



Ohio Department of
NATURAL RESOURCES

2015 Annual Report

James Zehringer, Director

Director's Message

As Ohioans, we are fortunate to have the benefit of a state full of natural resources and the many opportunities they provide. These resources include everything from Lake Erie and the inland lakes to the geological formations beneath our feet filled with coal, oil and natural gas.

ODNR owns and manages more than 640,000 acres of land, including 74 state parks, 21 state forests, 136 state nature preserves and 144 wildlife areas. The department oversees more than 61,500 miles of inland rivers and streams, as well as 451 miles of the Ohio River and 2.29 million acres of Lake Erie. These vast swaths of land provide Ohioans and millions of visitors with recreational opportunities in every corner of our state.

ODNR is also charged with overseeing and permitting all mineral extraction, managing water resources, monitoring dam safety, coordinating the county soil and water conservation districts statewide, and mapping out the state's major geologic structures and mineral resources. Additionally, ODNR is tasked with overseeing the registration of all of the state's watercraft and issues Ohio hunting and fishing licenses.

ODNR's priorities are to regulate the access and extraction of Ohio's expansive reserve of mineral and gas resources while offering all of our visitors the recreational opportunities that our beautiful land and water resources provide. It remains ODNR's responsibility to protect Ohio's natural resources for the long-term sustainability and enjoyment for every Ohioan.



Our mission at ODNR is to ensure a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. The people who work here who are extremely passionate about Ohio and the outdoors, and they are committed to meeting the needs of Ohioans. Thank you for allowing us to serve.

John A. Lehinger

◦ *Cover Photo: Punderson State Park*

AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

ODNR is a large and diverse state agency, and the wide scope of our work can be found in the initiatives and goals explained throughout this report. While our employees have accomplished many things during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015, these highlights remain a collective focus for our department.

Updating Ohio State Parks

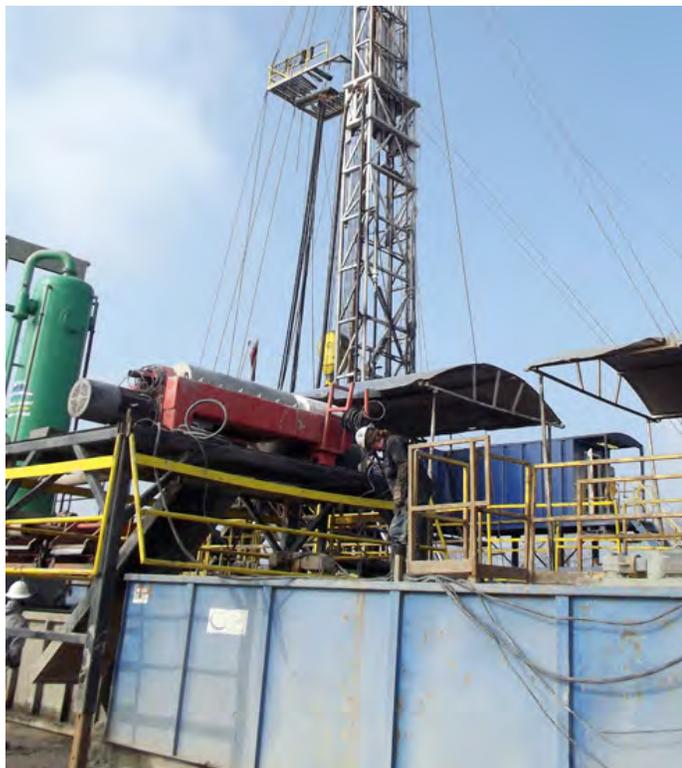
With the majority of the infrastructure in Ohio State Parks being built in the 1960s and 1970s, Ohioans desire more updated facilities at their state parks. Thanks to Ohio Governor John R. Kasich, Senate President Keith Faber, Ohio House Speaker Bill Batchelder and the entire Ohio General Assembly, Ohio State Parks received a record \$88.5 million for state parks improvements in 2014, and that excitement and momentum continued through FY 2015. This year, construction started for parks improvements at several of our 74 parks statewide, and some of those projects have already been completed, such as the new beach house at East Fork State Park in Clermont County near Cincinnati. We are continuing to find new ways to encourage people to visit their state parks and enjoy our updated facilities. Ohio is only one of seven states in the nation with free admission to state parks, and we are blessed with some truly stunning state parks. One example was seen in Forbes Travel's "Five Picture-Perfect Vacations for Photographers" article, with Hocking Hills State Park being selected for its natural beauty. The park has become nationally and internationally known for its waterfalls, majestic views and rock formations. With opportunities to swim, bike, hike, horseback ride, fish, hunt and play disc golf, along with numerous options for overnight stays in our lodges, cabins and campsites, Ohio State Parks are fantastic destinations for Ohioans and out-of-state visitors.



Regulating the Oil and Gas Industry

Responsibly regulating Ohio's oil and gas industry is critical because it affects many Ohioans, and it is important that this industry does not have an adverse impact on the environment or the health of our residents. A major point for regulating the oil and gas industry has been employing inspectors who live in the communities where the drilling takes place. As the oil and gas industry continues to thrive in Ohio, ODNR currently employs 123 full-time employees, up from 37 in 2010, to ensure an adequate number of staff are available to regulate and oversee this growing industry in eastern Ohio. By the end of FY 2015, the division had issued more than 1,950 permits for horizontal wells, of which more than 1,525 wells were drilled

and more than 900 wells were producing. Increased seismic monitoring and a new emergency response team, along with more stringent well construction rules, have bolstered Ohio's oil and gas safety efforts.



(USDA) announced during FY 2015 that Ohio, Indiana and Michigan would be receiving funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a total of \$17.5 million through the Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative, with Ohio receiving \$12.25 million. This is a voluntary reimbursement program with the funding going to farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin who put best management practices on their farms, and many farmers should benefit from this program. These funds are just another example of how ODNR and other state agencies are working to protect and improve Ohio's invaluable water resources.



Improving Water Quality Statewide

Working to improve Ohio's water quality has been a top priority for ODNR, and that goal only continued during FY 2015. Since July 2011, the Kasich Administration has invested more than \$1 billion in improving Ohio's water quality in the Western Lake Erie Basin with funding for best management practices, such as installing controlled drainage structures on farm fields, improving drinking water and wastewater facilities, planting cover crops, monitoring water quality, fixing faulty septic systems and recycle dredge material, and ODNR has been putting best management practices on more than 100,000 acres in the Western Lake Erie Basin. The United States Department of Agriculture

Another historic reform that occurred during FY 2015 was the passage of Senate Bill 1, which was created to better protect Lake Erie and Ohio's water quality statewide. Within this bill, Ohioans in the Western Lake Erie Basin will not be allowed to spread manure on frozen or snow-covered soil, or when the top two inches of soil are saturated from precipitation. Additionally, people are not allowed to apply manure to the ground if there is a greater than 50 percent chance of precipitation exceeding half an inch in a 24-hour period. However, farmers in the Western Lake Erie Basin may apply manure if it is injected into the ground; incorporated within 24 hours of surface application; or if it is applied onto a growing crop. Other actions within Senate Bill 1 include restricting open-lake dumping of dredged materials as well as additional monitoring at water treatment plants.

RECREATIONAL PURSUITS

Ohio is blessed with some of the most beautiful scenery in the nation, from Lake Erie to the Ohio River and from prairie lands to the Appalachian foothills. ODNR offers recreational opportunities showcasing the state's natural wonders while providing visitors with an enjoyable experience in a safe setting.



Ohio State Parks

Ohio is proud to be one of only seven states in the nation to offer free admission to all 74 of our state parks. Ohio State Parks provide more than 1,000 miles of woodland trails and 64 lakes where visitors can fish, swim, bike, hunt, boat, hike or simply spending time outdoors in the beauty of nature.

Parks staff and volunteers are charged with maintaining and managing more than 174,000 acres of park lands and waters for the enjoyment of our visitors, and there are state parks in 59 of Ohio's 88 counties. Last year collectively, Ohio State Park campgrounds, cabins and lodges received a total of 2.3 million overnight visits. By continuing to improve our state parks system, we have the opportunity to showcase our facilities and draw more tourism dollars into Ohio.

