

Forest Legacy Program

Assessment of Need for the State of Ohio



March 1, 2005

Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

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Executive Summary

Ohio has a long history of public policy towards supporting and encouraging responsible management of working forests. Even with 11 million residents and seven major metropolitan areas, Over 30% of its land is forested equating to 7,784,000 acres.

Forestry and the forest products industry is a 13 billion dollar industry in Ohio. It represents 70,000 jobs and generates an average payroll of 1 billion dollars placing Ohio 7th in the nation in forest related employment. Between 300-400 million board feet of timber is harvested annually in Ohio and 1 billion board feet of growth is annually added to the state's timber supply.

In 1993 then Governor George Voinovich designated the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry as the lead agency for Ohio for the Forest Legacy Program.

The State Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee was established to over-see the development of the Assessment of Need and advise the Division of Forestry on the implementation of the Forest Legacy Program. In addition to input from the State Stewardship Advisory Committee, a series of public input meeting were conducted around Ohio to obtain input from citizens and interest groups.

The State Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee has identified the following threats to Ohio's forestland and traditional forest uses:

- Fragmentation, conversion, parcelization from development
- Influx of aggressive non-native plant and animal species
- Lack of professional forest management plans
- Livestock grazing
- Insect and disease

The mission of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program as defined by the Committee is to protect working forests, which are defined as ***a forest with a management plan stating clearly identified management goals that incorporate timber harvesting as an essential management tool.***

The Committee also determined that in order to meet these goals the following objectives should be achieved; Foster and connect large and intact forest tracts, protect areas of social, recreational, cultural and historic significance; focus on the most ecological significant areas of the state; support communities by focusing on conserving the most economically significant areas for forest related industries.

Based on the national criteria and the committee's recommended program goals and eligibility criteria, two Forest Legacy Areas were identified in Ohio, The Grand River Lowlands and the Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau

The Grand River Lowlands Forest Legacy Area is comprised of six counties in northeastern Ohio consisting of 1.8 million acres. This area is characterized by a gently rolling to relatively flat, poorly drained landscape. Several counties within the area comprise the shoreline of Lake Erie. Over 38% of this area is forested, with over 98% in private ownership. Three streams within this area have been designated as State Scenic Rivers by ODNR and a portion of the Cuyahoga National Recreation Area also is within the Legacy Area. Private land

conservation/preservation efforts have been underway by The Nature Conservancy and local land trusts providing an initial “foothold” of protected land. This region is a significant maple syrup production area of the state and has a large population of Amish wood products industries adding cultural and economic interest and benefit.

Primary threat to the forests in this area is from residential development expanding out from Cleveland and Akron. Specific goals of the Grand River Lowlands FLA are to contribute toward the connection of parcels within the Grand River riparian area; ensure the economic viability of the maple syrup and Amish wood products industries; protect significant ecologically areas and water quality of the areas streams and Scenic Rivers.

The Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau Forest Legacy Area consists of twenty-five counties comprising 7.9 million acres in the southern and east central regions of Ohio.

In contrast to the Grand River Lowlands, this area is considered Ohio’s most “rugged” terrain with deep valleys, and high hills. This area also represents the most scenic region of the state due in large part to the sandstone outcroppings forming cliffs, gorges and high-walls. This area contains public landholdings of over 810,000 acres, represented primarily by the Wayne National Forest, several state forests, nature preserves and wildlife areas. But, private ownership still accounts for 89.9% of the landholdings.

This area serves as an “ecological mixing zone” where northern and southern species can be found growing in the same gorge. The Ohio Audubon Society has designated eight areas within this region as Important Birding Areas, most being forested.

This area also contains most of the State’s businesses dependent on forest products and has high tourism associated with forest-based recreation.

This area provides excellent opportunities to protect private working forests that are adjacent to or in close proximity to public forestland.

Threats to this area are primarily from fragmentation and parcelization as well as a lack of professional forest management practices. Specific goals of the Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau FLA include; protecting the state’s largest intact forestland properties; to conserve tracts with high timber resource value, to protect significant ecological areas and riparian corridors; enhance potential forest-related outdoor recreation opportunities and tourism.

In both Forest Legacy Areas the primary means of protection will be the acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers. Fee acquisition from willing sellers will also be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Forest Legacy Program

In the 1990 Farm Bill, the Forestry Legacy Program (FLP) was one of several programs created to help promote the long term protection and viability of our nation's forestlands. The Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for the development and administration of the FLP. The US Forest Service in cooperation with States and other units of government is responsible for the implementation of the FLP. The FLP is a Federal cost-share program that coordinates with states and local agencies to provide forestland protection from development relying primarily on conservation easements as the protection tool. The State of Ohio agrees to secure at least 25 percent of the total program cost.

The primary national objective of the FLP is to identify and protect environmentally important forests from conversion to non-forested uses. Individual states establish eligibility criteria and identify areas that meet the eligibility criteria and propose them for inclusion in the FLP. Moreover, the State identifies goals and objectives within the framework of the national FLP to help address the specific needs of their state.

Landowner participation in the FLP is purely voluntary on a willing buyer willing seller basis. The landowner is involved in the drafting of the easement and must agree to the terms of the easement. The landowner must be offered fair market value for the land or interest in the land as determined by an appraisal that meets federal appraisal standards.

This document provides an Assessment of Need for Ohio's potential participation in the federally funded Forest Legacy Program. The Assessment of Need will document and evaluate numerous aspects of Ohio's forestlands, including productivity, health, ownership, development pressure, management levels and community values and evaluate trends as they relate to the conversion of forestland to non-forest uses.

1.2 Acquisition of Land and Conservation Easements

Working forestland ("working forests") in Ohio will be protected in perpetuity through the use of conservation easements or fee simple purchase. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a government agency or land trust that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values such as its wildlife habitat, forest cover or scenic benefits. Section 5301.68 of the Ohio Revised Code allows landowners to grant a conservation easement to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, a park district, county, township and other governmental entities and charitable organizations. The marketable title act provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, section 5301.47 to 5301.56, allows for the extinguishment of certain interests in lands with exceptions for, "Any right, title, or interest of the United States, of this state, or of any political subdivision, body politic, or agency of the United States or this state." This provision will preserve the perpetual easements.

Landowner participation in the FLP is entirely voluntary. Conservation easements are tailored to meet the mutually agreed to objectives of the grantor and grantee in order to protect the conservation values for which the land was entered into the program. Landowners with land under a conservation easement are not required to allow public access, but landowners who provide public access may receive higher priority for inclusion in the FLP. The landowner may

still harvest timber and manage the land under a Forest Stewardship Plan/State Best Management Practices and carry out other traditional forest uses. Land on which the landowner would want to conduct or be required to allow activities that may disturb the land surface which are in conflict with the intent of the FLP, would not be considered for inclusion into the FLP. As a result, the landowner must control certain mineral rights in order to participate in the FLP although oil and gas drilling and other mineral extractions that would not disturb the land surface may be allowed.

The landowner still maintains ownership and tax responsibilities of the land under a conservation easement. The landowner is not precluded from selling the land, but the easement transfers to the new owner when the land is sold or ownership transferred. The land could be sold to the State of Ohio with management responsibilities assigned to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

1.3 Definitions (provided by the Forest Legacy Program Implementation Guidelines)

Eligibility Criteria: a set of factors developed by the State Lead Agency, in consultation with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC), to evaluate geographic areas to determine if they contain significant environmental values to be considered an 'important forest area' and contain "threats" of conversion to be eligible as a Forest Legacy Area (FLA).

Forest Legacy Area (FLA): a geographic area with important forest and environmental values, that satisfies identified Eligibility Criteria and has been delineated, described, and mapped in a State's AON for the FLP. Acquisition of lands and interests in lands for the FLP can only occur within approved FLAs.

Project Evaluation Criteria: developed by the States in consultation with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC), to evaluate the eligible tracts submitted by interested landowners for inclusion in the FLP.

State Lead Agency: the unit of State government responsible for coordinating the establishment and implementation of the FLP in the State, as designated by the Governor or pursuant to State law.

State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee: as defined and described in Section 19(b) of the CFAA (16 U.S.C. 2113). They are chaired and administered by the State Foresters or equivalent State officials, with membership composed of representatives from the following agencies, organizations or individuals: Forest Service; Natural Resources Conservation Service; Farm services Agency; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; local government; consulting foresters; environmental organizations; forest products industry; forest land owners; land trusts; conservation organizations; the State fish and wildlife agency; and others determined appropriate by the Secretary. The SFSCC makes recommendations to the State lead agency regarding the AON, AON amendments, and the determination of project priorities. See Appendix A for a list of Ohio's SFSCC members.

Section 2 Background

Even with 11 million residents and seven major metropolitan areas, over 30% of Ohio's land cover is forested. While ninety-four percent of Ohio's woodlands are in private ownership, public land includes 20 state forests exceeding 183,000 acres and the Wayne National Forest, which covers 211,707 acres. In spite of these figures, the state continues to experience a transformation of forestland through forest-fragmentation/parcelization and the loss of potential timber resources due to changes in ownership and management philosophies.

America's forestry movement started in Ohio with the creation of the American Forestry Association in Cincinnati in 1875. A burgeoning interest in the nation's forests spawned the first American Forest Congress there in 1882. The passion brought forth and the momentum created at this national meeting sent citizens home to take action. Ohio, in leading the charge, became one of the first states in the country to enact a formal forestry program. Along with California, New York, and Colorado, Ohio created a state forestry agency in 1885. Ohio's rich history of forest conservation, its large contribution to the forest products market and its continually changing landscape makes it a prime candidate for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP).

Ohio has a long history of public policy towards supporting and encouraging responsible management of working forests. The Ohio Constitution was amended in 1912 to allow property tax reductions on properties that are "devoted to exclusively to forestry." The State Forester makes rules for the eligibility of these lands. The FLP can be further support for working forests.

In order to become a participant in the FLP, Ohio must conduct an Assessment of Need (AON). The AON evaluates existing information related to forest uses in Ohio and identifies threats to the continuation of those forest uses in order to establish Eligibility Criteria for Forest Legacy Areas. Through the AON, the State will identify forest areas that meet the eligibility criteria and propose those areas to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval as FLA's.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry (DOF) was designated in 1993 by then Governor George Voinovich as Ohio's lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program (see Appendix B).

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has contracted Teater-Gebhardt & Associates to conduct Ohio's Assessment of Need. Once the AON is completed and reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, lands within the approved Forest Legacy Areas will become eligible for FLP funds.

Some of the multiple benefits of Ohio's forests are the wide array of timber and forest products, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and aesthetic values. Private lands also provide potential opportunities for recreation with the understanding that public access to private lands is subject to the permission of the landowner. Continued development and fragmentation of Ohio's precious forest resources threatens to affect not only the economic potential, but also the social and ecological benefits that the forests provide. The FLP offers a great opportunity for landowners wishing to ensure that their land will continue to be managed as a working forest protected from conversion to non-forest use.

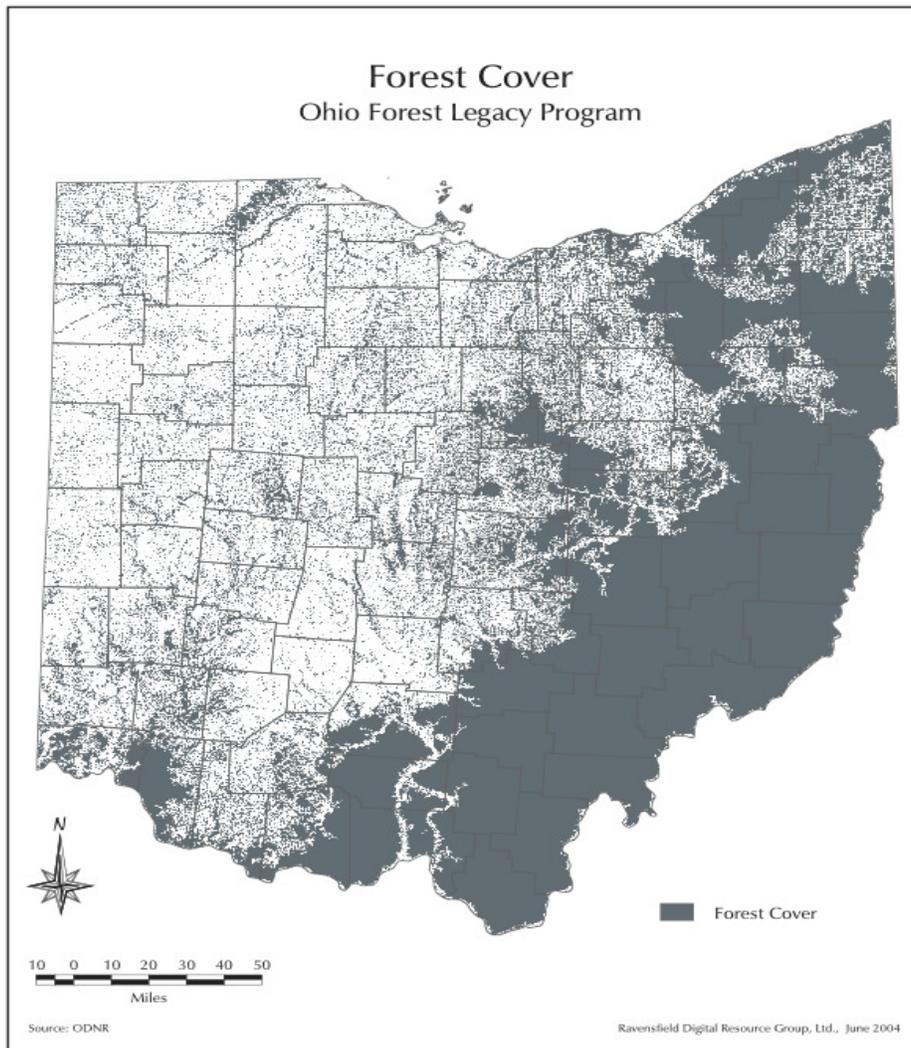
A property that is within an approved Forest Legacy Area should meet several of the Federal requirements to be enrolled in the FLP:

- Be located within an approved Forest Legacy Area that has been determined to be an environmentally important forest area that is threatened with conversion to non-forest uses;
- Complement Federal lands or Federal investments;
- Provide public access to the greatest extent practicable;
- Provide opportunities of the continuation of *traditional forest uses*, like timber harvesting and recreation;
- Have a multi-resource management plan for the land prepared and approved.

Section 3 Overview of Forested Areas

3.1 Size and Location of Forested Areas in Ohio

Ohio occupies a land area of 40,940 square miles equaling 26,201,729 acres. Forestland comprises 30 percent of the total land area, (Map 1). Roughly two thirds of Ohio's forestland is located in the southeast region of the state. The amount of forested area has increased since 1940, including an increase from 7.1 to 7.9 million acres since the late 1970s. This is primarily due to conversion of abandoned farmland and reclamation and reforestation of strip mine areas. Ohio's forestland is 93 percent privately owned.



Map 1. Ohio Forest Cover

3.2 Historic and Social Value

Before the earliest European settlers came to Ohio, more than 95 percent of Ohio was forested. Large maple, beech, oak, tulip tree, and sycamore were among the many thriving species that

comprised the forests. Additionally, Elm-ash, mixed oak, and beech-maple forests covered large areas around Ohio. In the late 1700s, the settlers began clearing land for agriculture and pastureland. Farmer mindset at the turn of the twentieth century appeared to be : trees are worthless; grain is profitable. By 1903, land clearing for agriculture and to provide wood to fuel the iron furnaces in southern Ohio led to significant deforestation, leaving only 10 percent forest cover in the state. The Ohio Forestry Association, founded in 1903, set out to address the rapid loss of forest cover.

Through landowner education, natural succession and early reforestation programs, the forests began to rebound. But, over the years, many of these reforested acres were repeatedly logged and mined for coal, again particularly in Southeast Ohio. In spite of this damage, continued reforestation programs and land stewardship education by the Ohio Forestry Association, state and federal agencies helped to heal the landscape. As a result of reforestation efforts, strip mine reclamation and landowner education over the past 70 years, today approximately 30 percent of Ohio is forested.

3.3 Physical Make-up of Ohio Forests

Ohio's forest landscapes are diverse, "composed largely of beech and oak-maple forests in the North and Western portions of the state, mixed-oaks in the South and East, mixed mesophytic forests on protected slopes, bottomland hardwoods along the major streams and rivers, and elm-ash swamp forests and oak savannas on the eastern margin of the tall grass prairie in the northwest" (Ohio Woodlands, Spring 2003).

Map 2, is an adaptation by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources of a map published by the Ohio Biological Survey in 1966. The map is an estimation of Ohio's original vegetation based upon a composite of surveyor's notes and witness tree information when Ohio was first surveyed from the late 1700's through the early 1800's.

Today, Ohio's forests are comprised of 97% hardwood and 3% conifers. According to the Forest Statistics for Ohio, 1991, these forests are made up of over 100 different species of hardwood trees, 25 different softwood tree species and 43 different forest types (including oak-hickory, beech-maple, oak-gum). Additionally, Ohio's forests are home to over 300 types of woody plant species.

In spite of this diversity, the majority of forests are comprised of between 10 to 20 tree species. Red and white oaks make up almost 25 percent of the total tree volume, 18 percent are red and sugar maple, another 18 percent are yellow poplar and hickory and 8 percent is white ash. The 1991 survey showed a change in composition since the previous survey, conducted in 1979, in which red and white oaks made up 32 percent of the total wood volume compared to 25 percent in 1991. Maples increased from 13 percent in 1979 to 18 percent in 1991 (The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc., 2003).

There are 43 different forest types in Ohio. The major types are Virginia-Pitch Pine, Oak-Pine, Oak-Hickory, Oak-Gum, Elm-Ash-Red Maple, and Maple-Beech-Birch. The 1991 survey found that Ohio's forests are maturing. For example, in 1991 53 percent as compared to 42 percent in 1979 of the forest area could be classified as saw-timber stands. As defined in the Forest Statistics for Ohio, 1991, a saw-timber stand is, "A stand-size class of forest land that is stocked with at least 10 percent of minimum full stocking with all live trees with half or more of such stocking in poletimber or sawtimber trees or both, and in which the stocking of sawtimber is at least equal to that of poletimber." Additionally, in 1991, 59 percent of Ohio's forestland was

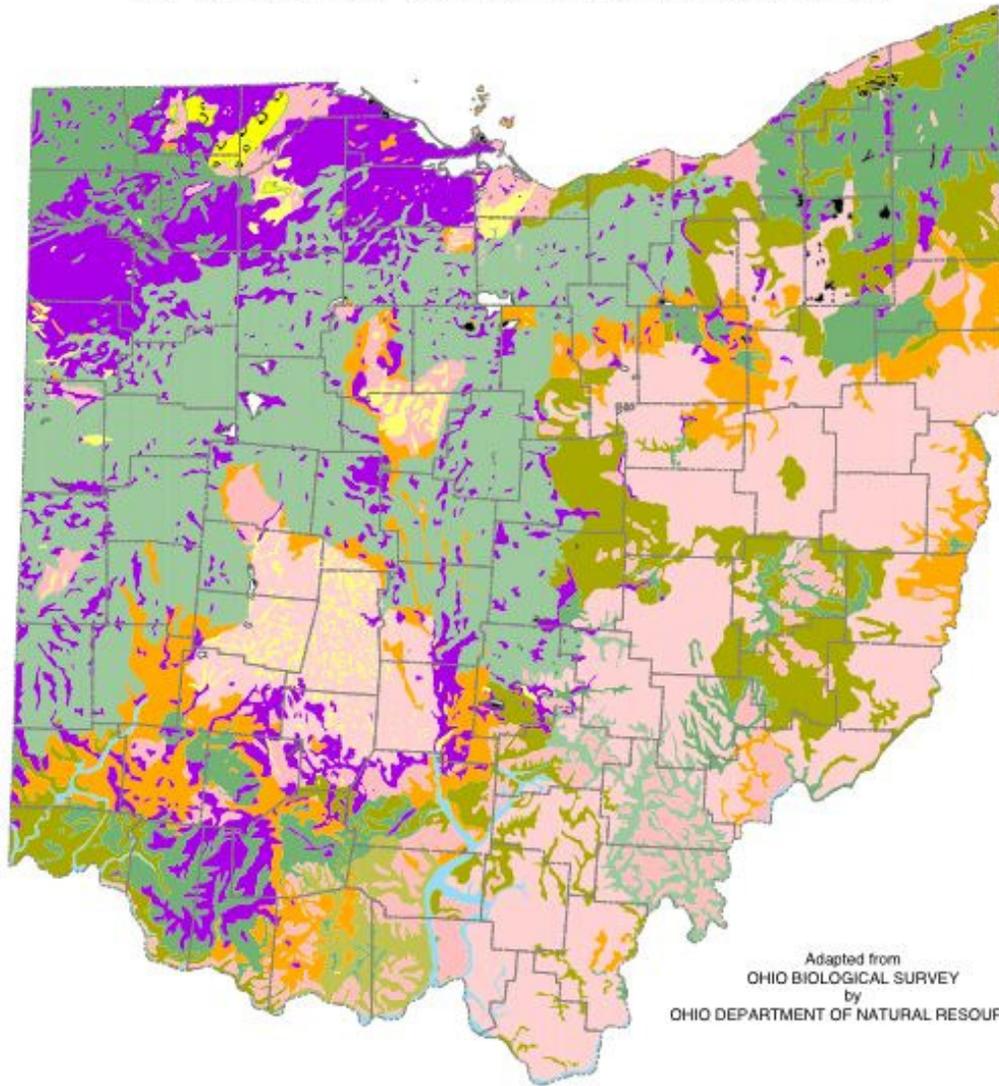
composed of the Oak-Hickory forest type while only 4 percent was qualified as pure or mixed conifer types.

Field windbreaks are an important component of many agricultural areas in northwestern Ohio. More than 1,300 field windbreak plantings totaling over 994-row miles have been documented since 1979. In addition, Ohio has led the nation for the past 19 years in the number of cities designated as Tree City USA, totaling 220 communities as of 2001.

Within the boundaries of Ohio, there are six major ecosystems: Eastern Cornbelt Plains, Huron Erie Lake Plains, Erie Drift Plains, Interior Plateau, Eastern Great Lakes and Hudson Lowlands and Western Allegheny Plateau. Notably, sections of the Western Allegheny Plateau are recognized as the oldest and most diverse hardwood forest ecosystem in America (Ohio Woodlands, Winter 2003). Ohio's only state designated wilderness area is located in the Western Allegheny Plateau on Shawnee State Forest, encompassing 8,000 acres. (The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc., 2003).

NATURAL VEGETATION OF OHIO

AT THE TIME OF THE EARLIEST LAND SURVEYS



Adapted from
OHIO BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
by
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Legend

ORIGINAL VEGETATION	Elm-Ash Swamp Forest	Sphagnum Peat Bog
Type/Association	Beech Forest	Bottomland Hardwood Forest
Mixed Oak Forest	Mixed Mesophytic Forest	Mixed Mesophytic Forest - Portage Escarpment
Oak-Sugar Maple Forest	Prairie Grassland	White Pine-Red Maple Swamp Forest
Freshwater Marshes and Fens	Oak Savanna	Beach

Map 2. Natural Vegetation of Ohio

Section 4

Evaluation of Forest Land in Ohio

4.1 Forest Trends

(Adapted from *Land Use Change in Ohio, 1952 to 1979*, Birch and Wharton, Resource Bulletin NE-70, 1982)

4.1.1 Forest Cover Estimates

The first attempt to make a comprehensive inventory of woodland in Ohio began in January 1939. The Works Project Administration began the work with cooperation from the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and the USDA Forest Service, Central States Forests Experiment Station, Forest area was estimated for each county. Volume estimates were completed for only 38 counties between 1939 and 1942. World War II interrupted this work, and a report of the work was completed and a recommended long-range forest program prepared (Diller, 1944).

The Central States Forest Experiment Station completed the 1952 forest survey of Ohio. The purpose of the survey was (1) to inventory the supply of standing timber and estimate the area of forest land; (2) to find out how fast the supply of timber was growing; (3) to find out how fast the supply was diminishing through industrial and domestic use, fire, insects, disease, and other causes; and (4) to interpret the findings to aid in the formulation of private and public forest policies (Hutchison and Morgan 1956).

