

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Richland Furnace State Forest

For the Period of

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



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6/2/2009
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OHIO DIVISION OF FORESTRY

I. STRATEGIC PLAN *(Effective 2008)*

Our Vision: Ohio's state forests will be the best managed 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: During the 19th century Richland was a company town in the heart of the Hanging Rock iron region, the second largest producer of iron ore in the nation. The native hardwood tree resource was cut and used to make charcoal to fire the Richland iron furnaces in the late 1800's. The state began purchasing Richland State Forest lands in the late 1940's. Richland Furnace State Forest encompasses a total of 2,528 acres.

IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.): Scheduled 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 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
Richland Furnace	A-2 / m.u. a	246,000	410	Shelterwood	41

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
Richland Furnace	A-3 / m.u. a	285,050	322	Regeneration Harvest	25
Richland Furnace	C-3 / m.u. b	205,272	294	Regeneration Harvest	24

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

Forest	Compartment	Acres
Richland Furnace	D-8	9
Richland Furnace	D-2	7

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: N/A

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: Richland Furnace State Forest is encompassed by roughly 25 miles of boundary. Current rotation for painting entire boundary is 4 years as such approximately 6 miles, more or less, will be painted to meet the goal. The state boundary is blazed with yellow paint.

Licenses/Leases: There exists one fluid pipeline through Richland Furnace State Forest.

Insects & Disease: Not only in Richland Furnace 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 Department of Agriculture. There has been 30-acre 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 Richland Furnace State Forest with Ohio State University (OSU), Ohio University OU), and the US Forest Service (USFS). Currently both the US Forest Service and the Ohio State University have active research projects relating to oak regeneration harvests and prescribed fire.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

V. Maintenance

Buildings:

- Restroom
- Picnic Shelter

These facilities are maintained in a safe and sanitary condition for both the public and the employees.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): N/A

Vehicles/Equipment: See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

Roads: There are no forest roads. There exists one emergency access road that is graveled and is roughly 1.5 miles long. This road is graded once a year.

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: N/A.

Dams: N/A

Capitals Projects: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Replace the culvert at the entrance of the APV area, and construct a new kiosk with up-to-date information.

VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): There exists 8 miles of APV trail on Richland State Forest. These trails are cleared, regraded, and water-bars constructed twice a year. They are also inspected for maintenance after each major storm event.

Campgrounds: N/A

ATV Areas: See Trail description above.

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: A Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant is used for reimbursement of maintenance costs.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: See Scioto Trail State Forest.

Prevention: See Scioto Trail State Forest

Prescribed Fire: Three prescribed fires will be conducted on Richland Furnace State Forest – one fall burn and two spring burns. These fires will occur in compartments B-4 and B-6.

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 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: 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: Richland Furnace State Forest will be represented at Open Houses held at Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest August 2009.

Partnerships: Township trustees, US-Forest Service, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Division of Wildlife, Tar Hollow State Park, and National Wild Turkey Federation.

Volunteers: None at this time

Interpretive Programs: Maintain all research interpretive signs.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Work to recruit trail maintenance groups.

XI. **Budget**

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): The Division is currently in the process of developing a budget for Richland Furnace 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 Richland Furnace 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 thru the Trees to Textbooks Program.

Summary (2-3 year projected budget):