Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Richland Furnace State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year **2012**
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)

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5/26/2011
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6/16/2011
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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 manager is located at Scioto Trail State Forest and staff from Dean 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 2010 but have not yet been sold:

Forest	Compartment / Mgt. Unit	Board Feet	Tons	Treatment	Acres
Richland Furnace	A-3 / m.u. a	285,050	322	Regeneration Harvest	25

No timber sales are planned for FY 2012.

This year, in select state forests, the division will transition to a stand based cruising model built upon data obtained by the 2009 forest inventory project. Silvicultural activities will be proposed in fiscal year 2013 based on the stand verification cruise reports completed by division personnel. Listed below are combinations of stands that will comprise the individual reports during the period of this workplan.

Forest		Compartments*		Acres
Richland Furnace		B-5, B-6, B-7, B-8, C-4, C-5, C-6		397

May not include the entire compartment

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: Common invasives at Richland Furnace State Forest include the following: *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven), *Lonicera japonica* (Japanese Honeysuckle), and multiflora rose. The Division of Forestry received a grant from the US Forest Service to implement the Ohio Woodlands Job Corps for the control of invasive plants within the state forest system. From this grant two (2)crews of five (5) people were employed, temporarily, to work on invasive plant control and timber stand improvement while receiving job-training skills. Both cohorts of the original OWJC program have come to an end, but currently there are additional funds from the grant to bring back several people to continue the invasive work. Division staff will continue identify areas to control throughout the year 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: 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 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 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): 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:

- 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. 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.

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: None planned.

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. 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: See Scioto Trail State Forest.

Prevention: See Scioto Trail State Forest

Prescribed Fire: One prescribed fire will be conducted on Richland Furnace State Forest. This fire will occur in compartment B-4.

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 8 commissioned law enforcement officers and 2 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: APV area

Special Projects: Illegal use of APV's in the forest will be the focus of any special projects.

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: 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.

A safety plan is currently being developed for each State Forest and will be included in future Annual Work Plans. 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.

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 2011.

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): Work to recruit trail maintenance groups.

XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): See Scioto Trail State Forest plan.

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 since the State of Ohio budget for the next two fiscal years has not been passed by the General Assembly.