

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Richland Furnace State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **2013**
(July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013)



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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

- Manage Richland Furnace State Forest under the multiple use concept promoting land management, forest sustainability, and back country recreation.
- Implement policies in the revised Land Management Manual that will maintain third party certification.
- Continue to develop employee skills and abilities through training thereby improving productivity and efficiency.

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.

No field staff currently report to Richland Furnace State Forest. The forest is managed out of the District Office and staff from Dean, Scioto Trail, and Zaleski State Forests assist with management activities.

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 areas were marked in FY 2012 but have not yet been sold:

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Acres Clearcut / Openings	Acres Shelterwood / Deferment	Acres Selection / Improvement
Richland Furnace	A-3, A-4	190421	551		22	

The following areas will be marked in FY 2013:

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Acres Clearcut / Openings	Acres Shelterwood / Deferment	Acres Selection / Improvement
Richland Furnace	C-4	252,669	1,346	17	57	

These planned harvests resulted from previous cruising and are expected to be marked in FY 14 or beyond.

State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons Pulp	Acres Clearcut / Openings	Acres Shelterwood / Deferment	Acres Selection / Improvement
Richland Furnace	B-6, B-7, B-8, C-6	864,009	1,193	18.5	56	31

Approximately 5% of the acreage in the forest will be assessed for potential silvicultural prescriptions during FY 13. The exact locations of the cruises have not yet been determined. The cruises will follow the stand-based cruising model used in FY 12.

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: The Division of Forestry is currently reviewing and pursuing the potential for oil and gas activity on each state forest. In coordination with other Divisions within the Department of Natural Resources, Best Management Practices have been developed and suitability analyses have also been conducted. During this analysis, specific areas within the land holding Divisions of the Department have been identified as potential locations for the various types of oil and gas activity. Also, the mineral rights for each property are also being researched and identified in preparation for potential leasing activity. These leases may be with the state or with other private mineral rights owners on state lands. In either case, the Division is fully prepared to manage and implement these activities with the least amount of disturbance necessary to accomplish the task.

Invasives: Common invasives at Richland Furnace State Forest include the following: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle), and multiflora rose. Division staff will continue to identify areas for treatment through the project proposal process.

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: One fluid pipeline exists 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 Gypsy Moth, an insect of concern. That project is managed by Department of Agriculture. The Division of Forestry participates in the gypsy moth "Slow the Spread" program if an infestation warrants the treatment. State Forest staff continually perform informal monitoring for occurrence of a number of diseases and insects. The monitoring and samplings occur with partnerships from Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio State Extension, and the USDA Forest Service.

Utilization & Marketing: Forest products will continue to be offered for sale through both 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): Implement post harvest cruising to better develop the growth & yield model. Try to develop a backlog of scheduled sales to project at least 2 years of proposed treatments.

V. **Maintenance**

Buildings: There is one latrine facility at the APV area and is maintained in a safe and sanitary condition for both the public and the employees.

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

Vehicles/Equipment: No vehicles and equipment are assigned to this forest.

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. All access roads will be formally inventoried, mapped, and an inspection report will be completed. The results of the inspection report will guide the maintenance efforts of the forest staff. The culvert at the entrance to the APV area will be replaced this year.

Signage: The Dean Forest 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. Construct a new kiosk with up-to-date information.

Residences: N/A.

Dams: N/A

Capitals Projects: None planned.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

VI. **Recreation**

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): Richland Furnace State Forest has 8 miles of APV trail. These trails are cleared, regraded, and water-bars constructed twice a year. They are also inspected for maintenance after each major storm event. The majority of this work is conducted by the Dean State Forest Crew.

Note: Richland, Dean and Pike Forests' roads and trails have a rotation inspection schedule.

Campgrounds: N/A

APV Areas: All of the APV Area trails were inspected in 2012. The work identified in these inspections has already begun and will be completed this fiscal year. The APV trails will be maintained mechanically at least twice per year

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: A Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant is used for reimbursement of maintenance costs at the APV area. Each year all equipment and personnel costs are tracked and the Division is reimbursed at a rate of 80% of costs.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to maintain APV trails utilizing RTP grants.

