

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

MANAGE • SUSTAIN • EDUCATE



www.forestry.alabama.gov



Bob Riley
Governor of Alabama



Our Mission:

We will serve Alabama by protecting and sustaining our forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principals and education. We will ensure Alabama's forests contribute to abundant timber and wildlife, clean air and water, and a healthy economy.

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The Alabama Forestry Commission is pleased to report on its achievements and services to the citizens of Alabama for 2007. The Commission has made substantial strides in fulfilling its mission: Protect and sustain Alabama's forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principals and education, ensuring that the state's forests contribute to abundant timber and wildlife, clean air and water, and a healthy economy.

A significant event of 2007 was the drought situation, which presented difficulties and challenges affecting our associates' roles as both protectors and managers of the state's forests. For most of the year, precautionary steps were imposed across the state to prevent potentially devastating wildfires - both in number and size - as occurred in Georgia and California. Many of our firefighters assisted in Montana and Georgia's firefighting efforts. These men and women firefighters are highly trained and represented Alabama well.

The consequences of the continued drought on pine and hardwood in regard to insects, disease, and mortality will be assessed in the next few months. Initial assessments of planting survival indicate high levels of mortality, especially in the northern half of Alabama.

During 2007, we developed a Strategic Plan to assist the Commission in setting operational direction for the next three years. Strategies will address such areas as enhancing the agency's efficiency; working with homeowners, communities, developers, planners, and local/state officials to better protect homes from wildfires and increase green infrastructure in planned development areas; developing partnerships to increase interagency involvement with disaster planning and preparedness; increasing forest acres sustainably managed; identifying and assisting underserved landowners; obtaining GIS capabilities to improve data analysis; assisting landowners in detection and control/eradication of non-native invasive species; and much more.

The Alabama Forestry Commission accomplishments for 2007 are outlined in this report, but I would like to comment on a few of the highlights. Our associates suppressed over 4,500 fires that burned over 74,000 acres; protected over 3,300 homes; 1,000 structures; and 1,900 vehicles from wildfires. We trained 75 volunteer fire departments in wildland firefighting tactics and safety; assisted nearly 1,000 volunteer fire departments with grants and training; and administered almost \$3,000,000 in volunteer fire department grants for a variety of projects related to training and equipment. The agency worked with landowners to complete over 3,500 management plans, stand management recommendations, technical assistance, or stand improvement plans. Additionally, we planned and performed prescribed burns for more than 600 landowners on over 43,000 acres and plowed 936 miles of firelanes for 658 landowners.

This organization has successfully reinstated and is building a comprehensive education program in every county throughout the state. We have made it our goal not only to share forest management information with landowners, but also to teach the youth of Alabama about the stewardship of our state's magnificent natural resources. In 2007, our associates organized and provided 453 educational tours and programs for over 51,000 landowners and schoolchildren. Additionally, we provided planning and support for two different forestry camps.

I am extremely proud of the dedication of our associates in serving the citizens and landowners of Alabama's forests. Charged with preserving and protecting our forests, this agency remains committed to ensuring that we will provide excellent service to landowners and all stakeholders in our state's natural resources.

Linda S. Casey
Alabama State Forester

Fire Protection

Protecting Alabama's rural areas from wildfire is the one of the top priorities of the Alabama Forestry Commission. Wildfires burn thousands of acres of forestland in our state every year.

In 2007, approximately 4,590 wildfires burned 74,500 acres across Alabama.

FIRE SUPPRESSION

- This was the second highest acreage burned over the last 20 years.
- The average fire size was 16.2 acres, compared to 15 acres in 2006.
- Wildfires destroyed or damaged:
 - 54 homes
 - 215 outbuildings
 - 179 vehicles, and
 - 1,384 large hay bales
- The Alabama Forestry Commission's efforts directly kept wildfires away from:
 - 3,319 homes
 - 1,082 other structures
 - 1,972 vehicles
 - 1,147 large hay bales

Primary Fire Causes in 2007



- The high incidence of lightning fires was a direct result of the drought during 2006 and 2007. The normal impact of lightning is 1%.
- Alabama continued to suffer through another year of drought, with nearly all of north and central Alabama being declared a Level 4 - "exceptional drought" - from early summer through the end of the year. This drought contributed to the high fire numbers and especially the intensity and difficulty of control. As a result, acreage loss to wildfire was above normal.
- The Governor declared a Drought Emergency for the month of June and early July of 2007. This "no-burn" order included all outdoor burning, bottle rockets, and certain other fireworks. Throughout most of the summer and fall, the AFC maintained a Fire Alert which restricted prescribed burning and reduced the amount of wildfires caused by debris burning.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Through the use of prescribed burning, the Alabama Forestry Commission assisted landowners in protecting their lands from wildfires. The agency completed about 40,000 acres of prescribed burns, while total prescribed burning across the state (including AFC, private landowners, and contractors) involved 23,242 burns on 951,659 acres. This is slightly below average for Alabama. (Normal numbers are approximately 28,000 burns on 1,000,000 acres.) The lower production is a direct result of the drought and the fire alert restriction put in place by the AFC.

