

## Division of Forestry – Properties Section Report

- In FY2006-07 timber harvests were conducted on 5,780 acres of the 155,000 acres of State Forests producing a revenue of \$2,669,179. In addition, the following resource management activities were accomplished: 9,605 acres of forest inventory and management planning, 3,008 acres of timber stand improvement, 208 acres of tree planting and plantation management and 496 acres of fish and wildlife habitat improvement.
- Control of exotic, invasive species on State Forests has continued. Control of invasive and exotic species has been completed on 471 acres.
- Facilities on State Forest recreation areas are being upgraded. A portion of the Deam Lake SRA Class "A" campground has been converted to horse camping sites, which has access to the 80 mile Clark State Forest horse trail system. There are a total of 108 Class A horse campsites, which campers began using this past Memorial Day. To use 40 of those camp sites, campers must rent stalls in the horse barns, which are being constructed this winter with some ready for rental by the spring of 2008. Campsites at Starve Hollow SRA are being upgraded to 55 Class "AA" full hook-up and 87 Class "A" electric hook-up sites. These sites will be ready for use in the spring of 2008. Sam - you should be able to get some horse camper photos from Jana or Walt. Starve could provide photos of the construction.
- Campers, hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, hunters, fishermen, wildlife viewers continued to enjoy the rustic recreation amenities provided on state forests. These property visitors provided a recreational revenue of \$553,780 for FY2006-07.
- There has been some significant changes in the operation of several state forests and recreation areas. The management of Deam Lake SRA and Clark SF has been consolidated under the Clark SF Property manager, and the management of Starve Hollow SRA and Jackson-Washington SF has been consolidated under the Jackson-Washington SF Property Manager. These consolidations will lead to more efficient property operations and more diverse recreational opportunities.
- There are many small lakes located on state forests. Many of these were built 60 or more years ago by the Civilian Conservation Corps, and now are in of major rehabilitation. Property visitors may have noticed many of these lakes being drained and repaired during the past year. Repairs to many of these lakes have been completed, and fish have been restocked or will be restocked in the spring of 2008. Repairs to the remaining lakes will be completed in 2008. Sam - You can get some good dam rehab photos from Jim Allen and Walt Zak.
- Hardwood Ecosystem Experiment--In 2007 the HEE Research group had an Annual meeting in which many natural resource managers and researchers attended, we talked about the research that is occurring and some of the analysis that had been done at that time. At this first

- Research Annual meeting, we released the first annual HEE Research Report. We have continued to collect baseline data on the flora and fauna that are in those areas so that we can compare changes that might occur after management begins in the research areas. A website has been developed as well for the project. We defined areas of management, the type of management that will occur whether it be even-aged management, uneven-aged management, or control (no management), and have prepared those areas with the necessary infrastructure.
- **Best Management Practices--** In 2007 the Division of Forestry internally monitored 26 timber harvest sites for BMPs, the data from these audits will be posted when the BMP monitoring report for 2007 is completed. We also carried out a third party audit for BMPs on sites internally monitored in 2005 and 2006. A report of the third party audit is available upon request, but a summary is included: The overall BMP application rates for the 6 sites monitored by state employees was 91.52% and the overall BMP application rates as determined by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party auditors at those same sites was 91.51% (Figure 1a). Of the six sites included in this comparison study the state monitors found there were only minor departures in BMP application 8.48% of the time, or 24 instances (Figure 2a). The 3<sup>rd</sup> Party auditors found minor departures in application 7.72% of the time, or 20 instances, and only a 0.77% major departure of BMP application, 2 instances (Figure 2b). The overall BMP effectiveness rates for sites monitored by state employees was 97.16% and the effectiveness scores from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party audit was 98.46% (Figure 1b). State monitors found 8 departures in effectiveness. Three of the departures (1.06%) were determined to have an indirect and temporary impact, 2 departures (0.71%) had an indirect and prolonged effect (Figure 3a). One (0.35%) direct and temporary impact to soil and water quality was found, while 2 departures (0.71%) were determined by state BMP monitors to have a direct and prolonged impact (Figure 3a). Third party monitors only found four departures in BMP effectiveness; 2 (0.77%) were determined to have an indirect and temporary effect on soil and water resources of the sites and 1(0.38%) had an indirect and prolonged impact and the other (0.38%) had a direct, temporary impact (Figure 3b).