Division of Forestry
Update

OHIO FORESTRY ASSOCIATION
3/5/2020
Division of Forestry Vision
State Forest Action Plan
State Service Forestry Program Update
  • Ohio Forest Tax Law
Forest Health- Oak Diseases
State Forest Land Management
  • Invasive Plants
Questions
VISION: The Ohio Division of Forestry envisions healthy, diverse forests valued for the life-sustaining benefits they provide now and forever

MISSION: To Promote and Apply Management for the Sustainable Use and Protection of Ohio’s Private and Public Forest Lands
7.9 million acres (30%) is forested

85% of that forestland is privately owned

The remaining 15% is publicly owned (local, state, and federal government)
The purpose of the Forest Action Plan is to provide a basis upon which future strategic directions and actions can be evaluated and selected.

Scope is all forests in Ohio (public, private, urban, rural)

10-year update underway, due for completion by end of June 2020
Ohio’s Forest Action Plan

Regional Public Stakeholder Meetings
- 5 held January & February
- Additional partner meetings

Forest Resource Assessment
- Trends & conditions of Ohio’s forest resource
- Priority forest areas
- ID key issues

Forest Resource Strategy
- Strategies & objectives to address key issues
- ID partners to help address key issues
New Strategic Plan

*Overarching goal → Reach more landowners*

**Faster service** → linking with other resource professionals

- (e.g., TSI vendors, consultants, master loggers)

**Reducing some services** (e.g., plan writing)

**Still prioritize landowner incentive programs** (OFTL, USDA programs)

- Added 3 service forester positions in key areas of the state (E/SE Ohio)
  - Assisting Landowners with NRCS cost share programs

**More group events** (workshops/field days)
2019 Rule Changes

Removed forestry education requirement

Flexible timeline for management/harvests

Removed requirement to complete practice prior to classification; still do boundaries & plan

Professional forester for harvest

Changes designed to reduce cancellations

- Placing land in family trust
- Adjustments to acreage
- Transfer to new owner who plans to continue management
Law changes being considered

Lower assessed value similar to CAUV.

- Current thinking: Set at minimum CAUV value (currently $230/ac)

How would recoupment work to go from CAUV to OFTL?

- Deferred recoupment (allow transfers between CAUV & OFTL)
**Oak Wilt** is a deadly vascular disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Bretziella fagacearum*  
- Present in Ohio since 1950s  
- New infected areas in E. Ohio in the last two years

**Control and Management of the Disease**
- Containment work being conducted at Yellow Creek SF (deadening oak trees with herbicide)  
- Will return to salvage trees later  
- Public education & outreach

*All* oak species are susceptible to the disease

90 percent of new infections occur through root grafts
**Phytophthora ramorum**: causing sudden oak death on West coast

- Detected in shipment of nursery stock into Ohio and other states in 2019
- Coordinated response by DOF, OSUE, SWCDs, ODA, & APHIS to do outreach to landowners
- Monitoring of high-risk sites in 2020

*Photo Credit: Oregon State University*
The goal of State Forest Management is to bring about a **sustainable** and **profitable growth** of timber for Ohio citizens while managing for multiple public uses.

Ohio’s state forests cover **201,669 acres**.
Willow Grove

- 350-acres, acquired via donation from Cravat Coal Co.
- Serves as a stream habitat mitigation site
- Named for the Willow Grove No. 10 Mine
  - 72 miners killed in 1940

Other acquisitions

- 1,000 acres – Pike SF APV Area expansion
- 24 Acres – Maumee SF
- Working on possible 1200-acre acquisition at Shawnee SF
State Forest lands have been dual certified for 10 years
2019 was the final audit on our current 5-year certificates
Decided to seek dual certification for another 5-year period
Need to rebid certification contract through state process
**SALE TYPES**

- Stumpage Timber Sales – competitively bid
- Merchandised Log Sales – competitively bid “lots” of sorted logs

**2019 ACTIVITIES**

- $2.8 million in stumpage revenue
- 7.7 MMBF – Average price of $377/mbf
- $2.2 million in log revenue
- 2.13 MMBF – Average log price of $1032/mbf for merchandised logs
ADDITIONAL STATE FOREST OPPORTUNITIES

- 550+ MILES OF TRAILS
- 8 PRIMITIVE CAMP SITES
- 7 FIRE TOWERS
- 4 SHOOTING RANGES
- MORE THAN 200,000 ACRES FOR PUBLIC HUNTING
Trees to Textbooks

$1,503,466 distributed to Local Governments
Average $7.33/acre

$32.5 million distributed between 1999- Present
Interagency committee convened to revise guide

Currently gathering input from:
• OFA/Forest Industry
• Consulting Foresters
• SWCDs
• Ohio State University

Clarify Requirements vs Recommendations

Improve guide layout

Include new techniques & technologies
Increasing problem
• Ailanthus, paulownia, stiltgrass, various shrubs

Requires significant time and resources, no dedicated funding
• Early detection, rapid response
• Predisturbance surveys and treatments
• Follow-up

Spread many different ways…..
Goal – Decrease entry points, address new invaders first, adapt management techniques

Require cleaning of equipment (State and contractors)

Increase Education

Firewood in camping areas – encourage folks to buy local
In 2020, the Division of Forestry will:

- Apply science-based silvicultural treatments on state forest land including 1,500 acres of prescribed timber harvest, 300 acres of invasive plant control, 50 acres of non-commercial timber stand improvement, and at least 5 forest landscape prescribed fire projects.

- Plan, organize, advertise, and facilitate nine throughout the state and track attendance for woodland owner educational workshops each event.

- In support of the ODNR Hemlock Conservation Plan, use the best available scientifically proven methods to treat 3,000 hemlock trees on ODNR land to protect them from hemlock woolly adelgid.
QUESTIONS?