

State Forest 5-year Management Plans
 Summary of Comments
 Summary of Plan Revisions

In the summer and fall of 2010, the ODNR-Division of Forestry conducted a review and consultation process in order to formulate our 5-year forest-specific management plans. This process included our annual open houses held at 5 separate locations, as well as direct emails, a public meeting, direct solicitation of comments from partner groups, and informal stakeholder contacts.

Further, the Division of Forestry was audited by a third-party verification company to the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative in the fall of 2010. This audit resulted in several suggested 5-year plan revisions.

Below is a summary of comments received and the modifications made to the 5-year forest specific management plans.

A. Comments Received during the review period.

Stakeholder	Summary of Comment	DOF Response
Citizen	The practice of prescribed burning has so many negatives associated with it that it should be dis-continued. Prescribed burning could negatively impact sensitive species.	Peer-reviewed science indicates the value of prescribed fire for regenerating oak and reducing hazardous fuel loading. DOF endeavors to assess impacts to sensitive species prior to burning. Burning is practiced on limited acreage.
Citizen	Pleased that the Division is seeking certification, however, we should determine how state forests fit into the landscape, sequester carbon, and provide ecosystem services.	5-yr plans include a revision that includes biodiversity/landscape level goals.
Citizen	Shawnee State Forest should not have prescribed burning.	Science indicates the value of prescribed burning. Activities at Shawnee State Forest are limited and impacts assessed prior to burning.
Environmental Group	Concerns with the forest management practices of DOF. DOF should re-align practices to meet the needs of citizens as expressed during the FRAS stakeholder input process. Disagreement with prescribed burning and clearcutting.	DOF has revised the 5-year management plans to include biodiversity / landscape level goals that were developed from the FRAS stakeholder input process.
Trail user group	Horse trails are well maintained	Noted
Research group	Recommendation that certain silvicultural	DOF has revised its "Desired

	terms be defined or changed. Concerns that Desired Future Condition goals will be able to be implemented particularly for older forests.	Future Condition” goals to be more in-line with the goals stated in the FRAS.
Forest Industry Group	State Forests play an important role for Ohio’s wood industry and encouragement to achieve the land management goals stated in the plans. DOF should attempt at a greater pace to balance age classes and conditions on the forests since growth as far exceeded removals historically.	DOF has evaluated our growth estimates relating to our harvest estimates and will re-evaluate the appropriate harvest level (related to growth) that can be sustained.
Conservation Agency	DOF’s proposed management is consistent with the objectives of this conservation agency. DOF should provide more data relating to cover types, age classes, and landscape data in order to better evaluate proposed treatments.	DOF has limited data at present but has put into place, plans and goals to acquire more data for decision support and stakeholder knowledge.
Trail user group	Better coordination is needed on trail use conflicts and maintenance issues.	Noted.

The above comments are a summary of the written comments received. It should be noted that many verbal comments were received and DOF attempted to note those as well. All verbal and written comments were reviewed by the State Forest Integration Committee.

B. Corrective Action Requests received from Certification audit regarding 5-year management plans.

Nonconformity: There is insufficient evidence that management plans and operations on the Ohio State Forests are designed to meet landscape level biodiversity conservation goals.	
Minor CAR 2010.3	Review, revise and better document, as appropriate, management planning and operations so as to better meet landscape level biodiversity conservation goals
Deadline	2011 surveillance audit
Reference	FSC US National Indicator 6.2.c
Nonconformity: Management plans do not adequately describe and justify the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and harvesting techniques employed on the FMU.	
Minor CAR 2010.6	Incorporate into the body of documents constituting the management plan for the Ohio State Forests (e.g., the property specific management plans) a description and justification for the types and sizes of harvesting machinery and harvesting techniques that are used.
Deadline	2011 surveillance audit
Reference	FSC US National Indicator 7.1.p
OBS 2010.11	ODNR should incorporate into its planning documentation an explicit and affirmative statement that management plan revisions will take place on a frequency no longer than every 10 years, rather than the present statement that it is the Department’s “intent” to do so.
Reference	FSC US National Indicator 7.2.a

C. Summary of 5-Year Forest-Specific Plan Revisions

Based on the comments received from open houses, the corrective action requests from the certification audit and the integration committee the following summary below represent the revisions made to the 5-year management plans.

Section of the Plan	Item	Revision
V. Land Management Goals	Harvest Restrictions	Language that limits the type and sizes of harvest machinery that is acceptable on state forest timber harvests.
V. Land Management Goals	Harvest Amounts	Analysis of growth and removals, lead the Division to set a target harvest level of no more than 40% of the annual growth. A synopsis of the analysis is inserted into the plan.
V. Land Management Goals	Desired Future Conditions	The Desired Future Conditions section was revised to be more in-line with the Desired Future Condition landscape level goals that were determined during the FRAS stakeholder input process.
I. Introduction	Introduction	Statement inserted that these plans will be revised every 5 years.