The Northeastern Forest Experiment Station resurveyed Ohio in 1968. This survey summarized the situation at that time and the changes that had taken place since the 1952 survey (Kingsly and Mayer 1970, DeBald and McCay 1969.) The Resources Evaluation Project of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station prepared the 1979 resurvey. The forest was again surveyed with results published in 1991. Another survey is underway at the present time with preliminary results available. This current survey is under a continuous survey scheme, which will be completed in five "panels" over a seven-year time period. The results won't be complete until all five panels have been completed but will provide continuous updates to the survey/inventory with the resurvey of each panel. The results reported herein for the current survey are based on the completion of only two panels.

4.1.2 Forest Land

Forests cover 31 percent of the land in Ohio. Private owners control the use of over 91 percent of these forestlands. The forestlands currently in public ownership were almost all in private ownership at one time and have been reacquired by the various levels of government. Information about public ownerships comes from records supplied by various agencies; information on private forestland is estimated by sampling procedures.

The 1952 Estimate

The estimate of forest land in the 1952 survey was made for each of the two geographic sampling areas. The estimated forest area for 1952 was 6,446,000 acres, of which 5,099,000 acres were privately owned commercial forest land. The boundaries of these two geographic regions were approximations of the primary physiographic regions of the state: Glaciated and Hill country.

The Glaciated region had 2,160,000 acres of privately owned commercial forest area. By county, the percentage of forest ranged from as low as 4 percent to as high as 43 percent. Twelve percent of the region was forestland.

The Hill country had 2,939,000 acres of privately owned commercial forestland. The 26 counties had percentages that ranged from 17 to 68 percent. Thirty-five percent of the region was forestland.

The 1968 Estimate

The estimate of forestland in Ohio for 1968 was 6,633,500 acres. The trend in the Glaciated region showed an increase from 2,122,000 acres in 1952 to 2,199,000 acres if forest land in 1968. The Hill country forest area increased more rapidly from 3,324,000 acres in 1952 to 4,434,600 acres in 1968. The five geographic units were not exact subareas of the two physiographic regions used in the 1952 survey.

The 1979 Estimate

The 1979 estimate of forestland in Ohio consists of four components: commercial forestland, productive reserved forestland, nonproductive forestland, and urban forest land. The 1979 estimate of commercial forestland is 6,917,000 acres, of which 6,505,000 acres is privately owned. There are 199,400 acres of productive reserved forestland. The area of nonproductive forestland is estimated to be 43,100 acres. The area of urban forest is estimated to be 40,500 acres. The total area of forestland exceeded 7,120,000 acres.

The area of commercial forestland in the Glaciated region increased in each of the three units since 1968. The commercial forest area increased from 2,158,000 acres to nearly 2,410,000 acres in 1978. Nearly 2,353,000 acres of the 1978 area is in private ownership.

The area of commercial forestland in the Hill country increased from 4,397,000 acres in 1968 to 4,507,700 acres of commercial forest land. Private owners control 4,152,900 acres of the commercial forest area.

The 1991 Estimate

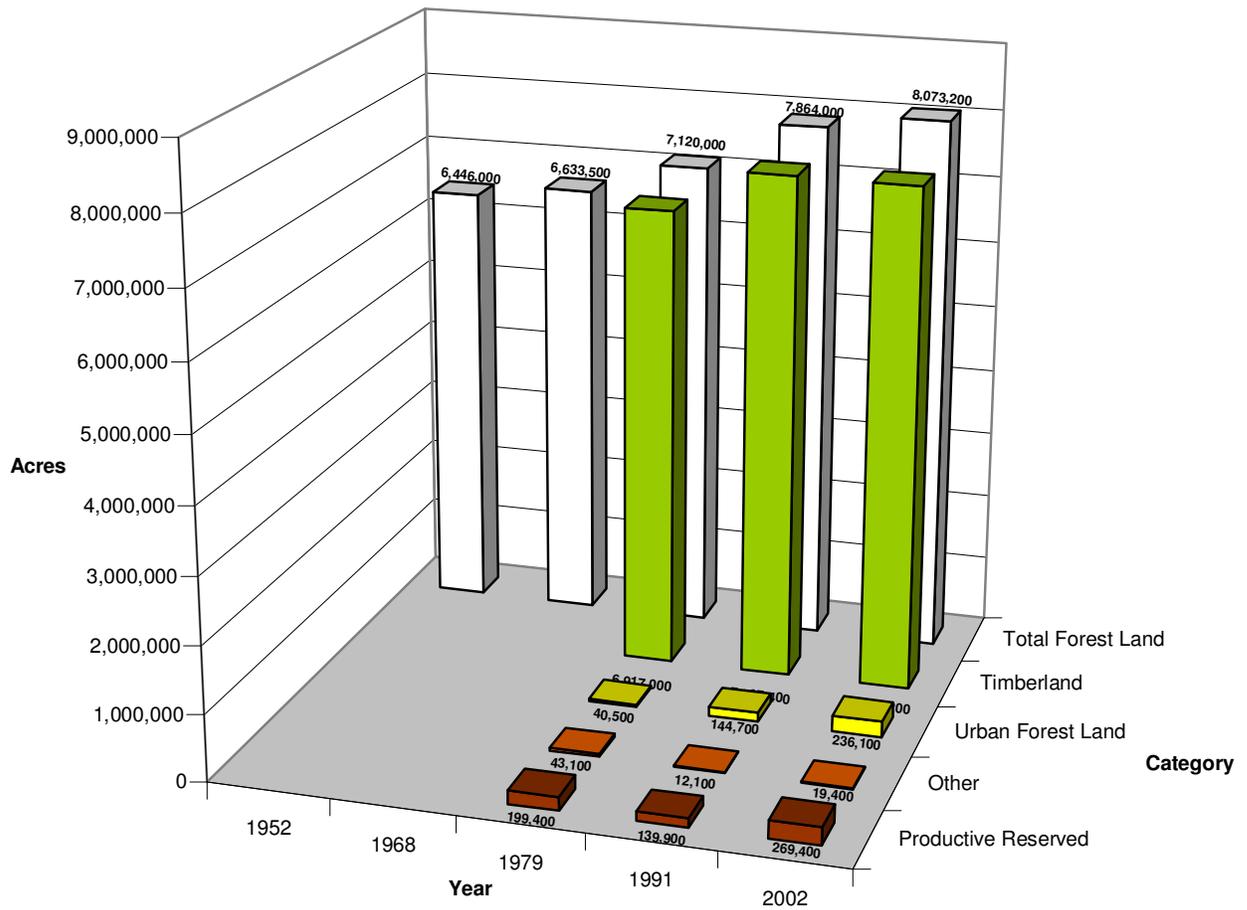
The 1991 estimate of forestland in Ohio consists of two components: timberland and noncommercial forestland which is further broken into productive reserved, urban and other. The 1991 estimate of timberland is 7,567,400 acres, of which 91 percent is privately owned. There are 139,900 acres of productive reserved forestland. The area of urban forest land is estimated to be 144,700 acres. The area of other forest is estimated to be 12,100 acres. The total area of forestland exceeded 7,864,000 acres.

The 2002 Estimate (preliminary)

The 2002 estimate is preliminary as it is based on two out of five panels and should be used with caution due to the low statistical accuracy at this point of completion. Also, the results have not yet been broken down into the geographic units.

The 2002 preliminary estimate of forestland in Ohio consists of two components: Timberland (rural and urban), and Forested land (productive reserved and other). The 2002 estimate of timberland is 7,784,000. There are 269,400 acres of productive reserved forestland. The area of urban forest land is estimated to be 236,100 acres. The area of other forest is estimated to be 19,400 acres. The total area of forestland now exceeds 8,073,200 acres; almost 31% of the land area of Ohio.

Forest Land Area Trend (1952 to 2002)



4.2 Timber Production

4.2.1 Timber Management Trends

Ohio forests have a long history of use for timber products. Today, timber harvesting continues to take place throughout much of the state although primarily located in those counties with a higher percent of forest cover in eastern and southeastern Ohio (Map 3).

Ohio's timber industry continues to experience an increase in regulations and negative attitudes toward timber harvesting, especially on public lands. Increased development resulting in the conversion of forestland and the parceling of large forest tracts into smaller "hunting camps" and vacation lots has removed some large tracts of forestland from future commercial use and management.

While timber harvesting continues to exist in Ohio, a 1989 ODNR survey indicated that twenty-eight percent of saw-logs used by Ohio's sawmills were imported from out of state. More recently, the number of imported logs has been estimated to be over fifty percent. This dependency on imported timber could seriously impact Ohio's timber industry if the supply was interrupted.

The potential supply of timber in Ohio is not an issue, but the availability may continue to be a challenge as forest ownership patterns and fragmentation/parcelization continues.

With the previously mentioned impacts on the forest products industry, especially forestland conversion, potentially impacting the availability of Ohio's forest products, the potential exists for negative impacts on Ohio's forest product industry through a loss of in-state timber resources. This has led to the State of Ohio's decision to concentrate on working forests with the Forest Legacy Program.

The timber base is also changing. The 1991 forest survey indicated a marked increase in the less economically desired maple make-up of the forests. This mirrors trends throughout the central hardwood region. Additionally, the age structure of Ohio's forest is changing; as previously noted, Ohio's forests are maturing. Together these trends have several potentially negative ramifications from the forest products and wildlife habitat perspective.

The ODNR-Division of Wildlife has proposed forest habitat focus areas with the aim of balancing forest habitat structure to provide a range of habitats from early successional to mature forest communities. Active forest management will need to be implemented in order to achieve this balance. Prescribed forest management will also need to be implemented in order to ensure the long-term supply to meet the market demand for forest products is being met.

Reforestation efforts continue through the efforts of state agencies and private landowners. Each year, between 3 to 7 million tree seedlings are produced and sold by the state forest nurseries for private and public reforestation programs.

Map 3. Percent Timber Cover



Map 3. Percent Timber Cover

4.2.2 Timber Product Output

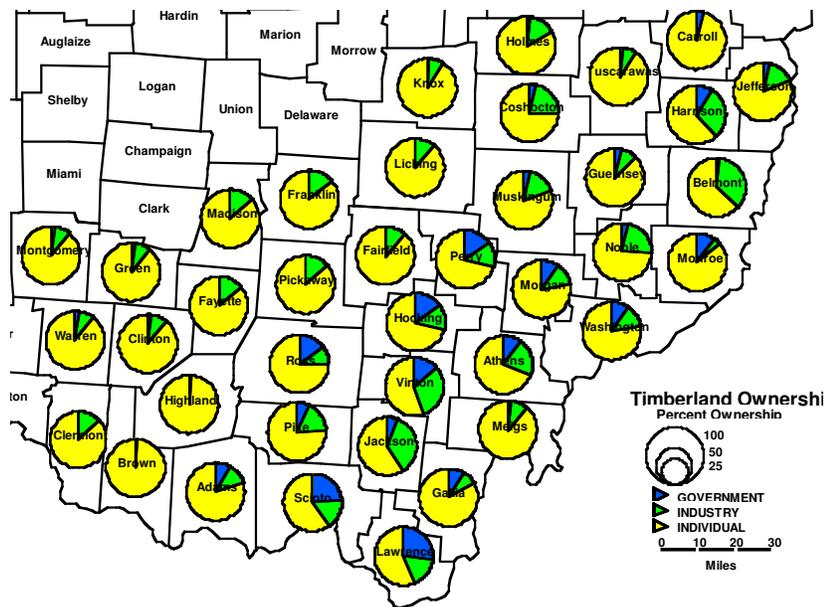
Ohio hardwood lumber and veneer demand is determined in large part by world market demand for furniture, although the hardwood is also used in domestic home construction, pulp and furniture production. The largest amount of timber sold in Ohio is grown on non-industrial private lands. In fact, the Forest Statistics for Ohio, 1991 indicates that almost 80% of the timberland acreage in Ohio is held by non-industrial private landowners (Map 4).

In Ohio, forest resources are concentrated around the unglaciated regions in the southeastern third of the state. As a result, a higher concentration of sawmills and pulp mills are also located in this region (Map 5). Secondary manufacturing, which accounts for approximately 13 billion dollars in revenue, is located predominantly in metropolitan areas, closer to the markets (Map 6). This includes but is not limited to millworks, cabinet, and furniture manufacturers.

Ohio's timber industry provides materials for both high and low grade forest products. Companies such as Smurfit-Stone and MeadWestvaco use the low-grade materials and byproducts such as wood chips to produce paper. Bark and waste wood is sold to the mulching industry. As a result of its proximity to the manufacturing industry in the upper Midwest, Ohio is number two in the country for production of wooden pallets, also made out of low-grade wood.

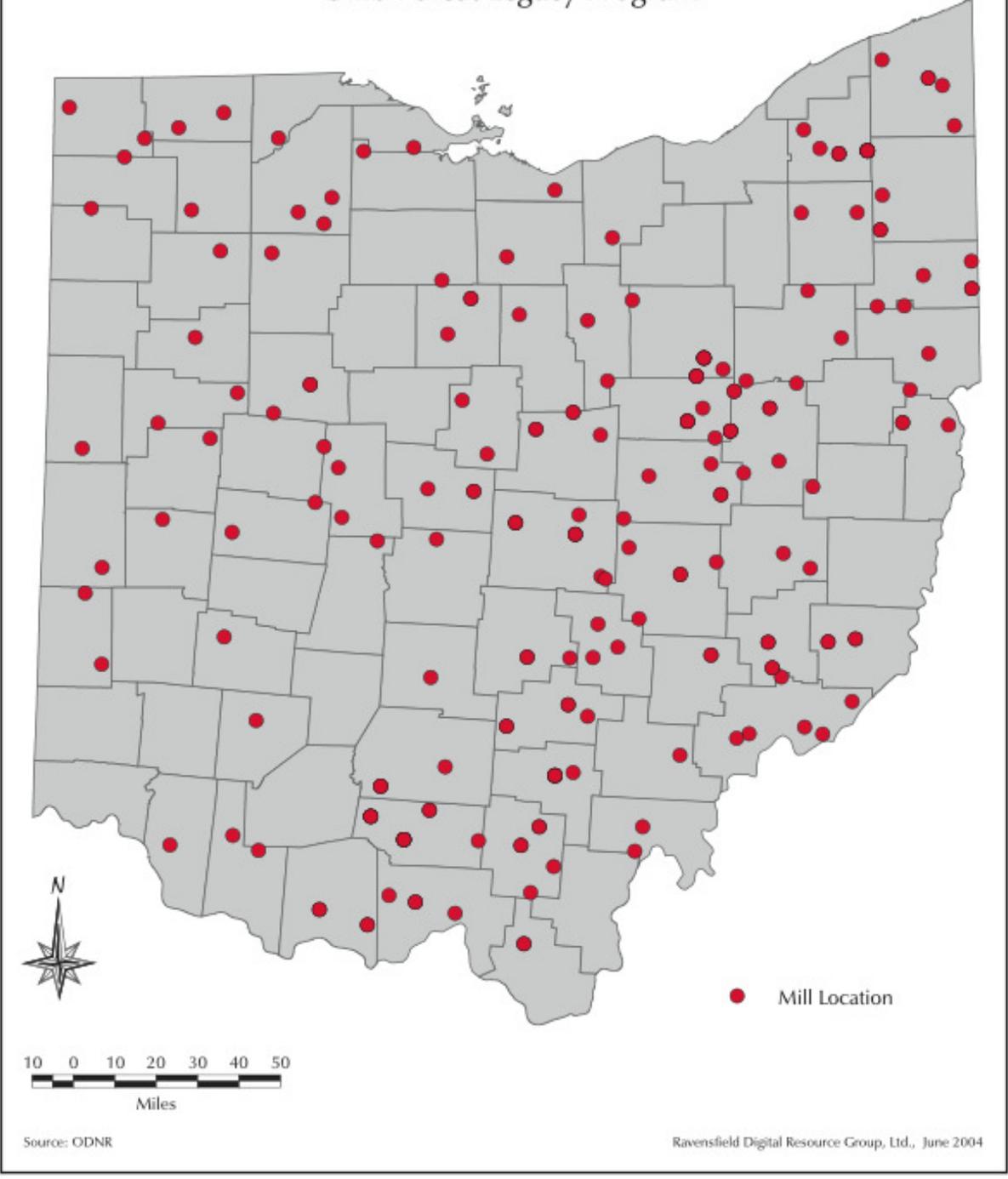
The lead agency on the Forest Legacy Program, the ODNR Division of Forestry, has decided to concentrate the program on working forests. As a result, the potential for timber and forest products are included in the criteria for a Forest Legacy Area. The goal is to make more land available for production of timber in addition to the associated environmental benefits of forestland. The Ohio FLP's focus on private lands as working forest is critical in light of changing attitudes and policy towards timber management in general and in particular on public lands. This makes the availability of private land for working forests especially important to realize the full range of benefits that forestlands can provide.

Map 4: Timberland Ownership



Mill Locations

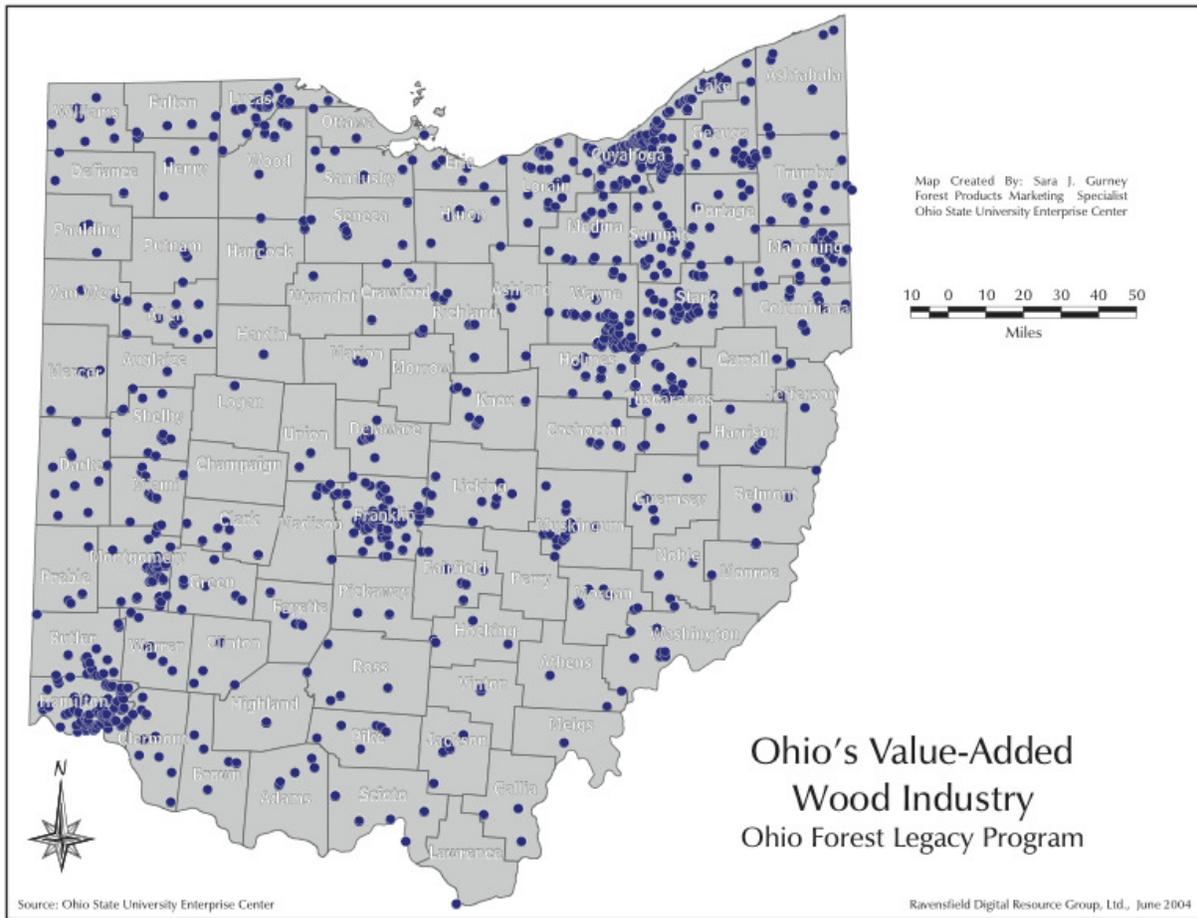
Ohio Forest Legacy Program



Source: ODNR

Ravensfield Digital Resource Group, Ltd., June 2004

Map 5. Mill Locations



Map 6. Ohio's Value-Added Wood Industry

4.2.3 Economic Importance of Forests in Ohio

The forest industry in Ohio can be described as big business through small companies. It is a diverse group of establishments engaged in growing, processing, and manufacturing forest products valued in excess of \$13 billion. Ohio manufacturing firms employ more than 70,000 people generating approximately \$1 billion in annual payroll.

The wood products manufacturing companies in Ohio can be divided into primary and secondary establishments, depending on the finished product and type of raw material consumed. The primary manufacturing companies, such as sawmills, pulpmills, veneer plants, and logging contractors, use round wood as raw material. Secondary manufacturing companies use lumber, composite wood products, and pulp to produce cabinets, millwork, furniture, pallets, and paper products. In addition, other companies process forest products such as maple syrup, Christmas trees, and firewood. The typical Ohio forest products industry is a small- to medium-size firm with fewer than 20 employees.

Individual landowners benefit directly from a timber harvest via revenue from timber sales, timber stand improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement, and the creation of access roads.

Income from the property makes it feasible for landowners to hold the property. This income also pays for enhancements to the property such as wildlife habitat improvements.

In addition to timber-generated revenue, Ohio ranks fourth in the nation in maple syrup production, producing an annual average of 100,000 gallons valued at approximately 2.7 million dollars annually. Ohio also sells 750,000 Christmas trees per year.

The Amish also add to the production totals of Ohio forest products with their construction and sales of handmade/high quality furniture and crafts, which also generates secondary local revenue through tourism.

**Economic impact of Logging, Sawmills, and Wood Container/Pallet Manufacturing:
Ohio and US Totals**
(1997 Economic Census)

Industry	Number of Firms	Number of Employees	Payroll (\$1000)	Value of Shipments (\$1000)
Logging (OH)	146	785	18,025	82,271
<i>US Total</i>	<i>13,533</i>	<i>83,203</i>	<i>2,011,926</i>	<i>13,613,338</i>
Sawmills (OH)	132	1,978	39,967	260,451
<i>US Total</i>	<i>4,403</i>	<i>118,954</i>	<i>3,172,315</i>	<i>24,656,573</i>
Wood Container/Pallet Manufacturing (OH)	218	3,206	62,465	271,046
<i>US Total</i>	<i>2,996</i>	<i>51,516</i>	<i>980,629</i>	<i>4,503,376</i>

Some important Ohio forest industries facts: (US Forest Service Facts and Figures)

- Ohio ranks 7th in the nation in forest-related employment
- 72,000 people are employed by forest industries in Ohio
- There are approximately 2000 wood manufacturing companies in Ohio
- The forest industries in Ohio earn \$ 2.2 billion annually
- The paper industry in Ohio ranks 4th in the nation in terms of earnings
- Ohio is the second largest pallet producing state in the nation
- 8 percent of all manufacturing in Ohio is wood-based
- Ohio's wood products industry annually adds \$13 billion of value to Ohio's economy
- Direct payroll for Ohio's forest industry is in excess of \$1 billion per year
- Ohio harvests 300-400 million board feet of timber each year
- Ohio grows one billion board feet of timber each year

One of the objectives of Ohio's Forest Legacy Program is to enhance economic productivity through traditional forest uses. Currently less than half of the annual growth of timber in Ohio is being harvested which indicates a potential for additional forest management, harvest and related revenue. If this trend continues it could also result a threat to the specie composition, and age composition of the forest which could affect the quality and types of forest products available from Ohio's forests. Economic dependency is a good indicator of the importance of forests to a local economy. Thus, the economic importance of forestland to an area is considered in determining eligibility for Forest Legacy Areas.

4.3 Recreation and Scenic Resources

4.3.1 Economic/Social Importance

Ohio's forests offer a variety of direct as well as indirect economic and social benefits to individuals and communities. The importance of having both public and private forestlands available especially for recreation is evident based on where various recreational activities are currently taking place.

The Ohio Division of Wildlife in cooperation with private landowners has achieved several success stories relating to the increase in forest related game species, primarily deer and wild turkey. In 1999, Ohio licensed more than 500,000 deer hunters who contribute over \$350 million to Ohio's economy each year. It is estimated by the Division of Wildlife that over 90% of all hunting takes place on private land.

