The Ohio Interagency Forestry Team: Partnering to Enhance Resiliency through Shared Stewardship

- **Presenters:** David Apsley – OSU Extension specialist, natural resources
- **Jamie Dahl** – forestry outreach coordinator, Central State University Extension
The Ohio Interagency Forestry Team: Partnering to Enhance Resiliency through Shared Stewardship

Outreach and Engagement Conference
The Ohio State University
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Natural Resources Specialist
Ohio State University Extension

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Ohio’s Forest

- Ohio’s Appalachian counties make up about 33% of the land base
- But….66% of our forest is in these counties
- 8 counties with poverty rates above 20% are in Appalachia
Forest Ownership in Ohio

• 86% of Ohio's woodland acres are privately owned

• 72% are controlled by family forest owners

• Shared stewardship is key to collective impact

Source: 2017 Ohio, Forest Health Highlights, USDA Forest Service State and Private, ODNR Division of Forestry
Importance of Oak in Appalachian Ohio

• Appalachian Oaks contribute greatly to Ohio’s forest industry which generates $26 billion in total economic activity annually

• Oaks provide essential habitat components for more than 90 wildlife species

• Oaks can live for hundreds of years which helps to stabilize forest communities
Oaks were here in the past, are here now, but what about the future?

≥15 inch diameter

Maple

Source: Thomas Albright. 2018. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis. From 2017 FIA Ohio Data

Each leaf represents about 3 million trees.
Oaks were here in the past, are here now, but what about the future?

≥15 inch diameter

5-14.9 inch diameter

Source: Thomas Albright. 2018. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis. From 2017 FIA Ohio Data

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Oaks were here in the past, are here now, but what about the future?

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Source: Thomas Albright. 2018. U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Forest Inventory and Analysis. From 2017 FIA Ohio Data
The Interagency Forestry Team

More to come:

• Non-profits: National Wild Turkey Federation and The Nature Conservancy
• Industry: Ohio Forestry Association
• Other Departments and Universities
• Other Government
Interagency Forestry Team Planning Area
A New Way of Doing Business
Shared Stewardship Project

- Cross-boundary treatments
- Focus on oak sustainability
- Consistent messaging
- 250 family forests
- Optimize resources
Tool for Engaging Landowners Effectively

- Partnership with Sustaining Family Forest Initiative
  - Yale University, USDA Forest Service and Center for Non-profit Strategies
  - Conducted workshop
  - Facilitated strategic planning
- Targeted marketing
- Consistent messaging
Future of Oak is in Our Hands!
A DAY in the WOODS

2018 Audience

- Woodland Owner: 66%
- Enthusiast: 20%
- NR Professional: 14%

CFAES
A DAY in the WOODS

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th># Programs</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>Acres Owned</th>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>11</td>
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Building Capacity

- Central State University- Forest Outreach Coordinator
- Three additional forester positions in the project area (ODNR/NRCS)
- Leveraged additional positions
  - USFS Northern Research Station
  - OSU School of Environment and Natural Resources
  - ODNR Divisions of Forestry and Wildlife
Some Outcomes to Date…

From 2009 to 2017

• Additional $9 million in funding over and above base amounts provided mostly from federal sources

• 44,000 acres treated
  • Invasive species
  • Timber stand improvement
  • Tree planting
  • Prescribed fire

• 155 natural resources professionals trained in oak management (SILVAH)
Opportunities to Get Involved:

Appalachia-community-involvement
forestry-research
volunteering
service-learning
field-trips
social-science-research
citizen-science
collaboration
outreach
survey-work
internships
Questions?

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“Credit is infinitely divisible. Give it away every chance you get, and there's always plenty left for you.”

Don Berwick, Institute of Healthcare Improvement