Education is the primary goal of the naturalist program at Ohio State Parks. During FY 2015, our naturalists led more than 4,400 education programs such as wildlife talks, guided hikes and fishing programs in state parks and campgrounds. Naturalists also visited local schools and hosted school field trips to our parks.

Boat rentals also are available at 37 state parks, giving all Ohioans an opportunity to get out on the water to paddle, powerboat, fish and enjoy Ohio's abundant waterways.



Improving access to Ohio's waterways continues to be a priority. Ohio State Parks teamed up with the ODNR divisions of Watercraft and Wildlife to invest more than \$2.5 million in improving water access for Ohio boaters. New launch ramps were built, and upgrades were made to shoreline protection, courtesy docks, launch ramps, lighting, restrooms, parking lots and trail signage across Ohio. The design for Caesar Creek Marina was completed, and phase one of marina construction will be completed in 2015. The new marina will include approximately 120 slips with a floating harbor master with restrooms.

In response to citizens' requests and public input, horsepower limit rules were modified at Jackson Lake and at Acton Lake (Hueston Woods State Park) as a second-year project. This allows boats with more than 10 horsepower motors to operate at idle speed. This change allows more boaters access to these smaller lakes.

Fifty-seven of the 74 state parks currently have established Friends of Ohio State Parks groups. The volunteer friends groups contribute to the development of new recreational opportunities, such as shelter houses, dog parks, amphitheaters, disc golf courses, archery ranges and much more. These volunteers also help with trail maintenance and provide great information to park visitors. Statewide, about 4,000 volunteers logged more than 265,000 hours of service during 2014.

Ohio State Parks worked with the ODNR Division of Wildlife to host the Biggest Week in American Birding at Maumee Bay Resort and Conference Center. The event attracted more than 100,000 visitors and pumped an estimated \$30 million into the local economy. This event drew visitors from 46 states and 22 countries.

Ohio State Parks continued to partner with the ODNR Division of Forestry to remove hazardous trees from a number of park properties to maintain the safety of visitors. Most of these trees had fallen victim to the Emerald Ash Borer and were removed at sites such as overnight facilities, roadways and trails. Vistas were also restored at state park lodge and overnight facilities to reveal stunning water views.

Ohio State Parks and the ODNR Division of Natural Areas and Preserves partnered with the ODNR Division of Watercraft to streamline functions of the three divisions. While statutorily each division is recognized as an independent division within ODNR, the divisions combined their efforts for budgetary savings and to improve service for their

mutual customer base. Watercraft and Ohio State Parks have merged 10 field offices into building space located within state parks where they share office resources, improved customer services, increased office hours and cross-trained employees. In addition to sharing office space, central office staff merged to decrease duplicate efforts, such as processing payments and payroll functions, customer service initiatives, etc.

Parks Improvements

Ohio State Parks received an unprecedented \$88.5 million for capital improvements in the capital budget, passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed by Governor John R. Kasich. This historic investment will allow our facilities to match the impressive natural beauty that defines Ohio State Parks. These funds will not be used to expand Ohio State Parks, but are serving as a step toward improving and modernizing our parks for the enjoyment of every visitor. FY 2015 involved receiving feedback from more than 7,000 Ohio State Park visitors about what improvements they wanted to see statewide. After receiving feedback from



our state park visitors, much of FY 2015 was spent in planning and design to determine how best to use the \$88.5 million for improvements at our lodges, cabins, campgrounds, restroom and showerhouse facilities. For example, the lodges at Burr Oak, Deer Creek, Hocking Hills, Mohican and Shawnee State Park will be receiving improvements totaling nearly \$14 million. These improvements will include roof replacements, new heating and air conditioning systems, repairs to swimming pools and other needed updates.



Cabin improvements are occurring at Buck Creek, Cowan Lake, Dillon, Hocking Hills, Lake Hope, Mohican, Pike Lake, Punderson and Pymatuning state parks totaling more than \$14 million and includes renovations such as roof repairs, new windows and other features to improve guest experiences. The campgrounds renovations are taking place at Alum Creek, East Fork, East Harbor, Findley, Grand Lake St. Marys, Hocking Hills, Indian Lake, Kelleys Island, Mt. Gilead, Punderson, South Bass and Salt Fork state parks totaling approximately \$11 million.

Approximately 120 cabins statewide will be renovated using parks improvement funding, and the cabins were in the design phase during FY 2015. Other renovations include camping pads, improving utilities, as well as renovating campground restrooms and shower houses. New shower houses are in the design stage to be built at East Harbor, Grand Lake St. Marys, Indian Lake, Mohican and Mt. Gilead state parks, and the shower house at Findley State Park will be renovated. The nature

center at Findley State Park was also under construction at the end of FY 2015. Additionally, the construction of splash pads at Grand Lake St. Marys State Park and Mohican State Park started during FY 2015.

Noteworthy completed projects during FY 2015 include the construction of a new beach house at East Fork State Park, as well as a new dock for hand-powered watercraft, which will specifically benefit rowers, kayakers and canoers by allowing them to launch into Harsha Lake more easily. Other improvements occurred at Punderson State Park with ODNR renovating the outdoor pool and working with the lodge concessionaire, Xanterra, to add new telecommunications lines, which improved cable and Internet access in the cabins. Middle Bass Island State Park received a large shelter house and a press box for visitors as they wait for the ferry. Seventeen campsites at Mohican State Park were also upgraded to full service, which will help meet the needs of modern campers.

Other improvements will include replacement of old restrooms, playground renovations, rebuilding picnic shelters in park day-use areas, as well as much needed repairs on the Little Miami Scenic Trail to repair pavement, storm water culverts and shore-up erosion problems at a total of approximately \$12 million. Amenities that are crucial to supporting park facilities such as engineering design and construction renovations for dam rehabilitation at Buckeye Lake, Lake White, Acton Lake, Indian Lake and Mt. Gilead, as well as replacement of underground fuel storage tanks, trail/boardwalk rehabilitation and water/wastewater facility improvements push this total close to \$40 million.

In support of best management practices in dam maintenance, all woody brush and trees continue to be removed from dams under the division's ownership. Clearing the dams helps with the ongoing monitoring of these dams to ensure the protection of public safety and property.

Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

With 136 state nature preserves around Ohio, there are plenty of opportunities for Ohioans to get up close and personal with nature. ODNR continues to promote Ohioans donating to Ohio's Income Tax Checkoff Program, which allows staff to construct trails and boardwalks; improve parking and signage; and allow for greater public access to a treasure trove of nature's wonders available in Ohio. Additionally, donations support critical ecological management activities, including efforts to remove non-native and invasive species that pose a serious and ever-growing threat to sensitive habitats.

The tax checkoff dollars allowed ODNR to partner with the Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA), a nonprofit conservation organization, to purchase 60 acres adjacent to Chaparral Prairie State Nature Preserve in Adams County. This acquisition nearly doubled the acreage of the preserve and protects rare habitats and state endangered species. ODNR will manage the sites as part of the existing preserve. The department also purchased 34 acres near Boch Hollow State Nature Preserve in Hocking County, which contains a scenic waterfall, sandstone cliffs, mature forest and state endangered species.

The department made a number of facility improvements and provided more public access to a number of state nature preserves in FY 2015. New hiking trails were installed at Johnson Ridge and Raven Rock state nature preserves. New entrance signs were installed at Boch Hollow, Christmas Rocks, Cooperrider-Kent Bog, Headlands Dunes, Rhododendron Cove and St. Marys River Wetlands state nature preserves, plus a new parking area at Johnson Ridge State Nature Preserve.

Nature education is one of the goals for state nature preserves. Department staff increased public programming in FY 2015, reaching hundreds of people around the state. State Nature Preserves started the "Wildflower Bloom Report" in spring 2015, which was a huge success with hundreds of photo entries uploaded to the department's website.