In conjunction with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Commission presented a series of three certification courses for Prescribed Burn Managers, training over 150 burners. The AFC also provided four continuing education courses for Burn Managers on Prescribed Burn Planning and Fuels Management, reaching over 120 burn managers.

RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION (RCFP)

The Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee, created under Alabama law, is composed of 25 volunteer firefighters from the four Commission regions. The RCFP monitors all appropriations for the volunteer fire service funded by the state legislature through the Commission's budget, and provides recommendations to the State Forester for the distribution of these funds. The Committee also monitors the RCFP radio system and makes recommendations on upgrades.



The Commission assisted over 998 volunteer fire departments over the past twelve months by implementing several beneficial programs:

- Assisted in forming two new departments in areas where fire protection was needed.
- Provided a state contract to assist fire departments in the purchase of over 100 items in equipment and firefighter clothing.
- Administered \$1,891,939 in grant monies, which amounted to over \$1,895 for each department when divided equally among 992 qualifying volunteer fire departments.
- Worked closely with county and district fire associations by providing information and grants.
- Provided wildland firefighting training for 150 volunteer firefighters.

The Commission also provides a UHF radio system to the volunteer fire service at no charge. This system contains over 155 repeaters and 50 control stations, which the AFC maintains 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Within the system, over 785 volunteer fire departments own and maintain more than 6,000 radios (mobiles, portables and pagers).

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has mandated that all radio systems operating on VHF or UHF radio frequencies be narrow-banded by year 2013 or lose the use of these radio systems. The Commission is in the process of upgrading both AFC and VFD radio systems statewide, and all of the necessary repeaters, antennas, and other communication equipment have been purchased. Our plans are to install and complete the upgrade of the

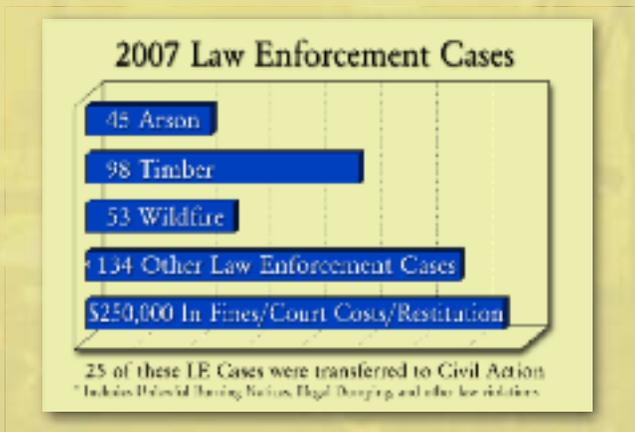
VHF system by December 2008 and the volunteer fire departments UHF system by December 2009.

FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY (FEPP)

During Fiscal Year 2007, the Commission participated in two federal excess property programs, acquiring \$986,780.75 in wildland fire suppression property for use by the AFC and volunteer fire departments. In the "Donation" program, we screen military bases in the southeastern United States and are allowed to secure property that has been turned in for re-utilization by other agencies. The "Firefighter Property Program" allows us to screen on a higher level, resulting in better and newer equipment which must be used for fire control or emergency medical services.

LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

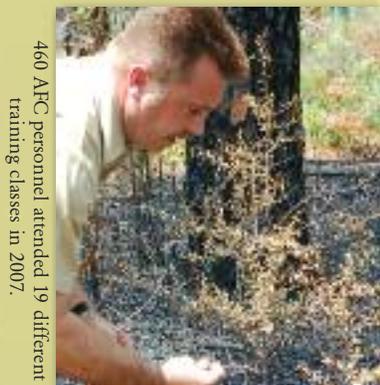
We presently have 33 employees who have law enforcement responsibilities, four of which are dedicated strictly to this important function. This year, AFC officers spent over 7,000 hours on over 330 law enforcement actions as indicated below:



TRAINING

For the past two years, the Commission has been working hard to bring our firefighters up to national standards set by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). This effort is also in conjunction with a request from the Governor that the AFC lead the state in setting up Incident Command (IC) Teams that would be able to move into an area during an emergency and coordinate emergency operations. Our goal is to have four Type III IC teams (one in each region) by the end of 2007, and two Type II IC teams by the end of 2008.

At present, we have over 30 personnel who have received training up to the level of Incident Commander Type III. After some additional hands-on training for the particular position they will fill, we will start using Type III teams in the field in 2008. The AFC will work with other agencies such as the USDA Forest Service, EMA, and others to fill some of the key positions within Type III and Type II teams. This would allow more individuals to be chosen who have a wider scope of expertise, thus making our Incident Command teams a reality sooner and run smoother once implemented.