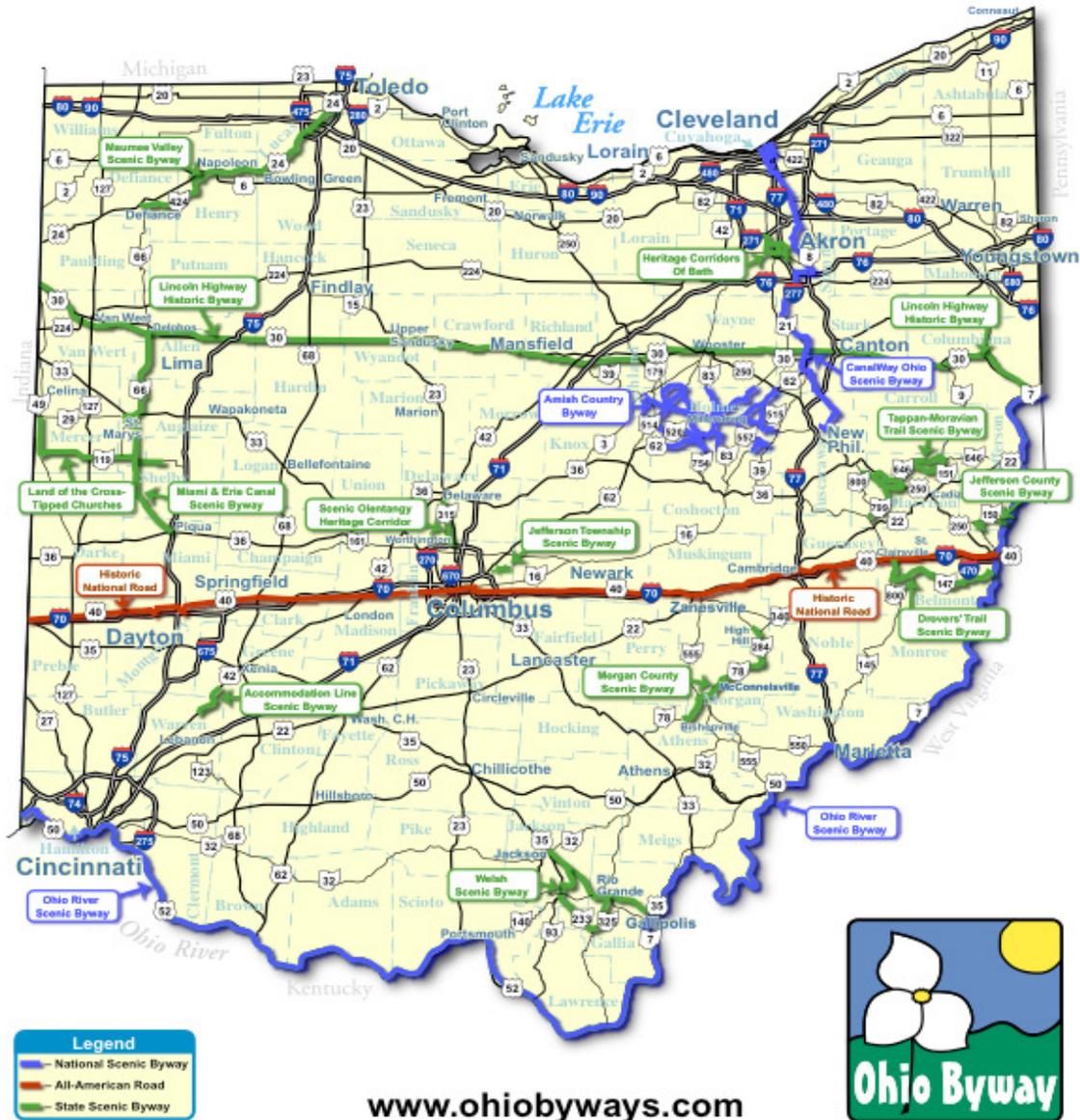
On the other hand, Ohio's public state forests are more likely to offer hiking opportunities on the nearly 600 miles of trails. Many of these trails are multi-use trails open to backpacking, horseback riding, all purpose vehicles, cross country skiing, snow-mobling and mountain biking. Private property can and traditionally has provided opportunities for out-door recreation but access is becoming more difficult and recreational facilities on private lands such as trail are limited. Landowner permission is required in Ohio to avoid trespassing. While willing to open their property for recreation on a limited basis landowners are becoming more concerned with landowner liability issues in the event of an accidental injury to user. Landowners are granted some protection from user lawsuits under Ohio's Recreational User statute.

In recognition that forests provide both direct and indirect social and economic benefits, the economic and social importance of forestland will be part of the criteria for selecting projects to submit for Forest Legacy Program consideration.

4.3.2 Scenic Resources

Ohio' diverse landscape offers a wide variety of scenic resources that are well connected by a network of scenic byways (Map 7). The scenic value of Ohio's forests are evident in every season of the year, but are most notable during the fall season for the displays of fall colors as the leaves change in southeastern (Hocking Hills Region) and northern-eastern Ohio.

Ohio's Designated Scenic Byways



Map 7. Ohio's Designated Scenic Byways

4.3.3 Outdoor Recreation Trends

Ohio offers a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from wildlife observing to shooting sports. Based on an ODNR 2003 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) wildlife observation was the number one outdoor activity followed by walking/jogging, gardening and scenic driving.

Since 1983 the four outdoor activities that have experienced the most significant increase in participation has been: wildlife observation, hiking, bicycling, and off road vehicle riding.

The 2000 U.S. census data shows that 38.6% of Ohio's population is age 45-65. This has an affect on the outdoor recreation habits of Ohioans in that they are more likely to pursue lifelong and less strenuous activities such as bird watching, gardening, walking, or golf.

SCORP also found that Ohioans will continue to have a need for traditional outdoor recreation areas and facilities and indicated that those activities they will most likely participate in are fishing, picnicking, camping, wildlife observing, and hiking.

According to the SCORP, Ohioans conduct a significant portion of their outdoor recreation activities on private land and on county/park district land.

Location of Recreation Participation, 1997 (SCORP)

Location of Recreation	Percent Response						
	Never	1-5 times/yr	6-10 times/yr	Monthly	Weekly	Daily	Mean
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
Private Land	47.7	15.0	12.4	7.1	10.8	6.9	1.3
County/Park District Land	36.0	26.3	18.3	11.5	6.3	1.7	1.3
Lake Erie	58.2	1.4	6.3	29.9	3.4	.7	1.2
City Land	48.0	22.5	12.4	6.9	8.2	2.0	1.1
State Land	45.7	28.8	15.1	6.4	3.1	0.9	1.0
Inland Lake	51.0	24.7	14.6	4.7	3.9	1.1	0.9
Inland Rivers	65.5	17.3	10.1	3.0	2.2	1.9	0.6
Federal Land	70.3	17.8	6.3	3.6	1.5	0.6	0.5
Ohio River	73.1	19.8	3.9	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.4

4.3.4 Forest Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Forest fragmentation of private lands represents a significant threat to the traditional outdoor recreation activities. Public use of private lands including forestland for general public recreation is a tradition in Ohio. Access to these lands may become more difficult as the larger tracts are broken into smaller parcels and land ownership changes. Ohio ranks 47th per capita out of the 50 states in the availability of public land for outdoor recreation (ODNR Division of Wildlife Strategic Plan 2001-2010). The fact that over 93 percent of Ohio's lands are privately held poses a challenge for those interested in providing additional opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Wildlife management professionals are also concerned with the availability and reduced opportunities for hunting access to private lands as a means of managing certain wildlife populations such as whitetail deer. As previously mentioned, there continues to be concern about liability issues on the part of the landowner in spite of laws granting some protection from liability for recreational users.

Urban sprawl into rural countryside has reduced traditional hunting and other opportunities on private lands, creating increased pressure on the minimal public lands that are available (ODNR Division of Wildlife Strategic Plan 2001-2010). Additionally, degradation of forests around inland lakes, rivers and streams combined with the loss of riparian corridors all pose significant threats to water quality and fishing opportunities.

While finding ways to encourage landowners to allow public access on to private lands will continue to be a priority for the Department of Natural Resources, it will not be a requirement of the FLP in Ohio. Public access will not be required in order for a landowner to participate in a FLP project or as criteria in determining an FLA.

4.4 Habitat/ Natural Resource Attributes

4.4.1 Ecological Communities

Forests are important for many, if not most, of the wildlife species in Ohio. They provide habitat for many rare, declining and wide ranging species as well as the more common wildlife species that all depend on forests as habitat for nesting, shelter, foraging, or resting during migration at one time or another in their lifecycle. The continued trend in the 21st century is that of loss and degradation of wildlife habitat, which limits wildlife populations and wildlife diversity. For example, survival of birds, specifically songbirds, has become a major consideration as large unbroken tracts of land rapidly disappear. In some cases, however, active management of forests is the best way to ensure bio-diversity and to help maintain the diversity and survival of a broader range of species.

Ohio's forests are threatened by numerous nonnative and exotic terrestrial species. Among these, the most common are the bush honeysuckles, garlic mustard, gypsy moth and, increasingly, the emerald ash borer. Active management of Ohio's forests will play a key role in managing these exotic, invasive species to avoid expanding their range.

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the types of habitat loss most critical in Ohio are:

- Loss of wetlands. Over 90 percent of Ohio's original wetlands have been drained for agricultural production and for residential and urban development. Wetland loss is the second leading cause of wildlife endangerment in Ohio. Typical endangered species needing these types of areas are river otters, copper-belly water snakes, osprey, and sand-hill cranes.
- Loss of Ohio's formerly vast forest areas. Land clearing for agriculture and the extensive cutting of the forest for charcoal in the iron industry were major early causes of forest removal. At that time, many species such as mountain lions and timber wolves were eliminated. Recovery of our forest lands has been significant since the 1940s, allowing for reintroduction of some species such as the white-tailed deer and Eastern wild turkey.
- Degradation of natural waters. Most of Ohio's endangered animals are aquatic

species. The endangered status of fish, insects, and bivalve mollusks is due to siltation from soil erosion; degradation of water quality from acid mine drainage, and industrial, agricultural, and municipal sewage discharges; and loss of aquatic habitat through wetland drainage activities and stream channelization.

<http://www.ohiodnr.com/endangered/endangered2.htm>

Because nearly all Ohio endangered species have become imperiled by habitat destruction, it is obvious that the most important action for saving wildlife involves protection, recovery, and in some cases management of their habitats. The Forest Legacy Program in Ohio will include areas of significant wildlife habitat importance in its criteria for Forest Legacy Areas.

4.4.2 Rare, Endangered, and Declining Species

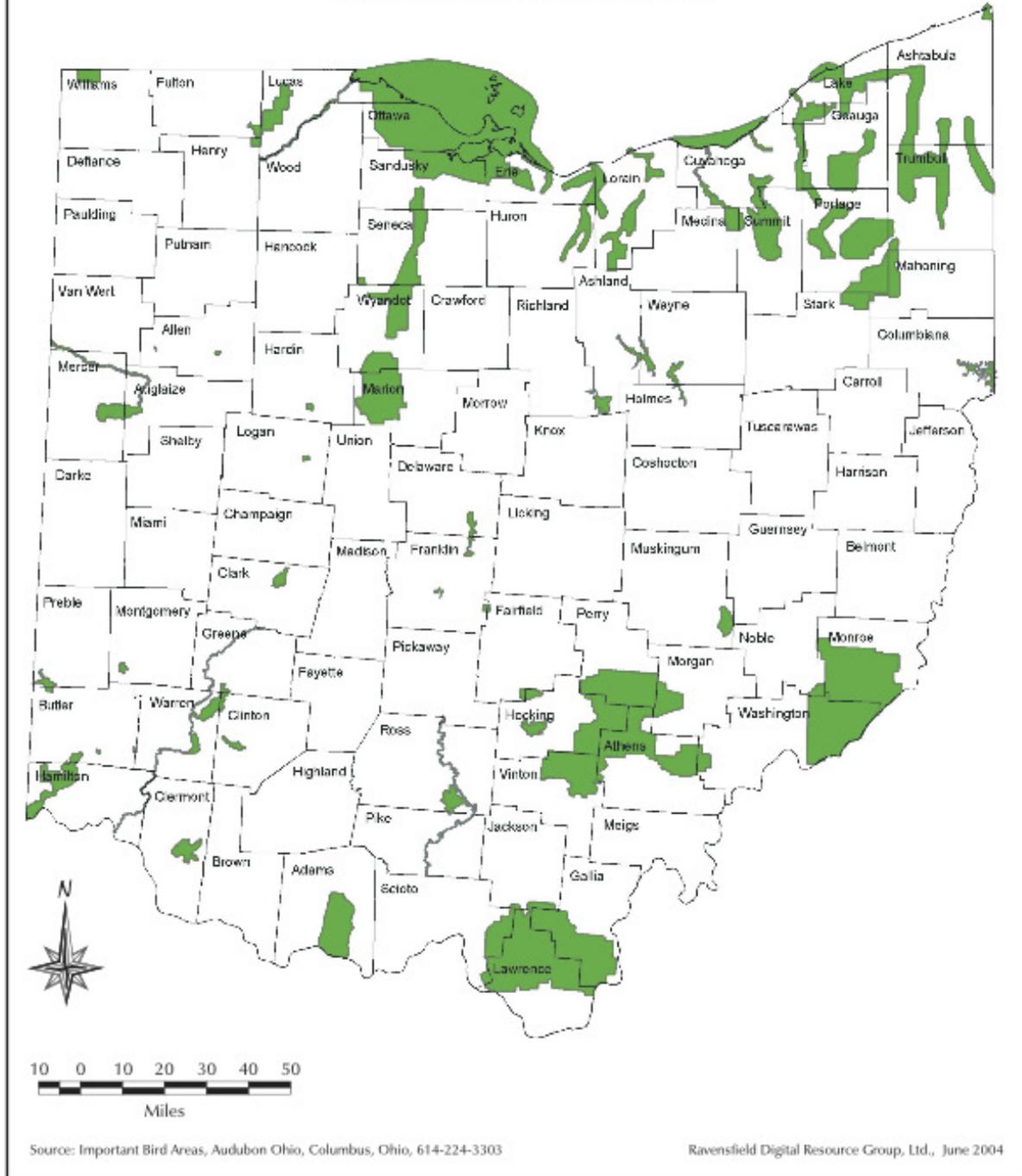
The Ohio Division of Natural Areas and Preserves maintains a list of rare native Ohio plants and animal species as well as critical habitats (Appendix C). This list includes plants and lichens, mosses, ferns, grass, trees, and wildflowers. According to the list, 92 plants are presumed extirpated from Ohio; in other words, no longer found growing in Ohio. In addition, 254 plants are endangered and 162 are considered threatened and protected by state law. An additional 112 are potentially threatened. Map 8 shows the location of Ohio's unique communities overlaid upon the watershed boundaries. Map 9 shows a distribution of Ohio's rare plants.

There are many species that are not yet considered rare or but are declining, including many species of neo-tropical migratory birds and several reptiles and amphibians. In some cases, observed decreases in populations or disappearances of local populations are dramatic. Many species depend on forests, either as habitat during some part of their life, as buffer or recharge areas for their habitat.

The Audubon Society has identified important bird areas in Ohio that are critical for breeding or resting areas (Map 10). Much of this habitat may disappear due to increased conversion of forested land. While the total conversion of forestland would definitely constitute a loss of habitat, the loss of successional and early growth forests that would result from timber management, may also have a negative impact on some species. The stabilization of forest cover which if necessary can be managed, will allow wildlife managers to address the needs of forest dependent rare, endangered and declining species. As more is learned about habitat requirements, management efforts can be tailored to meet those needs.

The importance of forested areas as natural communities as well as the presence of rare, endangered and declining species, will be considered when determining eligibility for Forest Legacy Areas.

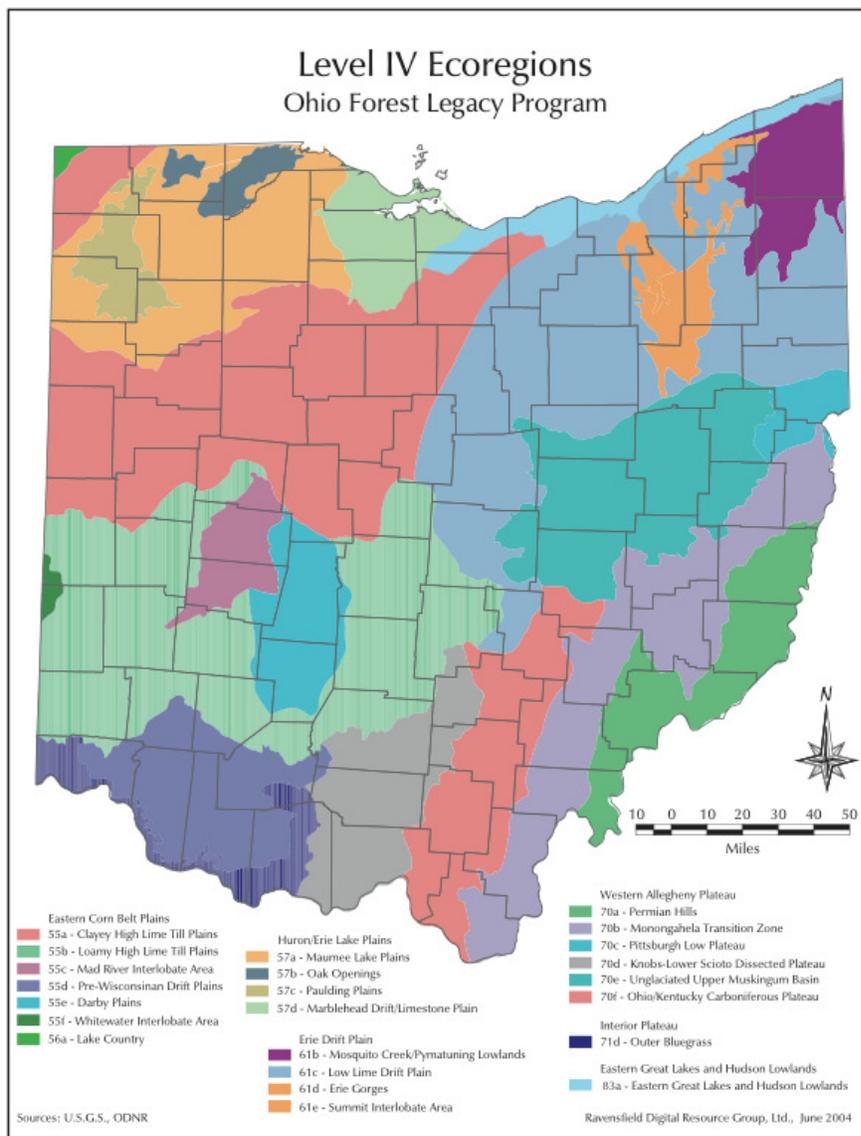
Important Bird Areas Ohio Forest Legacy Program



Map 9. Important Bird Areas

4.4.3 Geology

Ohio can be classified according to two geologic regions: the Glaciated Region and the Unglaciated Hill Country (Map 11). The Glaciated region occupies most of the Northwest two thirds of the state with the border running diagonally from the northeast to the southwest. The Glaciated Region contains mostly farmland and urban areas with most counties being less than 25 percent forested and of these, many are less than 10 percent forested. Conversely, the Hill Country contains 63 percent of the state's forest land, has two counties that are more than 75 percent forested and most of the remaining counties are at least 50 percent forested. Forest cover in glaciated, western counties averages 15 percent, whereas counties in unglaciated southeastern Ohio average over 35 percent. (ODNR Division of Wildlife Strategic Plan 2001-2010).



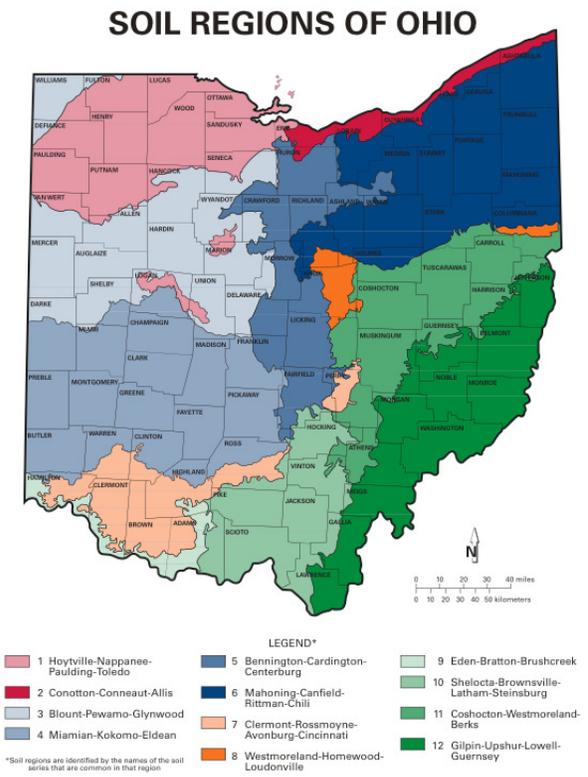
Map 10. Level IV Ecoregions

4.4.4 Soils

The soils in Ohio reflect their geologic origin, whether being derived from bedrock or the result of glacial activity (Map 12). There is tremendous diversity in soil texture, chemistry, and drainage class, and the age of Ohio soils spans several thousand years. Broad patterns of soil types are helpful in understanding differences among forests in Ohio. Differences in forest composition, structure and productivity can be partly interpreted at this broad scale, though there is also much variation at the local scale.

Forest composition and structure is closely linked to soil characteristics, and intact forests also provide protection to supporting soils. Improper forest management or conversion of forests to other land uses often results in compaction or erosion of the soil, which not only can dramatically change the ecology of an ecosystem, but can negatively affect aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that are downstream. Conservation of forests and proper forest management not only benefits forests, forest species, and soils, it is also critical to maintaining water quality in both surface and subsurface systems.

Forests and their soils capture a much greater proportion of water than land that has been converted to other uses. Forests allow more water to infiltrate the soil where it can be used by resident plants or enter the groundwater. Formerly forested watersheds that are currently in agriculture or developed uses experience elevated runoff and erosion, resulting in changes to aquatic ecosystems and reduction of water quality. Because of the predominance of glacial drift and its ability to soak up water, the cycle of infiltration, groundwater flow, and groundwater discharge is extremely important to ecosystems throughout Ohio.



Map 11. Soil Regions of Ohio

4.4.5 Watersheds

Ohio's 61,532 miles of streams are an important indicator of biodiversity and ecological health. Ohio streams and their corridors are inhabited by a rich diversity of wildlife species that includes more than 153 fishes, 63 mussels, 1,200 aquatic insects, 170 birds, 12 mammals, 10 reptiles, and 14 amphibians. Streams benefit Ohioans by providing water supply, recreational opportunities, beautiful scenery, and drainage. Riparian corridors contribute to water quality by minimizing the impact from non-point source runoff.

Protecting forested lands throughout watersheds has been of prime concern to many agencies and groups due to the value forestlands play in water quality. According to the Ohio EPA Integrated Water Quality Assessment, over half of the impairment to Ohio stream miles (see Maps 14 and 15) is a result of habitat alteration such as the removal of a riparian corridor, streamside clearing, ditching, and stream modification that results in the removal of many or all trees in the riparian zone.

While water quality in many Ohio streams has improved as the result of the Clean Water Act, only 53 percent of Ohio's monitored stream miles currently meet their aquatic life use designations as determined by OEPA. Habitat alteration, siltation, and flow alteration have evolved as major causes of use impairment, yet efforts remain focused on point and non-point sources of pollution which do not adequately address the degradation of stream habitats throughout Ohio. According to their Strategic Plan for 2001-2010, the ODNR Division of Wildlife seeks to restore and protect the physical habitats in and adjacent to streams with the secondary result of improving water quality and more miles meeting use designations and increased benefits to all Ohioans (ODNR Division of Wildlife Strategic Plan 2001-2010).

Map 13 depicts the location and boundaries of Ohio's watersheds. Ohio has a strong watershed program that is supported through federal and state sources of funding. Each watershed group in Ohio must submit an action plan including a physical inventory, land use, stream morphology, and reference the OEPA's analysis of their streams in order to receive state endorsement. In addition, the document must include an analysis of their problems and solutions that are targeted and measurable. The loss of riparian corridors and soil erosion is commonly cited in Ohio's watershed action plans as a major non-point source of water quality degradation. Through educational programs, including woodland management, as well as government cost sharing programs to encourage soil conservation practices and the protection of riparian areas, non-point impacts can be reduced.