Controlling invasive species is a priority in the care of the 136 state nature preserves. With volunteers helping alongside staff, more than 500 acres of invasive species control were conducted on several state nature preserves. ODNR partnered with Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society, Columbus Audubon Society, Ohio Natural Areas and Preserves Association and other organizations in conducting invasive species control in state nature preserves.





Watercraft

The ODNR Division of Watercraft works with local, state and federal agencies along with conservancy districts to provide funding assistance through the Waterways Safety Fund for recreational boating public access projects statewide. Ohio boaters enjoy free parking and boat launch facilities at hundreds of public sites statewide, including most of Ohio's 74 state parks.

ODNR Division of Watercraft officers patrol 2.29 million acres of Lake Erie, 451 miles of the Ohio River and many of Ohio's inland lakes and rivers. Watercraft officers actively patrol and provide emergency response when needed. The division also registers and inspects recreational vessels across the state.

For the sixth consecutive year, Ohio is in the top 10 states for the number of registered boats. In 2014, Ohio registered 460,277 recreational boats, which was an increase of 10,259 from the previous year. Additionally, approximately 4.3 million boats are registered in the Great Lakes, which means about one-third of all recreational boats in the nation are found on the Great Lakes.

Paddle sports continued to rapidly gain popularity in Ohio with total registrations reaching 140,434 canoes and kayaks. This compares to 60,065 such vessels registered in the state 10 years ago and marks an increase of 13,930 from just last year.

The ODNR Division of Watercraft continues to partner with Ohio State Parks to maintain access points for boaters statewide, allowing Ohioans to keep boating, paddling, fishing and enjoying Ohio's waterways.

In 2014, the ODNR Division of Watercraft returned more than \$14,445,113 to the boaters and boating communities in the form of grants for boating safety education, marine patrol, dredging and facility development or improvements.

The division introduced a number of programs to help encourage growth in boating, fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreational activities around the state. Many of these programs were offered in partnership with Ohio State Parks, the ODNR Division of Wildlife and other boating partners.



In FY 2015, Paddle Palooza events were held at Alum Creek State Park beach on two occasions. Both events drew more than 1,000 participants, leading to the expansion of the program to beaches at Maumee Bay State Park and West Branch State Park. The division coordinated with nearby local paddling vendors and boating partners to provide free paddling opportunities. Vendors and partners provided use of their gear and boats at the state park beach and allowed participants to try various types of paddle sports, including kayaking, canoeing, stand-up paddleboards and fishing from a kayak.

The division launched its first Ohio Women's Outdoor Adventures program at Burr Oak State Park. This event offered 80 women the opportunity to try new activities or improve their skills in power boating, various types of paddle sports, fishing, hunting, geocaching, bird watching and other outdoor activities.

In May 2015, the division hosted its first Ohio Boating Summit. The one-day conference was held at The Ohio State University and featured eight speakers presenting on various boating or boating related topics, and eight vendors provided exhibits during the conference.

The division also piloted its first annual Families on the Water program to introduce families to boating and fishing. It is a program that encourages families who have never boated and/or fished before to learn about and enjoy boating and fishing. The families learn to fish from a kayak and a power boat. In addition, they learn about safety, boat

operation, use of fishing poles and gear, as well as how to clean and cook their fish.

The division purchased a personal watercraft (also known as wave runner or jet ski) simulator, which is utilized at boat shows, exhibits, the Ohio State Fair and other events. This simulator exposes riders and operators to safety on personal watercraft and teaches them how to operate a jet ski.

By offering additional opportunities for people to experience and enjoy Ohio's waterways in a safe, educational setting, the division hopes to increase participation in a number of water sports while also increasing safety on and around the water.



Wildlife

Ohio has world-class opportunities for fishing, hunting, trapping, bird watching, wildlife viewing and other forms of fish and wildlife recreation in 144 wildlife areas, encompassing 195,000 acres of public land. The ODNR Division of Wildlife manages these lands and helps Ohio landowners conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats. The division also manages Ohio's fisheries, which cover 124,000 acres of inland water, 7,000 miles of streams, 2.29 million acres of Lake Erie and 451 miles of the Ohio River.

Fish and wildlife management and research consists of projects that affect fish and wildlife populations, their habitats and the Ohioans that benefit from a healthy, wild landscape. Projects completed throughout the year involve population and habitat management, research related to fish and wildlife resources, as well as promoting fish and wildlife recreation and appreciation to the people that enjoy those resources. The ODNR Division of Wildlife offers a variety of educational projects and programs designed to increase the skills, knowledge and participation of those interested in wildlife.



2014 was an exciting year for Ohio's wildlife supporters. Lake Erie once again provided excellent fishing opportunities for walleye, yellow perch and smallmouth bass. Angler success rates for walleye were among the highest ever. Lake Erie had good hatches for both walleye and yellow perch, and the future continues to be bright for Ohio sport fishing.

Recreational shooting opportunities have been improved and expanded over the past year with the construction and opening of the Fallsville Wildlife Area Archery Range made possible through funding from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. Several shooting ranges in Ohio are scheduled for upgrades over the next several years. A new partnership with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and several metroparks systems is furthering the popularity of shooting sports in Ohio by providing archery equipment, training and shooting opportunities at several urban parks throughout Ohio.

Anglers can note that Ohio's six public fish hatcheries received an excellent review by Ohio's Performance Auditors. The hatcheries stocked more than 43 million sport fish into public waters to expand opportunities for Ohio's 1.3 million anglers. Ohio Auditor of State Dave Yost said, "It's good to know that fishermen are reeling in more than their money's worth and our state's aquatic habitats are populated with precision."



Photographer James Mundy, of Cincinnati, captured this image of an eastern bluebird perched on a redbud tree, and it was selected as the winning image of the 2015 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp contest. Fourteen dollars of every \$15 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp sold are invested in the state's Wildlife Diversity Fund, which supports habitat restoration as well as efforts that restore and conserve endangered and threatened species.

The auditor's office also stated that ODNR produces fish more efficiently compared to market prices, citing that for yellow perch, ODNR had a savings of 93 percent.

The ODNR Division of Wildlife continued to limit invasive species by partnering with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services to address mute swan problems, implemented the Asian Carp Tactical Plan, partnered with Michigan DNR to develop a response plan should Asian carp be detected in Lake Erie, and utilized Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to eradicate invasive plants like phragmites in Lake Erie wetlands.

Fish Ohio is a recognition program for anglers that reel-in noteworthy catches. After 35 years, anglers can now apply for their "award" (a lapel pin) online. Technological upgrades also affected hunting and fishing licenses, and sportsmen can now go paperless in the field and on the water, displaying their licenses on a mobile device.

The once endangered peregrine falcon has responded so positively to reintroduction and management efforts that it has been removed from special listing status in Ohio. Similar to the recovery of the bald eagle in Ohio, the population of peregrines can be considered a wildlife success story. Peregrine falcons will still be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (like hawks, owls and songbirds) and their populations in Ohio monitored, but to a lesser extent.

Unfortunately, the first positive test result for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in a captive white-tailed deer was confirmed in Holmes County. As a result, the effort to test hunter harvested deer in the region was significantly increased. Even with increased testing, CWD has not been found in wild deer in Ohio, and the ODNR Division of Wildlife is working cooperatively with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to monitor the health of the wild herd.

Forestry

The ODNR Division of Forestry operates and maintains Ohio's 21 state forests, encompassing nearly 200,000 acres. Ohio's state forests offer visitors more than 350 miles of back country bridle trails, more than 80 miles of backpack trails, many day-use hiking and mountain biking trails, as well as camping, hunting, wildlife viewing and gathering places. Four designated all-purpose vehicle areas on state forest land are open for off-road four-wheeler and motorcycle riding.

