

WELCOME TO OHIO'S STATE FORESTS

Ohio's system of 20 state forests cover more than 185,000 acres and provide an abundance of benefits for everyone. Acquisition of land for Ohio's first state forests began in 1916. After thorough analysis of forests in the preceding years, the clear need for a system that is now the state forests was established. They were established to be places where the "practical value of forestry" would be demonstrated. This basic mission set out at the inception of the state forest system is equally important today as it was at the beginning of the 20th Century. It is carried forward today as demonstrating the application of sound management for the sustainable use and protection of the forest. It is because of the over 80 years of this care and nurturing that the system is treasured by people from many walks of life.

Foresters apply their knowledge of forest ecosystems to enhance nature's growth cycle while producing some of the finest hardwood trees in the world. But forester's concerns go well beyond the growing of trees. Evaluations of water, soil, wildlife, age and condition of vegetation, threatened and endangered species, recreational opportunities, and scenic qualities are considered in planning and preparing management plans. This process ensures that visitors may enjoy many activities including camping, hiking, horseback riding, wildlife watching, hunting and scenic touring.

State Forests are open to visitors daily between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. (except for Hocking State Forest and the four all-purpose vehicle areas which are closed one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise). Persons engaged in legal activities, such as camping, hunting, and those granted by special permission may be present during other hours. Recreational activities, including motorized vehicles, are generally restricted to areas designated and provided for their use, and are governed by specific rules and regulations. Visitors should check State Forest maps for information.

CAMPING

Camping is permitted on state land only in areas provided for such use. Family campgrounds are available at Fernwood and Harrison State Forests. Primitive horse camps are located at five State Forests. Remote park & pack campsites are available on a permit basis at Mohican-Memorial State Forest for novice backpackers interested in short trek secluded camps.

BACKPACK TRAILS

Two backpack trails are operated by the Division at Shawnee State Forest (60 miles with eight walk-in camp areas) and Zaleski State Forest (23 miles with three walk-in camp areas). The Shawnee Backpack Trail crosses rugged terrain requiring moderate skill and endurance, while the Zaleski Backpack Trail provides a shorter and generally less strenuous hike. Self-registration permits (no fee) are available 24 hours a day at the trailheads. Reservations are not required and groups are restricted to a maximum of ten persons. Latrines and water are provided, but backpackers are also encouraged to carry a supply of water. Trail maps are available.

HUNTING, FISHING & SHOOTING RANGES

Hunting is permitted on most State Forest property. Fishing opportunities exist on numerous ponds and lakes. The Division provides five shooting ranges that are open to the public daily from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset. Target shooting is prohibited in State Forests except on the designated ranges.

ALL-PURPOSE VEHICLE AREAS

Four all-purpose vehicle (APV) areas are operated by the Division for off-road motorcycles and all-purpose vehicles (with width of 48 inches or less and 40 horsepower or less). Riding is restricted to designated

trails (except within the Perry APV Area). When conditions permit, snowmobiles are permitted on designated trails in the Maumee APV Area and Mohican-Memorial State Forest. All vehicles must display a valid highway or APV registration obtained through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Operators must wear head and eye protection. Perry, Pike and Richland Furnace APV Areas are generally closed to APV use during the winter from December 1 through March 31 annually.

