

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

Annual Work Plan

For

Eastern State Forests

For the Period of

2016/2017

October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017



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June 10, 2016

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September 30, 2016

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I. Forest Overview

The Eastern State Forests include four state forests: Harrison, Fernwood, Yellow Creek, and Beaver Creek. The headquarters office for the Eastern State Forests is located at Fernwood State Forest.

State Forest	County	Acres
Fernwood	Jefferson	3,023
Harrison	Harrison	1,344
Beaver Creek	Columbiana	1,122
Yellow Creek	Columbiana	756
TOTAL		6,245

A substantial portion of the land in Fernwood and Harrison state forests has been strip mined for coal. However, the production of acid mine water is minimal because of the neutralizing effect of limestone deposits. The majority of unstripped lands is located on ridges, and is in forest cover. Subsequent reforestation and installation of recreation facilities, funded through the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 and the Ohio Capital Improvements program, have restored the area to a beautiful, healthy forest, providing visitors with many outdoor recreational opportunities. Reforestation efforts have occurred on various reclaimed strip mine areas on these two forests

Yellow Creek State Forest adjoins the Highlandtown Wildlife Area in Columbiana County. The land for Yellow Creek was purchased between 1947-1960. There are no developed facilities on Yellow Creek State Forest.

In 1998, ODNR acquired 1,122 acres near Calcutta, Ohio in Columbiana County that became Beaver Creek State Forest. The need for accommodating diverse outdoor recreation coupled with the protection of the unique Little Beaver Creek watershed was a primary factor in establishing Ohio's 20th State Forest under the multiple use management philosophy of the ODNR Division of Forestry.

II. Resource Management

All proposed harvest activity is reviewed by a cross-sectional group of DOF staff to determine which harvests are best suited for stumpage sales and for forest product sales. These recommendations are then provided to the chief for consideration and final decision. Harvests will be

accomplished using a combination of stumpage sales and product sales as defined below.

Stumpage Sales:

Stumpage sales are sales of standing trees. There are three main types of contract stumpage sales that are used depending on the best business practices and economic considerations for each specific circumstance.

Lump Sum Stumpage Timber Sale - sales scheduled and sold through a sealed bid process with purchasers bidding a lump sum for all advertised trees.

Pay-As-Cut Stumpage Sale – this method is the same as above; however, the bidder offers a price per scaled or weighed product instead of a lump sum.

Negotiated Stumpage Sale – standing trees sold at market prices through a contractual agreement.

Forest Product Sales:

Harvesting through forest product sales consists of hiring contract loggers or utilizing state crews to deliver whole trees (stringers) to a central location for processing, sorting and selling of products. These products will be sold through a competitive bid process.

Silvicultural Practices:

The following is a list of harvests being proposed to be implemented in FY 2017.

State Forest	Compartment	Volume Bd. Ft.	Tons	Clearcut Acres	Select/Partial or Salvage Acres
Harrison	8&1	11,000			34
Yellow Creek	5	100,000	500		31
Beaver Creek	1		2000	20	

The following is a list of prescribed fires that are being proposed to be implemented in FY 2017.

State Forest	Compartment	Acres
Harrison	3	50

Harrison Timber Stand Improvement:

Recent stand based inventory completed at Harrison State Forest will be used to identify a 35 to 40 acre unit to control the encroachment of *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree-of-Heaven), *Elaeagnus Spp* (Russian and Autumn olive), and *Lonicera spp* .(Japanese honeysuckle). In addition, approximately 20-acres of practices that promote standing dead trees for bat habitat, such as crop-tree release via girdling, will be conducted.

Beaver Creek State Forest Tree Planting:

Native hardwoods will be planted on a 1 acre site recently cleared during the abandoned mine land reclamation project around the RR tunnel that was conducted by the ODNR – Division of Mineral Resources Management. The project will be in cooperation with the ODNR’s Scenic Rivers Program.

Fernwood State Forest American Chestnut Planting

American chestnut seedlings are proposed to be planted in the 6 acre pine clearcut in Compartment 10 after the previously contracted harvest is completed. The project will be in cooperation with the Ohio Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, who will provide the seedlings.

High Conservation Value Forest Monitoring:

Maintaining and promoting the features that make areas designated HCVPs are important to the Division of Forestry. Approximately 200 acres of HCVP at Beaver Creek State Forest in Section 25 of St. Clair Township are planned to be monitored this year.

Minerals:

A substantial portion of the land at Fernwood and Harrison State Forests has been strip mined for coal. The state does not own subsurface rights for much of these properties as they were severed prior to state surface ownership.

