

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

2008 Annual Report



Protect

Sustain

Educate



Bob Riley Governor of Alabama



The Alabama Forestry Commission is a state agency that is governed by a seven-member Board of Commissioners. Each commissioner is appointed by the Governor of Alabama and serves a five year term.

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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.

Each year, wildfires burn thousands of acres of forestland across Alabama. Protecting our state's rural areas from wildfire is one of the top priorities of the Alabama Forestry Commission.

FIRE SUPPRESSION



Although conditions remained dry over much of the state, timely rainfall provided some relief from the severe drought of the previous year. As a result, compared to the prior two years FY 2008 fire season was light, with approximately 2,449 wildfires burning 26,943 acres. Average fire size was 11 acres, down from 16.2 acres in 2007.

While wildfires destroyed or damaged 26 homes in Alabama, the efforts of AFC associates saved 1,320 homes. Additional fire statistics include 116 structures (other than homes) and 95 vehicles either destroyed or damaged, while 464 structures and 451 vehicles were saved.



Fiscal Year 2004 - 2008
The two primary causes of wildfire starts were arson (42.2 %) and debris burning (32.4%).

TRAINING



Over the past three years, the agency has been working diligently to bring all AFC firefighters up to national standards set forth by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). This effort is also in conjunction with a request from the Governor that the Forestry Commission 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. We have currently identified four Type III teams with alternates; however, some training is still needed before all four teams are fully qualified. In the past fiscal year 18,170 man hours were spent on individual training for these teams. Additionally, AFC employees were sent to California, Texas, and Virginia for hands-on training for particular positions they will fill. This training was largely funded by these western details, as the majority of expenses for western details are paid by the host state.

COMPACT FIRE DUTIES



As part of our training program, a total of 72 AFC personnel were sent to assist in out-of-state and federal fires this year for over 2100 man hours.

Several experienced firefighters were sent as "overhead" supervisors on federal fires. One Division Supervisor Trainee went to Virginia and a Situation Unit Leader Trainee went to the Texas Wildfire Complex. One Strike Team

Leader and three Safety Officer Trainees were sent to California fire complexes.

The Commission made a major commitment to assist Texas with their year-long struggle with wildfires. This effort included sending 56 firefighters and 8 tractor plow fire units. Some associates went on more than one detail. The crews, made up of four personnel and two tractors, were sent on 16-day details using the tractors to establish fire lines in front of the main fire.

The AFC also sent a nine-person hand crew to Oregon and California for a 16-day period. In addition, AFC personnel served as Crew Bosses for two additional hand crews on this detail.

Following Hurricane Ike, the AFC supported the recovery effort in east Texas, sending four Strike Team Leaders to lead recovery crews and assist victims from the storm.

All cost associated with providing wildfire fighting assistance is paid by the state requesting the help.

WILDLAND/URBAN INTERFACE (WUI) AND FIRE PREVENTION



The Commission takes a proactive role in informing and educating the public about the responsibilities of wildfire prevention in the "wildland/urban interface" (WUI), the area where structures and human development meets and/or

intermingles with undeveloped wild land or natural areas.

In the past year, the AFC's WUI Coordinators were involved in enhancing public education/information on Firewise and WUI by preparing several magazine articles, brochures, exhibits, and public presentations. Additionally, approximately 20,000 newspaper inserts were distributed to the public through the volunteer fire departments.

The WUI Team continued to address urban growth and sprawl, designing a brochure based on the editorial board media packet developed in 2007. Concerned with raising public awareness about the impact of growth and development on forest sustainability and other natural resources, a team of AFC leaders and associates presented the media packets to 18 various newspaper outlets in major markets across the state. As a result of these efforts, three op-ed pieces and eleven articles were published.

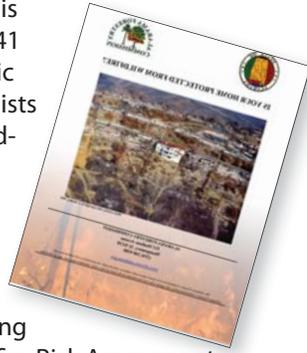
The WUI Team also developed two table-top displays illustrating issues in the wildland urban interface. These displays were exhibited at several venues including: ADEM's Non-point Source Pollution Conference, the Alabama Forestry Association's Mid-Winter Conference, Alabama League of Municipalities Conference, "YourTown" planning workshop, AFC internal training sessions, Burn Manager training, and the "Be Ready Day" Expo in Mobile. The State & Private Forests Program approved a WUI Project grant supporting the AFC for community wildfire protection, Firewise, and forest sustainability efforts through FY2010.