Many of our employees attended three different classes this year, for a total of 460 personnel attending 19 different classes. A great deal of our success in meeting these training goals is also attributed to the support we have received from the State Forester, Regional Foresters, Division Directors and other employees who have helped teach and coordinate some of the classes. One who should receive a great deal of recognition for his efforts in meeting the goal is our Training Officer, Steve Bowden.

COMPACT FIRE DUTIES

The AFC sent 57 employees this year to assist in out-of-state and federal fires. This included 27 associates sent to Georgia, 20 to Montana, and 10 to the Talladega National Forest in Alabama. In addition to firefighters, for the first time the AFC sent a timekeeper and law enforcement officer to assist in Georgia.



Of those sent to assist in Georgia, 21 went through the Southeastern Compact with an additional 4 personnel being sent through the Forest Service. A few individuals made more than one detail. Each crew was made up of four personnel and two tractors. The crews, sent on 16-day details, used tractors to establish fire lines in front of the main fire. Due to drought conditions, this proved to be an extremely dangerous job. One of our crews was caught at the head of the fire when it unexpectedly grew in intensity. As the tractor operator stated, "All I could think about at that time was what I had been taught in training," which he felt probably saved his life and the lives of the Georgia crew with him.

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE AND FIRE PREVENTION

The Commission takes a proactive role in informing and educating the public about the responsibilities of fire prevention in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI). To promote these efforts, there are now two associates dedicated to the program areas of Wildland/Urban Interface and Wildland Fire Prevention. These programs are funded in part by grants from the National Fire Plan.

The AFC continued to work in 2007 with the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD) in providing Wildfire Prevention Grants to volunteer fire departments.

WUI Coordinators were involved in enhancing the AFC's public information program by preparing several magazine articles, brochures, exhibits, and public presentations on Firewise and WUI. Another 40,000 newspaper inserts were distributed to the public through the volunteer fire departments.

A new Urban Sprawl media packet was developed in an effort to raise public awareness about growth and development and other issues affecting the forest resource in the Wildland/Urban Interface.



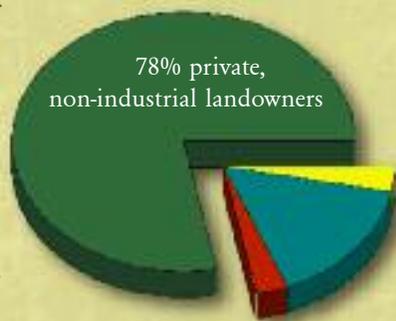
In cooperation with the Gulf Coast RC&D Council, hazardous fuel reduction projects were completed in three communities: Mostellar Medical Center and Turtle Creek in Mobile County, and Canterbury Estates in Baldwin County.

Forest Management

The forests of Alabama provide valuable economic, recreational, environmental, and social resources to every Alabama citizen. They provide the most efficient natural filtration system, shade, and stream bank protection available to ensure clean water. They also provide an abundant habitat for Alabama's diverse population of plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species. Recreational opportunities for the hiker, biker, camper, birdwatcher, hunter, and many other outdoor enthusiasts are added benefits provided by good stewardship of Alabama's healthy forests.

Forestry is extremely important to the economic stability of Alabama with over 50,000 people employed directly and another 70,000 employed indirectly in the industry, representing about 15% of Alabama's workforce, according to the latest statistics. It is the second largest agricultural industry in Alabama with an annual payroll of over \$2 billion.

Of the 22.5 million acres of commercial forestland, 78% is owned by private, non-industrial landowners. This percentage is expected to increase with industrial land sales to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Timber Investment and Management Organizations (TIMOs).



According to 2005 Forest Inventory data, nearly 72% of the harvested timber came from these non-industrial lands; therefore, it is extremely important that they be properly managed.



On the heels of a late spring freeze, we continued into the second year of drought conditions that further stressed our forests, causing new forest health issues and an exceptionally hot wildfire season.

Two seedling survival surveys were conducted which revealed an overall statewide survival rate of 56%. This ranged from 48% in the northwest region of the state to 66% in the southwest.

Our foresters and ranger technicians assist non-industrial, private forest landowners with making forest management decisions based on their individual objectives. Where applicable, landowners are referred to licensed forestry consultants and forest industry professionals.