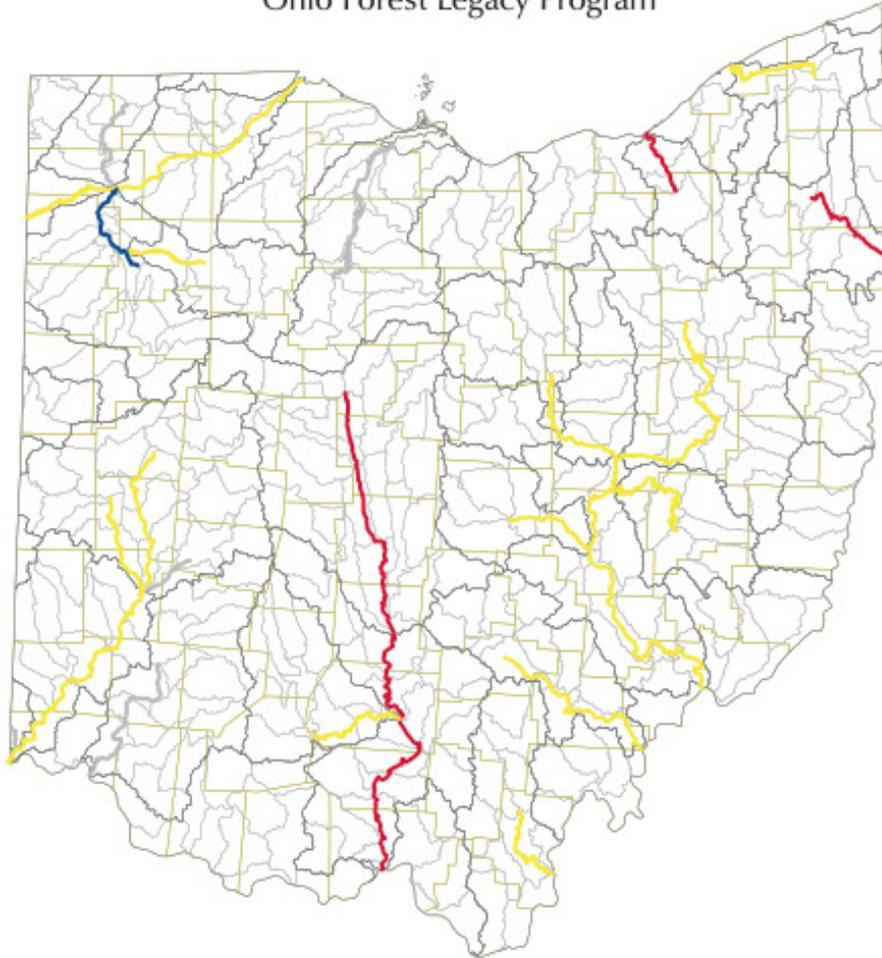
Forestlands provide value in protecting water quality not only for habitat but also as a source of drinking water. This fact will be considered in the selection of FLP projects.

Watersheds (8-digit Hydrologic Units) Ohio Forest Legacy Program



Map 12. Watersheds (8-Digit Hydrologic Units)

Ohio 2002 Integrated Report
Recreational Use Status of Large River Assessment Units
Ohio Forest Legacy Program



See Section 5.1.2 of 2002 Integrated Report

Indeterminate: Some data available, higher than primary contact value,
but lower than secondary

Attaining: Data available, lower than primary contact value

Unknown: No data available

Impaired: Data available, higher than secondary contact value



Division of Surface Water
BAW 9/26/02

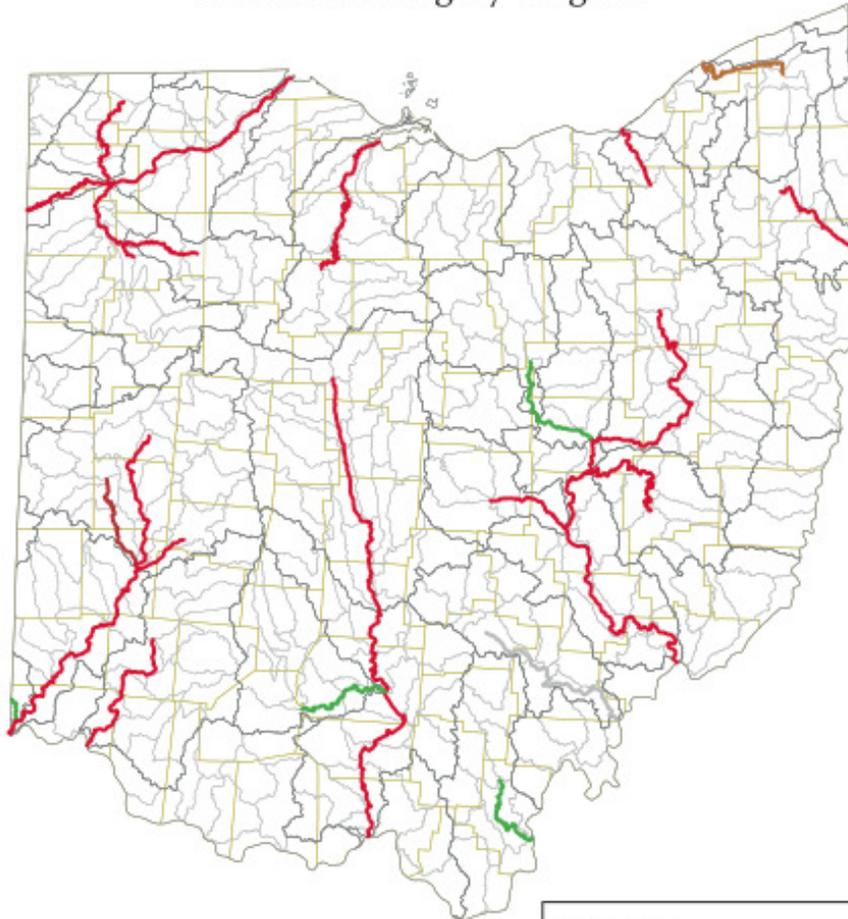


Map 13. Ohio 2002 Integrated Report: Recreational Use Status of Large River Assessment Units

Ohio 2002 Integrated Report

Categories of Large River Assessment Units

Ohio Forest Legacy Program



See section 5.6 of 2002 Integrated Report



Division of Surface Water
BAW 9/27/02

Categories

- <All other values>
- 1: Attaining WQS
- 2: Attaining some WQS
- 3: Insufficient data
- 4A: Impaired, TMDLs completed
- 4B: Impaired, use other controls
- 4C: Impaired
- 5: Impaired, need TMDL

Map 14. Ohio 2002 Integrated Report: Categories of Large River Assessment Units

4.4.6 Mineral Resources

In Ohio, mineral extraction is generally limited to industrial minerals, coal, oil, and natural gas. Wells created to extract oil and gas generally do little to impair traditional uses and benefits of the surrounding forests in which these wells are located. Ohio's Forest Legacy Program will consider forested lands containing oil and gas wells for participation. However, no activities can materially impair the intended conservation values for which the land is to be enrolled in the program. If this will happen or if the mineral rights cannot be reasonably purchased with the intent of avoiding such impacts, the areas will not be considered for FLP eligibility.

4.5 Cultural/Historic Resources

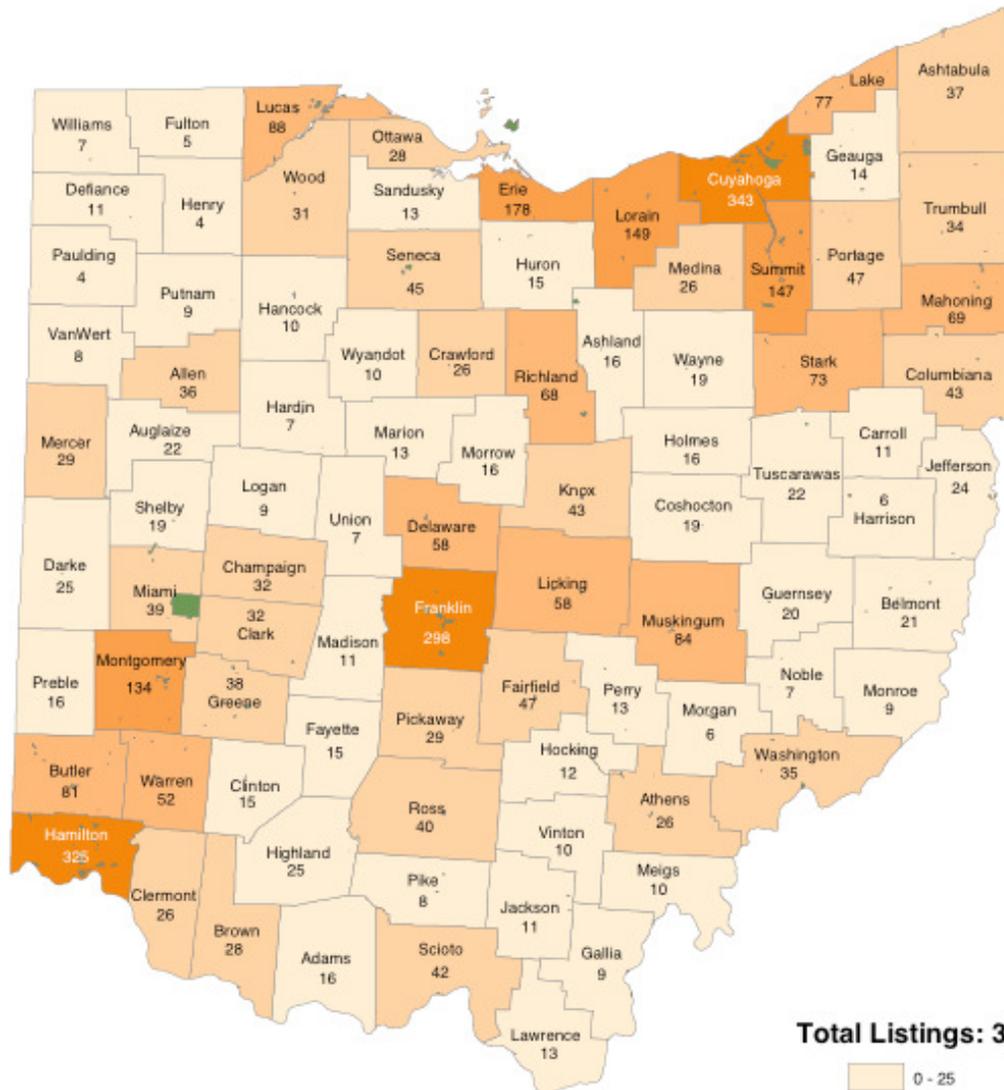
The State Historic Preservation Office of Ohio (SHPO) is the primary agency responsible for the stewardship of historic resources in Ohio. As of February 2004, the SHPO had identified 3,731 sites on the National Register (Map 16), 39,644 sites on the Ohio Archeological Inventory (Map 17), and 89,149 sites on the Ohio Historic Inventory (Map 18).

Forest stewardship plans and conservation easements under the Forest Legacy Program can make a positive contribution by encouraging landowners to be aware of any cultural resources on their property and taking appropriate actions to protect those sites.



Ohio
Historical
Society

National Register



February, 2004

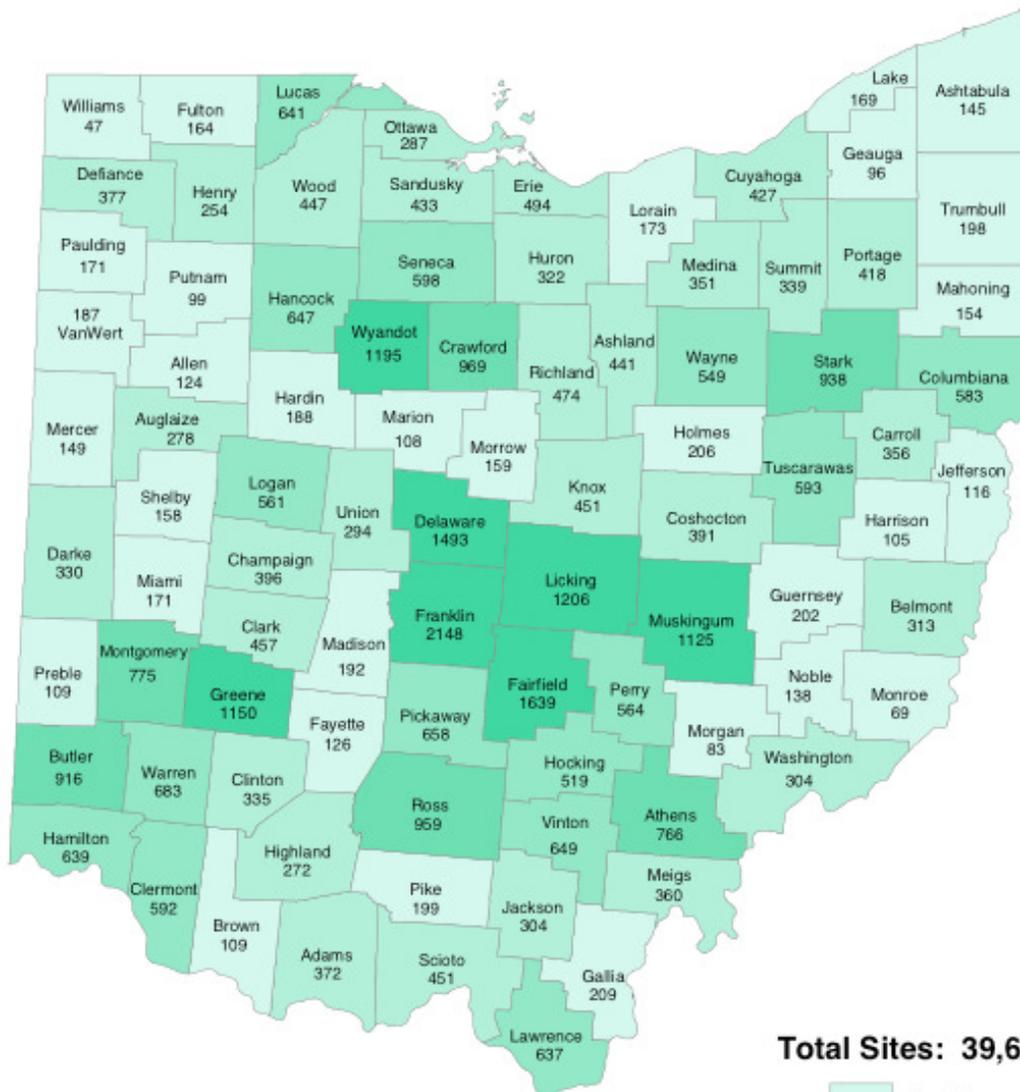
Map produced by:
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211
Phone: 614-298-2000
www.ohiohistory.org

Map 15. National Register Listings

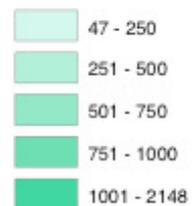


Ohio
Historical
Society

Ohio Archaeological Inventory



Total Sites: 39,644



February, 2004

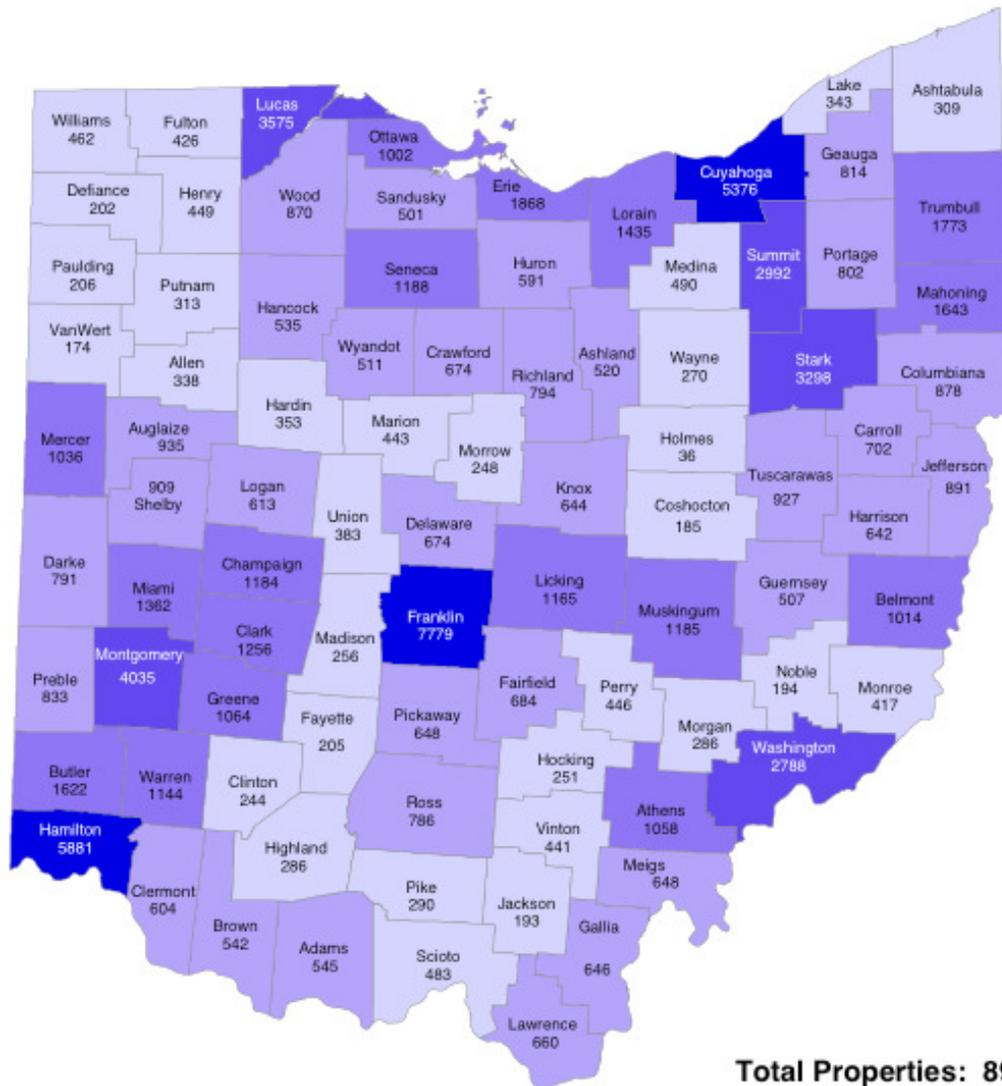
Map produced by:
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211
Phone: 614-298-2000
www.ohiohistory.org

Map 16. Ohio Archaeological Inventory Sites

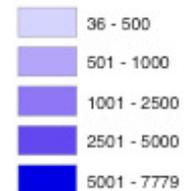


Ohio
Historical
Society

Ohio Historic Inventory



Total Properties: 89,149



February, 2004

Map produced by:
Ohio Historic Preservation Office
567 E. Hudson St.
Columbus, OH 43211
Phone: 614-298-2000
www.ohiohistory.org

Map 17. Ohio Historic Inventory Properties

Section 5

Ownership Trends

Ohio has a very small amount of publicly held land of all types; most of Ohio's forest resource is owned predominately by the private sector (Map 19). Preventing conversion of private forestlands to non-forest uses protects the ecological, social and economic benefits that private forestlands provide. In addition, it is recognized that the habitat needs of threatened, endangered and other fish, wildlife and plant species of concern cannot be met on the public forestland base alone. The balancing of these "public interests" while protecting individual private property rights will continue to be a challenge. The voluntary sale of easements, retention of land ownership and use combined with the potential for revenue from forest products will provide additional incentives for private landowners to consider options other than forest conversion or fragmentation.

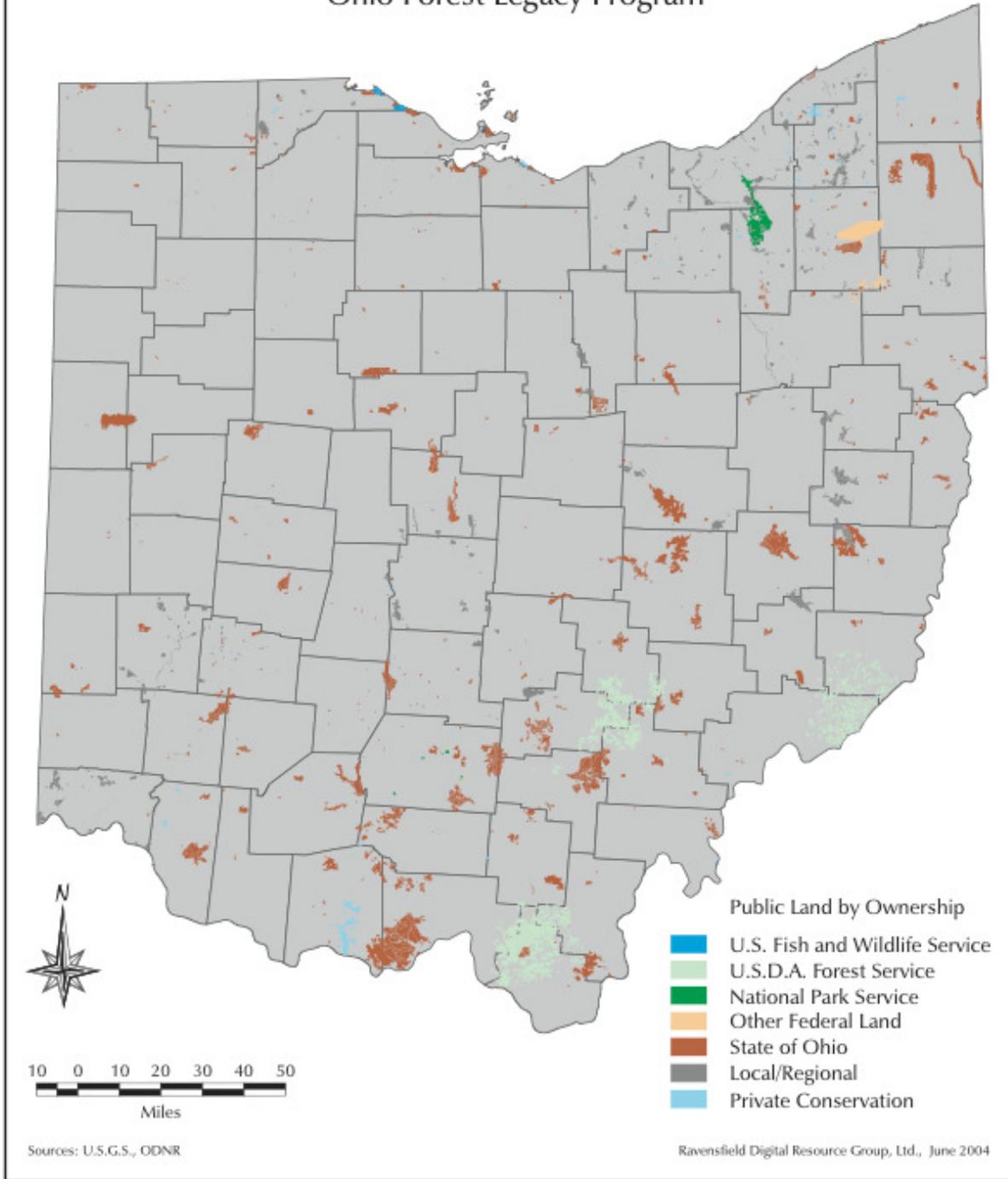
5.1 Public

As of 1991, 7 percent of the forestland in Ohio was managed by public (federal, state, and local) agencies. Ohio has 20 state forests, consisting of over 183,000 acres located in 21 counties. Ohio is also home to the Wayne National Forest, an area of over 211,708 acres (The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc., 2003).

While the public holding of forestland is comparatively low, local, state and federal agencies continue to acquire land. In fact, since the 1979 survey of Ohio's forest land, over 100,000 acres have been acquired by public agencies. At the same time, corporate ownership of forestland has decreased from 716,000 in 1979 to 176,000 acres due to mergers and the resulting sell off of land resources. Forest ownership by non-industrial private parties increased by more than 1 million acres from 1979 to 1991.

Public Land

Ohio Forest Legacy Program



Map 18. Public Land

5.2 Private

According to the Forest Statistics for Ohio, 1991, of the 93 percent of forestland not held by public agencies, 14 percent is owned by industry and 79 percent by other private landowners (Forests of Ohio, 1994). Among the private owners, 56 percent are individual owners, 23 percent are farmers, various corporations hold 11 percent, and 3 percent are held by the forest products industry. While as of 1991 there were 329,200 private owners, over half of them owned less than 10 acres, making up approximately 10 percent of the forestland. Over a third of the owners hold parcels that range between 10 and 50 acres, equaling about one third of the forest acreage. Approximately 38,000 (11%) landowners own 56% percent of Ohio's forests.