Invasives:

Non-native invasive species such as ailanthus, bush honeysuckle, multi-flora rose and autumn olive in areas at Fernwood and Harrison state forests will be targeted for control as they are encountered. These invasive species, especially ailanthus, will need to be killed in and around the timber sales at Fernwood and Harrison to prevent the invasion into the openings created during the sales. Ailanthus stands will be monitored for presence of Verticillium Wilt, a beneficial biological control agent.

Boundary:

There are approximately 70 miles of boundary lines around the Eastern Forests. With a 5 year rotation schedule, approximately 15 miles of boundary will be inspected and repainted as needed each year.

Licenses/Leases:

Oil and Gas pipeline license agreements:

- Harrison SF: Enterprise Liquids Pipeline (ATEX)
- Harrison SF: Cardinal Gas Services
- Harrison SF: Sunoco Pipeline L.P.

Beaver Creek State Forest: Abandoned Railroad ROW license agreement with Columbiana County Park District for the development of a recreational trail.

Insects & Disease:

Ash trees being killed by the emerald ash borer will be salvaged where possible. Staff will continue to monitor for gypsy moth and hemlock woolly adelgid on the state forest units.

Utilization & Marketing:

Firewood permits will be issued on a request basis for downed trees along roadways, trails and facilities.

Certification

The Division of Forestry will continue third party dual certification under the Forest Stewardship Council[®] and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative standards. Surveillance audits will be conducted in the fall of 2016.

Research:

There are no research projects currently on any eastern region state forests.

Summary (2-3 year projects):

Most of the above projects are ongoing and are expected to last a number of years. Land management activities will continue depending on recommendations from foresters. Recent reforestation efforts on over 200 acres at Harrison and Fernwood state forests will be monitored. Invasive species control will need to be implemented in these areas.

III. Maintenance

Buildings:

Perform general maintenance, routine cleaning and repair to the 9 buildings and structures located at Fernwood and Harrison state forests.

Facility Inventory Eastern State Forests	
Fernwood State Forest	Service Center/Office Equipment Barn Herbicide Storage Shed Latrine (Round Top Picnic Area)

	Latrine (Hidden Hollow Camp) Kiosk at Hidden Hollow Campground
Harrison State Forest	Latrines - 2 (Trailriders Camp) Latrine (Ronsheim Camp) Kiosk at Trail Riders Campground

Infrastructure (water, wastewater, utilities):

The Division of Forestry has applied for a Recreational Trails Partnership grant to assist in funding a new ROMTEC latrine at the Ronsheim Campground. If the division receives an award, construction should begin in the fall of 2016. No other major repairs are planned or anticipated.

Vehicles/Equipment

Perform routine maintenance, timely service and repairs to the unit's fleet of vehicles and equipment.

Vehicles

- Dozer transport, 1999 Freightliner, diesel, dovetail bed, MARCS equipped
- Ford 1 ton Dump truck, 2008, 4x4
- Ford 1 ton Crew Cab, 2006, 4x4, Gas, Utility Body, 10,000 lb, MARCS equipped
- Ford ¾ ton Pickup, 2005, 4x4, extended Cab, 5,000 lb
- Ford ½ ton Pickup, 2015, 4x4, Super Cab, 5,000 lb, MARCS equipped

Dozers/Tractors

- John Deere Dozer 450 w/ angle blade, rear winch w/ chokers
- Bobcat Skid Steer, High Flow hydraulics, Forest Mulcher head, angle blade, drill, bucket, brushhog
- John Deere Tractor, 65 hp, 4x4 w/ bucket and grapple/forks/brushhog/angle-tilt blade

Trailers

- Trailer, double axle, low boy, 8'x24', 14,000 lb beaver tail, elec. brakes, manual ramps
- ATV trailer, 6'x12', 2" ball hitch, single axle rear gate ramp, 4 wire flat plug
- Trailers, (1), double axle, 8' x 20'. 7,000 lb

ATVs

- Polaris Sportsman 500, 4wd, 3,000 lb front winch
- Kawasaki Mule, diesel/4wd/1,000 lb hydraulic lift bed/1,200 lb tow capacity w/1.25" and 2" frame hitch/2,500 lb front winch/convertible from 3-6 passenger capacity

Misc./Other

- 50 gallon UTV sprayer unit, electric pump, 30’ reach, fits into K-Mule
- 50 Gallon UTV slip on unit, 50 gpm pump, fits in the bed of the Kawasaki Mule
- 150 gallon slip on unit, 23hp, 200 gpm pump w/Class A foam proportioner

Roads:

- Continue coordination with ODNR - Division of Engineering and Archer Township Trustees to maintain one lane road around road slip on Township Road 185 leading into Trailrider’s Campground at Harrison State Forest. ODOT project requests for road surfacing of the slip area and culvert replacement have been submitted for FY 2019.
- Approximately 30 miles of limited access roads are annually inspected at Fernwood and Harrison state forests.
- GPS and inventory all access roads in the eastern forests.