The following programs are the primary avenues used to provide direct and indirect assistance:

- National Stewardship, TREASURE Forest, and Tree Farm Programs
- Landowner Assistance Programs
- Insect and Disease Protection Programs
- Best Management Practices (BMP) Programs
- Landowner Outreach Education Programs

- Resource Information, Marketing, and Economic Development Programs
- Forest Inventory and Analysis Survey Program
- State Lands Management and Assistance
- Forest Legacy Program
- Urban Forestry Program

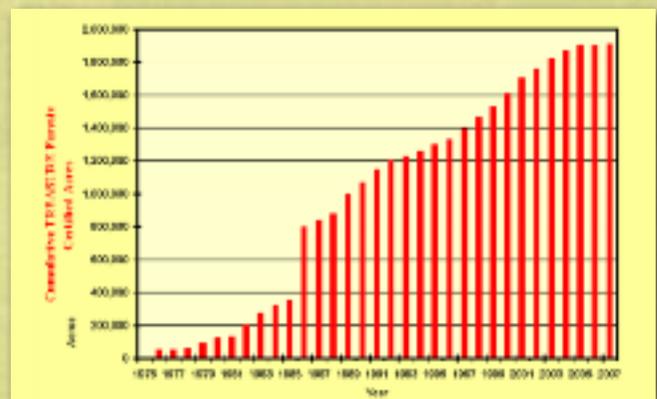
The Commission utilized these programs for the implementation of professional forest management practices on private forestland in Alabama.

Statewide Forest Management Accomplishments (FY07)

Program	Landowners Assisted	Impact
Stewardship Forest Management Plans	301	34,673 acres
New Stewardship Forests Certified	43	13,755 acres
Stand Management Recommendations	1,060	201,137 acres
Tree Planting	378	18,077 acres
Timber Stand Improvements	418	15,851 acres
BMP Investigations/Consultations	109	5,897 acres
Prescribed Burning	661	43,103 acres
Firebreak Plowing	658	936 miles
Forestry Consultant Referrals	420	N/A
Wildlife-specific Information	136	52,127 acres

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS

Currently, there are 2,093 certified Stewardship Forests in Alabama that collectively represent 1,911,556 acres of forestland under Stewardship Forest management. The acreage accepted into the Stewardship Forest Program has increased 37% during the past ten years, while the number of Stewardship Forest landowners has increased 103%.



As part of qualifying for the Stewardship programs, a written forest management plan is required. Once the plan is prepared, the landowner is urged to carry out the activities outlined in that plan to get the maximum use and benefits from their property. The Commission assists private landowners with implementation of these activities through various cost share assistance programs, direct landowner services, and forestry information and education programs. These federally funded programs are administered by Commission associates, and activities are coordinated with local AFC county personnel in order to carry them out.

The Commission also serves as technical advisors on cost share programs and makes prescriptions for landowners enrolled in these programs. Follow-up ensures that each practice is completed according to the program requirements and that government funds are appropriately utilized.

Additional activities completed in 2007 include:

- Responded to 90 web application forms (an increase of 48%) from landowners interested in managing their property under the Stewardship philosophy. Each of these was followed up with a visit from an AFC resource professional.
- Conducted training sessions for the GIS mapping system and the Recon GPS units.
- Continued to revise standard management information sheets that incorporate latest technologies in an easy-to-read format for landowners. These new information sheets are available in print or on our website: www.forestry.alabama.gov.
- Continued working with Auburn University and the Alabama Forest Foundation on developing a book for landowners on Sustainable Forestry (managing forests for game and non-game species, benefits of different types or harvesting and regeneration methods, the use and benefits of prescribed burning, economic considerations, etc.) to serve as a reference tool for professional foresters and landowners.



Through the AFC website, www.forestry.alabama.gov, landowners can obtain valuable forestry information. It contains information on southern pine beetles, seedling vendors, cost-share programs, forest industry directory, forestry vendors, protecting your home from wildfires, forest statistics, as well as links to other information and much more.

Additionally, the Commission produces several printed publications designed to educate forest landowners with proper management techniques and forestry information. (All publications are also located on our website.) Examples include:

- *Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry*
- *Directory of Primary Forest Industries*
- *2006 Forest Resource Report*

INSECT AND DISEASE PROTECTION PROGRAMS

Forest insects and diseases are the most destructive agents to forest stands in Alabama. Landowner assistance to inform, detect, identify, suppress, and control these agents remains a priority. Statewide, annosus root rot disease and southern pine beetle infestations are the main two pests affecting our forests. In collaboration with other AFC programs, the agency provides landowners with prevention recommendations and map illustrations of annosus root rot and southern pine beetle hazards in stewardship plans.



Forest pests such as non-native invasive plants are often not recognized by the public as a destructive forest agent. However, they are a major concern to Alabama's forest ecosystem and continuing efforts are being made to evaluate, monitor, and control them. The federally funded invasive plant control cost-share program provides financial assistance to private landowners in controlling cogongrass, privet, and tallow tree.

A collaborative effort between the Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, USDA Forest Service, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service resulted in the formation of a statewide forest health conference. Approximately 150 attendees, consisting of forest professionals and private landowners, received pertinent information on various pests affecting Alabama's forests.

