# Ohio Department of Natural Resources

## **Division of Forestry**

### **Annual Work Plan**

For

# Scioto Trail State Forest

For the Period of

Fiscal Year <u>2012</u>
(July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012)



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> 5/26/2011 Date

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6/16/2011 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 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 Scioto Trail State Forest under the multiple use concept promoting land management, forest sustainability, and back country recreation.
- Implement new policies as presented in the revised Land Management Manual that will support third party certification.
- Continue to develop employee skills and abilities through training thereby improving productivity and efficiency.

#### III. <u>Forest Overview</u>

History & Description: Scioto Trail State Forest is named after a Native American warrior path known as Scioto Trail that ran from Chillicothe to Portsmouth. During World War I, Scioto Trail State Forest was used as an artillery range for Camp Sherman. Seventy-five millimeter guns and six-inch howitzers were set up at the mouth of Stoney Creek on the Scioto River and fired at targets in the general area of Stewart and Caldwell Lakes. The major land acquisitions for this forest were made between 1922 and 1937 for an average of \$7.70 per acre.

#### IV. Resource Management

Silvicultural Practices (Scheduled Harvests, Cruising, Marking, TSI, etc.):

The following is a listing of the inventories that were previously completed and have resulted in proposed harvests for fiscal year 2012:

				Acres	Acres	Acres
State Forest	Compartment	Vol. Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut	Shelterwood	Select/Partial
Scioto Trail	B-3	200,000	360		45	
Scioto Trail	C-5	750,000	5,100	29	156	61
Scioto Trail	D-5		1500	10		
Scioto Trail	E-4	275,000	495		70	29

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 a combination of stands that will comprise the individual reports during the period of this workplan.

Forest	-	Acres
	C-7, C-8, C-10, C-11, C-12, D-5, D-6, E-6,	
Scioto Trail	E-7	477
Scioto Trail	C-6, C-7, C-11, E-7	200
Scioto Trail	C-7, C-8, C-11	187
Scioto Trail	C-7, C-8, C-9, C-10, C-11	266

<sup>\*</sup>Cruises may only be through a portion of the 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. The old airfield at Scioto Trail State Forest is the location of the main merchandizing yard.

Minerals: No leases at Scioto Trail State Forest

Invasives: Common invasives at Scioto Trail 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:* There is approximately 48 miles of state boundary. Approximately one fourth of the boundary is painted each year on a scheduled rotation.

Licenses/Leases: None

Insects & Disease: Insects & Disease: Not only in the forest but also throughout the entire area monitoring stations are in place for the gypsy moth. That project is managed by the Department of Agriculture. This year a large portion of the southern part of the forest was sprayed with a mating disruption pheromone.

Forest staff informally monitor for a number of forest pests, including emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle as well as numerous other pests.

*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: Currently no ongoing research projects are taking place within Scioto Trail State Forest. Opportunities to conduct research projects exist for any person or groups. The only requirement being a special use permit needs to be applied for and approved for the activity.

Summary (2-3 year projects): Implement post harvest cruising to better develop the growth & yield model. Develop a backlog of scheduled sales to project at least 2 years of proposed treatments.

#### V. <u>Maintenance</u>

Buildings: Scioto Trail staff is responsible for maintaining nine (9) service buildings, a fire tower, two (2) restrooms, a shelter house at the fire tower, a seed cooler, and a weather station. They are also responsible for maintaining the Southern Region Forest Headquarters located in Chillicothe. Following is a list of the buildings at Scioto Trail State Forest:

- Scioto Trail State Forest Headquarters located on Stoney Creek Road
- Service building located on Stoney Creek Road
- Gas house located at the Forest Headquarters
- Small service building located at the Forest Headquarters
- Warehouse and compound located on Lake Road
- Seed cooler located on Lake Road
- Carpenter shop located on North Ridge Road
- Central shop located on North Ridge Road
- Grease rack/garage building located on North Ridge Road
- Vacated office located by the fire tower
- Service building by the fire tower
- Sign shop located by the carpenter shop
- Fire tower located on North Ridge Road
- Shelter house by the fire tower
- Two outhouses located at the fire tower
- The Southern Region Headquarters located in Chillicothe
- A weather Station located outside of the Scioto Trail State Forest

Anticipated building and facility repairs are as follows: Replace several shingles on the central shop and grease rack buildings that were blown off

during the spring storms, fix the leak on the carpenter shop roof, paint outhouses by the fire tower, and replace and paint the steps for the fire tower.

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities): Scioto Trail State Forest is responsible for the waterline from the main headquarters to the residence and central shop and requires some maintenance each year.

*Vehicles/Equipment:* Scioto Trail is responsible for the maintenance of 22 vehicles. Vehicles will be repaired and maintained in house unless it is beyond our scope of ability.

The following includes a list of heavy equipment:

930 Cat Road Grader	Witzco Lowboy Trailer
John Deer 444 Wheel Loader	John Deer 450G Dozer
John Deer 750 Dozer	John Deer 450H Dozer
Kubota Tractor w/ Side Mount Mower	John Deer 2240 Tractor
Ford 4600 Tractor	John Deer 6210 Tractor
Ford 1920 Tractor	Freightliner Tractor Trailer
New Holland Mowtrim	International Bucket Truck
Ford Backhoe	International Dump Truck (3)
Freightliner Transport (2)	Ford Prentice Loader
International Flatbed Truck	Heavy Trailers (2)
Forklift (2)	Prentice Bucksaw Kit

Routine maintenance will be performed on all equipment in accordance with Division and Department policies.

Roads: There are approximately six (6) miles of paved roads and 18 miles of gravel roads. Regular maintenance of these roads includes the following: Gravel roads will be graded and ditched each year; clear all downed trees; roadside mowing; ditching, making sure the headers and 342 culverts are clear and operating correctly, replacing culverts, and litter control.