Signage:

- Replace Fernwood State Forest sign in front of office.
- Install new sign at Hidden Hollow campground entrance.
- Continue highway locator/directional sign installations for Harrison and Fernwood state forests through regional ODOT office.
- Install interpretive signs per agreement with AFRI.

Residences: There are no residences on any of the eastern forests

Dams:

- Harrison State Forest has one class III dam, Ronsheim Dam, that will be monitored throughout the year.
- More aggregate will be put on Ronsheim Dam Road.
- Cut and treat woody vegetation on the dams located at Fernwood and Harrison state forests.

Forest Ponds/Dams Eastern Forests		
Forest Location	ID	Acres
Fernwood State Forest	1	1.2
	2	1.2
	3	1.2
Harrison State Forest	1	.4

	2	.2
	3	.8
	4	.5
	5	2*
	6	2
	7	1.6
	8	2.3
	9	.5
	10	2.4
	11	2.4

*One half of pond #5 is on private property.

Grounds:

- Grounds maintenance will primarily consist of mowing all public areas and brush removal at campgrounds.
- Latrines and trash containers maintained at all campground areas.
- Remove remaining remnants of helipad next to Fernwood headquarters.

Capitals Projects:

- There are no major capital improvement projects planned. If funds become available, fencing around the office and compound at Fernwood headquarters will be expanded to allow for more parking and equipment storage.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

Future projects other than those listed above include:

- Submit RTP grant for replacement of latrine at Trailrider’s campground.

IV. Recreation

Trails (bridle, hiking, etc.):

There are approximately 26 miles of combined bridle and hiking trails at Harrison State Forest and a three-mile hiking trail at Fernwood State Forest.

- Continue addressing eroded areas and poorly drained sections of trails at Fernwood and Harrison.
- Facilitate the Columbiana County Park District’s development of a pedestrian/bicycle trail on the abandoned railroad ROW at Beaver Creek State Forest. They will be assessing the RR ROW and tunnel for trail development
- Division of Mineral Resources will complete the abandoned mine land reclamation work at Beaver Creek State Forest around the RR tunnel.

Campgrounds:

Fernwood State Forest has one campground, Hidden Hollow Campground, with 22 family campsites equipped with picnic tables, fire rings and vault latrines. Campers must provide their own water and self-register at the campground.

Harrison State Forest has two campground areas equipped with picnic tables, fire rings, and vault latrines. Ronsheim Campground has seven camp sites; Trailriders Campground has 20 sites accommodating family and/or horse campers. Campers must provide their own water, and self-register at the campground.

- Remove hazard trees from camp and picnic areas, and inspect periodically.
- Replace fire rings at campgrounds as budget and time allows.

ATV Areas:

There are no ATV riding areas on the Eastern Forests.

Shooting Ranges:

There is one shooting range at Harrison State Forest and three shooting ranges at Fernwood State Forest, including one trap shoot range, one pistol range, and one rifle range.

- Continue coordinating with contractors and Division of Wildlife for shooting range and site improvement projects planned at Fernwood and Harrison state forests. These extensive improvements include covered benches, ballistic sand, and handicapped access.
 - The shooting benches will be repaired and repainted as needed.
- Crushed limestone will be spread around all shooting stations to improve footing.
- ***Grants:***
 - Submit RTP grant for replacement of one latrine at Trailriders campground.

Summary (2-3 year future projects)

- Coordinate trail development at Beaver Creek State Forest.
- Continue trail improvement work at Fernwood and Harrison state forests.

V. Wildland Fire

Suppression:

- The Division of Forestry shall aggressively suppress wildland fire starts within each state forest.
- During extreme fire danger periods, stage available resources and equipment at predetermined location, notify local fire departments of availability status, and respond as needed/requested.

Prevention:

- The Division of Forestry will promote wildfire prevention programs through local fire departments utilizing Smokey's "A Fire Prevention Teachers Workbook."
- We plan to participate in at least three fire prevention educational opportunities each year.
- We will promote roadside Fire Danger signs in Jefferson, Columbiana, and Harrison counties.

Prescribed Fire:

- Write burn plan for shelterwood harvest unit in Compartment 3 at Harrison State Forest.

Interagency Fire Crew:

- Eastern Forest staff members will be allowed to participate in the Division's Inter-Agency Fire Crew program as the workload and budget allow.

Training:

- Offer and provide Basic Wildfire Suppression training to VFD's in Columbiana, Harrison, Tuscarawas, Belmont and Jefferson counties (1/County)

Fire Department Contacts:

- Attend a minimum of one VFD Association meeting per year in each county in the fire protection district.
- Work with fire departments to utilize the online fire reporting system.
- Update fire department data sheets.