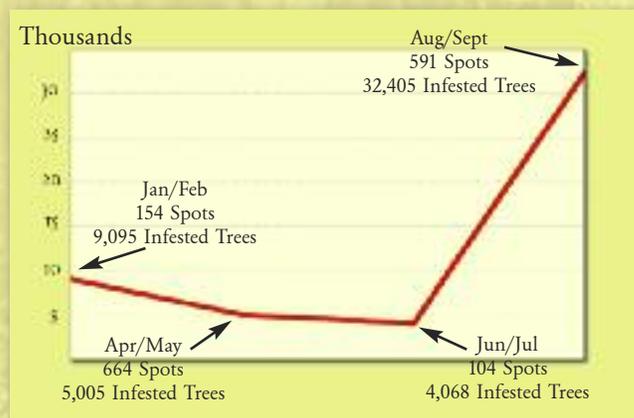
In addition to invasive plants, many other destructive pathogens have been introduced into America's forest ecosystem. One in particular is the fungus, *Phytophthora ramorum*, that causes "sudden oak death." This organism is currently out west in California, Oregon, and Washington, but has the potential to spread into other areas in North America. The main potential of spread is the transportation of nursery stock from infected areas such as California to nurseries in other parts of the country. Although no pathogen has been detected in Alabama, close monitoring is maintained.

Asian ambrosia beetle is attacking and causing mortality to trees in the laurel family such as redbay, swamp bay, sassafras, and other species. There is no current eradication method for this relatively new introduction. Monitoring efforts, however, do exist. Redbay ambrosia beetle survey plots were established in Baldwin and Geneva counties, but none were detected in any of the traps.

A noticeable increase in pine decline occurred throughout the state. Not only pines, but many mature hardwoods also declined this year. Progressive decline and mortality occurred because of a late spring freeze and two consecutive years of drought.

In 2007, there were recorded widespread spots of Ips engraver beetles and a year-end increase in southern pine beetle infestations.

Southern Pine Beetle Detection Flight Information 2007



Based on data analysis, the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) prediction trend for Alabama is increasing. Efforts were implemented to control SPB outbreaks such as the SPB Thinning Cost-Share program, designed to reduce the risk of infestation in susceptible, dense pine stands. Through this program, financial assistance was provided to encourage timber stand improvement by thinning the stand of trees to increase tree vigor, reducing the susceptibility of attack. This program was renewed for the next fiscal year.

For the 2006-2007 SPB Thinning Cost-Share program, 119 landowners completed a total thinning of 9,164 acres.

A total of \$283,970 was issued in payment for this practice. In May 2007, the Forest Health Coordinator, the Landowner Assistance Coordinator, and other AFC personnel participated in the SPB Prevention and Restoration Thinning Cost-Share program review. A manual was produced by the AFC outlining the review's schedule.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) PROGRAMS

Past research has proven that if forestry practices are conducted while following Alabama's Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Forestry (EPA approved guidelines), water quality is not only protected but also improved. The Commission's role is to ensure that Alabama's BMPs are followed when implementing forestry practices. This is done by randomly monitoring forestry practices for BMP compliance and investigating BMP complaints received from concerned citizens. The Commission also provides education and training to landowners and loggers (pre-harvest consultation), and serves as technical advisors on clean watershed partnership committees.



- In fiscal year 2007, the AFC received 35 BMP complaints, 5 of which have been turned over to ADEM. Only one of those five is forestry-related, while the others are land conversions or facilities. The other thirty complaints had no valid problems or were mitigated through education. All complaints for fiscal year 2007 have been resolved.

- Commission associates contributed to the updating and printing of the BMP (*Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry*) manual, as well as the creation and printing of the BMP pocket guide. (Printed a total of 80,000 manuals and pocket guides; distributed 36,000 thus far.)

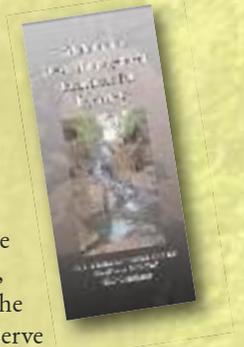


- AFC associates also participated in educating the public, professional foresters, loggers, and industry by attending and speaking at 18 different training sessions which included Loggers Council meetings, industry training sessions, and landowner group meetings. We also participated on several committees such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative - Environmental, Logger Education, Landowner Education, and Inconsistent Practices committees to encourage the proper implementation and maintenance of BMPs.

- The Commission enhanced its random monitoring of active and recently logged sites with county and regional staff.

The two-year BMP random monitoring survey revealed an overall statewide compliance rate of 98.1%.

- The Alabama Clean Water Partnerships are coalitions of private and public individuals, companies, and organizations - including the AFC - working together to protect and preserve water resources and aquatic ecosystems. One of the major tasks of the partnerships was to compile River Basin Management Plans for Alabama's ten river basins, all of which have been completed.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

In the past year, the AFC's Outreach Program has experienced changes not only for the program's betterment, but also to make Alabama better for people through forestry and our natural resources. The agency has a specialized staff of outreach foresters to both locate and provide technical assistance and education to

under-served landowners. In 2007, Commission employees provided assistance to 293 under-served landowners.