Forest Road mileages include the following:

	9
Forest Road #1 – 3.6 Miles	Forest Road #5 - 4.3 Miles
Forest Road #2 -5.5	Forest Road # 6 – 6.1
Forest Road #3 -1.5	Forest Road # 77
Forest Road #4 -3.2	

In addition to public roads, all forest 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 staff 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 all wooden signs. Signs are inspected on a regular basis.

Residences: There are two (2) state residences located in Scioto Trail State Forest. One is located by the fire tower and the other is located by the Forest Headquarters. Division of Forestry employees occupy both residences. The renter is responsible for majority of the repairs.

Dams: N/A

Capitals Projects: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue and maintain the statewide Best Management Practices (BMP) training facility, continue to maintain the minor slip on Martin Road, replace a several culverts on Hatfield and South Ridge Roads, and continue to fill pot holes as needed on all forest roads.

#### VI. Recreation

Trails (bridle, backpack, etc.): There are approximately 26 miles of bridle trails that are open to horses, hikers, and mountain bikers. Approximately four (4) miles of the Buckeye Trail pass through Scioto Trail State Forest and are maintained by the BTA. All bridle trails will be cleared of debris a minimum of once a year and inspected after each significant weather event.

Campgrounds: N/A

ATV Areas: N/A

Shooting Ranges: N/A

Grants: N/A

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

#### 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. Prevention programs utilizing Smokey Bear will be as follows: Ross County Fair and Bob Evans Days.

Prescribed Fire: There are no planned prescribed fires for the coming year.

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 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 (Provided by Columbus): Philosophy/Purpose: State Forests currently have eight (8) commissioned law enforcement officers and two (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: Commissioned officers will receive the following training: Weapons qualifications, law enforcement in-service training, remain current with CPR and First Aid, and TASR certification. Non-mandatory training will be offered to officers as workloads and budgets allow.

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: Unit Manager and Forest Officer will coordinate projects that require multiple officers to properly implement.

Other Duties (VFD's, FEPP, court, boundary, etc.): Attend four fire department association meetings; FEPP inspections; court updates; paint 5 miles of boundary; boundary inspection; respond to boundary encroachments by inspecting boundary when/ where encroachments occur; investigate and resolve; investigate fires according to fire manual direction; participate in fire prevention program; update fire department information sheets.

Summary (2-3 year future projects): Continue to focus on projects to protect user safety and positive visitor experiences.

#### IV. <u>Employee Development</u>

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization: Employees are as follows:

Brian Kelly, Forest Manager Todd Weaver, Law Enforcement Officer Jeremy Adkins, Equipment Operator Heath Boggs, Equipment Operator Scott Trego, Equipment Operator Steve Dean, Equipment Operator Vacant, Carpenter Carol Johnson, Conservation Aide Anita Strausbaugh, Maintenance Repair Worker

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc): Annual CPR and First Aid class will be attended by each employee. Forest Manager will attend the Forest Health meeting.

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: Employees will be encouraged to attend programs or trainings that will enhance the employees' job performance

#### X. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events: Scioto State Forest will participate in the Athens-ODNR Headquarters and Shawnee State Forest Open House events; and will present timber revenue checks to the County Commissioners and the local School Board.

Partnerships: Scioto Trail State Park, US Forest Service, Township Trustees, Ohio Forest Fire Lookout Association, and local VFD's.

Volunteers: Buckeye Trail Association and the Ohio Horsemen's Council.

*Interpretive Programs:* Maintain interpretive signs for prescribed fire and oak mortality.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

#### XI. Budget

Operational Budget (personnel, maintenance): The Division is in the process of developing each Unit Budget. The following is last year's budget for Scioto Trail, Tar Hollow, and Richland Furnace.

500		Payroll						¢400.700
		Payron		WEAVED TODD		FORFOT OFF O		\$429,798
				WEAVER,TODD		FOREST OFF 2		\$****
				WELLY DOLAN T		FOREST		
				KELLY,BRIAN T		MANAGER 3		\$****
				BOGGS,KENNET	1 L	CARPENTER 2		\$****
				TREGO,ROBERT	S	EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 4		\$****
				DEAN,STEVEN E		EQUIPMENT OPR2		\$****
				VACANT-		EQUIPMENT OPR4		\$****
				JOHNSON,CARO	LΑ	CONSERV AID	Ε	\$****
				STRAUSBAUGH,ANI'		MAINT REP WKR1		\$****
				VACANT-		EQUIPMENT OPR2		\$****
				VACANT-		MAINT REP WKR2		\$****
				ОТ				\$***
510	Pers	sonal Servi	ces					\$250
			Miso	Prof Development	Fund	d 5090		\$250
520	Sup	plies & Mai						\$84,960
			Sup	neral Operating- plies	Fund	d 5090		\$17,500
				neral Operating- icles	Fun	d 5090		\$20,000
				d 5090		\$25,000		
				neral Operating-Utilities		d 5090		\$7,500
				t spreader				\$5,210
				der Repair		. =		\$2,050
500		•	RTF	9 09-184 Supplies	Fund	d 5090		\$7,700
530	⊨qu	ipment					\$	\$23,302
			Side	e-mount mower				5,403
				ty bed			\$	578
				sma Cutter			\$	

				2,021
				\$
		Saw		300
550	Subsidies			\$0
570	Capital			\$0
590	Settlements & B	onds - Refunds		\$0
591	Debt Service			\$0
			Total	\$538,310

*Revenue:* Revenue from Scioto Trail State Forest is generated from timber sales, 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 (2) fiscal years has not been passed by the General Assembly.