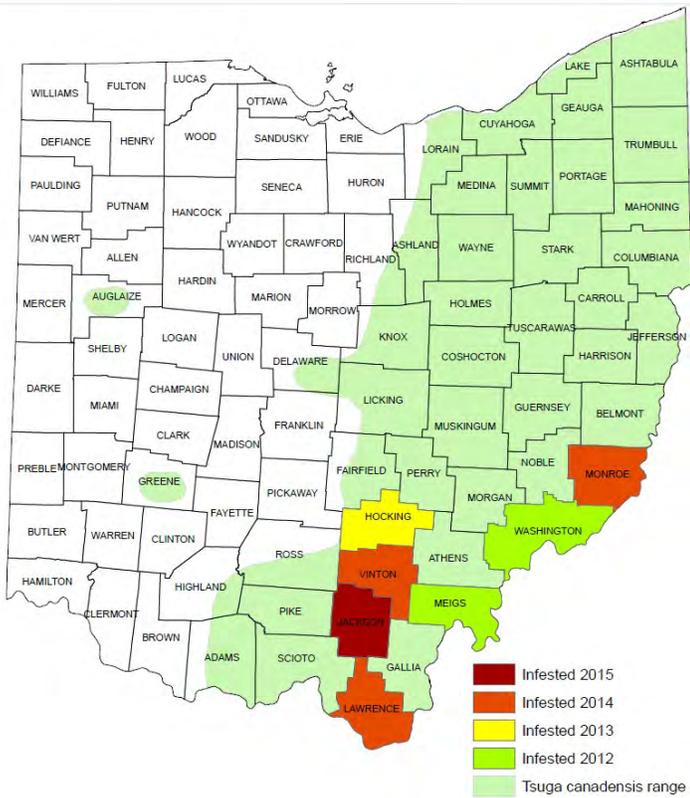
In addition to offering recreational opportunities, the ODNR Division of Forestry manages Ohio's vast forest resources and promotes wise use and sustainable management assistance to public and private landowners throughout the state. The division's duties include forest health management, state forest land management, and fire protection and service forestry assistance.

The primary source of forestry assistance for private woodland owners in the state is the ODNR Division of Forestry's Service Forestry Program. In FY 2015, the division's 19 service foresters provided one-on-one assistance to 2,249 landowners, helping them prepare for timber sales, create habitat for forest wildlife, plant trees for future forests and better understand the many benefits that their forests provide. Service foresters also assist landowners by developing woodland stewardship management plans that include descriptions and maps of their woodlands, as well as recommendations and timelines for their woodland management activities. In FY 2015, service foresters wrote 334 plans covering 22,932 acres of forest land. Not only do the plans help landowners maintain

healthy, productive woods, they also qualify them for programs like Ohio Forest Tax Law, which reduces property taxes for managed forest land. The Service Forestry program also provides forestry information and resources to Ohio citizens through the ODNR website and its Small Woodlot Owner through the toll free "Call Before You Cut" phone line for landowners considering a timber sale. Additional information is available to landowners through workshops, field days and other educational events. In FY 2015, more than 6,300 people learned from service foresters at these events.

The ODNR Division of Forestry's Forest Health Program has been proactively managing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), a non-native, invasive insect pest of eastern hemlock trees. Several chemical insecticide treatments are available to protect trees against HWA and have been used in Ohio, in addition to several beetle species that are used as biological controls. In 2015, a new HWA infestation was found at Lake Katharine State Nature Preserve in Jackson County, bringing the total number of confirmed infested counties in Ohio to seven (see map on the next page).





Insecticide treatments have been used to treat nearly 900 hemlock trees at four sites on ODNR lands in southern Ohio since 2013. An assessment of all treated trees in the winter of 2014 showed that these treatments were highly successful in reducing HWA populations (see table). Assessments of winter-caused mortality of HWA conducted in Marietta, Ohio, revealed a winter mortality rate of about 80 percent. While this data is good news, HWA populations can rapidly rebuild as they experience two generations per year.

The ODNR Division of Forestry Forest Health Program is also leading the effort to produce an ODNR-lands HWA management plan along with staff from the ODNR divisions of Wildlife, Ohio State Parks and Natural Areas and Preserves. This plan will guide HWA detection and monitoring surveys, and chemical and biological treatments of HWA infestations on ODNR-owned and managed properties.

The ODNR Division of Forestry Urban Forestry Program continued administering the Tree Canopy Enhancement Program to help replace trees lost during Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) eradication efforts. This program restores lost canopy cover in areas that are not mitigated by natural tree regeneration. Sixty ALB-affected property owners received 247 trees during the fall 2014 distribution. A total of 1,229 trees have been distributed to more than 230 properties through this program since fall 2012.

The ODNR Division of Forestry Urban Forestry Program distributed more than \$48,000 in grant funding, supplied by the USDA Forest Service, to help Ohio communities remove more than 600 hazardous ash trees along public rights-of-way.

The ODNR Division of Forestry Urban Forestry Program continues to provide formal training for Tree Commissions throughout Ohio through the Tree Commission Academy (TCA). TCA is a unique educational platform designed to

No. of Confirmed HWA Infested Trees

	DATE OF TREATMENT	INITIAL	POST-TREATMENT	% HWA REDUCTION
Shade River/Forked Run	May 2013	10	2	80
Cantwell Cliffs Site 1	May 2013	59	1	>99
Zaleski	May 2014	12	0	100
Cantwell Cliffs Site 2	May 2014	5	0	100



give tree commissioners the urban forestry knowledge and skills necessary to be effective commission members. To date, 859 citizens in 248 different communities have registered for the program, impacting more than 4.5 million Ohioans.

FY 2015 projects for ODNR Division of Forestry Southern District State Lands involved completing repairs to Pond Lick Lake in Shawnee State Forest, including construction of a new spillway and levee. While the lake was drained down for dam repairs, the ODNR Division of Forestry staff dredged the lake to provide added benefit to the project. The lake is now at normal pool, and the Division of Forestry worked jointly with the Division of Wildlife to stock the lake with catchable channel catfish, fingerling bluegills and largemouth bass.

The FY 2015 projects for the ODNR Division of Forestry Northern District State Lands included the Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program, which is an inter-agency effort to get field windbreaks planted in northwest

Ohio. Windbreaks are rows of trees and/or shrubs that provide protection against wind erosion and wind damage to crops. Windbreaks serve multiple purposes, including providing food and cover for wildlife; controlling pesticide spray drift and blowing snow; and conserving energy and protecting livestock and farmsteads during winter months.

Spring 2015 marked the 39th planting season for the Northwest Ohio Windbreak Program. Ten new windbreaks were planted in eight counties, totaling 91,169 row feet, covering approximately 45.5 acres. For this program, 9,197 seedlings from 13 tree and shrub species were used.



REGULATORY EFFORTS

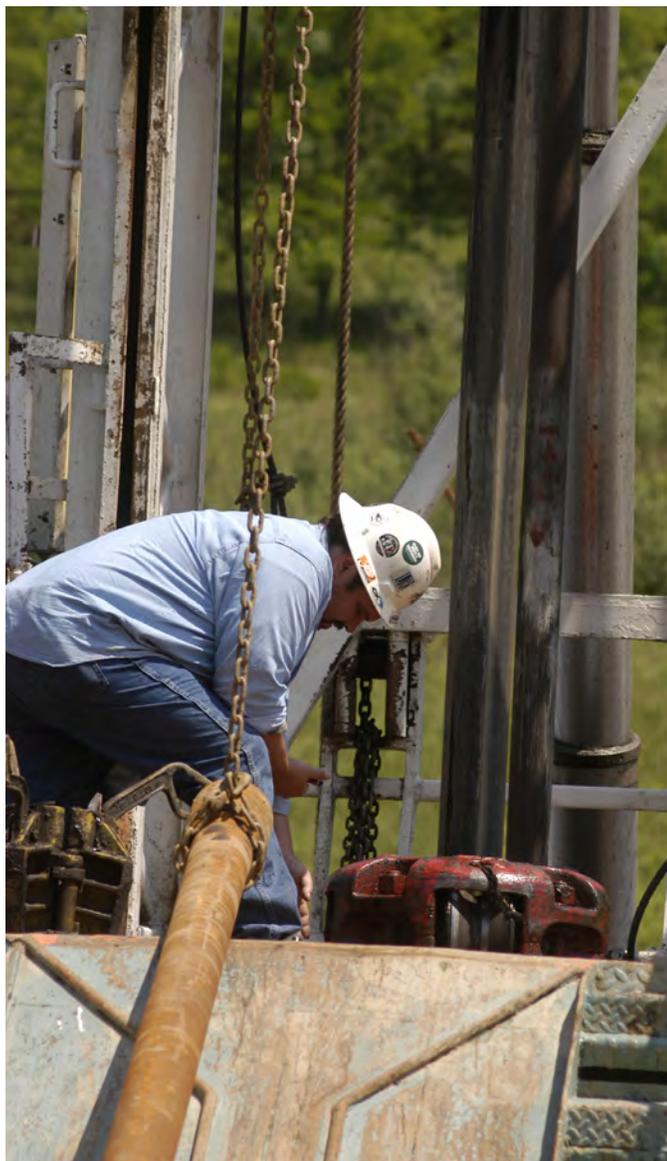
ODNR works to provide consistent, comprehensive and clear regulations which allow companies and business owners to succeed in Ohio, while not allowing industry to occur at the expense of public health and safety or the environment. We employ, train and equip our regulators statewide with the tools needed to effectively enforce our regulations. These committed employees work diligently to ensure Ohio's laws and rules are current and reflect what is occurring in our state.