<i>Acres Owned</i>	<i>Number of Owners</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>
1-9	170,300	730,000
10-49	121,000	2,430,000
50-99	25,900	1,620,000
100-499	11,500	1,670,000
500-999	300	170,000
1,000+	200	570,000
TOTAL	329,200	7,190,000

(Forests of Ohio, 1994)

There have been three forest landowner surveys conducted; one in 1979, 1994 and one currently underway with preliminary results available. The time period from 1979 to 1994 experienced a slight decline in the total number of forest landowners. Although the results are preliminary for the 2003 survey, it appears that there has been a spike in the number of forest landowners with an increasing number of ownerships in smaller size-class tracts.

There are also shifts in the reasons for ownership of forestland. Although it is difficult to directly compare survey data on this point due to a difference in collection methods, particularly in the 2003 survey, it appears that there is more rapid growth in the primary reasons for ownership other than timber management with steady increases in the reasons of land investment, recreational use, and esthetic enjoyment.

These trends affect the management of the forests. Management plays a key role in sustaining local communities, certain forest types and wildlife habitats. There have been several papers written on the influences on forest and timber harvest of housing density and proximity to developed areas.

According to a study published in the Journal of Forestry (The Effect of Urban Sprawl on Timber Harvesting, Barlow et. al., Journal of Forestry, Vol. 96, No. 12, Pages 10-14) timber harvesting is significantly reduced in proximity to urbanized areas. While this study was conducted in the southern United States (Mississippi and Alabama), there is no reason to assume the same factors are not at work in Ohio. Virtually all of the factors that tended to reduce harvest in the study area apply in Ohio. Variables of note were the distance to an urban development and distance to an urban population center. It was shown that forested tracts less than one mile from an urban development of ten acres or more were significantly less likely to be harvested. Additionally, tracts within 124 miles of an urban population center of 50,000 or greater were significantly less likely to harvest; this factor had the greatest influence within 62 miles of the

population center. These factors individually and collectively affect a large proportion of the forested tracts in Ohio.

Closer to Ohio, a study conducted in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan (Relationships Between Housing Density And Timber Harvest In The Upper Lake States, *Sabor et. al.*, http://silvis.forest.wisc.edu/publications/PDFs/Sabor_etal_2003.pdf) investigated housing density and timber harvest. This study concluded, "Harvesting rates are closely related to housing density, even in sparsely populated areas. This may be due to negative public attitudes towards silvicultural treatments, ownership fragmentation, or changing management objectives. The results suggest the Upper Lakes states may experience substantial decreases in timber harvest if housing density continues to increase in the future."

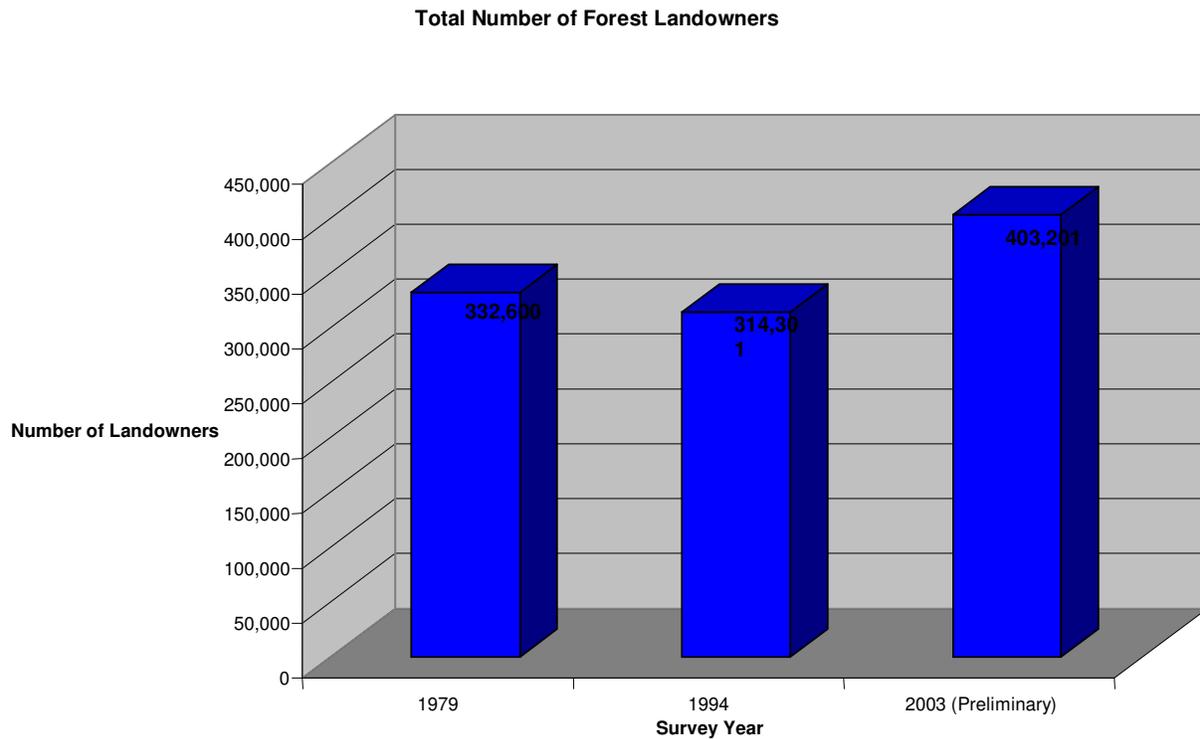


Figure 2 Total Number of Forest Landowners by Survey Year

Number of Forest Landowners by Ownership Size Class

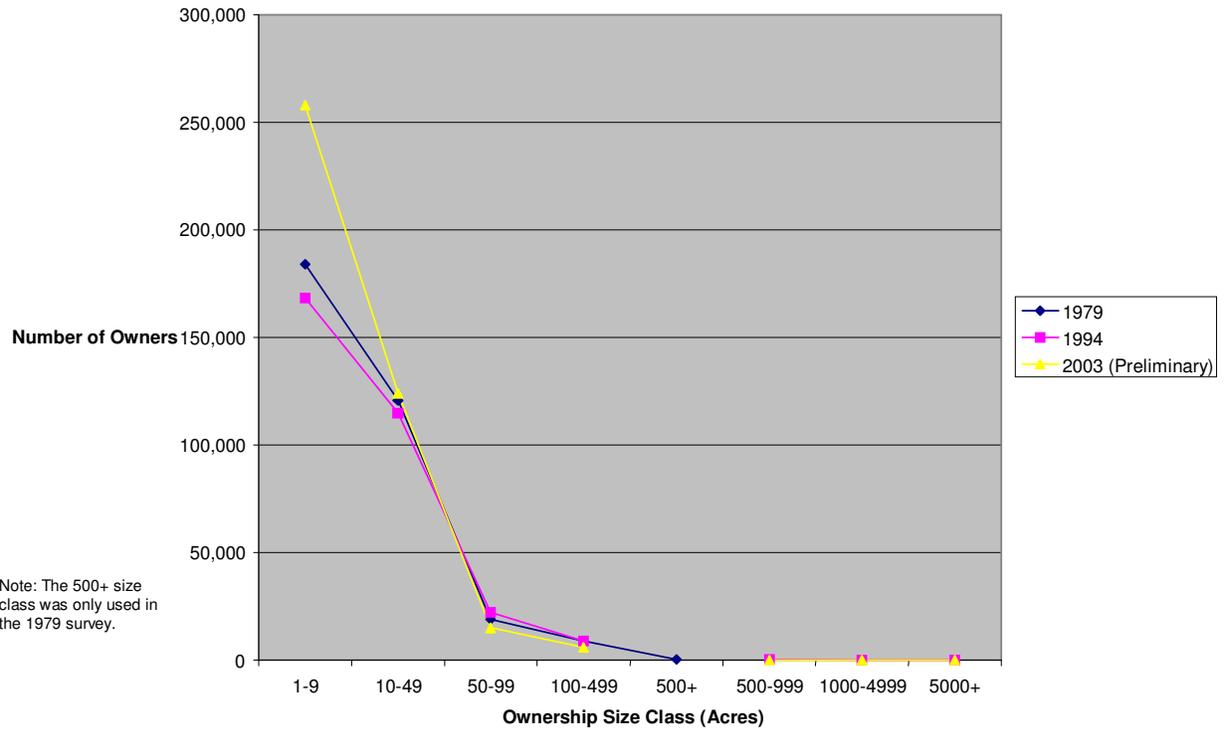


Figure 3 Number of Forest Landowners by Ownership Size Class

Number of Forest Landowners by Reason

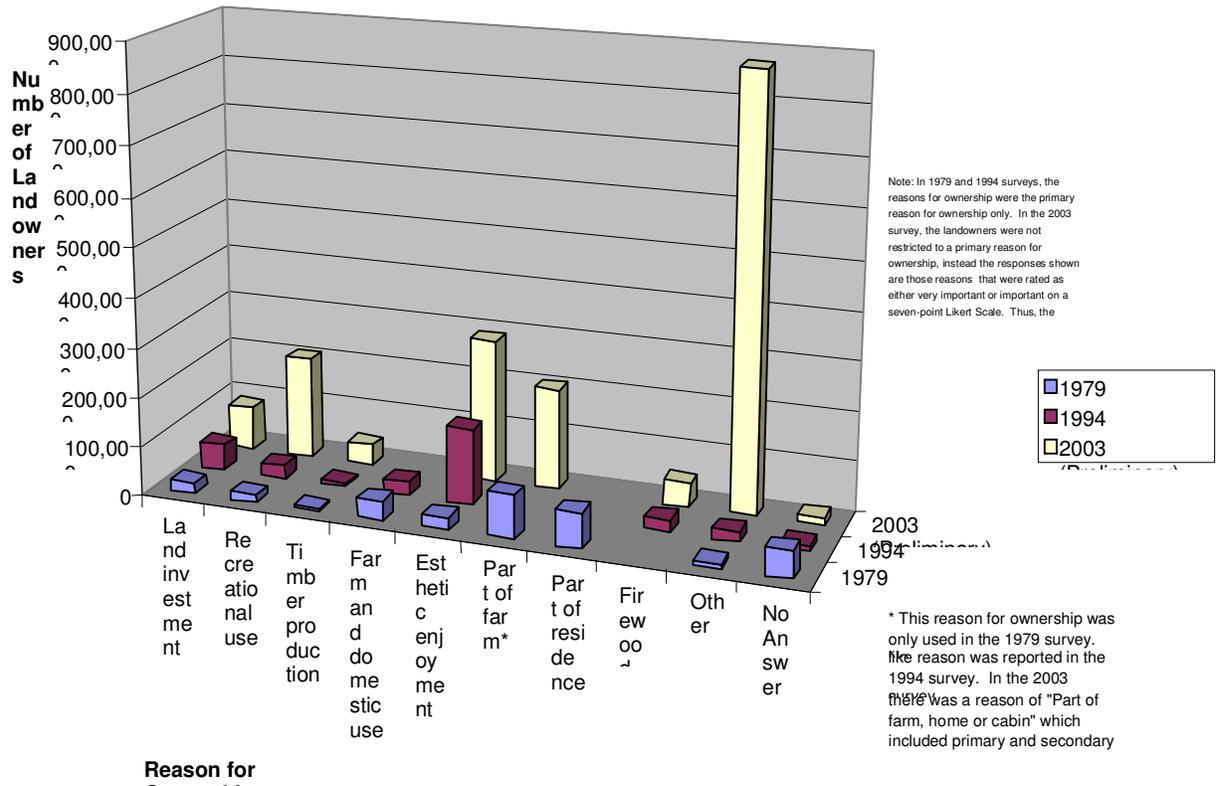


Figure 4 Number of Forest Landowners by Reason for Ownership

Section 6

Current Conservation Programs

6.1 Federal Programs

National Forest: The Wayne National Forest is divided up into three districts located in Southeast Ohio. Land acquisition is ongoing with current holdings over 232,000 acres. Implementation of the forest plan has been beset by lawsuits resulting in limited forest management. As a result, the area and the forest have not received the benefits that arise from such management. In addition there is a growing concern on the part of some citizens, local and state officials regarding the continued expansion of the Wayne National Forest. The concern is focused on the potential loss of property taxes, mismanagement and trespassing onto adjacent private land. There have been attempts by local legislators to limit the Forest Service on the amount of land that can be purchased. Due to possible conflicts with property owner's right to sell, the legislation has not been successful.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): The CRP is designed to take marginal, highly eroded agricultural land out of production. CRP provides farm owners or operators with an annual per-acre rental payment and half the cost of establishing a permanent land cover, in exchange for retiring environmentally sensitive cropland from production for 10-15 years.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/FarmBill/2002Glossary.htm#e>

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): The CREP is a State-Federal conservation partnership program targeted to address specific State and nationally significant water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife habitat issues related to agriculture. The program offers additional financial incentives beyond the CRP to encourage farmers and ranchers to enroll in 10-15 year contracts to retire land from production.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/FarmBill/2002Glossary.htm#e>

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): The objective of EQIP is to encourage farmers and ranchers to adopt practices that reduce environmental and resource problems through 5- to 10-year contracts. The program provides education, technical assistance and financial assistance, targeted to watersheds, regions, or areas of special environmental sensitivity identified as priority areas. Map 20 shows the number of contracts and dollars allocated by Ohio county. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/FarmBill/2002Glossary.htm#e>

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP): The FLEP, part of Title VIII of the 2002 Farm Bill was a voluntary program for non-industrial private forest landowners which provided for technical, educational, and cost-share assistance to promote forest sustainability. The program is currently administered in Ohio by ODNR.

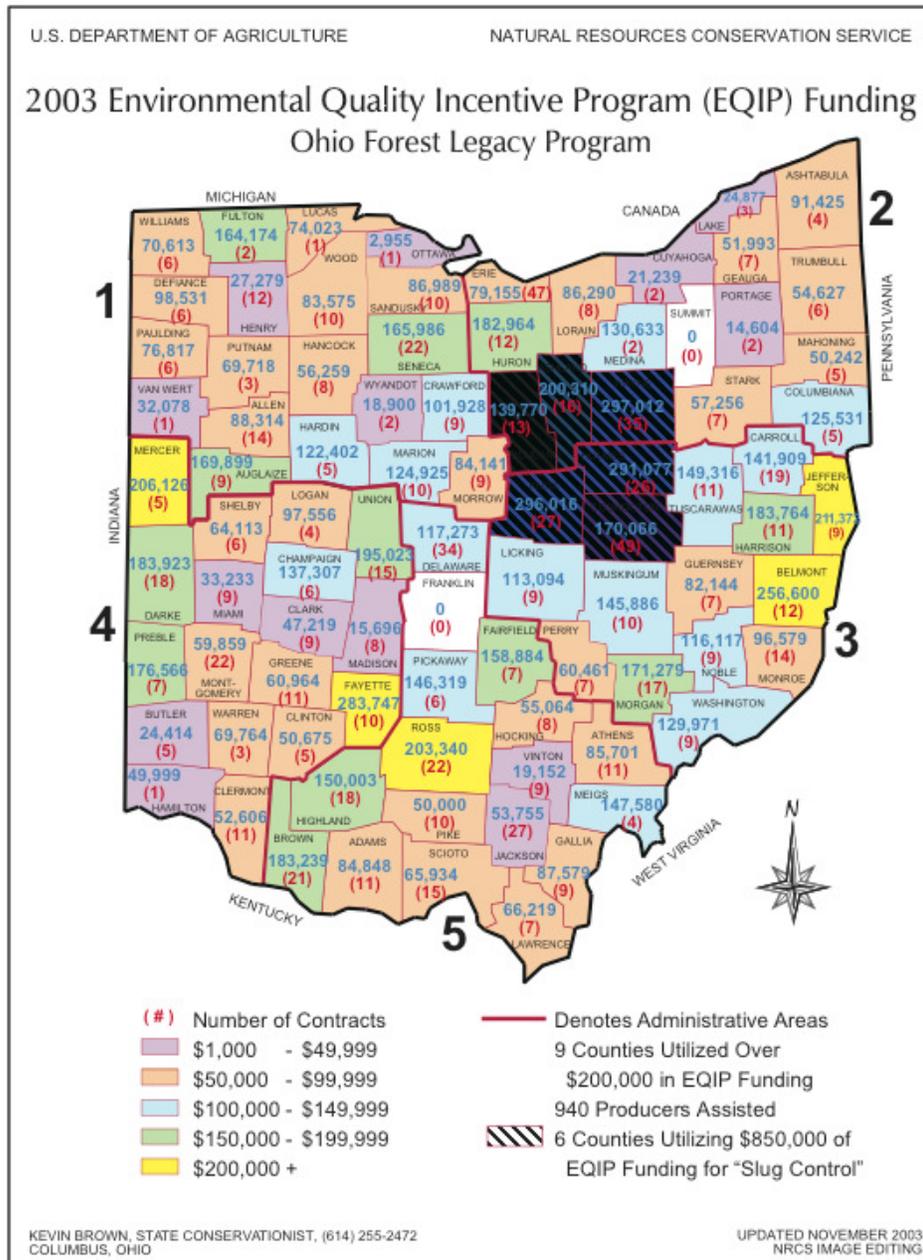
Forest Stewardship Program: Through a Federal and State partnership the Forest Stewardship Program offers technical assistance to landowners for making land management decisions. Since the inception of the Forest Stewardship Program in 1990, more than 5,500 management plans have been prepared for 237, 227 acres of forestland (Division of Forestry, 1994).

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP): The WRP is designed to help eligible landowners restore wetlands. Acceptable uses of WRP land may include activities such as hunting, fishing and other compatible uses. The primary objective is to restore altered wetlands as closely as

possible to the natural hydrology, native vegetation, and natural topography, protecting the functions and values of wetlands in a farming context. While this program is active in Ohio, forests and trees are not a specific component of the program.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP): The WHIP provides cost sharing for people who own or control land and want to develop and improve wildlife habitat. Contracts are generally 5-10 years in length. While this program is active in Ohio, forests and trees are not a specific component of the program.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/farmland/titles/titlellconservation.htm>



6.2 State Programs

State Forests: Ohio has twenty State Forests, mostly located in the Southeast region (listed below, Map 21). Ohio's State Forests are managed for forest products, wildlife and recreation. In doing so, the needs of multiple users including the forest products industry and millions of hunters, fishers, hikers, mountain bikers, snowmobile riders, campers, birders, and other nature lovers.

Beaver Creek State Forest	Blue Rock State Forest
Brush Creek State Forest	Dean State Forest
Fernwood State Forest	Gifford State Forest
Harrison State Forest	Hocking State Forest
Maumee State Forest	Mohican-Memorial State Forest
Perry State Forest	Pike State Forest
Richland Furnace State Forest	Scioto Trail State Forest
Shade River State Forest	Shawnee State Forest
Sunfish Creek State Forest	Tar Hollow State Forest
Yellow Creek State Forest	Zaleski State Forest



Map 20. Ohio State Forests

Source: <http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/Forests/forestlist.htm>

Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program: The windbreak program is an interagency effort aimed at assisting landowners in the planting of small linear forests. The goal is to create windbreaks and prevent erosion from wind, enhance crops and enhance wildlife habitat. In the Spring of 2003, a total of 53 windbreaks were planted in 8 counties, marking the 27th planting season of the program. Thirteen different tree species were planted, including conifer, hardwood and shrub species.

Wetland Restoration Program: Ohio has lost over 90 percent of its original wetlands in the past 200 years. Most of this loss has occurred on private lands. Wetlands are essential to a healthy ecosystem in that they provide absorption and filtering of runoff from farm fields and urban areas. The ODNR Division of Wildlife provides technical assistance and education for identifying suitable sites and restoration of wetlands. The program is funded from money received from the sale of Ohio Wetland Habitat Stamps and Ducks Unlimited MARSH funds.

6.3 Land Trusts

Land trusts are nonprofit conservation organizations that work to protect important natural and cultural resources. According to Chadbourne and Chadbourne (2000), these resources could include “productive agricultural and forestland, scenic and recreational resources, such as lakes and rivers, wildlife habitat, historic sites, community open space; and ecologically sensitive areas, such as groundwater recharge areas, wetlands, river banks, and coastal zones”). Many land trusts are run by local citizens and rely on volunteer labor. These organizations will be important partners in the success of Forest Legacy in Ohio. Land trusts traditionally use tools such as conservation easements, voluntary protection agreements, estate planning, donations, and bargain sales. Organized at local levels, these land trusts provide people and communities with choices of how rural and urban green spaces can be used. See Appendix D for a list of Ohio’s Land trusts.

6.4 Private/Non-profit Efforts

The following is a list of groups that may have interest in the Forest Legacy Program and help promote the program with their members.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Central Ohio Woodland Interest Group | Ohio Maple Producers' Association |
| Ducks Unlimited | Ohio Society of American Foresters (OSAF) |
| East Central Ohio Forestry Association | Ohio Tree Farm System/Master Tree Farmers |
| East Central Ohio Loggers' Chapter | Ohio Woodland Owners Association |
| International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) | Paint Valley Loggers' Chapter |
| Isaac Walton League of America | Pheasants Forever |
| Ruffed Grouse Society | Federation of Soil & Water Districts |
| Muskingum River Woodland Interest Group | Sierra Club |
| Muskingum Valley Loggers' Chapter | Southeast Ohio Loggers' Chapter |
| National Wild Turkey Federation | Southeastern Ohio Woodlands Interest Group |
| Northeast Ohio Loggers' Chapter | Southern Ohio Forestlands Association |
| Northeastern Ohio Forestry Association | Southern Ohio Loggers' Chapter |
| Northwest Ohio Forestry Association | Southwestern Ohio Woodland Owners Association |
| Oak Openings Region Greenspace Initiative | Steel Valley Loggers' Chapter |
| Ohio Association of Consulting Foresters | The Buckeye Forest Council |

Ohio Christmas Tree Growers Association
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation
Ohio Forestry Association
Ohio Audubon Society

The Nature Conservancy
Watershed Conservancy District Conference

(<http://www.dnr.state.oh.us/forestry/Education/infofacts.htm>)

Section 7

Threats to Ohio Forests

The State Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee has identified the following threats to Ohio's forestland and traditional forest uses. These include but are not limited to:

- Fragmentation, conversion, parcelization from development
- Influx of aggressive, non-native plant and animal species
- A lack of professional forest management plans.
- Surface mining
- Livestock grazing
- Insects and disease

Many of these threats can be addressed and managed through the use of conservation easements and management plans.

7.1 Development

As Ohio population grows (Map 22), the ownership pattern of Ohio's forests is becoming increasingly fragmented and the land is being developed (Map 23). As these changes continue, it will be more difficult to manage forests and forest wildlife resources. Acreage in the early stages of stand development or forest succession, and the wildlife populations dependent on these stages of succession, are declining as Ohio's forests mature (ODNR Division of Wildlife Strategic Plan 2001-2010).

With development pressure also comes changes in land values. It becomes increasingly difficult for private landowners and communities to resist converting land for development or make sound land use decisions when significant financial gains can be realized. All too often, simply breaking the land into smaller units for sale can result in land value far in excess of the timber value on large tracts of forestlands.

Land use and development in Ohio can be guided through a comprehensive land use plan and zoning to implement the plan. Unfortunately the region of Ohio where a majority of the forestland exists and most susceptible to conversion, is also the region of Ohio where land use plans or zoning are currently not in place and resisted. This helps fuel indiscriminant development and a lack of emphasis on resource/land management.

In addition to threats related to development, there are some management practices that are incompatible with maintaining the long-term viability of some forests. Lack of understanding by both landowners and the public at large create significant management challenges that could threaten the long-term health of Ohio's private forestland. As development increases the interface between "rural" and "urban" areas increases. This pattern brings social pressures on private forest owners to alter or stop their forest management practices. New residents often see the "wooded landscape" as their view-shed and attempt to stop timber harvesting. In some cases, cities have passed "shade tree ordinances" that are so broad that it precludes the management of forests that may be within the city limits. This is especially significant in areas where cities have an aggressive annexation policy that may take forestland into the city limits.

The trend in Ohio has been for townships and more rural areas experiencing population growth (2002 U.S. Census). Although Ohio's population has only grown 6.5% from 1970-2000, population in townships has increased 26.8%. More people are leaving the cities for the more rural areas of the townships. This trend will continue to add development pressure to the rural areas.