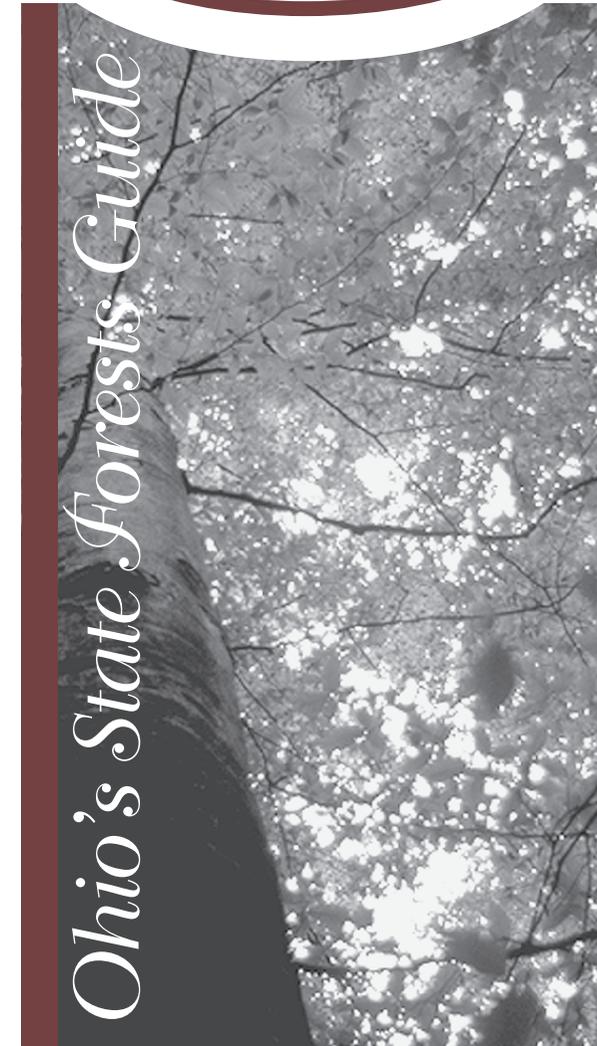
PRESCRIBED FIRE AND WILDFIRE

Fire has long been an influence on forest makeup and the use of fire as a management tool is increasing. "Prescribed Fire", as it is called, is carefully used to accomplish specific land management goals. These goals include managing for oak stands and the habitats that they provide. It also includes reducing fuels so that a wildfire, should one occur, may not be as damaging as it might otherwise be.

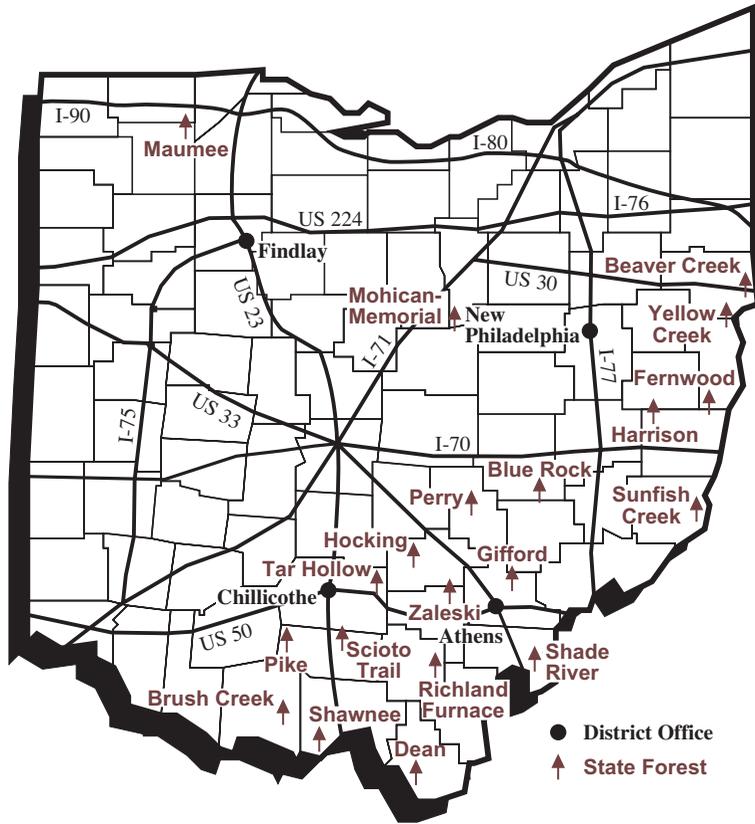
However, not all fires are planned or beneficial. Each year, carelessness results in an average of 1,000 wildfires burning 5,000 acres of Ohio's woodlands. Protection of public and private forest lands primarily in southern and eastern Ohio is provided by the Division through cooperative agreements with 325 Volunteer Fire Departments. Services include technical advice, federal excess equipment, training, fire investigation and enforcement, suppression assistance, and grants through the federal Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program.