Oil and Gas Resources Management

The ODNR Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (DOGRM) regulates Ohio's oil and natural gas industry by protecting Ohioans and our environment while ensuring that the state's natural resources are managed properly. The division oversees a number of aspects of the oil and natural gas industry: well pad construction, permitting, drilling, completions and production; the disposal of produced fluids and brine; and the plugging of wells and reclamation of well sites after production ends.

Exploration in the Utica/Point Pleasant Shale play has steadily matured as well operators continue to seek new permits, drill and complete wells and increase production



levels. Despite stagnant commodity prices, the oil and gas industry has directed investments to southeastern Ohio targeting the play's gas-rich window while continuing to develop acreage in abundant wet natural gas and condensate areas.

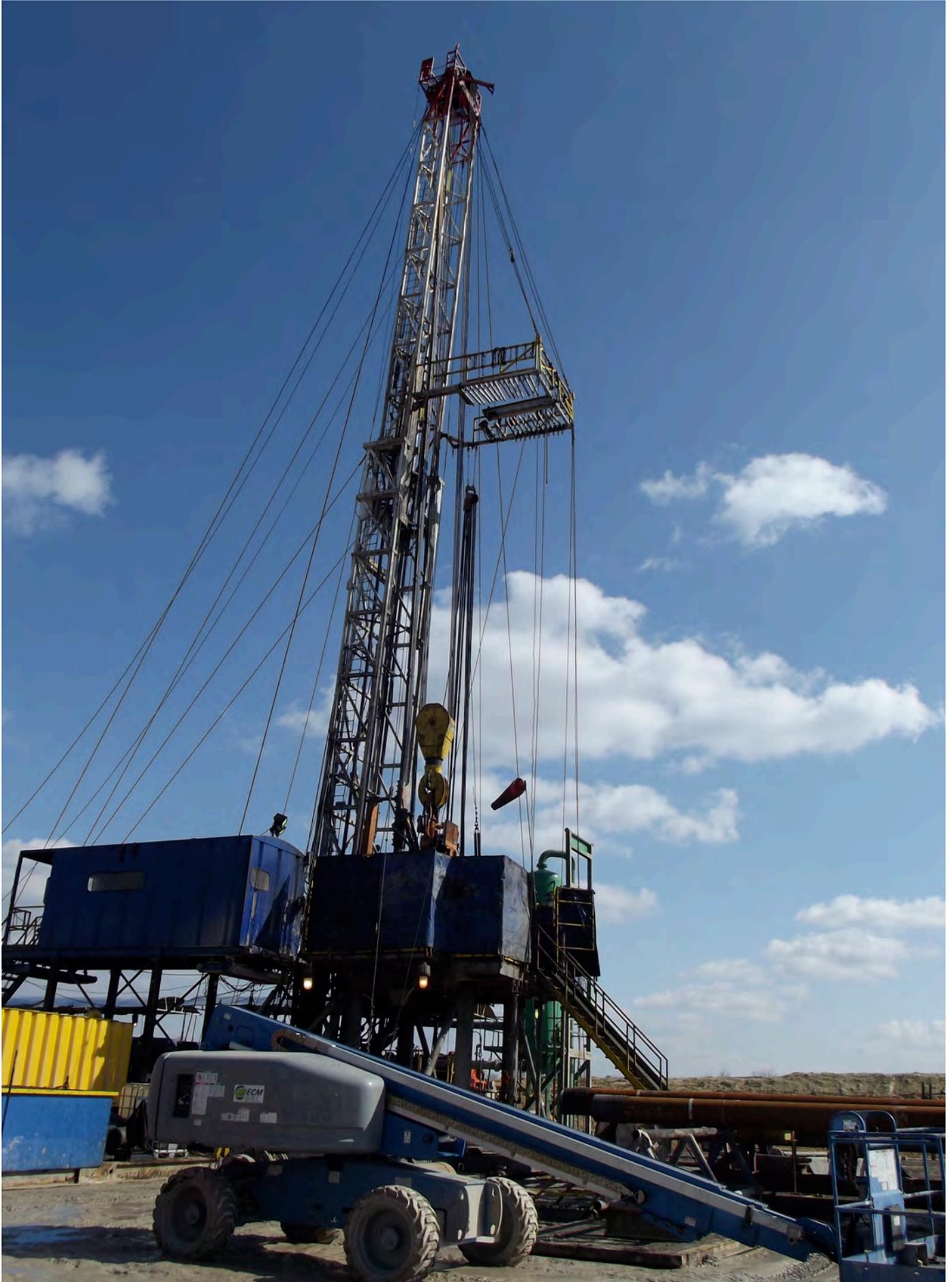
Further development in the shale play has resulted in greater efficiencies in drilling and completions. These efficiencies are demonstrated in the significant increases in oil and natural gas production:

	1 st Quarter 2014	4 th Quarter 2014
Oil Production	1,951,641 barrels	3,560,787 barrels
Natural Gas Production	67,329,316 mcf*	165,020,459 mcf*

*mcf = thousand cubic feet of natural gas

Horizontal wells in Ohio totaled 10,999,162 barrels of oil (bbls) and 452,866,564 thousand cubic feet (mcf) of natural gas. The total production of all oil and gas wells in Ohio – including horizontal and conventional (vertical) wells – resulted in 14,983,361 barrels of oil and 511,713,921 mcf of natural gas. The division has issued more than 1,950 permits for horizontal wells, of which more than 1,525 wells are drilled and 900 wells are producing at the end of FY 2015.

The ODNR Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management has maintained a measured stride to meet and exceed the regulatory challenges brought by the shale play. The division employs 123 full-time employees,



up from 37 staff members in 2010. Division offices are located in eastern Ohio's shale development area, and field inspectors are based in every major oil and gas producing county. Strategic placement of the division's resources promotes the prioritization of witnessing crucial stages of well construction and completion. Routine inspections by county and regional inspectors allow the division to keep pace with the growing, around-the-clock industry. New in FY 2015, the division launched an emergency management response team, providing further expertise and resources coordination to safely and effectively address oilfield incidents.

Regulatory agility remains crucial as Ohio continues to be a national leader in setting standards in oil and gas regulation. The development of comprehensive facility and horizontal well pad construction rules continues as a priority. The new oil and gas waste facility rules will give the division's oversight of oilfield facilities that treat, recycle, and store fluids and solid wastes involved in well drilling and completions. The division also increased the number of staff engineers to ensure safety in the design and operation of such facilities, as well as horizontal well pads.

The ODNR Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management has successfully implemented the nation's first regulations establishing seismic monitoring requirements for injection wells. Nineteen real-time seismic monitors distributed across the state provide the division with the necessary data to make critical decisions and contribute to the development of policies and standards in this area. ODNR serves as a prominent national voice and regulatory leader through participation in the State Oil and Gas Regulatory Exchange established by the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, the latter of which hosted its annual

conference in Ohio in October 2014.