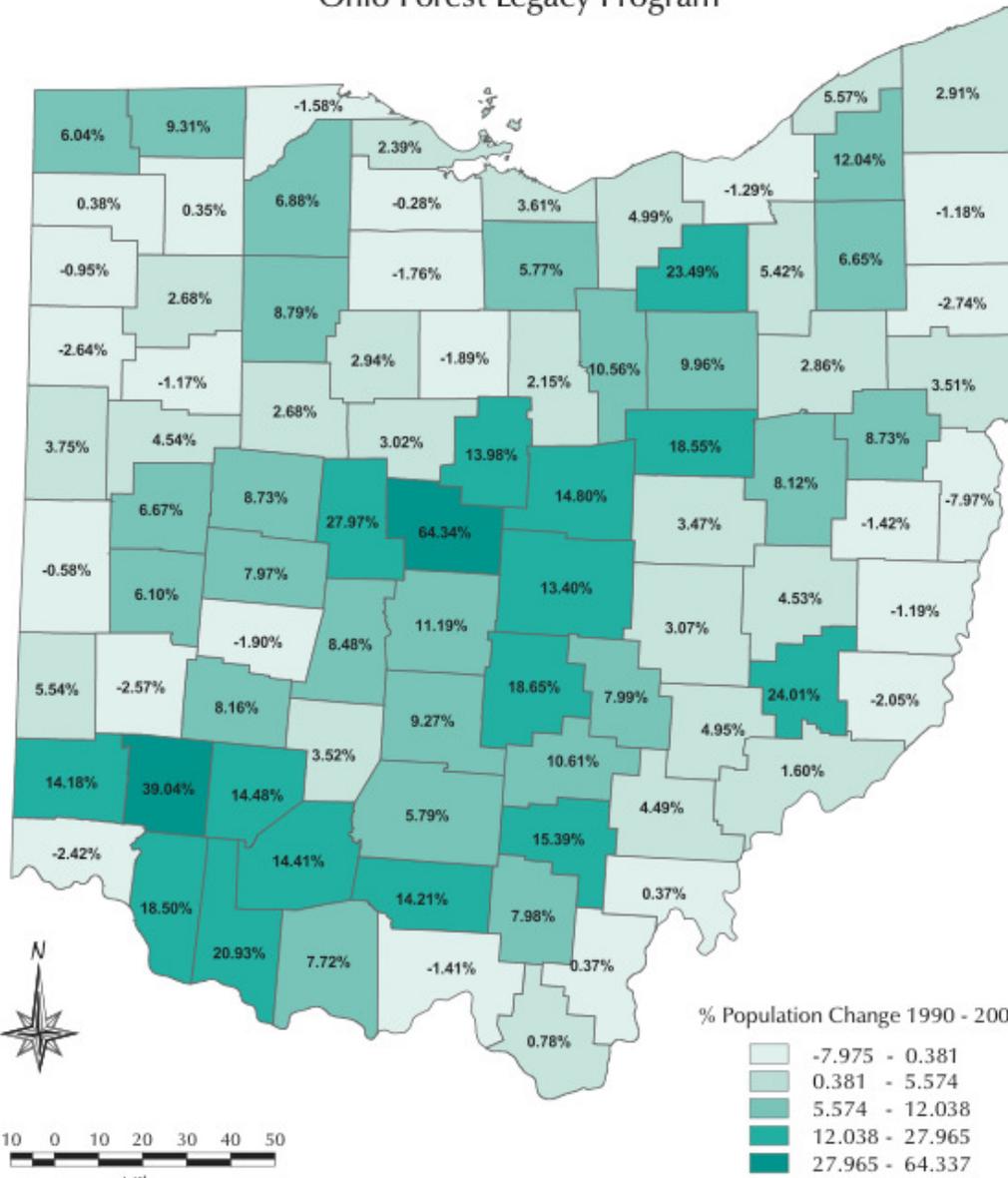
An aging Ohio population and broader sociological changes may compound population shifts. The population in many of Ohio's rural areas is aging and younger generations are less inclined to maintain family ownership as they migrate to urban centers, reflecting a national trend. Non-industrial owners of private forest are unlikely to be immune from this larger trend, meaning changing ownership patterns.

Retirement and more affluent lifestyle of baby boomers are often cited as a driving force behind the increase in second-home development. New highways make access to previously rural areas faster and easier. In particular U.S. 33 through southeast Ohio is currently undergoing major by-pass and re-design around Lancaster and possibly Nelsonville Ohio. As a result, access to the "scenic wooded hills of Southeast Ohio " will be much more convenient from Columbus, adding development pressure to the primary forested region of the state.

These factors, coupled with the economic consideration mentioned above, may be behind the trend of increasing parcelization of forests into smaller tracts. Because development and parcelization is occurring in many areas, and are not necessarily limited to areas of denser population concentrations, the threat of development of a particular tract is recognized in the criteria for prioritizing parcels for consideration by Ohio's Forest Legacy Program.

1990 - 2000 Population Growth

Ohio Forest Legacy Program

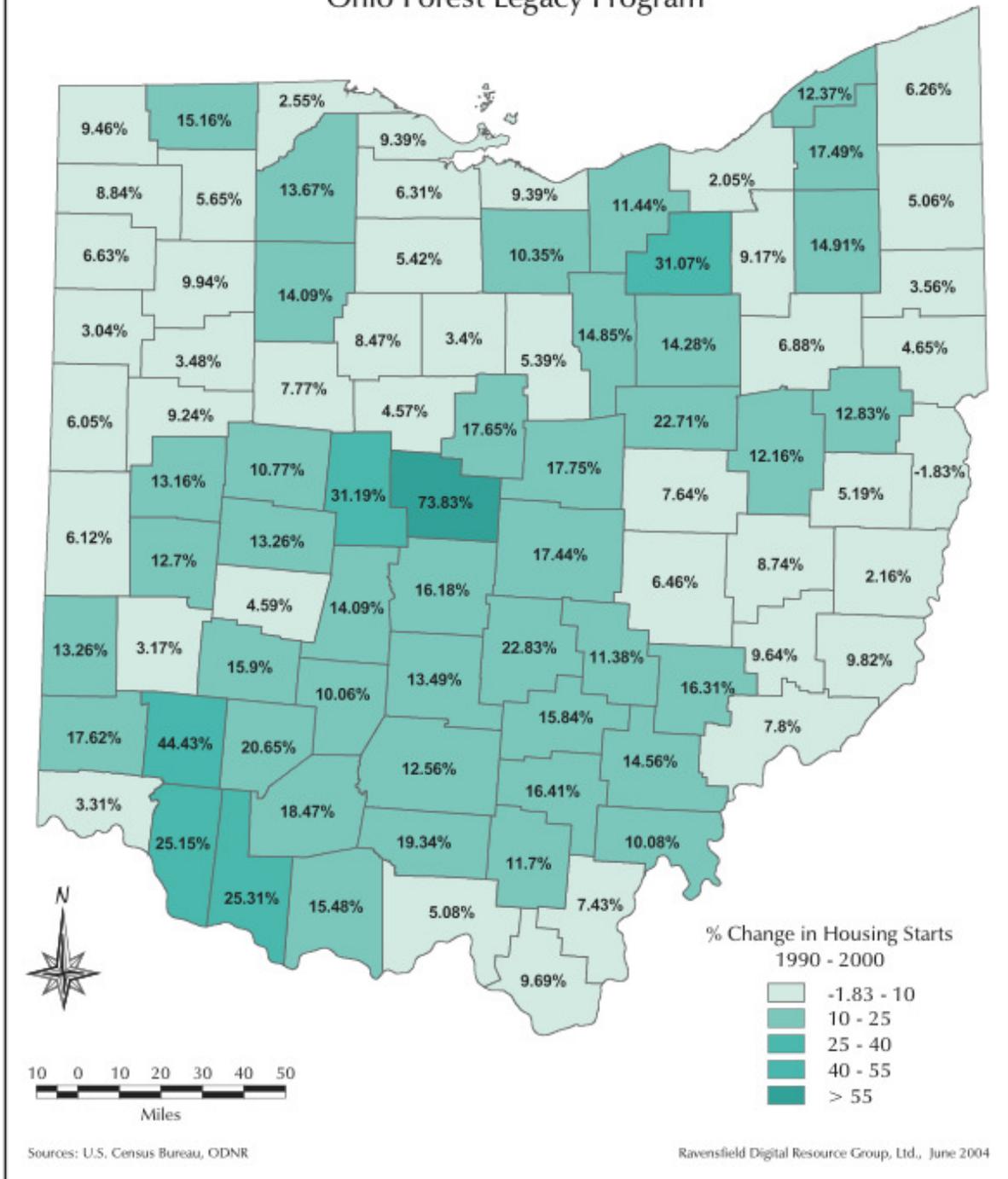


Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, ODNR

Ravensfield Digital Resource Group, Ltd., June 2004

Map 21. 1990-2000 Population Growth

Percent Change in Housing Starts 1990 - 2000 Ohio Forest Legacy Program



Map 22. Percent Change in Housing Starts 1990-2000

7.2 Mining

Coal and other industrial minerals have been an important economic resource in Ohio since the early 1800's. The existence of coal in Ohio was noted as early as 1748. As the coal industry grew, mining methods changed rapidly. Large-scale surface mining started in the 1940's and is now a major method of mining coal in Ohio. Starting in 1800, 3.6 billion tons of coal has been mined in Ohio. This tonnage consists of 2.2 billion tons produced from underground mines and 1.4 billion tons from surface mines. Land that is to be surface mined must be stripped of its vegetation and soil to expose the coal. Post-mining reclamation methods have improved in recent years, but whether or not reclaimed areas will ever regain the soil and forest productivity of the pre-mining condition remains largely uncertain. As surface mining areas expand, the opportunities for sustainable forest management shrink accordingly.

Belmont County is the all-time leader in coal production in Ohio. More than 797 million tons have been produced from this county since 1816. In 2000, Belmont County led the state in coal production as it has in most years, mining nearly 6 million tons. The second and third highest coal-producing counties historically are Harrison and Jefferson, followed by Perry, Athens, Tuscarawas, Guernsey, Meigs, Muskingum, and Noble Counties (ODNR Division of Geological Survey GeoFacts # 14). See map 23 for the location of Ohio's major zones of surface mining.

For Ohio's Forest Legacy Program, one important aspect is the ownership of subsurface mineral rights. Where the forest landowner does not control subsurface rights, and significant surface disturbance is a possibility, land will not be considered for eligibility.



Map 23. Major Zones of Surface Mining

Section 8

Forest Legacy Program Need

8.1 Summary

Ohio's forests are of incredible value to the people, wildlife, plants and other organisms that live in and travel through the state. A variety of forest ecosystems provide habitat for common and rare species and resting places for migrating species moving through the state. They are also crucial for maintaining the quality of surface and ground water. Forest products from Ohio are significant in the domestic and global marketplace in terms of volume and quality. The forest products industry is a sizeable component of Ohio's economy and the local economy of many communities depend on revenue generated by forest-based outdoor recreation. Many people working in public agencies and private commercial enterprises depend on the public forests and the timber products industry for employment.

The forests of Ohio are also under significant threat in some regions of the state. Though the total area of forested land has increased throughout the Twentieth Century through reforestation of areas that had been cleared for agriculture and mining, current trends of urban sprawl and second-home development are resulting in increased loss and parcelization of forests

While many efforts are currently underway to conserve Ohio's abundant natural resources, the conversion of forests to development, parcelization, invasive species, unsustainable timber management practices and forest fragmentation continue to be threats. The Forest Legacy Program offers a unique opportunity to protect and conserve working forests. This is a niche that has yet to be filled in Ohio. The FLP offers Ohio a chance to protect current large tracts, tie together fragmented parcels and provide additional tools to address the associated problems. The FLP provides a tool for the coordination of land management, forest consolidation, and significantly improve the overall health of Ohio's environment in addition to sustaining Ohio's economy and overall quality of life.

For these reasons, the lead agency determined that the FLP in Ohio would focus on the protection of working forests. In making this determination, the lead agency applied the guiding principle that working forests would be professionally managed under a forest management plan that would incorporate timber harvesting as a management tool. Working Forests do provide other environmental benefits including, rare wildlife and plant habitat, and improve air and water quality. In addition there would be a direct economic benefit to the landowner and State of Ohio.

In the context of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program, the Forest Stewardship Committee has developed definitions for the following terms:

Working forest: *A forest with a management plan stating clearly identified management goals that incorporate timber harvesting as an essential management tool.*

Traditional forest uses: *Consumptive and non-consumptive forest based activities that historically occurred on or are associated with managed forestland.*

Environmentally important forest: *Forestland of the size, composition and location such that it provides a higher level of environmental benefits than other forestland.*

Threatened forest: *Forestlands that are considered susceptible to conversion to non-forestland uses such as: residential/commercial/industrial development, speculation, ownership fragmentation, forest tax laws, and mineral rights.*

8.2 Goals of the Forest Legacy Program in Ohio

The mission of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program in Ohio as defined by the State Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee is to protect working forests. The goals of the program are to:

1. Protect working forests threatened by conversion to non-forest uses
2. Protect and enhance social/cultural values associated with forest uses
3. Improve/enhance biodiversity
4. Improve water quality and protect water quantity
5. Enhance economic productivity through traditional forest uses

8.3 Ohio Forest Legacy Program Objectives:

To achieve these goals, The FLP has the following Objectives:

1. Foster and connect large and intact forestland tracts.
2. Protect areas of social, recreational, cultural and historical significance.
3. Focus on the most ecologically significant areas of the state.
4. Support communities by focusing on conserving the most economically significant areas for forest related industries.

Objective 1. Foster and connect large and intact forestland tracts.

To meet this objective, a FLA should:

- Contain Public land
- Contain Private forestland
- Contain other Protected land (e.g. conservation easements, federal, state or other public land)
- Show a change in the number of housing units less than 20% over the past ten years and possess indicators of a continuing trend in this direction.

Objective 2. Protect areas of social, recreational, cultural and historical significance.

To meet this objective, a FLA should:

- Have a concentration of areas utilized for forest based recreation
- Contain significant historic sites
- Have areas significant to travel and tourism

Objective 3. Focus on the most ecologically significant areas of the state.

To meet this objective, a FLA should:

- Contain significant concentration of plants and animals as recorded in the Ohio National Heritage database
- Have forests that can or do contribute to improved water quality
- Contain concentrations of important bird areas as identified by the Ohio Audubon Society

Objective 4. Support communities by focusing on conserving the most economically significant areas for forest related activities and industries.

To meet this objective, a FLA should:

- Produce or have the potential to produce high dollar volume of timber and forest products
- Produce significant hunting opportunities
- Have forests that contribute significantly to the economic health of the community
- Provide forest based opportunities for tourism and recreation
- Provide opportunities for employment related to the forest industry

8.4 Eligibility Criteria for Forest Legacy Areas

To be eligible as an Ohio Forest Legacy Area, an area's forestland should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Likelihood of sustaining traditional forest management by exceeding the state average of 30% forest cover.
- Contain environmentally important forests that are threatened by present or future conversion to non-forest uses.
- Be an area of high timber resource productivity and dependency on forest products and outdoor recreation.
- Areas with low likelihood of having separated mineral rights that might be susceptible to surface mining.
- Contain areas of known historic, cultural and archaeological resources.
- Contain scenic resources and recreation opportunities.
- Contain wetlands, riparian areas, floodplains and/or areas of predominantly high groundwater recharge, and the likelihood of improving the quality and quantity of water resources.
- Contain habitat for known rare, endangered and threatened species.

Section 9

Proposed Forest Legacy Areas

9.1 Process for Identification of Forest Legacy Areas (FLA)

The State Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee determined that in addition to other selection criteria, potential FLAs would coincide with county lines to facilitate data collection, area description, government jurisdictions and program implementation.

The initial requirement of exceeding the state average of 30% forest cover was used as a primary filter. This eliminated nearly three-fourths of the state from consideration, based on forest cover alone. Those counties meeting the 30% threshold were identified and then over-laid with data on the change in the number of housing units during the past ten years and a review of factors that may continue or enhance the potential for development/conversion such as infrastructure development. In addition, threats of conversion from surface mining were also included in this filter.

Data on significant plants and animals from the Ohio Natural Heritage Database and Important Birding Areas was used as the primary environmental filter. Also considered was data on stream quality.

Timber production and the dependence on the timber industry was included by plotting the location of primary forest product businesses, that would serve as the first step in producing value added products. No data is available on specific dollar amounts or quantities of timber or other commodity level timber products on a county/regional basis.

Recreational land and opportunities were determined based on site maps of public and private lands open to the public for recreation.

After evaluating available data sources, only two factors proved to be effective filters for identifying FLAs,. Forest cover greater than 30% and a change in the number of housing units less than 20%.

PROPOSED FOREST LEGACY AREAS

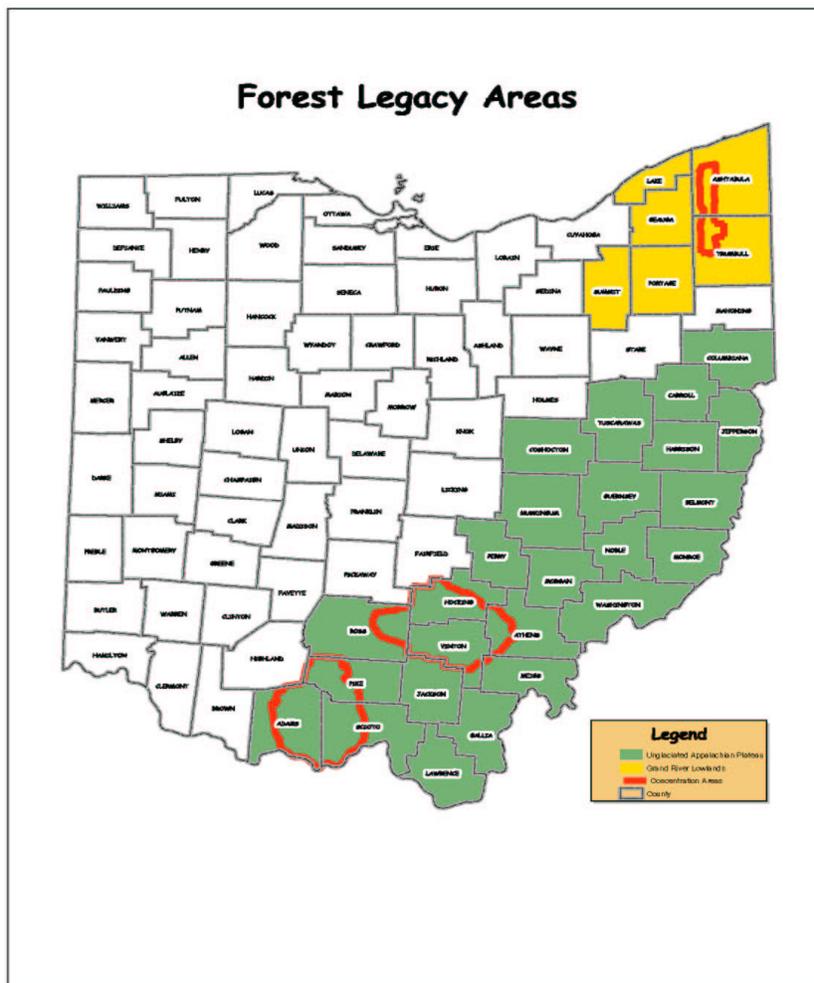
Based on the eligibility criteria listed above, two areas emerged as meeting the criteria and are recommended as Forest Legacy Areas.(map 25a.). The two areas are quite similar from the standpoint of meeting FLA criteria, but are different ecologically, geologically, and demographically. Although both FLAs contain non-forested areas, the Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau FLA is by far more rural, less populated, contains more public lands, and has a greater potential for protecting larger contiguous areas of private land.

The FLAs vary in size with the Grand River Lowlands encompassing six counties (Lake Ashtabula, Geauga, Summit, Portage and Trumbull) of 1.8 million acres and the Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau comprised of twenty-five counties (Columbiana, Carroll, Coshocton, Tuscarawas, Harrison, Jefferson, Muskingum, Guernsey, Belmont, Perry, Morgan, Noble, Monroe, Washington, Hocking, Athens, Vinton, Meigs, Ross, Jackson, Gallia, Pike, Adams, Scioto, and Lawrence) of 7.9 million acres.

Both FLAs meet the criteria of exceeding the state average of 30% forest cover: Grand River Lowlands has 38% and the Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau FLA has 59% forest cover.

The amount of public land also varies greatly between the FLAs. The Grand River Lowlands contains 115,00 acres or just over 1% of the total forested area, while the Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau contains 810,000 acres of public land or 11.2% of the total forested area. Except for the Wayne National Forest in the Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau and a portion of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in the southwest portion of the Grand River Lowlands, nearly all public land is owned and managed by the State of Ohio.

Map 24. Forest Legacy Areas



Identification of the Government Entity Assigned Management Responsibility:

The Forest Legacy Program in Ohio will be implemented through the State Grant Option. The State of Ohio will hold title to all conservation easement and any land that may be acquired in fee from willing sellers. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is the lead agency for the program in consultation with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

Means for Protection of Forest Legacy Area Projects:

1. Acquisition of parcels of forestland will be accomplished primarily through the use of conservation easements. However the State may consider fee acquisition as an additional method but only from a willing seller.
2. Acquire development rights on all parcels. Those rights include but are not limited to the right to construct buildings and other improvements, removal of forest and other vegetative cover for non-forest uses and control all utility right-of ways. All future utilities shall be placed underground.
3. The management of timber rights retained by the landowner shall be managed under the terms of a Forest Management Plan as prescribed by the Ohio Division of Forestry.
4. Forest land must be enrolled in and meet the requirements of the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program.
5. Restrict mineral exploration, including oil and gas, to the extent that it will not impact the land surface in a manner that would negate the intent of the program.
6. Prohibit the disposal of solid, hazardous or construction and demolition waste on the property.
7. Prohibit the use of signs or billboards, except those signs necessary to identify the area as being part of the FLP, to designate easement boundaries or to promote the forest products or management associated with the property.
8. Existing dams or impoundments may be allowed but all new structures or impoundments shall be mutually agreed to by both the grantor and grantee.
9. Each conservation easement shall contain appropriate clauses to address the goals and objectives of the Forest Legacy Area.

9.2 Forest Legacy Area Descriptions

Forest Legacy Area 1 –Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau.

The Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau FLA consists of 25 counties making up the southeastern and east central regions of Ohio and includes the following counties: Columbiana, Carroll, Tuscarawas, Jefferson, Coshocton, Harrison, Belmont, Guernsey, Muskingum, Noble, Monroe, Washington, Morgan, Perry, Hocking, Athens, Meigs, Vinton, Ross, Pike, Jackson, Gallia, Lawrence, Scioto, Adams.

This is a region of deep valleys, and high hills representing the most “rugged” portion of Ohio topographically, with some hills-tops reaching 1,400 feet above sea level. This area represents one of the most scenic regions of the state due in large part to the sandstone bedrock outcroppings throughout the region forming cliffs, caves, high-walls and scenic gorges.

The Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau is comprised of three predominant forest types, associated with the elevations and geology of the region; Lowland forests, Mixed Mesophytic forests and Upland mixed oak forests. The severe topography, infertile soils, inaccessibility and variety of forest types has resulted in this region being relatively undeveloped and the predominant region in the state for forest related industry and recreation.

This FLA encompasses an area of 7.9 million acres. The area possesses public land holdings of 810,000 acres, represented primarily by the Wayne National Forest, several state forests, state parks, state nature preserves and wildlife areas. But, private ownership still accounts for 89.8 percent of the landholdings within the region, creating a significant potential market for the Forest Legacy Program. This combination provides an excellent opportunity to develop larger contiguous tracts of protected forestland through Forest Legacy easements in combination with public land already protected. This proposed FLA has 59.3 % forest cover and represents the highest forest cover region in the state, nearly twice the state average.

No data is available to document the county-by-county economic importance of the forest products industry of this region or any county in Ohio. Traditionally and anecdotally this area has served as a primary source of forest products, timber and the location of related businesses, such as sawmills and wood products manufacturing. As indicated on Map 5, a majority of Ohio's major sawmills are located within or in close proximity of this FLA.