Eastern Forests Fire Cooperatives Totals		
County	# Fire Departments	# Fire Associations
Belmont	23	1, *
Carroll	12	1, *
Columbiana	13	2

Harrison	13	1
Jefferson	24	1, *
Tuscarawas	20	2, *
Stark	9	1
Total	114	10*

*South Eastern Fire Chiefs Association includes these counties.

Firewise:

- Continue to promote the Firewise program within the Eastern Forests Fire Protection Area.

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)/Fire Fighter Property (FFP):

- Continue to complete annual inspections of federal property within our fire protection project.
- Continue to promote the participation of fire departments in the FEPP and FFP.

Grants:

- Promote grant opportunities to area fire departments

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

The Eastern Forests Fire Protection Area covers seven counties and has a moderate-severe wildland fire problem, with a potential serious threat to “values” (property/infrastructure) within the Wildland-Urban Interface. Continue the goal of supporting and assisting the cooperating fire departments within the fire protection area with prevention activities, wildland fire suppression and wildland fire training. Continue assisting fire departments with online fire reporting system.

Recent changes in the Ohio Revised Code have created the opportunity for the forest fire protection area to expand and include other areas. As required by law, considerations will include forest cover, threat to forest resources, population, and fire occurrence. If the area is expanded in eastern and northeastern Ohio, division staff will assist new departments with their needs relating to wildland fires.

VI. Law Enforcement

Due to re-organization, the Division of Forestry’s Law Enforcement staff was transferred to the Division of Parks in Fiscal Year 2013. These officers continue to enforce laws on state forests, as well as continuing to investigate and enforce Ohio’s wildfire laws.

VII. Employee Development

Employee List/Vacancies/Table of Organization:

Justin Law	Forest Manager
Eric Traczyk	Equipment Operator 2
Dan Randolph	Conservation Aide

Training (tuition reimbursement, etc):

- Provide proper training and equipment for all employees, including: CPR annually, First Aid every third year, and Interagency Fire Crew Refresher annually.

Safety:

- Coordinate monthly safety meetings for entire staff.
- Conduct annual inspection of lock out/tag out tool boxes.

Other Employee Development:

Employees will be allowed to participate in professional development and educational training programs as workloads and the budget allows.

VIII. Public Information/Outreach

Planned Events:

Open House for Mohican State Forest and Eastern Forests:	July 28, 2016
Carroll Co. OHC Regional Ride at Harrison State Forest:	Sept. 14-18, 2016
Fernwood SF 5 th grade Outdoor Field Days:	May, 2017

Eastern State Forests - Partnerships:

Ohio Horseman's Council (OHC)
Carroll County OHC Chapter
Harrison County OHC
Buckeye Trail Riders
Columbiana County Park District
Lake Erie to Ohio River Trail Organization
North Country Trail group
Ohio Farm Bureau Chapters
County SWCDs
Emergency Management Directors and County Sheriffs
School Districts in Jefferson and Harrison counties
Jefferson, GKL, and Mingo Sportsmen's Clubs
Columbiana and Harrison County Commissioners
Township Trustees in St. Clair/Columbiana, Washington/Columbiana,
Archer/Harrison, Cross Creek/Jefferson, Wayne/Jefferson

National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)
Wildlife Management Institute (WMI)
ODNR Scenic Rivers Program

Volunteer Groups:

Maintain Cooperative Volunteer Agreements with the Buckeye Trail Riders, Carroll County OHC, and Harrison County OHC for maintenance of the Harrison bridle trails. These agreements are currently in the process of being renewed for another 4 years.

Interpretive Programs:

- State forest staff supports and plans to continue participating in the Fernwood State Forest Outdoor Days. The program provides environmental education to 5th graders of Jefferson County and is coordinated and sponsored by the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- A BMP demonstration area has been recently developed at Fernwood State Forest. The site will serve as a training area for Ohio loggers as part of their Master Logger training through the Ohio Forestry Association. Forest staff will participate and coordinate trainings in the spring and fall every year.

Forest Brochures:

The Harrison State Forest brochure and map will be revised and updated.

Summary (2-3 year future projects):

Information and Education about forest resources in Ohio is an ongoing component of the Division of Forestry. In addition to continuing previous events and partnerships:

- Revise and print new forest maps for Harrison, Beaver Creek and Yellow Creek state forests.