The Underground Injection Control (UIC) program continues to proactively regulate the disposal of produced water, or brine, through the conditioned permitting and inspections of Class II injection wells. Through its primacy agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the division ensures that brine in Ohio is safely disposed in more than 200 Class II wells. The UIC program also oversees brine hauling, solution mining, enhanced recovery operations and annular disposal wells.



In addition to DOGRM's issuance of plugging permits at the end of the production life of a well, the Orphan Well Program continues to actively plug abandoned wells. Notably, program funding and staff expertise ensured that several high-risk wells were plugged during the last fiscal year, including wells underneath a school gymnasium, adjacent to a major hospital and within the boundaries of a national forest. The Orphan Well Program has six full-time employees that are dedicated to administering the program, investigating potential orphan wells and overseeing contractors who are engaged to plug wells. Recent contractual overhauls allow for the program to efficiently leverage funding and resources to remedy large-scale plugging emergencies, landowner plugging grants and to act in place of negligent owners in environmentally sensitive situations.

Geological Survey

The ODNR Division of Geological Survey is one of the oldest organizations authorized by the Ohio Legislature in the state. Since 1937, the Geological Survey has researched and reported on the state's complex geology and vast wealth of energy, water and mineral resources. As a result, Ohioans will benefit from decades of collecting and interpreting information and data about Ohio's geology. This information is used to support environmental protection, proper land use and planning, mitigation of geologic hazards, regulation of fossil fuel and mineral extraction, academic research and recreational and educational activities.

The ODNR Division of Geological Survey's mission is to provide geological information for the responsible use of Ohio's natural resources. This is accomplished by data collection, analyses, mapping and publication of results. The division's expertise extends throughout the spectrum of Ohio's geological resources and includes mineral aggregates, salt, coal, oil and gas, as well as the Lake Erie shoreline. The staff of 24 people consists of mostly geologists with various specializations. The tools they use include geophysical logs, seismic data, geographic and spatial information, mineral production data, drill-hole cores and a wide range of other data types.

The division works cooperatively with the U.S. Geological Survey to map the geology of the state through the Great Lakes Geologic Mapping Coalition and StateMap grant programs. Although the first geological map was published in 1870, continuous refinement of the stratigraphic units is necessary to keep pace with the changing needs of society. This mapping is used, as an example, to identify karst, which affects ground-water flow and surface land use. Additionally, mapping is used to aid land-use planners, identify sand-and-gravel resources, assist with ground-water utilization and many other efforts.

The ODNR Division of Geological Survey collects data from all of the mineral producers in the state and summarizes the annual production in the Report on Ohio Mineral Industries, which is typically released each November to coincide with the annual meeting of the Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association. The report is used by companies and regulatory agencies to access the mineral production for regulation, forecasting, taxation and planning. This valuable service has been performed by the division since 1981.

The Lake Erie section of the division is preparing for the next Coastal Erosion Area (CEA) study. Aerial photography and LiDAR data gathering was completed in April 2015. Maps will be quality checked and prepared for release in late 2016. A statistical evaluation and comparison of the previous two CEA map releases (1998 and 2010) is currently underway, and the findings may be used to improve future maps. Additionally, the division continues work to develop a complete sediment budget for the Lake Erie shore in Ohio. A GIS application to estimate the amount of sand and gravel eroded from the shore is being developed; the application was released in pilot form in 2013.

Studies of the deep subsurface are a major area of interest for the division. Carbon

sequestration, oil-and-gas resources and salt resources are being studied, largely funded through grants and mineral severance taxes. Collaborative research is being conducted with various Ohio universities including The Ohio State University, Miami University, Wright State University, University of Cincinnati and Ohio University.

The information is published and used by state and federal regulators, industry, consultants and the general public to make

the wisest use of Ohio's abundant natural resources. Public outreach efforts have expanded significantly in recent years, as this information is conveyed to stakeholders. The division regularly makes presentations to local schools, offers tours of the GeoWalk at the Ohio State Fair, participates with rock and mineral shows and is in the process of writing a series of books on the geology of Ohio State Parks.



Mineral Resources Management

The ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management is comprised of diverse and comprehensive programs that address the environmental and safety aspects of the coal and industrial mineral mining industries, while maintaining high standards of regulatory effectiveness. The division also restores abandoned mine lands, operates a comprehensive mine safety program and is tasked with ensuring the protection of Ohio's land and water resources. Program services include coal and industrial minerals permitting, bonding, inspection and enforcement; mine rescue support and training, mine safety training and miner certifications; and hydrology, soils, blasting, archaeology, engineering and design.

One of the most important initiatives undertaken by the ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management is their mine safety training program. Mine safety staff provided training for 6,621 employees of both the coal and industrial minerals industries during 2014 for surface and underground Ohio miners. In addition, mine safety staff provided testing and certifications for various mine forepersons for both coal and industrial minerals.

A huge step toward keeping miners safe was taken when ODNR was able to secure a new mine safety training center. Design of the new training center has begun, while construction on the necessary office facilities is underway. The new facility will provide the division with the space necessary to hold mandated classroom training and valuable mine safety competitions. It will also include a simulated room and pillar mine, a training tool that provides miners with important first-hand experience of emergency conditions. With the support of elected leaders, industry leaders and mine union representatives, the review and selection process for the design/built is underway, and the division anticipates construction to be completed by December 2016.

The coal permitting staff processed a total of eight new mining permits and seven adjacent areas permits, resulting in the permitting of 3,700 acres for surface mining and 12,218 acres for underground mining. Reclamation was completed by mine operators totaling 7,773 acres for either partial or entire releases on affected areas. Additionally, the division has been working cooperatively with the Ohio EPA and the U.S. EPA to develop a mechanism for sharing water quality data.

The division also nominated the Oxford Mining Co. for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission's outstanding reclamation award in cooperation with the division in reclaiming areas where unexpected environmental hazards were encountered during mining on permit D-2393 located in Tuscarawas County due to the extensive pre-law disturbance.

The division's industrial minerals program issued 17 new industrial minerals permits on 905 acres and 16 amendment applications on 470 acres during the year. Staff reviewed and approved 88 modifications to permits and issued two renewal permits.

The industrial minerals program was responsible for monitoring 616 permitted industrial mineral operations in 87 out of 88 counties (Henry County in northwest Ohio has no issued permits). Mineral production was at a six-year high at more than 300 active mine sites with approximately 96 million tons of product being mined consisting of minerals such as sand, gravel, limestone, clay and shale. These tonnages remain well below the all-time high of 131,989,315 tons mined in 2006.

The division nominated the Olen Corporation for the yearly Interstate Mining Compact Commission's outstanding reclamation award. While reclaiming 80 acres of mined area, Olen made the decision to also reclaim 22 additional acres of prelaw era mining affectment that had been left unreclaimed.

The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program, with federal- and state-funded components, was created to address high priority adverse mine-related issues. In FY 2015, 19 projects in 21 Ohio counties were bid for construction, totaling nearly \$3.1 million. The Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Program assists the public in restoring the quality of local water resources impacted by acid mine drainage. As with other restoration projects, the goal is to restore streams to pre-mining ecological conditions which will benefit the local environment. Four projects are under construction to treat or abate AMD for a total of nearly \$890,000.

The division has implemented a new initiative to address permitting and regulatory issues. The initiative is to form small workgroups consisting of agency and industry representatives to study specific topics related to mining and reclamation. Some of the agencies involved are the Ohio EPA, Office of Surface Mining, the ODNR divisions of Wildlife and Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with Mineral Resources and industry representatives. Each



workgroup will study an issue by collecting information, analyzing the information and making recommendations for future permitting and regulation guidelines or procedures. Some of the subjects that will be studied are remining best management practices, permitting efficiency, stream buffer zone establishment, performance security estimates, stream mitigation, archaeology and endangered species act compliance to name a few. The collaborative effort will improve the division's processes and foster good working relationships between agencies and the regulated industry.

Soil and Water Resources

The ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources provides leadership and technical assistance that enables Ohioans to conserve, protect and enhance soil, water and land resources. These programs include agricultural pollution abatement, agricultural nutrient management, managing our state's water resources, safety inspection of dams, managing floodplains, and storm water and drainage management. The division works closely with local soil and water conservation districts in the implementation of programs and educational outreach to landowners, businesses, schools and local governments to promote sound land and water conservation programs.