Two areas of preference have been designated within this FLA. These areas of preference will connect groups of state owned working forests and support a forest habitat strategic plan created by the ODNR-Division of Wildlife. These areas are wholly contained in the Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau FLA and can be described narratively as: 1) **Pike, Brush Creek, Shawnee State Forests Concentration Area** - Starting at the intersection of SR 41 and the Ross-Pike County line, proceed west along the Ross-Pike County line to its intersection with SR 772, proceed southerly on SR 772 to its intersection with US 32, proceed easterly on US 32 to its intersection with SR 104, proceed southerly on SR 104 to its intersection with SR 239, then proceed southerly on SR 239 to its intersection with US 52, then proceed westerly on US 52 to its intersection with SR 247, proceed northerly on SR 247 to its intersection with SR 770, proceed northeasterly on SR 770 to its intersection with SR 73, proceed northerly on SR 73 to the Adam-Highland County line, proceed easterly on the Adam-Highland County line to the Pike County Line, proceed northerly along the Pike-Highland County line to the intersection with the Pike-Ross County line, proceed east along the Pike-Ross County line to the point of origin, and 2) **Hocking, Zaleski, Tar Hollow State Forests Concentration Area** - Starting at the Hocking County Line, proceed southeasterly on US 33 to its intersection with SR 682, proceed southerly on SR 682 to its intersection with US 33, then proceed southerly on US 33 to its intersection with US 50, then proceed southwesterly on US 50 to its intersection with SR 32, then proceed southwesterly on SR 32 to its intersection with the Vinton-Jackson County Line, follow the Vinton-Jackson County line to its intersection with the Ross County Line, follow the Ross-Vinton County Line north to its intersection with US 50, proceed west on US 50 to its intersection with US 35, then proceed northwesterly to its intersection with US 23, then proceed north on US 23 to its intersection with SR 159, then proceed northwesterly on SR 159 to its intersection with SR 180, then proceed eastwardly to its intersection with the Ross-Pickaway County line, proceed east along the Ross-Pickaway County line to its intersection with the Hocking-Pickaway County line, proceed north along the Hocking-Pickaway County line to its intersection with the Hocking-Fairfield County line, follow this line north, then east to the point of origin.

Important Environmental Values

The Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau is one of the most ecologically significant and diverse regions in Ohio. This region serves as an “ecological mixing zone” of both southern species such as the Big leaf Magnolia as well as northern species, Hemlock, which can be found growing in the same ravine.

Three primary watersheds make up this region, The Muskingum, Hocking and Scioto. Unfortunately, even with limited industrial discharges, these primary watersheds have been impacted primarily through non-point pollution as well as acid mine drainage. Significant improvement in water quality has been made in the last ten years. Protecting riparian and up-land forested areas will help in the effort to improve water quality for these main stems as well as their tributaries.

The Ohio Audubon Society has designated eight major areas within the proposed FLA as Important Birding Areas (Map 10). These areas are primarily forested areas and provide important breeding areas as well as stopover areas for migrant species. Map 8. Shows the concentration of Unique Plant and Animal Communities for this region as collected by the State Natural Heritage Program.

This area provides the greatest opportunity for the protection of large, contiguous tracts of forest land.

Public Benefits:

The public will benefit from this area being designated as an FLA in a number of ways.

- Maintain the state’s largest and intact forestland properties currently held in private ownership.
- Conserve tracts with high or potentially high timber resource productivity and other forest related product potential to enhance the local and state economy.
- Protect those forested areas that support critical ecosystems, important birding areas, and habitat for rare, endangered or threatened species.
- Protect those forested areas that are adjacent or in close proximity to public or privately protected forestland in an effort to establish a large critical mass of protected working forests.
- Protect forested riparian corridors within the Muskingum, Hocking and Scioto river watersheds, especially in the headwaters and higher quality tributaries to maximize water quality.
- Enhance potential recreational opportunities by working with private landowners to provide some public access (by permission only) to forestlands under an FL easement.

FLA Objectives:

The Unglaciated Appalachian Plateau Forest Legacy Area has specific objectives as follows:

1. **Foster and connect large and intact forestland tracts.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: connect large existing tracts of working public forest land;
 - b. FLA Specific Objective: contribute towards ODNR-Division of Wildlife forest habitat focus areas.

2. **Protect areas of social, recreational, cultural and historical significance.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: foster a range of forested habitats on private lands that may be accessible for hunting or passive pursuits such as wildlife viewing.
 - b. FLA Specific Objective: foster working forest land that provides a backdrop to recreation/tourism in the area.
3. **Focus on the most ecologically significant areas of the state.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: support The Nature Conservancy efforts in the Allegheny Plateau due to its ecological significance.
4. **Support communities by focusing on conserving the most economically significant areas for forest related industries.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: protect and expand the working forest resource.

Means for Protection:

The primary means of protection will be the acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers that will include the previously mentioned Means of Protection for FLA projects. Fee acquisition of properties from willing sellers will be considered on a case by case basis.

Forest Legacy Area 2- Grand River Lowlands

The Grand River Lowlands Forest Legacy Area is comprised of six counties in the northeastern corner of Ohio: Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, Trumbull, Portage, Summit.

In contrast to the Unglaciaded Appalachian Plateau FLA, the Grand River Lowlands is located within the glaciaded portion of Ohio, characterized by a gently rolling to relatively flat, poorly drained landscape. Several counties within this proposed area make-up the shoreline for Lake Erie.

The Grand River Lowlands FLA consists of 1.8 million total acres. The area encompasses several highly populated counties yet over 684,000 acres or 38% is forest. Of these, approximately 115,000 acres or just over 1% are under public ownership. This represents a significant opportunity for the protection of private woodlands.

In addition, this proposed FLA is the primary maple syrup producing region of the state. This culturally and economically important forest industry is dependent on the numerous “sugar bushes” prominent throughout this region helping Ohio rank fourth in the nation for maple syrup production. This area supports an important forest product and value-added wood industry, Map 5-6. There is a significant Amish population in portions of this region operating sawmills as well as furniture manufacturing, and woodcrafts businesses serving as an important economic driver and tourist attraction in this area

An area of preference has been designated within this area. The area of preference encompasses an area of interest to The Nature Conservancy and the ODNR-Division of Wildlife and will support their efforts to link other “protected” properties in the Grand River Lowlands. This area is wholly contained in the Grand River Lowlands FLA and can be described as: Starting at the intersection of SR 534 and SR 307, proceed easterly on SR 307 to its intersection with SR 45, proceed south on SR 45 to its intersection with SR 87, proceed east on SR 87 to its intersection with SR 46, proceed southerly on SR 46 to its intersection with SR 88, proceed west on SR 88 to its intersection with SR 45, proceed south on SR 45 to its intersection

with SR 305, proceed westerly on SR 305 to its intersection with SR 534, proceed north on SR 534 to the point of origin.

Important Environmental Values

While there are numerous streams and rivers in the region, the Cuyahoga, Chagrin, Grand, Conneaut and Ashtabula are the major watersheds containing a higher percent of wooded areas. Three of the streams have been designated by ODNR as State Scenic Rivers (Cuyahoga, Chagrin, and the Grand). Map 8 shows the significant number of Unique Animal and Plant Communities as determined by the Ohio Natural Heritage Program, located throughout the proposed FLA. In addition there are seven Audubon Society Important Birding Areas located within the six county FLA.

A portion of the 33,000 acre Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor is within the FLA along the Cuyahoga River. This is the largest tract of forest cover in the region being permanently protected. The city of Akron Division of Water is another primary landholder in the region. Over 3,000 acres of predominantly forested land is protected around LaDue Reservoir to help protect the watershed and water supply for the city of Akron and surrounding municipalities.

This FLA also serves as the shoreline for Lake Erie. While much of the shoreline has been developed, the Water quality of Lake Erie can benefit from the protection/restoration of timbered stream corridors. Privately held, wooded tracts often associated with the riparian corridor of the region's streams characterize the Grand River Lowlands.

Public benefits:

The public will benefit from this area being designated as an FLA in a number of ways:

- Establish an initial "foothold" of protected working forestlands to serve as a catalyst for developing larger tracts of protected forestland.
- Complement the coordinated effort to connect public land and existing conservation easements in the Grand River watershed.
- Complement and expand through protected private land, existing large tracts of public owned forestland such as the Cuyahoga Valley Recreational Area, LaDue Reservoir and state owned land adjacent to the Grand River.
- Conserve tracts that provide or have the potential to provide high quality timber resources, and other forest products to support local forest products businesses, Amish businesses/tourism and the statewide economy from forest related products.
- Ensure continuation of the culturally and economically important maple syrup industry through the protection of "sugar bushes" prevalent in this region.
- Protect and enhance high quality streams with particular focus on the Grand, Upper Cuyahoga, Chagrin, Conneaut and Ashtabula Rivers that will provide additional water quality benefits to Lake Erie.
- Protect significant ecosystems and Important Birding Areas through the expansion of protected working forests and other privately held land owned and managed by local land conservancies and other land protection organizations.
- Coordinate with local land trusts and other land conservation entities seeking partnership opportunities to protect working forests.

FLA Objectives:

The Grand River Lowlands Forest Legacy Area has specific objectives as follows:

1. **Foster and connect large and intact forestland tracts.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: connect large existing tracts of working public forest land;
 - b. FLA Specific Objective: contribute towards ODNR-Division of Wildlife, et al efforts to connect protected land in the Grand River riparian area.
2. **Protect areas of social, recreational, cultural and historical significance.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: maintain quality stream and near stream habitats to support forest and river recreation in the FLA.
3. **Focus on the most ecologically significant areas of the state.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: support ODNR-Division of Wildlife efforts in the Grand River Lowlands due to its ecological significance.
4. **Support communities by focusing on conserving the most economically significant areas for forest related industries.**
 - a. FLA Specific Objective: protect and expand the working forest resource.

Means for Protection:

The primary means of protection will be the acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers that will include the previously mentioned Means of Protection for FLA projects. Fee acquisition of properties from willing sellers will be considered on a case by case basis.

Section 10

Implementing Forest Legacy in Ohio

10.1 Overview

The Forest Legacy Program provides Ohio a powerful new tool to help keep working forests an important part of Ohio's future environment, economy and quality of life for all of its citizens. Through conservation easements coupled with forest stewardship management plans, landowners can be assured of retaining the right to earn income from their forests, control access, and help maintain ecological values, while protecting the land from conversion to non forest uses.

The Ohio Division of Forestry (DOF) will hold all conservation easements acquired through the FLP, although some monitoring responsibilities may be shared with partner agencies or organizations. In those limited situations where fee title interests are acquired, the State of Ohio will hold title and be responsible for land management activities.

When Ohio becomes enrolled in the FLP, projects will be selected and funded on a voluntary and competitive basis. Interested landowners would submit a non-binding application that gives pertinent information on the property's resources and estimated value. Once a year, the Ohio DOF will review applications with the SFSCC ranking projects based on the objectives of the program. Ohio's proposed projects would then be evaluated against other projects in the USFS's Midwest Region and nationally.

Under Federal land acquisition requirements, an independent appraisal meeting federal appraisal standards for real property or interests in real property (conservation easements) must be completed and reviewed. The landowner must be informed of the outcome of that appraisal. The FLP requires 25% non-federal cost share funds for all projects. The non-federal cost share of the project costs can come from state, local, or private sources or landowner donation. The time cycle for a FLP project to be completed may take as long as four years.

10.2 Forest Legacy Project Selection Criteria

FLP Projects will be selected competitively on the basis of meeting the criteria outlined below. An Ohio DOF staff person will assist landowners with an initial evaluation of their land, deciding whether or not to apply, and completing the necessary application materials. Each project must demonstrate the following criteria in order to be eligible for the program.

10.3 Project Requirements

1. **FLA Area Inclusion:** The proposed property boundary must lie, at least in part, within a defined Forest Legacy Area.
2. **Willing Landowner:** Written expression of interest must be received from the landowner stating their willingness to participate.
3. **Conservation Easement Condition:** Conservation easement terms must be clearly consistent with FLP guidelines. Landowners must either own subsurface rights or have formal assurance that major surface disruption is not possible.
4. **Forest Stewardship Plan:** The landowner must be committed to compliance with a Forest Stewardship Plan.

5. **Financial Leverage:** At least 25% of the project costs must be secured from non-federal cash, landowner donation or in-kind sources.
6. **Readiness:** The current status of project development and the preferred timeline for transaction completion should be clearly stated.
7. **Current Agricultural Use Value Program:** The proposed property must be enrolled, or eligible for enrollment with an application in progress.
8. **County Commissioner Resolution:** The landowner must seek a resolution from the County Commissioners in favor of the project. If no resolution is received within 60 days of the written request, an affirmative resolution will be assumed.

10.3.1 Project Evaluation Criteria

In addition, Ohio DOF and the SFSCC will evaluate potential projects on the basis of the following evaluation criteria. These criteria will be used to prioritize between competing projects.

1. **Degree of threat:** Priority will be given to properties that have a high degree of threat from development or parcelization. This will be assessed through location, size, suitability for development, road frontage, access to utilities, and growth dynamics of the area and mineral rights ownership. Areas with a likelihood of surface mining will not be considered.
2. **Forest resource economic benefits:** Priority will be given to properties that are likely to have significant forest resource economic benefits. This will be assessed through forest and soil productivity, size of parcel, site index, history of forest management, forest conditions (stocking, maturity, etc.) access to property, access to markets, proximity to related forest product industries.
3. **Scenic and outdoor recreation benefits:** Priority will be given to properties that are likely to have significant scenic and outdoor recreation benefits. This will be assessed through; conveyed access rights (if any), important scenic resources and view-shed benefits, proximity to public land, trails, or waters, and other potential economic benefits derived from outdoor recreation.
4. **Water quality and watershed protection:** Priority will be given to properties that are likely to have significant water quality and watershed protection benefits. This will be assessed through importance of the watershed for aquatic biodiversity, presence of high quality streams, wetland and riparian resources, benefits to municipal water source or recharge area.
5. **Ecological values:** Priority will be given to properties that are likely to have significant ecological values. This will be assessed through the presence of rare or important forest types, important wildlife habitat / plant communities, proximity to ecologically important areas, habitat for declining or endangered species, or that complements a landscape level strategic plan (e.g. ODNR-Division of Wildlife forest focus areas or The Nature Conservancy's strategic plan for the Western Allegheny Plateau).
6. **Community support:** Priority will be given to properties that have a demonstrated base of community support, committed matching funds, and partnership involvement.
7. **Historical or cultural resources:** Priority will be given to properties that have or benefit historical or cultural resources.
8. **Educational opportunities and other important values:** Priority will be given to projects that provide for forestry and/or environmental educational opportunities

and/or provide for important values not adequately represented in the other criteria.

9. **FLA Specific Objectives** Priority will be given to projects that best fulfill the FLA specific objectives.

10.3.2 Project Selection Process

Project proposals will be identified through a periodic request process. While the details for the project identification and selection process are not yet final, the basic components will include:

- Application by the landowner (See Appendix E for a Draft Application and Project Evaluation Sheet)
- Meeting with an Ohio DOF program Coordinator to evaluate proposal
- Prioritization of all eligible projects by the SFSCC
- Submittal of prioritized projects by Ohio DOF to USFS
- Review of all projects by the USFS and inclusion of recommended projects to Congress as part of the President's budget.
- Congressional Appropriations
- Preparation of transaction (agreeing on conservation easement terms and purchase price)
- Completion of transaction (recording of deeds, payment to landowner)

Ohio DOF will be responsible for communicating with interested landowners and assisting them in understanding the program (although it is recommended that landowners seek legal and tax counsel while reviewing conservation easement language). Projects that meet federal requirements for pass-through projects (e.g. projects where a non-profit land trust purchases and holds properties or easements on a temporary basis prior to state acquisition) will be considered under the Ohio FLP only if they are done at the request of the state.

10.3.3 Means for Protection of Forest Legacy Area Tracts

The resource values and goals for the FLP will be achieved through the acquisition of property rights as detailed below. The terms of each acquisition, whether in full-fee interest or a conservation easement, will be subject to negotiation and on a willing seller-willing buyer basis. The framework below is intended as a guide—all acquisitions are subject to approval by the DOF, USFS, and the landowner.

1. Acquisition of full fee interest is appropriate for tracts within all the FLAs but acquisition of conservation easements is preferred. Full fee interest acquisition is most appropriate on tracts that have significant recreational and/or ecological value.
2. Acquire development rights on all tracts, especially the rights to subdivide, construct buildings, and utilize the property for non-compatible use (e.g. landfill). Subdivision to correct minor boundary disagreements should be permissible.
3. Timber harvesting will be actively encouraged but shall be conditioned upon:
 - a. Compliance with a Forest Stewardship Plan approved by the Division of Forestry
 - b. Compliance with and all applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- c. Compliance with all applicable laws and regulations
 - d. Properties that have received green certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative or the Forest Stewardship Council will be considered if they meet the intent of the FLP and all eligible criteria.
4. No disposal of waste or hazardous material will be allowed on properties.
 5. Prohibit the use of signs and billboards on all properties, except to state the name and address of the property owner, safety concerns, sale of forest products from the property, access restrictions, and/or provide Forest Legacy information.
 6. Existing dams or water impoundments or similar structures may be allowed to remain and be maintained. New impoundments shall be agreed upon prior to finalizing the conservation easement.
 7. Industrial, commercial, and residential development, except those used in conjunction with on-site traditional forest uses, is prohibited.
 8. Control the mineral rights in a manner that extraction will not significantly disturb the surface features of the property.
 9. The conservation easement may be amended upon mutual approval by the grantor and grantee so long that it does not diminish the conservation values of the property.

Section 11

Public Involvement

As part of the Forest Legacy Program, and as listed in the Federal Forest Legacy Guidelines, the public has a role in determining how the FLP will be developed and what criteria will be used to prioritize the projects that receive consideration.

The goals of the public involvement process included providing information to stakeholders about the FLP, eliciting concerns, suggestions, and comments about Ohio's involvement in the FLP, and to promote forest stewardship. To this end, a wide array of potential stakeholders were invited to a series of meetings at different locations around the State. These included Findlay, Burton, Barnesville, Lebanon, New Philadelphia, Columbus, and Chillicothe (Appendix E).

All elected county, state and federal officials were notified via mail that their county was being considered for inclusion as a Forest Legacy Area.

In addition, general information about the Forest Legacy Program and the Assessment of Need (AON), a list of meeting dates and locations were posted on a project website located on the web at www.ohioforestlegacy.com.

After a draft of the AON was prepared, it was posted on the project website. Comments were accepted and changes to the document were made, where applicable.

Overall, any comments about Ohio's involvement in the FLP were positive. One county in the Southern Allegheny FLA has raised a question regarding the potential acquisition of FL land by the U.S. Forest Service. They believe land under the FL program may be more attractive for acquisition by the U.S. Forest Service. This county has over 70% of their land in public ownership primarily the Wayne National Forest. The concern is the additional loss to the local property tax base. A representative from the ODNR met with the County Commissioners to address their concern. Basically, a landowner has the right to sell their property to any buyer, including the government. In deference to this concern, a requirement for a resolution in favor of the project is now a project requirement (see section 10.3). No other negative comments on the intent of the program have been voiced.

Notes from selected meetings, see Appendix E.

Section 12

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank everyone who provided data, comments and input during the production of this Assessment of Need. Additionally, we would like to give our utmost appreciation to the Ohio Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee for their perseverance in the definition and selection of Forest Legacy Criteria and Areas. Thank you also to Karen Sykes and Deirdre Raimo USFS for their assistance, counsel and support.

Section 13 References

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Appendix A
Stewardship Advisory Committee Members

Appendix A
Stewardship Advisory Committee Members

Name	Organization
Thomas Berger	Ohio Division of Forestry
Mike Bowden	ODNR-Forestry
Todd Brace	USDA-FSA State Office
Rich Cappell	Ohio Division of Forestry
Charles Cooley	OH Fed. of Soil and Water Cons. District
Lee Crocker	ODNR-Division of Forestry
Dennis DeWeese	Heart of Ohio RC&D
Colin Donahue	Rural Action Forestry Dept.
John Dorka	Ohio Division of Forestry
Mark Ervin	Ohio Division of Forestry
Richard Harwood	Dale W. Riddle Forest Products
John Hazel	USDA-Forest Service
Randall Heiligmann	Ohio State University Extension
Jarel Hilton	Ohio Chapter, The Nature Conservancy
Julia Hinders	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Serv.
Christine Hodgson	Ohio Tree Farm Committee
Martin Joyce	Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Mike Jurkiewicz	ODNR-Division of Forestry
Gary Kaster	AEP
John Kessler	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Robert Kyle	Ohio Chapter, Sierra Club
Bill Lawhon	Ohio Tree Farm Program
Gregg Maxfield	Ohio Division of Forestry
Luke Miller	Division of Wildlife
Les Ott	Association of Consulting Foresters
Ryan Redoutey	Redoutey Logging
Bob Romig	Ohio Forestry Association
Eric Roush	MeadWestVaCo Corporation
Kathy Smith	Ohio State University Extension
Jim Sprague	Buckeye Trail Association
Nancy Strayer	Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Karen Sykes	USDA-Forest Service
David White	Ohio Farm Bureau

Appendix B

Governor's Designation Letter

**Appendix B
Governor's Designation Letter**



GEORGE V. VOINOVICH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COLUMBUS 43266-0601

June 16, 1993

Mr. F. Dale Robertson, Chief
USDA-Forest Service
14th & Independence, S.W.
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Dear Chief Robertson:

Pursuant to the guidelines prepared for the Forest Legacy Program, I am designating Ohio's state forestry agency as the state lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program. Please send any future information pertaining to the Forest Legacy Program to:

Ronald G. Abraham, Chief
ODNR, Division of Forestry
4383 Fountain Square, B-3
Columbus, OH 43224

I believe the Forest Legacy Program and the federal, state, local, and private partnership that this program will promote will complement other programs within the state and will better enable us to protect and manage our valuable forest resources today and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "George V. Voinovich".

George V. Voinovich
Governor

GVV/sas

Appendix C

Draft Application and Project Evaluation Sheet

3. County Auditor's tax record of applicant forest

Parcel No.

Acres

<u>Parcel No.</u>	<u>Acres</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. For the total number of acres listed in question #3 above, indicate the number of acres of the following types:

_____ Forest
_____ Cropland
_____ Pasture
_____ Orchard
_____ Christmas tree
_____ Pine Plantation
_____ Sugar Bush
_____ Other (please specify)

5. Is there currently a mortgage(s) or lien(s) on the property?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, provide name, address, and telephone number for each mortgage or lien holder:

6. Are there any restrictive covenants, leases or easements on the property, such as the following:

_____ Mineral leases
_____ Wetland Reserve Program
_____ Utility easements
_____ Conservation easements
_____ Other (please specify)

7. Is the land currently enrolled in CAUV _____ or Ohio Forest Tax Law Program _____?

8. Has the application been signed by **all** the landowners of the property or their authorized representative?

Yes _____ No _____

9. If this application covers more than one parcel, are the parcels contiguous?	Yes ___ No ___ Not Applicable (forest is one parcel) ___
10. If the answer to question #9 above is "Yes," are all parcels held by the same legal entity?	Yes ___ No ___ Not Applicable (forest is one parcel) ___
11. Is the entire Forest included in this application? (Note: No portion of the applicant forest may be omitted from the applicant forest)	Yes ___ No ___
12. Are the subsurface mineral rights owned by the landowner(s)	Yes ___ No ___
13. Is there currently a forest management or similar plan on the applicant forest? If yes, who created the plan and for what purpose(s)/objective(s)? (e.g. Tree Farm Program)	Yes ___ No ___ _____ _____
14. Is the forest located in an area that is currently addressed by a regional or area conservation land use plan?	Yes ___ No ___ Please specify _____ _____
15. Is the landowner(s) willing to allow the forest to be managed as a working forest*? <i>*A forest with a management plan stating clearly identified management goals that incorporate timber harvesting as an essential management tool.</i>	Yes ___ No ___
16. Is the forest currently used for any cultural/recreational activities (such as hunting, education, etc.)	Yes ___ No ___ Please specify _____ _____
17. Is the public allowed access to the property? If yes, for what purpose? (e.g. hunting with permission)	Yes ___ No ___ _____ _____
18. Please indicate the timber volume of the forest (if known).	_____
19. Please indicate the availability of the land for the following activities: • Fee Purchase Yes ___ No ___ • Conservation Easement Yes ___ No ___	
20. Please indicate the percent of land value you may be willing to donate. (all projects must have a minimum 25% match from some source) _____	

Land Features

Traditional Forest Uses: (Describe how the property has been used in the past) _____

Forest Types/Conditions: (Describe general forest types/conditions) _____

Environmentally Important Features: (use additional sheets if needed)

List any Natural Communities (wetlands, bogs, riparian areas, fens): _____

Endangered Plant or Animal Species _____

Unusual Landforms/Features _____

Scenic Features _____

Adjacent Protected Land (describe any protected land nearby) _____

Water Resources: (Check all that apply)

Rivers and Creeks _____ Names: _____

Lakes and Ponds _____ Sizes: _____

Wetlands _____ Sizes: _____

Other (springs, wells, etc.) _____ List: _____

Existing Permanent Improvements: (List of houses, barns, lakes, ponds, dams, wells, roads, and other structures including total number of acres occupied by improvements) _____

Infrastructure: (how many miles is the property from the closest sewer and water line?