PROTECT

WUI Project accomplishments this year focused on internal training: 241 AFC associates were trained on basic WUI orientation and 46 WUI Specialists received additional community wild-fire protection training. In addition, 42 associates completed the two-day Home Ignition Zone training conducted by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) cadre. The culmination of this training will be the AFC's "Homeowner Wildfire Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Plan" (FC-48) for homeowners in the wildland interface.

AFC personnel completed 196 firewise assessments during the fiscal year.



- 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 \$1,891,927 in grant monies, which amounted to \$1,923 for each department when divided equally among 984 qualifying volunteer fire departments.
- Worked closely with county and district fire associations by providing information and grants.
- Administered \$102,000 in grants to 26 VFDs for fire prevention projects
- Conducted 16 VFD wildland firefighting training programs across the state.
- Compiled and mailed a CD of certified fire departments to all county license commissioners and probate judges to use as verification of eligibility for over 33,000 firefighters applying for a distinctive firefighter license plate.

HAZARD MITIGATION



Completing over 39,400 acres of prescribed burning across the state, the Alabama Forestry Commission continued to assist landowners in protecting their lands from wildfires. Total prescribed burning in the state (including AFC,

private landowners, and contractors) involved 22,938 burns on 1,059,744 acres, which is about average for Alabama.

In an effort to increase prescribed burning in the state, the Commission, in conjunction with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, presented a series of six certification classes for Prescribed Burn Managers, training over 150 new burners. The AFC also produced two continuing education courses for Burn Managers on Prescribed Burn Planning and Fuels Management, reaching over 91 burn managers.

RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION (RCFP)



The Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) Division was re-established as a separate division dedicated to rural fire protection services, with Stephen May appointed as Division Director. The formation of this division is designed to

strengthen the working relationship between the Alabama Forestry Commission and the volunteer fire service.

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

Over the past twelve months, the Forestry Commission assisted over volunteer fire departments by implementing several beneficial programs:

Communications

The Alabama Forestry Commission operates and maintains two complete radio systems and over 200 tower sites.

Commission personnel use a VHF system statewide for routine communication, fire prevention, and suppression operations. This summer, the AFC Leadership Team made the decision to consolidate our eight dispatch centers into one. This center will be located in Montgomery and furnished with state-of-the art communication equipment, with March 31, 2009, as the projected date to be operational. One technician has been added to more quickly address communication problems.

A UHF radio system is provided for the volunteer fire service. The AFC provides and maintains these repeaters 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no cost to the departments.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has mandated that all radio systems operating on VHF and UHF radio frequencies be narrow banded by January 1, 2013, or lose the use of the systems. Narrow banding updating has been in progress all year, and the Forestry Commission will meet this 2013 deadline.

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)

The Alabama Forestry Commission is responsible for obtaining Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) from the US Department of Defense (DoD) at military installations throughout the southeastern United States through two programs that are managed by the USDA Forest Service.

From the Government Services Administration (GSA) Donation Cycle, we screen and receive equipment that is to be used by the many volunteer fire departments across the state, as well as the AFC for wildland fire suppression activities. This equipment must be returned to the State Condemnation Yard for final disposition after its usefulness has been exhausted.

The Firefighter Property Program (FFP) receives federal property to be used for wildland fire control and/or emer-

gency medical services. Title on this equipment is transferred directly to the fire department and remains VFD property.

Total dollar value for equipment brought in this fiscal year in both programs was \$1,337,444.

LAW ENFORCEMENT



The AFC's law enforcement program has the responsibility of protecting Alabama's forest resources through the fair and impartial enforcement of forestry laws and regulations. This mission is accomplished primarily through in-depth investigations of alleged timber thefts and illegal burning activities, which cost Alabama landowners and forest industry thousands of dollars annually. In May of 2008, the AFC appointed a Law Enforcement Chief to modernize and oversee the day-to-day operations of the Law Enforcement (LE) Section.