Over 51,000 landowners and students took part in 453 forestry workshops and educational tours.

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- In keeping up with the landowner needs, the AFC's website is now available in Spanish, and a one-page document listing suggested practices during a drought emergency was created in English and Spanish and distributed statewide.

- The Commission publishes *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine three times each year, which is available free of charge. This publication is designed to educate forest landowners with proper management techniques and forestry information. It is also posted on our website.

- Created "Profiles in Courage: Small Landowners in Alabama," that was printed in *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine. The first segment featured two different minority female landowners who live and own land in rural areas of the state.

- Alabama Forestry Camp celebrated a decade of existence in the summer of 2007. The camp is a five-day experience for Alabama high school students. Those who attended the 2007 summer camp learned about tree identification, forest management, forest products, wildlife, water quality, urban forestry, and forest history.

- A Natural Resources Youth Camp in Butler County, in its twelfth year, taught "hands-on"



TREASURED Forest



"Profiles in Courage"



Forestry Camp



Youth Camp

environmental lessons to area sixth grade students without charging any fees. Sponsored by the Butler County Forestry Planning Committee, the camp received tremendous support from several AFC employees, the forest community, local businesses, and interested individuals. This camp gave kids the opportunity to learn more about our forest environment and how it relates to Alabama's economy, as well as the important role it plays in our everyday lives.

- Smokey Bear and other Fire Prevention Programs are conducted by AFC county staffs throughout the state at pre-school and elementary schools.
- Associates also participated in the "FAWN" (Forest Awareness Week Now) educational program conducted in several schools.
- AFC associates in several northern Alabama counties participated in fundraising efforts for the Log-a-Load for Kids "Miracle Mile 2" campaign.



FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS SURVEY PROGRAM

Most of the information on forest resources and its availability for new and expanding markets is obtained from the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) survey data that is being collected nationwide by the USDA Forest Service and state forestry agencies. This data is obtained from permanent inventory plots located primarily on a 3x3-mile grid across the entire United States. There are a total of 5,572 FIA survey plots in Alabama. Each plot is re-surveyed approximately every five to seven years. This is the most extensive and complete data available pertaining to our natural resources.

Forest resource planners use this information when considering new plants or expansion in Alabama. Foresters also use the information for determining areas in the

state that may require more intensive forest management, reforestation, and/or protection.

- For FY 2007 the Commission allotted seven full-time FIA forester positions to conduct the survey (six field foresters and one program coordinator). The foresters collect a wide variety of forest resource information from each plot. This data is then transferred to the Forest Service in Knoxville, Tennessee, for compilation and analysis. The resulting information can then be queried through the internet by researchers and potential forest industry investors. A total of 910 plots were surveyed by the Alabama FIA crew which exceeded the desired goal by 9%.
- FIA data for 2006 indicated that there are approximately 22.46 million acres of commercial forestland in Alabama, which is a decrease of 463.4 thousand acres since 2000. Of the total 78% acres owned by private, non-industrial landowners in the state, individual or family-owned forests account for 14.6 million acres.
- Despite the loss in forestland area, timber volume has increased by 3.4% since 2000. In addition, 2006 FIA data shows that annual timber growth exceeded annual removals of timber by 30% for the period 2000 to 2006.
- According to 2006 FIA data, 41% of Alabama's forestland is comprised of pine forests while 44% is comprised of hardwood forests. The remaining 15% of Alabama's forestland consists of mixed pine/hardwood forests.

RESOURCE INFORMATION MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alabama has the second largest commercial timberland base in the United States. As stated previously, forestry is big business in Alabama. The Commission actively recruits new and expanding markets for forest products, and continues to be the lead agency of the "Forestry Team," which brings several agencies and organizations together to more effectively market our natural resources. This team includes members such as the Alabama Development Office, Alabama International Trade Center, Alabama Center for Advanced Woodworking Technology, USDA Forest Service, and the Forest Products Development Center. The Commission received federal funding for some of this economic resource and marketing work, which was completed at fiscal year end. Some of the accomplishments of the "Forestry Team" during the year include:

- The Alabama International Trade Center (AITC) and the University Center for Economic Development (UCED) have provided one-on-one assistance to various companies, communities, and landowners by offering a series of programs to expand the field of forestry and related forestry issues. Those who participated received direct and practical assistance to create plans that will improve utilization of wood resources; improve the use of forests for tourism, biomass opportunities, and carbon sequestration; reach new markets overseas; as well as expand the use of productive technologies; increase sales; and create jobs.
- Continuation of a Woody Biomass Project to establish viable harvesting techniques and sustainable markets for small diameter stems and un-merchantable woody material. This feasibility project enables the research team to determine economic options for private landowners and other public lands.
 - Project team members have made presentations to various groups about this project, raising the awareness of woody biomass as an alternative for energy generation. In addition, briefings have continued with elected officials within the project area, resulting in an increasing interest in the forest industry and its local impact and opportunities.