IX. Budget

Operational Budget

The FY2017 operational budget allocated to state forest units covers the general expenses necessary to the operation of the particular state forest. State forest managers and staff purchase supplies, services and equipment to keep the forest unit running, and report all expenditures. The proposed FY2017 operational budget for the Eastern State Forests is \$33,000.00

Revenue:

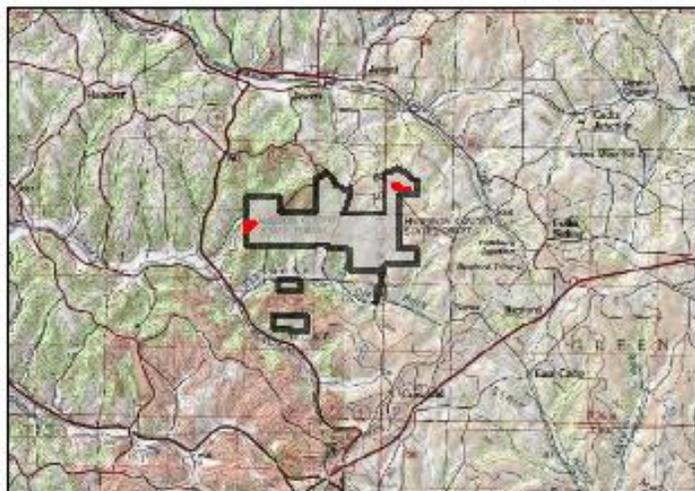
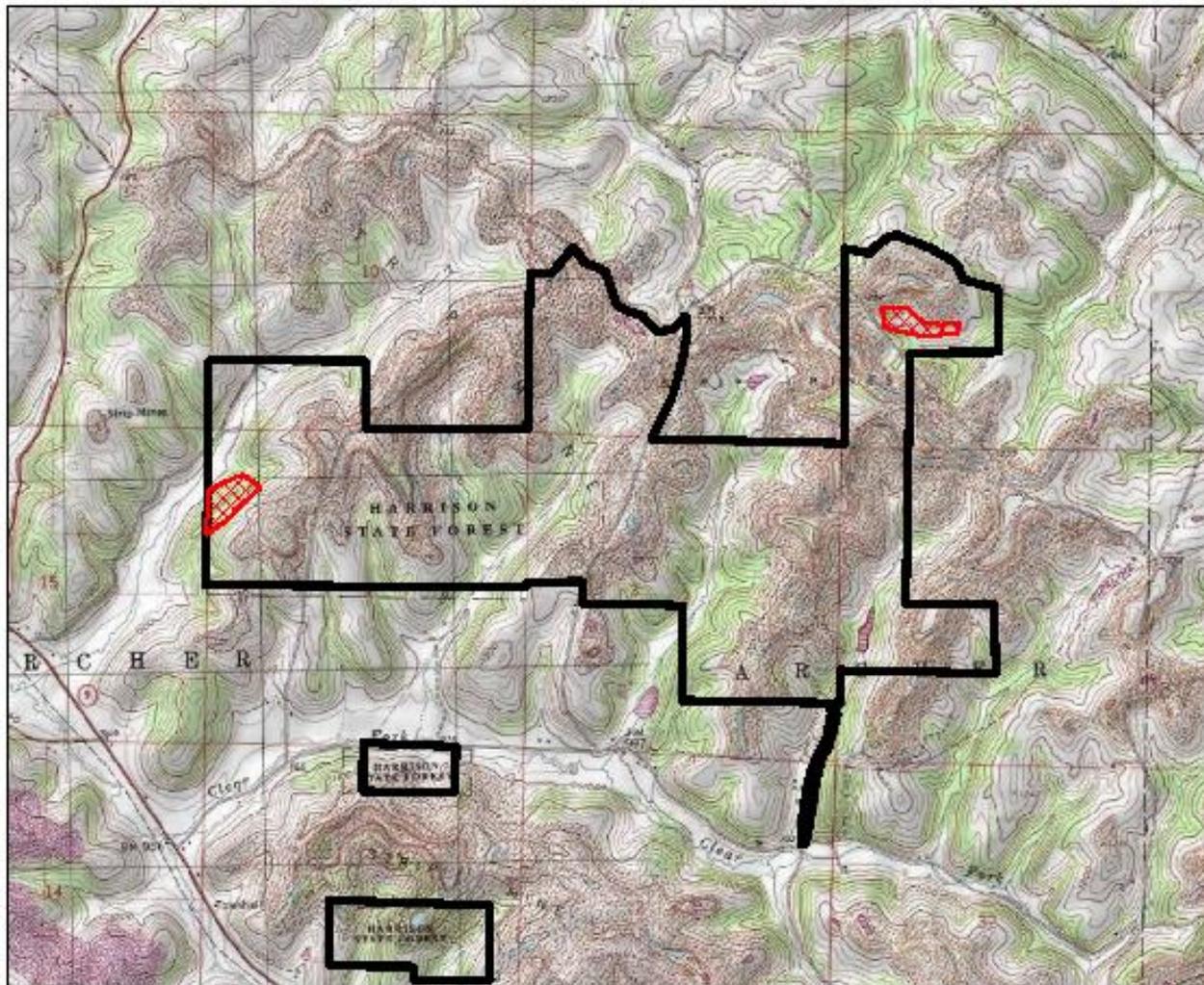
Revenue is generated from timber and product sales, firewood permits and special use permit application fees. A percentage of timber sale income is returned to the local