Other pertinent information about the forest area: _____

Required Attachments

Please staple the following items to the application in the order indicated below:

Attachment A An 8-1/2 by 11 inch plat map or other map showing the name of the landowner(s) and the parcel number(s) of the entire forest.

Attachment B County auditor tax records of the applicant land values.

Attachment C An 8-1/2 by 11 inch aerial photo or sketch which shows the public roadway distance of the applicant forest to any protected property as well as to sewer and water lines, accessible public roadway intersection, and the total road frontage of the forest.

Signature

My signature below certifies that I am the owner of this property and that I am interested in participating in Ohio's Forest Legacy Program. All landowners or authorized representatives must sign this application.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Send this Application along with a map or aerial photograph of the property to:

Ohio Forest Legacy Program
ODNR- Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, Bldg H-1
Columbus OH 43229

Appendix D

Notice for Forest Legacy Public Meetings

Appendix D
Notice for Forest Legacy Public Meetings

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2004

OHIO TO ASSESS NEED FOR WOODLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Public meetings in late March will measure interest in federal Forest Legacy Program

COLUMBUS, OH -Woodland owners across Ohio, as well as anyone interested in protecting working forests, are encouraged to voice their opinions of a plan to preserve those forests at a series of public meetings scheduled between March 22 and 29, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

The ODNR Division of Forestry is sponsoring the meetings in order to assess Ohio's need for enrollment in the federal Forest Legacy Program. The program assists states in acquiring permanent conservation easements from willing sellers for woods that meet Forest Legacy purposes and criteria.

"The Forest Legacy Program is designed to protect woodlands that are at risk for conversion to non-forest uses," said John Dorka, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry, which will administer the Forest Legacy Program in Ohio.

The program will focus on woodlands where timber production is one of the primary land-management objectives. In addition to gauging statewide need for the program, the upcoming meetings will define program goals, assess potential Forest Legacy areas and formulate processes that will be used to evaluate and prioritize properties for inclusion.

City	Location	Time & Date
Findlay	952-B Lima Road	7-9 p.m. on March 22
Burton	OSU Extension Office	7-9 p.m. on March 23
Barnesville	1119 E. Main St. Suite 2	7-9 p.m. on March 24
Lebanon	Warren County Administration Building 406 Justice Drive	7-9 p.m. on March 25
New Philadelphia	2205 Reiser Ave. SE	7-9 p.m. on March 26
Columbus	ODNR Assembly Center 1855 Fountain Square, Bldg. E	7-9 p.m. on March 27
Chillicothe	475 Western Ave., Room A	7- 9 p.m. on March 29

Appendix E
Meeting Notes

Appendix E Meeting Notes

Concerns/questions about program:

- Will I still be able to allow hunting on my lands?
- What kind of limitations will there be?
- Who will monitor/patrol the land for appropriate use?
- Will it be too easy to get around the rules?
- Will this be a tax break? How will it affect my taxes?
- Where is the state going to get the money?
- Does the program address reforested areas or just established woodlands?
- Does the current owner retain ownership of the land?
- What about pipelines running through the land (eminent domain), what would the impact on the easement be?
- Who holds the easement?
- How can I ensure stability with regards to what is done with the property as I pass it on to future generations?
- How easy will it be to break the easement? Can it be revoked?
- Will the easement allow *anyone* to have access to my land?
- What will happen if the landowner dies or has to move into a home?
- What about land that is currently being reclaimed?
- Will there be a committee to help decide how this will be implemented?
- Look for areas that will help connect woodlands
- Concern about bush honeysuckle when you cut old growth
- What about smaller lots?
- How will this program have an affect on local taxes?
- Will there be local input for the establishment of a hierarchy/definition of the importance of local forests?
- Who gets funded nationally? What is the main emphasis?
- How much work will it be to apply?
- Who will do the monitoring?
- Is there a "lid" at the top for more expensive tracts of land?
- The program should be used to maintain scenic rivers as pristine land areas, should take into consideration the surroundings of the area (species of plants, animals, birds, etc.)
- The program should work to protect existing areas as well as smaller areas

Threats to woodlands:

- Housing development/5 Acre lots/subdivisions/pre-built homes
- Filling in wetlands
- Farms
- Change of species
- Fragmentation of woods

Threats involving water:

- Hydrology changes: draining (new and renewed), ditching
- Private wells run the gamit from 20-50-90 feet deep
- "Mega farms" affects groundwater
- Development

- Forests becoming unproductive
- Only remnants left
- Disturbance in soil structure as plant/trees change
- Losing trees at an alarming rate, affecting ecosystems

Positives:

- More stringent control on what actually happens in the future
- Benefits wildlife
- Timber management
- Leaves land in current state for future educational use
- Lower land value will mean lower inheritance tax
- More of a reward system for people who have been working/managing their land in the “right” way.
- Using federal money to harvest trees
- When parceling and selling the land might have been your only option in the past, this might provide an alternative way to make some money
- Help connect corridors of woodlands
- Expand and protect existing riparian corridors
- Improve water quality
- Tool to help landowners preserve/manage land, do what they want to do with the land
- It provides protection that is stronger than a will, which can be broken
- Tools to protect unique woodland areas
- Soil and water conservation
- Stop fragmentation
- Improve songbird habitat (Audubon)
- Can manage the land so it pays for itself
- People are already doing forest management, this is a good way to reward their hard work and effort.
- What could be negative? It’s a voluntary program

Definition of “Working”:

- Should include working for water quality, we may not have the large blocks of forested lands, but the ones we do have function as streamside/flood plain support.
- Should include working to improve wildlife, water quality
- Should be that you are actively engaged in management, that can include timber harvest
- Maintain rights to manage
- Working should not mean an extremely intensive effort, harvesting should be a management tool for good stewardship.

Appendix F

Ohio's Endangered Wildlife

Appendix F Ohio's Endangered Wildlife

Source: <http://www.ohiodnr.com/endangered/endangered4.htm>

MAMMALS

Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*
Allegheny woodrat, *Neotoma magister*
Bobcat, *Felis rufus*
Black bear, *Ursus americanus*
Snowshoe hare, *Lepus americanus*

BIRDS

American bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*
Bald eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
Northern harrier, *Circus cyaneus*
Peregrine falcon, *Falco peregrinus*
King rail, *Rallus elegans*
Sandhill crane, *Grus canadensis*
Piping plover, *Charadrius melodus*
Common tern, *Sterna hirundo*
Black tern, *Chlidonias niger*
Yellow-bellied sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*
Bewick's wren, *Thryomanes bewickii*
Loggerhead shrike, *Lanius ludovicianus*
Golden-winged warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*
Kirtland's warbler, *Dendroica kirtlandii*
Lark sparrow, *Chondestes grammacus*
Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*
Trumpeter swan, *Cygnus buccinator*
Snowy egret, *Egretta thula*
Cattle egret, *Bubulcus ibis*

REPTILES

Copperbelly water snake, *Nerodia erythrogaster neglecta*
Eastern plains garter snake, *Thamnophis radix radix*
Timber rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus horridus*
Eastern massasauga, *Sistrurus catenatus*
Lake Erie water snake, *Nerodia sipedon insularum*

AMPHIBIANS

Eastern hellbender, *Cryptobranchus alleganiensis*
Blue-spotted salamander, *Ambystoma laterale*
Green salamander, *Aneides aeneus*
Cave salamander, *Eurycea lucifuga*
Eastern spadefoot, *Scaphiopus holbrookii*

FISHES

Ohio lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon bdellium*
Northern brook lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon fossor*

Mountain brook lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon greeleyi*
Lake sturgeon, *Acipenser fulvescens*
Shovelnose sturgeon, *Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*
Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus*
Cisco or lake herring, *Coregonus artedii*
Pugnose minnow, *Opsopoeodus emiliae*
Popeye shiner, *Notropis ariommus*
Blackchin shiner, *Notropis heterodon*
Blacknose shiner, *Notropis heterolepis*
Mississippi silvery minnow, *Hybognathus nuchalis*
Blue sucker, *Cycleptus elongatus*
Longnose sucker, *Catostomus catostomus*
Blue catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus*
Mountain madtom, *Noturus eleutherus*
Northern madtom, *Noturus stigmosus*
Scioto madtom, *Noturus trautmani*
Pirate perch, *Aphredoderus sayanus*
Western banded killifish, *Fundulus diaphanus menona*
Spotted darter, *Etheostoma maculatum*
Shortnose gar, *Lepisosteus platostomus*
Goldeye, *Hiodon alosoides*
Speckled chub, *Macrhybopsis aestivalis*

MOLLUSKS

Fanshell, *Cyprogenia stegaria*
Butterfly, *Ellipsaria lineolata*
Elephant-ear, *Elliptio crassidens crassidens*
Purple catspaw, *Epioblasma obliquata obliquata*
White catspaw, *Epioblasma obliquata perobliqua*
Northern riffleshell, *Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*
Long-solid, *Fusconaia maculata maculata*
Pink mucket, *Lampsilis orbiculata*
Sharp-ridged pocketbook, *Lampsilis ovata*
Yellow sandshell, *Lampsilis teres*
Eastern pondmussel, *Ligumia nasuta*
Washboard, *Megaloniais nervosa*
Sheepnose, *Plethobasus cyphus*
Clubshell, *Pleurobema clava*
Ohio pigtoe, *Pleurobema cordatum*
Pyramid pigtoe, *Pleurobema rubrum*
Rabbitsfoot, *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*
Monkeyface, *Quadrula metanevra*
Wartyback, *Quadrula nodulata*
Purple lilliput, *Toxolasma lividus*
Rayed bean, *Villosa fabalis*
Little spectaclecase, *Villosa lienosa*
Snuffbox, *Epioblasma triquetra*
Ebonyshell, *Fusconaia ebena*

DRAGONFLIES

Hine's emerald, *Somatochlora hineana*

Mottled darner, *Aeshna clepsydra*
Plains clubtail, *Gomphus externus*American emerald, *Codulia shurtleffi*
Uhler's sundragon, *Helocordulia uhleri*
Frosted whiteface, *Leucorrhinia frigida*
Elfin skimmer, *Nannothemis bella*
Canada darner, *Aeshna canadensis*
Racket-tailed emerald, *Dorocordulia libera*
Brush-tipped emerald, *Somatochlora walshii*
Blue corporal, *Ladona deplanata*
Chalk-fronted corporal, *Ladona julia*
Yellow-sided skimmer, *Libellula flavida*

DAMSELFLIES

Seepage dancer, *Argia bipunctulata*
Lily pad fork tail, *Ischnura kellicotti*

CADDISFLIES

Chimarra socia
Oecetis eddlestoni
Brachycentrus numerosus

MAYFLIES

Rhithrogena pellucida
Litobrancha recurvata

MIDGES

Rheopelopia acra

BUTTERFLIES

Persius dusky wing, *Erynnis persius*
Frosted elfin, *Incisalia irus*
Karner blue, *Lycaeides melissa samuelis*
Purplish copper, *Lycaena helloides*
Swamp metalmark, *Calephelis muticum*
Regal fritillary, *Speyeria idalia*
Mitchell's satyr, *Neonympha mitchellii*

MOTHS

Unexpected cynthia, *Cycnia inopinatus*
Graceful underwing, *Catocala gracilis*
Spartiniphaga inops
Hypocoena enervata
Papaipema silphii
Papaipema beeriana
Lithophane semiusta
Trichoclea artesta
Tricholita notata
Melanchra assimilis
Pointed sallow, *Epiglaea apiata*
Ufeus plicatus
Ufeus satyricus

Hebard's noctuid moth, *Erythroecia hebari*

BEETLES

Kramer's cave beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus krameri*

Ohio cave beetle, *Pseudanophthalmus ohioensis*

American burying beetle, *Nicrophorus americanus*

Appendix G
Land Trust in Ohio

Appendix G Land Trust in Ohio

Source: Land Trust Alliance (<http://www.lta.org/findlandtrust/OH.htm>)

Appalachia Ohio Alliance: Logan, OH
Athens Conservancy: Athens, OH
Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland: Cleveland, OH
Beaver Creek Wetlands Association: Alpha, OH
Black Swamp Conservancy: Perrysburg, OH
B-W Greenway Community Land Trust: Fairborn, OH
Chagrin River Land Conservancy: Novelty, OH
Champaign Land Preservation: Urbana, OH
Civil War Preservation Trust: Washington, DC; operates in OH
Community Service Land Trust: Yellow Springs, OH
Firelands Land Conservancy: Oberlin, OH
Gates Mills Land Conservancy: Gates Mills, OH
Genoa Township Land Conservation Association: Galena, OH
Grand River Partners, Inc.: Painesville, OH
Greater Cincinnati Conservancy: Cincinnati, OH
Headwaters Land Conservancy: Hiram, OH
Hillside Trust: Cincinnati, OH
Holden Arboretum: Kirtland, OH
Hudson Land Conservancy: Hudson, OH
Imago, Inc.: Cincinnati, OH
Jefferson Land Conservation Association: Blacklick, OH
Killbuck Watershed Land Trust: Wooster, OH
Land Conservancy of Hamilton County, Ohio: Cincinnati, OH
Licking Land Trust: Granville, OH
Little Beaver Creek Land Foundation: East Liverpool, OH
Little Miami Incorporated: Milford, OH
Medina Summit Land Conservancy: Medina, OH
Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, Inc.: Murrysville, PA; operates in OH
Natural Areas Stewardship, Inc.: Toledo, OH
North Country Trail Association: Lowell, MI; operates in OH
Northcentral Ohio Conservation Group: Mansfield, OH
Northside Greenspace: Cincinnati, OH
Owl Creek Conservancy: Mount Vernon, OH
Oxbow, Inc.: Cincinnati, OH
PLACE-Portage Land Association for Conservation and Education: Kent, OH
Quail Hollow Land Conservancy: Hartsville, OH
Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve: West Union, OH
Rural Land Alliance: Springboro, OH
Shaw Land Conservancy: Minerva, OH
Southern Ohio Farmland Preservation Association: Georgetown, OH
Stark County Land Trust: Canton, OH
Tecumseh Land Trust: Yellow Springs, OH
The Land Conservancy of Ohio: Statewide
The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Field Office: Dublin, OH
The Wilderness Center, Inc.: Wilmot, OH
Three Valley Conservation Trust: Oxford, OH

Tinkers Creek Land Conservancy: Twinsburg, OH

Waite Hill Land Conservancy: Waite Hill, OH

Western Wildlife Corridor, Inc.: Cincinnati, OH

Willoughby Natural Area Conservancy: Willoughby, OH

Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation & Development: Angola, IN; operates in OH

Appendix H
Letters of Support

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
200 North High Street, Room 523
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3473
(614) 255-2472 Fax (614) 255-2549

May 27, 2004

John Dorka, Chief
ODNR Division of Forestry
1855 Fountain Square Court, Building H
Columbus OH 43224-1383

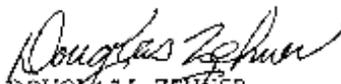
Dear John,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, I would like to express support for Ohio's participation in the Forest Legacy Program. The permanent protection of Ohio's forest areas would ensure the long-term integrity of the natural systems upon which the Forest Legacy Area communities depend.

This program in Ohio would complement other local, State, and Federal conservation easement programs. With farmland, grassland and wetland protection programs, the addition of the Forest Legacy Program would add to the options available to private landowners to preserve our natural and cultural heritage.

Please contact me at 614-255-2472 if NRCS may assist your efforts to carry out the Forest Legacy Program.

Sincerely,


DOUGLAS L. ZEHNER
Acting State Conservationist

cc:
Julia Hinders, Natural Resources Specialist, Columbus
Paul DeArman, State Resource Conservationist, Columbus

MeadWestvaco Corporation - Paper Group
Forestry & Wood Procurement tel: 606 774 3236
P.O. Box 9900 fax: 606 774 3670
Cullitree, OH 45621-0997

MeadWestvaco

June 2, 2004

Mr. John Dorka
Chief, ODNR - Division of Forestry
1855 Pruntnig Square Ct. H-1
Columbus, Ohio 43224

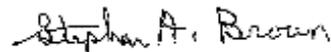
Dear John:

I am writing to you to express support for the development of Ohio's Forest Legacy Program. MeadWestvaco has supported and participated in the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) in other states and we believe that the establishment of such a program in Ohio is appropriate.

Ohio's forests play a vital role in the economical, cultural and biological health of the state. As you know, our forests cover more than 30 percent of Ohio. Fragmentation through urban sprawl and commercial development of forestland is an ongoing threat and is detrimental to working forests. We at MeadWestvaco support the mission of this program "to protect environmentally important working forests". It is hoped that not only will we be able to protect some unique forest ecosystems, but will show the citizens of Ohio how we can balance commodity production while maintaining the biological integrity of these forests.

Please accept this letter as an endorsement for the establishment of an Ohio Forest Legacy Program.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Brown
Director of Fiber Supply
Wood Procurement Department

SAB:bd



*Forging a partnership between farmers and consumers
• Working together for Ohio's farmers •*

May 28, 2004

Mr. John Dorka, Chief
Division of Forestry
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
1855 Fountain Square Court, Building H
Columbus, Ohio 43224-1383

Dear Mr. Dorka,

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest farm organization with more than 222,000 members, sincerely appreciates being provided with the opportunity to participate in the development of the proposed Forest Legacy Program for the state of Ohio. It is our understanding that the objective of the program is to identify and protect in perpetuity environmentally important working forests from conversion to non-forested uses, which would be accomplished through the use of conservation easements or fee simple purchases.

Our organization has historically supported the establishment of farmland preservation programs that coordinate and guide state and local policies, programs and actions so as to avoid and minimize the unnecessary and irretrievable conversion of productive agriculture land to non-agricultural uses, with particular emphasis placed upon preservation of prime farmland (Classes I and II) and other land especially capable of dairy, livestock, fruit, forestry, and specialty crop production. It is our opinion that such programs should be coordinated at all governmental levels, with consideration of adjoining land uses from county to county and from community to community.

Therefore, we support the concepts of the proposed Forest Legacy Program as long as the private property rights of the individuals who elect to participate in the program are recognized and protected.

Once again, thank you for inviting our organization to participate in -- as well as contribute to -- the development of Ohio's Forest Legacy Program.

Sincerely,


John E. "Jack" Fisher
Executive Vice-President

JCF/ch



6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 50
Dublin, Ohio 43017

Wildland Office
Arlington, Virginia
tel. 703 641-3330

tel. 614 717-3770
fax 614 717-6777

ohio@nc.org

1 June 2004

John Dorka
ODNR Division of Forestry
1655 Fountain Sq., Bldg. H
Columbus, OH 43224-1383

Re: Ohio Forest Legacy Program application

Dear Mr. Dorka,

I am writing to express the Ohio Chapter of The Nature Conservancy's support of the application for inclusion into the Forest Legacy Program by the State of Ohio. Ohio's forest landscapes are on the road to recovery, but still face the serious threat of fragmentation. Private landowner incentive programs like Forest Legacy provide an economic solution to those landowners interested in forest sustainability, as well as bringing benefit to our state from additional federal dollars.

The Ohio Chapter has used the best available science to identify a dozen forest landscapes in Appalachian Ohio as the best opportunities to practice forest conservation at a scale that will accommodate natural disturbances like ice storms, and fire as well as provide habitat for forest dependent wildlife. Southeastern Ohio is part of the Appalachian ecosystem, which represents the oldest and most biologically diverse forest system in North America. To achieve healthy forests, Ohioans need to embrace a philosophy of management, conservation and restoration, but prevailing ownership patterns make this difficult to do.

While state and federal forests protect some of Ohio's best known forest landscapes, approximately 95 percent of the state's woodlands are privately owned. In recent years, those lands have sold with greater frequency and some of our largest privately-owned forests are being broken up into small parcels. More than half of our private forests are owned by individuals and most woodland owners control fewer than 50 acres. Few of these owners have timber harvesting experience, and fewer have written management plans for their woodlands.

The Ohio Chapter is working with partners to encourage the conservation and restoration of large blocks of forest. We are employing a wide range of strategies to keep forests in forest, including working forests. A program like Forest Legacy would provide more options for private forest landowners and provide us with an additional tool to work with communities to balance economic needs with the health of the natural resource. We hope to work with the State to achieve conservation outcomes important to the people of Ohio.

Sincerely,

Richard Shank, PhD
Executive Director
The Nature Conservancy
Ohio Chapter



The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc.

4885 S. High St. Columbus, OH 43207
 PH (614) 497-9580 FAX (614) 497-5781 WEB www.ohioforest.org

June 8, 2004

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 Mack Hapsley
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 Mansfield
 Paul Weyer
 Newburg

Mr. John Derka
 Chief, Division of Forestry
 Ohio Department of Natural Resources
 1855 Fountain Square Court, Bldg. H
 Columbus, Ohio 43224

Dear John:

I am writing on behalf of The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. in support of the development of Ohio's Forest Legacy Program. As you know our Association represents a diversity of members in the forestry community to include landowners, loggers, sawmill owners, and secondary wood manufacturers. Members of the Association are committed to the concept of "working forests."

Issues facing Ohio's forest include fragmentation resulting from urban sprawl and commercial development. The Legacy Program is an opportunity to demonstrate the cultural, economic and ecological value of forests to the citizens of Ohio. The Division of Forestry has a long history of stewardship and management of Ohio's Forest. The Legacy Program has the potential for the Division to continue its active leadership role as stewards of the State's forest resources.

The Ohio Forestry Association, Inc. does support and endorse the development of the Forest Legacy Program.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Ramig
 Executive Director

A PARTNERSHIP WITH PEOPLE FOR NATURAL RESOURCE EDUCATION,
 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT & MULTIPLE USE OF OUR FORESTS

American Tree Farm System

Ohio Tree Farm System
4050 S. High Street
Columbus, OH 43207

(614) 319-3266

June 9, 2005

John Dorka, Chief
Ohio Division of Forestry
1855 Fountain Square Ct., Bldg H
Columbus, OH 43224

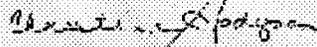
Dear Mr. Dorka,

The Ohio Tree Farm System views the Forest Legacy Program as an essential tool that can assist our 1742 certified members in protecting their tree farms from the pressures of development. Most Tree Farmers spend many hours of blood, sweat and tears to manage their forest resources in the hopes to pass on their woodland legacy to family members intact. The Tree Farm System also sees the Forest Legacy Program as an incentive to encourage successive landowners to see the benefits of good forest stewardship.

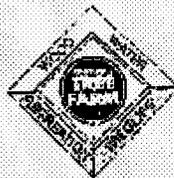
The Legacy's "working forest" concept directly correlates with the American Tree Farm Mission: *"to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry."*

As chairwoman of the Ohio Tree Farm System, I appreciate the invitation to participate in developing the assessment of need for Ohio's application. It was a pleasure to sit at the table with so many talented governmental and environmental representatives. Ohio's future Forest Legacy Program will be one that we can all proudly introduce to our constituents and members and endorse.

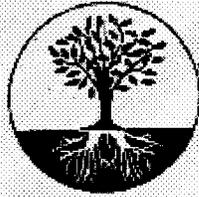
Sincerely yours,



Christine Hodgson, Chairwoman
Ohio Tree Farm Committee



The Sign of Good Forestry



Wood Industry for a Sustainable Environment

June 10, 2004

Mr. John Donka, Chief
Ohio Division of Forestry
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Fountain Square
Columbus, Ohio 43224

Dear John:

The Wood Industry for a Sustainable Environment (W.I.S.E.) is an organization representing the timber and wood products industry, sawmills, secondary manufacturers, loggers, and other related businesses. Our industry is dependent on Ohio's forests.

We support the intent of the Ohio Forest Legacy Program, since we view it as an opportunity for landowners to voluntarily protect the long-term viability of their woodlands for timber and forest products. We believe that the long-term future of the timber industry is in the hands of the private woodland owner. The Forest Legacy Program will provide one more tool to help ensure the future of our industry and the proper management of Ohio's forestlands.

Sincerely,

Dennis Facemeyer, Chairman