STATE LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE

The Commission is responsible for managing over 15,000 acres of state-owned forests.

The Commission also has agreements to help manage two other state-owned facilities containing 9,754 acres:

- Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources: 19 lakes - 4,786 acres
- Alabama Department of Mental Health: 10 tracts - 4,968 acres

Through these two cooperative agreements, Commission personnel were involved in preparing timber sales and



overseeing harvesting activities, prescribed burning for wildlife habitat improvement, aesthetics, and wildfire hazard reduction, site preparation, reforestation, and monitoring for forest health.

URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the AFC are partnering to restructure the state's program so that both agencies could better coordinate their resources and personnel. The goal is to create a statewide program that would better meet the needs of Alabama's urban population by focusing on each agency's strengths, with the Commission taking a lead role.

- A total of 82 Alabama communities were certified to receive Tree City USA status. This number continues an upward trend that began several years ago. Another six communities received the prestigious Tree Growth awards.
- The Commission began to strengthen its support of the Alabama Urban Forestry Association (AUFA) by supporting its regional workshops and annual conference. Efforts were also made to help the AUFA attain self-sufficiency as the only statewide nonprofit dedicated to advancing urban forestry in Alabama.
- Worked with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency to include urban forest management in the 2007 update to the Alabama Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Continued support of the International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist program by hosting test sites at the AFC state headquarters in Montgomery.
- Exhibited at the Alabama League of Municipalities annual conference.

Administrative

The Administrative Division's role is to support the Alabama Forestry Commission in accomplishing the mission of the agency. Division personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with federal and state laws, regulations, and procedures while meeting internal and external deadlines.

- Developed and began implementing a three-year strategic plan to achieve the mission of the Commission. Covering 2008-2010, with full implementation slated for 2008, this plan provides a road map outlining goals and strategies of the Forestry Commission and expected outcomes of those strategies. The strategic plan is a living document which provides flexibility and allows, as needed, the Commission to adjust course.
- One of the most important functions of the Financial Services Section is to help put together the Commission's budget. As a continuing effort by the new State Forester to help our employees understand the budgeting process, employees from each division and region attended SMART budget training.
- The Property Section conducted two inventories during Fiscal Year 2007. During the spring inventory, the State Auditor's Office conducted an audit of AFC state-owned accountable property. At the end of Fiscal Year 2007, personal property inventory consisted of the following:
 - Federal property: 1,421 items with an acquisition value of \$23,853,809.29
 - State reportable property: 4,586 items with an acquisition value of \$33,480,715.69

- Sensitive items: 878 items with an acquisition value of \$290,688.52

- This year the Commission moved significantly closer to the goal of an integrated information infrastructure. New servers were acquired and configured to ultimately provide web-based applications for the Commission and public.
- Began reviewing all deeds and prioritizing tracts of land, in conjunction with the Forest Management Division, for evaluation and analysis of future needs.
- Assisted statewide restructuring from county-based to a Work Units structure.

Personnel

The Alabama Forestry Commission currently employs 323 associates statewide.



- 67 County Offices
- 4 Regional Offices
- State Headquarters

Contact information is located on our website www.forestry.alabama.gov

- Region Boundaries
- AFC Offices
- State Headquarters

Matching Colors Depict Work Units

The Alabama Forestry Commission prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information should contact the the AFC's state headquarters at (334) 240-9300. The AFC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you believe you have been discriminated against by the AFC, you may file a complaint by calling toll-free at (866) 632-9992 or by writing to:

US Department of Agriculture
Director, Office of Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250



Alabama Forestry Commission
Statement of Operations for Fiscal Years Ending September 30