township, county, and local school district through the “Trees to Textbooks” Program. A portion of the timber revenue kept by the Division of Forestry is utilized to pay fire departments for each wildland fire report that is submitted. These reports are generated by the fire department for each fire response that they conduct.



Harrison State Forest Proposed Timber Sales Fiscal Year 2017

Date: 6/27/2016



0 1,550 3,100 6,200 Feet

1 in = 0.5 miles

Legend

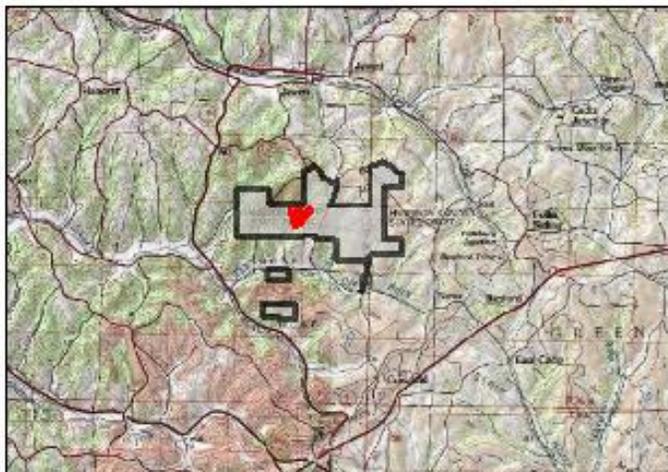
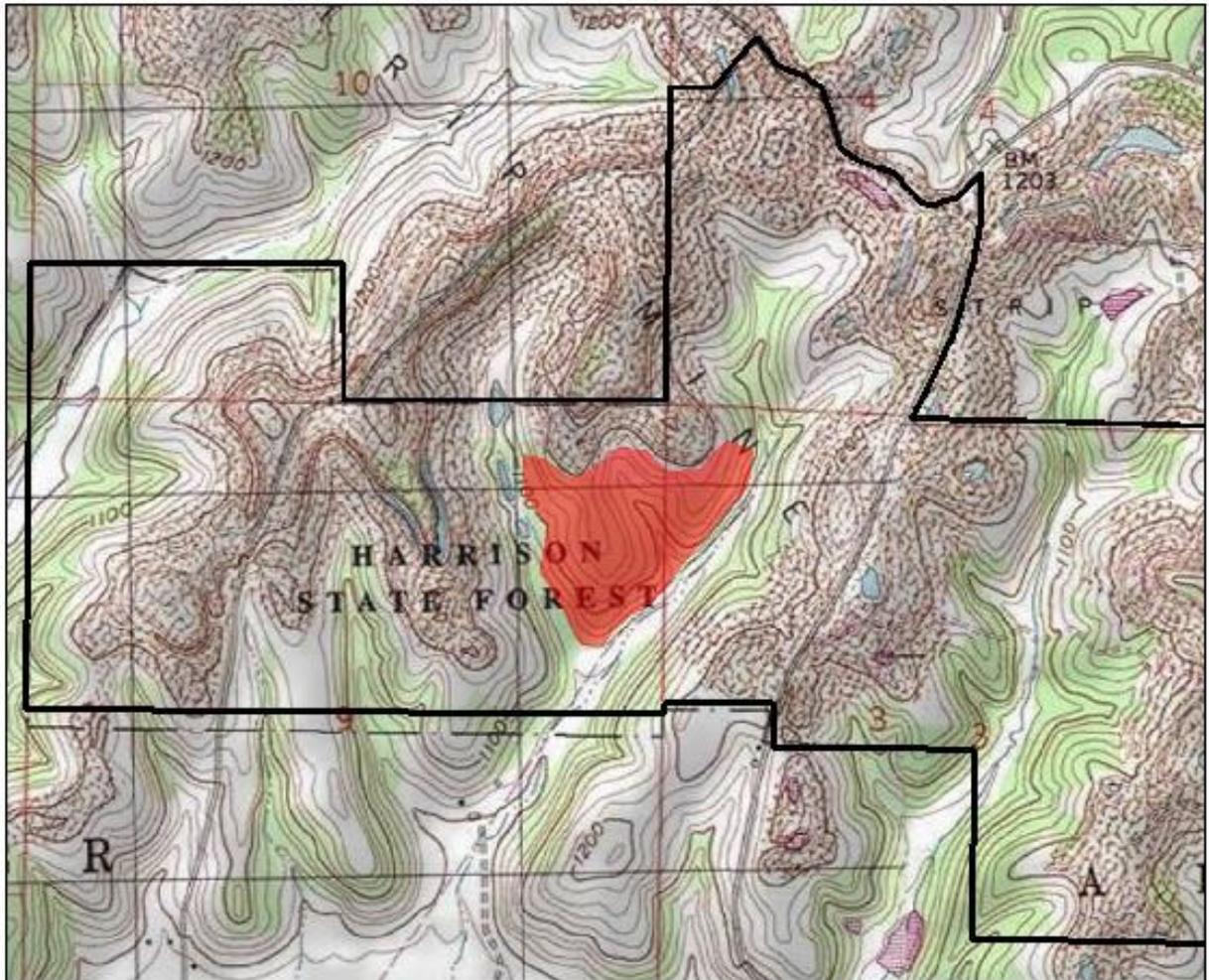
Silv