VII. Wildland Fire

Suppression: The Division of Forestry has the statutory authority for fire suppression and protection within the hill country of the state. Scioto Trail State Forest is responsible for these duties in Ross, Jackson and a portion of Gallia 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: Public education and awareness is a key to fire prevention programs. Several prevention programs utilizing Smokey Bear will be performed throughout the year, within Scioto Trail's fire protection area.

Prescribed Fire: There are no planned prescribed fires for the coming year. The Division of Forestry fully acknowledges the use of prescribed fire as a management tool and is currently collecting data across the southern district in order to better implement a prescribed fire program. The data collected and resulting analysis, will present both the effects of past prescribed burns and opportunities for additional prescribed fire. Two types of burns are being assessed. This includes site preparation burns to determine the effectiveness of establishing oak/hickory on that particular stand and release burns to encourage the success of already established oak/hickory due to previous management practices. The results of the data analysis may yield additional prescribed fire opportunity for future fiscal years.

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.

Training: Members of the Interagency Fire Crew will attend one (1) Interagency Refresher class. The "Fundamentals of Wildland Fire" course will be taught in each county at a minimum once per a year

Fire Department Contacts: The Forest Officer will attend at least one (1) VFD association meeting in the protection area each month. Annually the officer will contact each department and complete the Division's VFD contact information forms.

FireWise: Scioto Trail State Forest staff will continue to support the Division's FireWise efforts.

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. The forest staff is also responsible for transporting FEPP equipment throughout the state.

Grants: The Division administers several grant opportunities for volunteer fire companies. Scioto Trail State Forest will promote the opportunities to local VFD's.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Become more active in fire prevention programs such as FireWise.

VIII. Law Enforcement

Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have 9 commissioned law enforcement officers and 1 commissioned manager. The purpose of these positions is to enforce Ohio Administrative Code and 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: Commissioned officers will receive the following training: Weapons qualifications, law enforcement in-service training, remain current with CPR and First Aid, and TASER certification. Officers are to complete all Continuing Professional Training (CPT) and LEADS Certification training as mandated by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

Reporting: All Forest Officers are to complete and submit annual Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) reports as required. Officers are required by policy to submit copies of their citation logs to the Division Law Enforcement Administrator twice during the fiscal year. Other reports are to be submitted as required by Department/Division policy and the LE Manual.

Equipment: Officers 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 within 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: Projects that require multiple officers to properly implement may be coordinated out of the District Office.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc; patrol APV Area during high use days; paint required boundary; respond to boundary encroachments by inspecting boundary when/ where encroachments occur; aggressively investigate and enforce trash dumping violations.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Focus on APV area patrol, trash dumping and boundary inspection/painting. Continue to focus on projects to protect user safety and positive visitor experiences.

IV. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization: This forest is administered at the District level. Law enforcement is covered by the Chillicothe Officer. Fire area supervision is specifically assigned to Scioto Trail State Forest staff and trail maintenance is carried out by the Dean State Forest Staff. Land management and operations duties will be assigned as needed.

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Training will be considered as opportunities arise. Law enforcement and fire training have been addressed in the above sections. CPR and First Aid will be offered to all employees. Other training opportunities may include silvicultural and forestry training, equipment operations, all risk response training, and many on the job training experiences.

X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Richland Furnace State Forest will be represented at the Chillicothe Open House in late July.

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

Volunteers: None at this time

Interpretive Programs: Maintain all research interpretive signs.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue public education through interpretive signs.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): See Scioto Trail State Forest and Dean State Forest plan for additional budget information.

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): Future budgets cannot be anticipated and the Division is currently composing the budget for this fiscal year.

XII. Safety

Safety: Forest employees participate in monthly training sessions and many other safety oriented discussions in the field. The Division also participates in the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program and will continue to repair minor infractions that resulted from these inspections. Division Staff is also required to attend the Annual Division of Forestry Safety Training. Other safety trainings will be utilized as opportunities arise.

Division staff will be conducting internal hazard and safety assessments and will provide mitigating practices to eliminate or reduce the risk. Forest Staff will also utilize the policies and guidelines contained within the Division Safety Manual to further improve the agency's safety culture.

Any type of emergency (medical, fire, police, etc.) will be acted upon by staff member(s) consistent with their training, experience and ability to act.