Improving water quality in Ohio is a critical role for the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources. Through the Ohio Clean Lakes Initiative, the division coordinated and supervised the installation of best management practices on more than 39,000 acres in 23 northwest Ohio counties. Practices included: drainage water management, agronomic systems, blind inlets and soil testing. The division also partnered with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in 45 Ohio counties to install cover crops on more than 60,000 acres. New authority provided under Senate Bill 1 paved the way for the division to work closely with local SWCDs to assist agricultural producers in complying with new water quality requirements for commercial fertilizer and manure application on frozen, saturated and snow-covered ground in Ohio's Western Lake Erie Basin.

In FY 2014, the division partnered with Indiana and Michigan in the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative. This \$17.5 million, five-year, multi-state project will provide incentives and technical assistance to producers as they work to help reduce phosphorus and sediment loading in the Western Lake Erie Basin in an effort to decrease Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).

In the Grand Lake St. Marys watershed, a milestone was reached as now all operations in this watershed are covered by a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

During FY 2015, staff partnered with SWCDs to assist with implementation and technical design of more than 250 projects in Ohio. These projects included drainage control structures, animal waste storage structures and other agronomic systems. Many of these practices were installed through conservation and water quality programs.

The Stormwater Management Program continues to provide guidance for best management practices that can be applied to limit the impacts of construction and development on floodplain services. Division employees are involved in the planning of the annual Ohio Stormwater Conference and improvement of the Rainwater and Land Development manual, Ohio's Standards for Stormwater Management, Land Development and Urban Stream Protection.

Through the Ohio Watershed Coordinator grant program, 22 watershed coordinator grants were administered to local organizations, including SWCDs, regional planning agencies, municipalities and citizen groups. Watershed coordinators through this program were able to leverage an additional

\$500,000 in funds to implement watershed action plans and complete plans focused on removing impairments to streams and rivers.

The Water Inventory and Planning Program installed solar panels on 31 water level observation wells. These new solar panels will reduce the incidences of battery failure and data loss. Additionally, 138 observation wells were serviced on a quarterly basis and 12 issues of the Monthly Water Inventory Report were published, which includes information on ground water levels, precipitation, stream flow and reservoir storage. A total of 2,043 Water Withdrawal Facility Annual Report Forms were sent to all actively registered water withdrawal facilities in the state, which was the largest number ever sent, and the first five-year Water Management and Conservation and Efficiency Program Review as required by the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact was completed.

The Dam Safety Program held 15 dam safety awareness workshops for regulated dam owners and local officials in 18 counties with more than 280 attendees. This completes the six-year effort in all 88 Ohio counties with more than 96 local meetings held with a total attendance of more than 1,700 dam owners and local officials. The division also approved 71 emergency action plans (EAPs) for both public and private regulated dams and continued work with the ODNR Dam Safety Team to implement risk reduction measures at ODNR-owned dams and improve emergency preparedness. In addition, more than 350 dams were inspected.

The Floodplain Management Program responded to numerous inquiries concerning the recent revisions to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). These more than 2,400 requests for technical assistance and flood recovery support were made necessary as the state experienced frequent flood and severe storm advisories, watches

and warnings. The program also assisted 750 Ohio communities in gaining and maintaining eligibility for participation in the NFIP by conducting 50 community visits, 25 workshops and a dozen environmental and engineering reviews. This program also coordinated the 16th annual Ohio Statewide Floodplain Management Conference; published the 21st year of The Antediluvian, Ohio's Floodplain Management Newsletter; and participated in FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (MAP) initiative.

The Ground Water Mapping and Technical Assistance Program mapped the direction of ground water flow in six counties in central and southwest Ohio (bringing the total to 57 completed counties); mapped the ground water pollution potential in Guernsey and Noble counties; assisted the ODNR Division of Mineral Resources Management with ground water model design or review of five mining sites; added more than 5,300 water well records and more than 4,000 well sealing reports to the state database; provided assistance for ground water information to more than 1,500 customers; and (through the website search functions) provided ground water data to more than 56,000 customers who viewed more than 300,000 well records.



Dam Risk Reduction Measures

ODNR owns and manages 177 dams statewide, including 56 Class I high-hazard potential dams. Through the Ohio Dam Safety Program, ODNR has prioritized state-owned dams statewide that require comprehensive dam risk reduction measures. Based upon this prioritization, the ODNR Division of Engineering completed an unprecedented amount of dam rehabilitation construction projects during FY 2015 in order to bring these structures into compliance with Ohio Dam Safety standards.

Significant rehabilitation efforts were completed at Pike Lake Dam, Pond Lick, Roosevelt Lake Dam, Dow Lake Dam, Jefferson Lake Dam and Tuscarawas Diversion Dam. During FY 2015, dam rehabilitation projects were also initiated at Acton Lake Dam and Grand Lake St. Mary's Dam. These projects are ongoing and will be completed in FY 2016. Total project costs for these dam rehabilitation projects are estimated at \$38.9 million (from FY 14 funding).

In addition to managing dam rehabilitation construction projects, the ODNR Division of Engineering initiated design of dam rehabilitation projects for several state-owned dams during FY 15. These projects will be constructed during future fiscal years. Significant design work began for dam rehabilitation at Mt. Gilead Lake State Park, Portage Lakes State Park, Indian Lake State Park, Lake Loramie State Park and Lake White State Park. Dam assessments, an early part of the design process, were performed for 12 other state-owned dams.

Noteworthy dam safety improvement efforts were made at Buckeye Lake Dam and Lake White Dam during FY 2015. Buckeye Lake, the first state park in Ohio, is located in Fairfield, Perry and Licking counties. Lake White State Park is located in Pike County.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted an independent, third-party assessment and

report of the Buckeye Lake Dam, which was released in March 2015. Buckeye Lake Dam is a 4.1-mile-long earthen embankment. Construction of the dam began in 1825 and finished in 1832. Over time, various problems have been identified at the dam, including structures built into and on the earthen embankment, uncontrolled seepage conditions, sheet pile and masonry wall deterioration, trees rooted in the embankment and subsidence features. Currently, the structure does not meet established dam safety standards.

As part of the assessment the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offered dam safety recommendations, emphasizing that Buckeye Lake should be permanently drained or the dam replaced. Initial estimates indicated that the project would be completed within five years, but ODNR is working to expedite the process.

Lake White Dam is part of Lake White State Park near Waverly, Ohio, and was built in 1935. Over the Labor Day holiday, seepage was discovered downstream of the spillway at Lake White. A department-wide emergency response with cooperation from other state agencies and partners was initiated by ODNR to inspect, monitor and implement risk-reduction measures to stabilize the dam. These risk-reduction measures included seepage control efforts and a reduction of lake levels at Lake White to approximately 11 feet below winter pool.

As part of a larger improvement project for Lake White Dam, ODNR managed an accelerated design schedule to address the seepage discovered during this incident. The department is anticipating that dam construction and roadway construction bids for improvements at Lake White Dam will be opened in late summer 2015, with construction to begin in fall 2015.

To assist with ODNR dam emergency response, more than 40 Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) were prepared for Class I ODNR dams statewide. Final approval of these safety documents is anticipated to be complete by winter 2015.

In addition to inspecting and regulating 177 ODNR-owned dams around the state, the ODNR Division of Soil and Water Resources regulates more than 1,300 other publicly and privately-owned dams through the Dam Safety Program. These dams must be inspected on a five-year periodic basis. The Dam Safety Program also reviews and approves plans for repairs and new dam construction throughout the state to ensure compliance with dam safety laws and rules. The goal of the department's Dam Safety Program is to enhance public safety by ensuring dams do not present unacceptable risk to people, property and the environment.