-  Ash Salvage
-  State Forest Boundary



Harrison State Forest Proposed Prescribed Fire Fiscal Year 2017

Date: 6/27/2016



0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

1 in = 0.25 miles

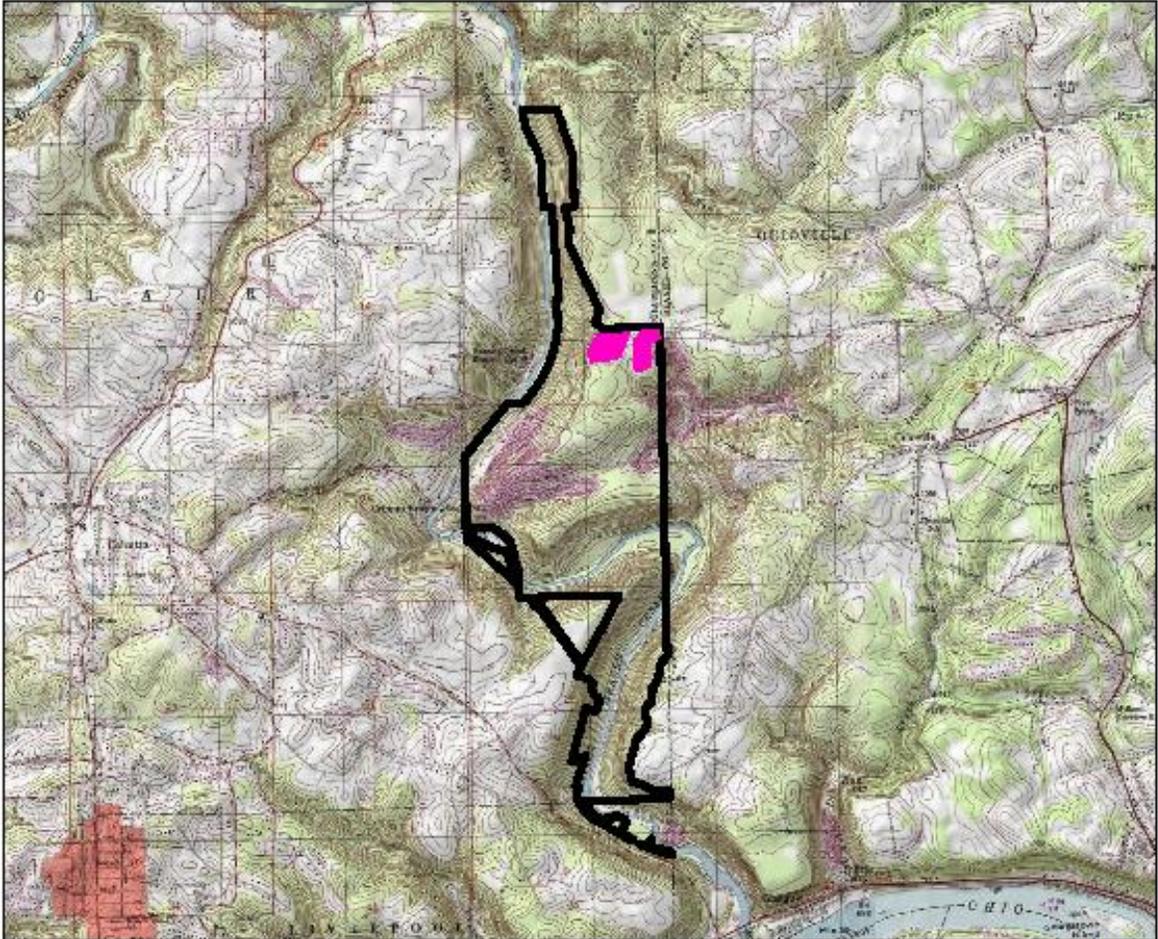
- Legend**
- Silv**
 -  Prescribed Fire
 -  State Forest Boundary





