season to April 1<sup>st</sup>. There are sixteen miles of marked ATV trails and a designated scramble area. They 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.

*Shooting Ranges:* N/A.

*Grants:* Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant has been received for the maintenance of the APV area.

*Shooting Ranges:* None at Perry State Forest

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

1. Resurfacing of stone in parking lot of APV area.
2. Installation of Loading/Unloading dock at the parking lot.
3. Installation of turnaround at end of the parking lot of APV area.

## **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

*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):*

## **VIII. Law Enforcement**

*Philosophy/Purpose (Provided by Columbus):* See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

*Training:* See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

*Equipment:* See Blue Rock State 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 winnings 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.

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

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

**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

*Safety:* See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

*Other Employee Development:* See Blue Rock State Forest Plan

**X. Public Information/Outreach**

*Planned Events:* Perry will be represented at the Open House at Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest August of 2009.

*Partnerships:* Include Township Trustees and the Division of Mineral Resource Management.

*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:* Through out the coming year, the forest manager will develop a number of interpretive signs explaining forest management activities.

*Summary (2-3 year future projects)*

**XI. Budget**

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

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

*Revenue:* Revenue sources for Perry State Forest include: Royalties from Gas Wells, Timber Sales proceeds, Fuel wood permits, and Special Use permits.

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