This new direction allows law enforcement officers to focus on timber theft and illegal burning and not be diverted to perform fire suppression duties, etc. There are currently eight Forest Investigators; services and volume of work performed will determine future manpower needs.

Reporting systems were developed and standardized to monitor crimes committed against the forestry community and track the progress of investigations. This system has already identified a need for new laws as well as amendments needed to existing laws, which will aid investigators in prosecuting and deterring those that steal and maliciously burn our forests. Current plans are to pursue these changes during the next legislative session. Investigators completed the following training:

- Advanced wildland fire investigation
- Latent fingerprint collection and preservation
- Heavy equipment thefts and recovery
- Familiarization of GPS units for law enforcement uses
- New arrest and case reporting systems
- Six officers attended Glock armorer course
- Discretion and officer demeanor

Enforcement Actions

During the period of October 2007 through September 2008, officers investigated:

- 46 felony arson cases
- 49 illegal burning cases
- 93 timber theft cases
- 9 other violations

There were 70 arrests made and 33 written warnings issued. Restitution was made to landowners in the amount of \$168,062 for thefts and/or damage to timber. The Courts ordered \$4,125 in fines, and \$1,872 in suppression costs was collected.

FOREST HEALTH



The Alabama Forestry Commission continues to monitor, detect, and alert Alabama's landowners about the presence of potentially damaging

infestations of diseases, insects and invasive species. The following list is a brief synopsis of the major issues monitored in 2008 by the agency's Forest Health program, and that landowners should be aware of for 2009. Other pests of concern can be found on the AFC web page.

Insects and Diseases

Southern pine beetles (i.e. the major bark beetles including Ips, Black Turpentine, and Southern Pine Beetle) remain the most serious threat to Alabama's pine forests. A generally benign year was observed in 2008 with no epidemic outbreaks being recorded. Continued aerial monitoring is planned for 2009 and property owners will be notified by the AFC if infestations are observed.

Pine Decline is a disease complex resulting from the interactions of both biotic and abiotic stressors. This problem remains of great interest and is not completely understood, therefore continued research is ongoing. Contact your local AFC if your pine stands begin to decline abruptly.

Looking at recently identified threats the AFC in conjunction with other agencies, will be focusing detection efforts on the following:

Emerald Ash Borer was introduced into North America sometime in the 1990s. It was first reported killing ash trees (genus *Fraxinus*) in Michigan in 2002. Since then, infestations have been found throughout lower Michigan, Ohio, northern Indiana, the Chicago area, Maryland, Wisconsin, and more recently in Virginia.

Sirex Woodwasp has been the most common species of exotic woodwasp detected at US ports-of-entry associated with solid wood-packing materials. Recent detections of sirex woodwasp outside of port areas in the US have raised concerns because this insect has the potential to cause significant mortality of pines.

Sudden Oak Death is a recently recognized disease that is killing oaks and other plant species in the western US. Although the disease has been found only in California and Oregon, it is of great concern to land managers in the Eastern US as well, because at least two eastern oak species, northern pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), are highly susceptible to the disease when inoculated with the pathogen.

The AFC will continue to monitor for the presence of these potentially harmful pests, which to date, have not been detected in Alabama.

Invasive Species

Cogongrass continues to move north and east in the state and is quickly becoming the major threat to Alabama's natural resources. The Commission began a focused effort to scientifically map



PROTECT

all known infestations after training all employees to be able to positively identify the weed. Continued efforts to gain a more viable and collective effort to educate, detect, and control cogongrass was formalized with the creation of the Cogongrass Statewide Task Force. In May, 23 agency and cooperators signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides the framework to significantly increase the effort to control this invasive weed.

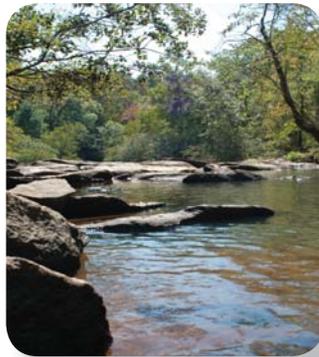
Chinese and Japanese Privet is another major invasive species that continues to be of concern across the state. This plant threatens to completely shade out all normal hardwood reproduction in the forests, and landowners are encouraged to control this non-native species.