FOR INFORMATION

Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry
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Columbus, OH 43224-1327
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Visit the Division of Forestry home page on the
world wide web at: www.ohiodnr.com
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OHIO'S STATE FORESTS



 State Forests have active forest management and wildlife habitat management programs. Guided tours of these areas and the Zaleski State Forest sawmill, may be arranged.

 Due to field work, State Forest personnel may be difficult to reach by phone. Information can be obtained through the Columbus Office, the toll free number, or our web site at www.ohiodnr.com/forestry/.

 All bridle trails are open to hiking.

 Mountain bikes are permitted on APV trails. Mountain bikes are also permitted on bridle trails at Scioto Trail State Forest and designated trails at Mohican.

 All State Forests are open for hunting in season.

STATE FOREST	District #	Acres	Office Address	Toll Free Phone	MILES OF TRAILS				Camp Sites	Other Features
					Hiking	Horse (& Hiking)	APV	Back-pack		
BEAVER CREEK	(3)	1,122	see District 3 Office							
BLUE ROCK	(4)	4,578	6665 Cutler Lake Rd. Blue Rock, OH 43720		26					(SP), Fire Tower
BRUSH CREEK	(6)	13,502	see District 6 Office		3	15				Mushroom hunting
DEAN	(5)	2,745	149 Dean Forest Rd. Pedro, OH 45659			10				Trail connects to Wayne National Forest
FERNWOOD	(3)	3,023	see District 3 Office		3				F-22	Trap, rifle, pistol ranges
GIFFORD	(4)	320	see Hocking		4					Experimental See Orchards, fishing pond, picnicking
HARRISON	(3)	1,345	see District 3 Office			18			H, F-27	Rifle range, fishing ponds
HOCKING	(4)	9,696	19275 S.R. 374 Rockbridge, OH 43149		9	40			H-23	(SP), rockclimbing rappelling, Buckeye Trail, Fire Tower
MAUMEE	(2)	3,103	3390 C.R. D, Swanton, OH 43558			15	5			Windbreak Arboretum, tree improvement area, wet-sedge meadow
MOHICAN-MEMORIAL	(3)	4,525	see District 3 Office		2	22			P-10	(SP), Memorial Forest Shrine, Fire Tower, mountain bike and snowmobile trails
PERRY	(4)	4,567	see Blue Rock			8	16			Surface mine areas
PIKE	(5)	12,084	334 Lapperell Rd. Latham, OH 45646			38	10			(SP), Buckeye Trail
RICHLAND FURNACE	(5)	2,524	see District 5 Office				8			Historical iron ore area
SCIOTO TRAIL	(5)	9,600	2731 Steney Creek Rd. Chillicothe, OH 45601		1	21				(SP), Buckeye Trail, Fire Tower, mountain biking
SHADE RIVER	(4)	2,859	see Hocking		2					Fishing pond, picnicking
SHAWNEE (also District 6 Office)	(6)	63,747	13291 U.S. 52 W. Portsmouth, OH 45663		7	60		60	H-58	(SP), 8,000 acre wilderness, Buckeye Trail, fishing lakes
SUNFISH CREEK	(4)	637	see Hocking							Steep terrain along Ohio River
TAR HOLLOW	(5)	16,354	see Scioto Trail		22	26			H-46	(SP), Buckeye Trail, Logan Trail Grouse Management Area
YELLOW CREEK	(3)	756	see District 3 Office							Highlandtown Wildlife Area
ZALESKI	(4)	27,817	P.O. Box 330, S.R. 278 Zaleski, OH 45698			50		23	H-16	(SP), shooting range, Hunter's Camp, Forest of Honor

1-877-247-8733

DISTRICT OFFICE	ADDRESS	TOLL FREE PHONE
District 2 Office	952 Lima Ave. Box B, Findlay, OH 45840	1-877-247-8733
District 3 Office	2205 Reiser Ave. S.E., New Philadelphia, OH 44663	
District 4 Office	360 E. State Street, Athens, OH 45701	
District 5 Office	345 Allen Ave., Chillicothe, OH 45601	
District 6 Office	13291 U.S. 52, West Portsmouth, OH 45663	

CAMP CODES - # SITES	
	F - Family
	H - Horse
	P - Park & Pack
	Backpack Trails have designated camp areas
OTHER FEATURES	(SP) - State Park located within State Forest