	Actual					
	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY06 Budget	Balance
Expenditures						
Personnel	13,027,129	12,427,941	13,499,714	14,073,650	14,073,651	0
Fringe Benefits	3,673,581	4,134,666	4,520,317	4,915,739	4,915,739	(0)
In-State Travel	122,166	142,293	213,465	244,368	298,794	54,426
Out-of-State Travel	10,109	8,393	30,528	44,996	51,838	6,842
Repairs and Maintenance	215,309	253,932	412,663	473,997	689,381	215,384
Rentals and Leases	121,756	107,275	113,347	111,822	137,987	26,165
Utilities and Communications	669,070	650,909	648,990	697,866	719,230	21,365
Professional Services	389,705	399,541	554,893	753,985	1,217,367	463,382
Supplies	1,070,748	934,707	916,283	1,575,576	1,553,217	(22,359)
Transportation Operations	1,143,103	1,358,768	1,877,838	1,965,946	2,004,161	38,214
Grants and Benefits	2,081,216	3,496,315	11,238,018	5,621,165	6,217,269	596,104
Capital Outlay	0	0	85,652	49,960	50,000	40
Transportation Equipment	0	2,247,321	119,067	1,454,436	1,450,576	(3,860)
Other Equipment	247,690	133,316	514,404	930,750	1,672,211	741,461
Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	22,771,582	26,295,377	34,745,180	32,914,255	35,051,419	2,137,164
Revenue Budget						
AFC Funds:						
Severance Tax	5,386,762	5,400,544	5,310,196	5,113,679		
Timber and Turpentine	43,098	42,817	42,033	43,293		
Fishing Permits	2,335	1,454	1,136	668		
Fines and Forfeits	8,227	3,087	7,755	14,208		
Radio Leases	0	0	0	0		
Oil Royalties	12,568	14,281	14,020	14,047		
Insurance Proceeds	0	104,866	64,552	15,879		
Miscellaneous	6,665	47,577	30,770	31,404		
Prior Year Refunds	24,729	120,902	10,402	7,209		
Contract Services	0	0	0	0		
Equipment Sales	37,968	36,378	249,724	7,771		
Timber Sales	1,289,421	206,523	49,781	99,040		
Other Sales	3,503	2,000	19,529	45,000		
Seedling Sales	411,401	275,763	76,035	0		
Donations	0	0	0	0		
Intragovernment Sales	23,636	83,467	24,566	22,677		
Equipment Rentals	300	473	0	201		
Other Rents	24,049	30,670	52,153	47,528		
Plowing Firebreaks	176,614	135,541	223,472	290,218		
Prescribed Burning	181,102	163,633	305,952	403,511		
AFC Funds	7,632,379	6,669,976	6,482,076	6,156,333	7,754,447	1,598,114
State General Fund	10,048,065	10,215,811	10,482,769	15,545,359	15,545,359	0
Federal Funds						
Federal Grants	1,995,212	10,991,751	17,789,133	6,635,809		
Federal Agreements	4,343	500	0	2,620		
Federal Reimbursements	148,520	82,559	856,162	440,245		
Interfund Federal Reimbursements	0	185,910	72,499	22,176		
Total Federal Funds	2,148,075	11,260,720	18,717,795	7,100,850	465,041	(6,635,809)
Local Funds						
County Appropriations	203,703	129,523	277,958	142,505		
Acreage Assessments	1,785,847	1,787,263	1,765,721	1,755,859		
Local Grants	8,500	2,303	58,000	5,000		
Total Local Funds	1,998,051	1,919,089	2,101,679	1,903,364	1,903,364	0
Budgetary Transfers In (Out)						
Supplement						
Severance Tax – County Share						
Operating Transfers						
Capital Transfers	(178,606)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Transfers	(178,606)	0	0	0	0	0
AFC Balance Forward	2,658,655	2,681,179	2,534,432	255,945	255,945	0
Federal Balance Forward	1,702,143	556,000	4,472,965	9,790,591	9,790,591	0
Local Balance Forward						0
Total Forward	4,360,798	3,237,179	7,007,397	10,046,536	10,046,536	0
Total Revenues and Transfers	26,008,761	33,302,774	44,791,716	40,752,442	35,714,747	(5,037,695)
Capital Transfers	178,606	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	80,404	0	0	0	0	0
Unallotted Capital Transfers						
Reserve for Capital Outlay	98,202	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Funds Available	26,187,367	33,302,774	44,791,716	40,752,442	35,714,747	(5,037,695)
Agency Expended and Reserved	22,950,188	26,295,377	34,745,180	32,914,255	35,051,419	2,137,164
Ending Cash Balance	3,237,179	7,007,397	10,046,536	7,838,187	663,328	9,383,209

Alabama Forestry Commission
Fund Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2007

	AFC Operations Fund	Emergency Fund	County Taxes Fund
Cash	9,863,527.35	275,778.29	104,977.95
Little River State Forest Change Fund	150.00		
Accounts Receivable			
Due from Other Funds			
Advance Travel			
Assets	9,863,677.35	275,778.29	104,977.95
Vouchers Payable			
Seedling Sale Deposits			
Due to Other Funds			
Due to Other Governments			
Clay County			24,339.88
Henry County			9,159.80
Limestone County			31,199.51
Randolph County			28,558.61
Blount County			11,720.15
Deferred Revenue:			
Federal Funds			
Local Funds			
Due to Employees			
Taxes Payable	43.20		
Prepaid Reservations	4,014.20		
Accounts Payable			
Receipts Pending Disbursement			
Liabilities	4,057.40	0.00	104,977.95
Reserve for Pre-Encumbrances			
Reserve for Encumbrances	1,563,470.28		
Reserve for Capital Outlay			
FY 02	216,573.98		
FY 03	143,186.83		
FY 04	98,202.22		
FY 05	0.00		
FY 06	0.00		
Unallotted Capital Transfers	0.00		
Reserved Fund Balance	2,021,433.31	0.00	0.00
Unreserved Fund Balance	7,838,186.64	275,778.29	0.00
Liabilities and Fund Balance	9,863,677.35	275,778.29	104,977.95



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