

The Division of Forestry directly manages state forests and provides forestry management assistance to landowners, communities and volunteer fire departments in every county of Ohio. One-third of Ohio's landscape (8.1 million acres) is covered with forests, the vast majority of which are privately owned. Another 11% are incorpo-

rated communities that contain some "community forests." Although Ohio has more forest land today than it ever has before, forestry services have dwindled. The Zanesville seedling nursery was shut down within the last several year and staff and budgets have been slashed.

DIVISION OF FORESTRY BY THE NUMBERS:

- ✓ 20 State forests in 20 counties.
- ✓ 184,637 land and water acres of forest.
- ✓ 1,100 miles of managed boundary.
- ✓ 250 buildings.
- ✓ 226 miles of roads.
- ✓ 755 miles of trails.
- ✓ 202 campsites.
- ✓ 4 ATV areas with 38 miles of trails.
- ✓ 188,000 active visitors annually.
- ✓ 4.8 million passive users.
- ✓ Provide conservation assistance and forest health support for more than 8 million acres.
- ✓ Directly support 945 community forests.
- ✓ Responsible for 6 million acres wildfire protection area.

DECLINE OF DIVISION OF FORESTRY:

- ✗ GRF was 87% of budget in 1990. In 2006, GRF was 64% of budget.
- ✗ Spending power of division reduced by \$5.5 million.
- ✗ 265 employees in 1990 have been cut to 158 employees in 2006 – a 40% reduction.
- ✗ Only 3% of woodland owners have a forest management plan.
- ✗ Responsibly addressing impacts from the Emerald Ash Borer is draining traditional forestry services.
- ✗ Only one Service Forester available for every 19,000 woodland owner. Demand for services far exceeds staffing levels.
- ✗ Diminished field staff reducing ability to respond to Ohio's 800 annual wildfires.