Coastal Management

The ODNR Office of Coastal Management administers the federally approved Ohio Coastal Management Program in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Ohio Coastal Management Program sets forth policies and guidelines to monitor activities that affect coastal resources and ensure resource protection. The ODNR Office of Coastal Management provides grants to local and state partners seeking to achieve goals outlined in the program. For the public, Coastal Management provides Lake Erie-related education programs, print and online mapping products, and technical assistance for coastal erosion, shore structure design and nearshore rehabilitation.

In FY 2015, Coastal Management coordinated with the Ohio EPA and the ports of Toledo and Cleveland on Healthy Lake Erie-funded projects that will improve Lake Erie's water quality and enable Ohio to beneficially reuse material dredged from shipping channels, ports and harbors. Projects include:

The Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority is developing a 16-acre "Dredging Center of Innovation" on the west bank of the Maumee River. The 16-acre site is being designed to accept up to 100,000 cubic yards of sediment per year for testing and experimental purposes.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority is upgrading Confined Disposal Facility 12 to create a sediment recycling facility. The facility will extract coarse grained sediments (sand and gravel) from the dredged material to be used for commercial purposes. The remaining material will either be stored on site or blended to create manufactured soils. It is anticipated that at least 70,000 cubic yards of sediment will be processed annually.

A bedload harvester was installed in the Cuyahoga River north of Independence, Ohio, on April 1, 2015. The 30-foot long harvester rests on the riverbed in 7 feet of

water. Bedload materials (sand and gravel) transported downstream are collected by the harvester and pumped onshore, dewatered and sorted. This project is an example of a successful public-private partnership between the state of Ohio, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority and Kurtz Brothers International. The harvester is expected to capture 40,000 cubic yards of bedload material annually, reducing the need to dredge the Cuyahoga River navigation channel.



To improve water quality, Coastal Management implemented NOAA-approved changes to federal consistency requirements of the Ohio Coastal Management Program. These changes prohibit open lake disposal of dredge material in Lake Erie if the dredge material could result in bioaccumulation of toxins in the food chain.

The 2016-2020 Ohio Coastal Program Enhancement Plan was developed and will be implemented by the Office of Coastal Management. Ohio's 2016-2020 plan outlines strategies in four key areas to enhance Ohio's coastal resources.

The first is to build resilient shorelines by developing a geospatial database that integrates information on shoreline alterations, sand resources, functional habitats and nearshore ecosystems to identify critically important shoreline reaches that offer potential habitat enhancement or restoration opportunities while protecting coastal infrastructure. Second, mapping Ohio's Coastal Erosion Areas to provide coastal property owners and stakeholders with the most recent and accurate information regarding erosion along Ohio's 312-mile Lake Erie coast. Third, assessing the condition of Ohio's coastal wetlands, prioritizing wetland acquisition areas and revising guidelines for wetland management and restoration programs. Lastly, improving Lake Erie water quality by reducing nonpoint pollution.



Coastal staff have partnered with the city of Cleveland's Office of Sustainability and the Cleveland Water Alliance to participate in a year-long celebration of Ohio's freshwater resources. More than 40 partner organizations have been leading special Year of Clean Water 2015 education and outreach events that highlight local efforts to 'keep our water drinkable, swimmable and fishable' and teach citizens to do the same.

Finally, the ODNR Office of Coastal Management administers a variety of grants to multiple recipients helping to improve the environment and raise outdoor awareness.



ODNR SERVING OHIOANS

ODNR's support divisions and offices, such as engineering, real estate, human resources, information technology and law enforcement, have streamlined processes and collaborated on several projects over the past year, resulting in a more efficient workflow. Some highlights include:

The ODNR Office of Law Enforcement focused on improved security and better customer service during FY 2015. The office implemented a new, more robust public safety incident management and tracking software, which is utilized within the department's dispatch center, patrol vehicles and will soon be introduced to the Oil and Gas Emergency Response personnel. The rollout included new mobile computer docks in all vehicles and vessels, as well as replacing thermal image printers with plain paper printers. This package gives the officer a true "mobile office," allowing officers to work and finalize incident reports efficiently while they are out in the field.

Additionally, the department's MARCS voice radio system was upgraded to the new platform, which increased coverage for all users, and the upgrade included new encryption keys. The fire panels in all buildings at the ODNR headquarters in Columbus were upgraded, and the security cameras on campus were changed from analog to digital, which included adding new security software campus-wide.

Within the department, employees are working to provide better customer service and outreach to Ohio residents and out-of-state visitors. ODNR employees are passionate about the work they do in our regulatory and recreational divisions, and for some employees, a large portion of their job well involves working with the public

and answering their questions efficiently. We continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to ensure we provide services Ohioans need.

To offer Ohioans better customer service, the ODNR Office of Law Enforcement introduced a new initiative called #ODNR (pound ODNR) toward the end of FY 2015. Calling #ODNR from a cellphone within the state of Ohio allows visitors to connect with ODNR employees at the department's communications center, especially if they need assistance after business hours. For example, people may use #ODNR if a state park restroom is out of toilet paper, or if there are issues with visitors being loud late at night at a campground. When people call #ODNR on their cellphones, then their request can be promptly shared with the appropriate person or division. This #ODNR initiative will help Ohioans get the assistance they need more quickly.

Additionally, in FY 2009, 3.7 percent of ODNR's spending was using Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) vendors for department purchases. The goal of the State of Ohio MBE Program is for each agency to have 15 percent of their spending be through MBE to support minority businesses. During FY 2015, ODNR's MBE spending reached 22.01 percent, which is a new record for the agency.

ODNR GRANT PROGRAMS

ODNR provides a variety of grants to multiple recipients helping to improve the environment and raise outdoor awareness.

DIVISION	GRANT DESCRIPTION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNT
BUDGET & FINANCE	• Federal Forest (Timber/mineral payments to Wayne National Forest counties)	13	\$297,118.31
	• Federal Flood (Land lease/mineral payments to counties with Corps of Engineer lands)	11	\$209,090.93
COASTAL	• NOAA Coastal Management Grants	8	\$1,746,000.00
	• Great Lakes Area of Concern Grant (AOC)	1	\$174,385.00
	• Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program Grant (CELCP)	1	\$46,000.00
FORESTRY	• State Forest (various other forestry grants)	202	\$1,696,151.38
	• Forestry (timber payments to counties with State Forest Lands)	12	\$1,765,245.37
MINERAL RESOURCES	• Acid Mine Drainage Set-Aside Fund	4	\$140,000.00
REAL ESTATE	• NatureWorks	80	\$2,825,715.00
	• Clean Ohio Trail Fund	16	\$7,136,997.00
	• Recreational Trails Program	16	\$1,682,642.00
SOIL & WATER	• Soil And Water Districts	88	\$10,830,240.00
	• Healthy Lake Erie Fund	28	\$2,248,816.12
	• Additional Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts	30	\$417,485.63
	• Water Management (Payments for Corps of Engineers Water)	2	\$2,270,780.51
	• Heidelberg Water Quality Lab	1	\$250,000.00
	• Water-Federal	3	\$92,613.46
	• Dam Safety	2	\$11,600.00

DIVISION	GRANT DESCRIPTION	RECIPIENTS	AMOUNT
WATERCRAFT	• <i>2015 Boating Safety Education Grants (BSEG)</i>	34	\$348,644.13
	• <i>2015 Marine Patrol Grants (MP)</i>	23	\$575,745.53
	• <i>Recreational Harbor Evaluation Program (RHEP)</i>	5	\$750,000.00
	• <i>Cooperative Boating Fund Grants (CBFG)</i>	18	\$3,040,876.21
	• <i>CBFG - Scenic Rivers</i>	7	\$200,000.00
	• <i>Caesar Creek Marina Project</i>		\$8,526,000.00
	• <i>Emergency Boating Access Fund Grants</i>	22	\$1,071,743.40
WILDLIFE	• <i>Conservation Club</i>	119	\$375,000.00
	• <i>Step Outside</i>	167	\$82,000.00
	• <i>Aquatic Education</i>	30	\$128,000.00
	• <i>WILD School Site Grants</i>	15	\$7,500.00
	• <i>National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP)</i>	31	\$72,500.00
	• <i>Shooting Range Grants</i>	9	\$161,236.00