Beaver Creek State Forest Proposed Pine Timber Sale Fiscal Year 2017

Date: 6/27/2016



0 2,350 4,700 9,400 Feet

1 in = 0.75 miles

Legend

Silv

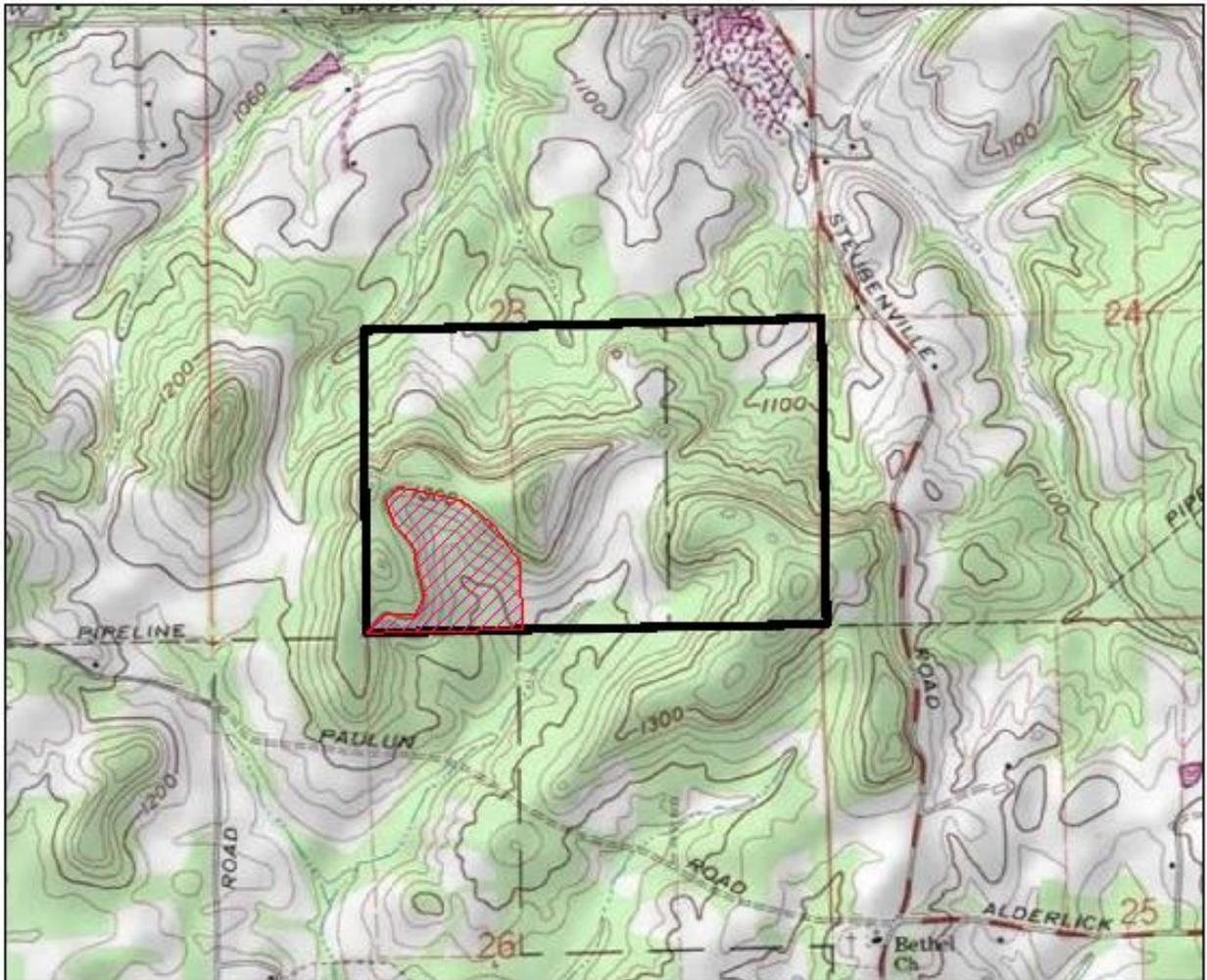
-  Pine Clearcut
-  State Forest Boundary





Yellow Creek State Forest Proposed Timber Sale Fiscal Year 2017

Date: 6/27/2016



0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

1 in = 0.25 miles

- Legend**
- Silv
 - Deferment
 - State Forest Boundary