SPB Cost Share Programs

One of the best methods of preventing Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestations is to improve the health of pine forests by thinning stands that are diseased, overcrowded, and likely to fall prey to forest insects and disease. In 2008, the AFC administered the SPB Prevention Program that will also be available in 2009. Over 3,236 acres were thinned under this program and on average, \$50 per acre was issued as payment for the practice. Additionally, the NRCS's EQUIP program also offers cost share programs that encourage good forest health.

SUSTAIN

Alabama has diverse productive forests that range from predominantly upland hardwood type in the northern portion of the state to the different southern pine types in the south. This diversity provides environmental benefits to all citizens in the state, including clean air and water, because our forests act as a very efficient natural filtration system.



The forests also provide shade and stream bank protection. In addition to these environmental benefits, the forests of Alabama support a diverse wildlife population of both plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species.

The economic impact of forestry in Alabama is significant. The latest statistics on forestry manufacturing show that nearly 50,000 people are directly employed with an annual payroll over \$1.6 billion. Another 6,000 people are employed in the forestry and logging sector. Timber has consistently ranked second in the production of all agricultural commodities and accounts for nearly 22% of cash receipts.

Using professionally applied stewardship principles, our foresters and ranger technicians assist non-industrial, private

landowners with making forest management decisions based on their individual management objectives. Various programs are utilized in assisting landowners:

- National Stewardship, Tree Farm, and TREASURE Forest Programs
- Forest Legacy
- Landowner Assistance
- Insect and Disease Protection
- Landowner Outreach
- Best Management Practices
- Economic Development
- Forest Inventory and Analysis
- Urban Forestry

These programs serve as a vehicle to better serve, educate, and protect the non-industrial private forest resources in Alabama.

STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship in Alabama consists of three complementary programs: the national Stewardship program, the Tree Farm program, and the AFC's TREASURE Forest program. Each is designed to acknowledge a landowner's effort in

properly managing his property according to recognized stewardship principles.

Nearly 4.6 million acres are currently certified under these stewardship programs in Alabama, which represents 20% of the commercial forestland across the state.

Stewardship/Forest Management Accomplishments FY2008		
Program	Landowners Assisted	Impact (Acres, miles, people)
Stewardship Management Plans	340	43,612 acres
New Certifications	81	24,379 acres
Stand Management Recommendations	2,223	152,085 acres
Tree Planting	287	13,311 acres
Timber Stand Improvement	528	11,624 acres
BMP Investigations/ Consultations	354	5,220 acres
Prescribed Burning	518	39,448 acres
Firebreak Plowing	550	859 miles
Forestry Consultant Referrals	476	N/A
Wildlife-Specific Recommendations	106	27,135 acres

One strategic component of all of these stewardship programs is a written forest management plan. This plan provides a landowner with a structured outline and schedule of appropriate management activities to help achieve stated objectives. Commission associates assist private landowners by providing not only stand management recommendations and guidance with various cost share assistance programs, but also direct services, as well as information and education programs.

Through inter-agency agreements, the AFC serves as technical service providers and assists landowners in their prescriptions for various cost share programs. Commission associates work closely with each landowner to ensure that all practices are completed according to program specifications. Additional accomplishments achieved in 2008 are:

- Responded to 93 web application forms from landowners interested in managing their property under the stewardship philosophy. Each of these requests was followed up with a visit from an AFC resource professional.
- The Forest Legacy program continued to conserve endangered properties threatened with conversion to non-forestry uses through the successful acquisition of the 1,579-acre Adams tract in the Mobile Tensaw Delta.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR FORESTRY



The Alabama Forestry Commission is proud to be partnered with the Alabama Clean Water Partnerships, a group that represents the ten major river basins in Alabama. The AFC provides a technical forester to each basin represented. It is vital that we protect these waters in every way possible. Alabama landowners have completed some type of harvest on an average of 812,000 acres per year for years the 2001 to 2007. It is imperative that silviculture is not a significant risk to water quality during these operations.

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 protected. The Alabama Forestry 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 AFC completed 300 random ground inspections on 92 harvested sites and 208 active sites, representing 31,051 acres. Overall implementation rate for the 92 completed tracts was 96%, representing 6,903 acres.

The AFC also provides education and training to landowners and loggers (pre-harvest consultation), and serves as technical advisors on clean watershed partnership committees.

The Commission is striving to improve the BMP program by meeting the framework set forth by the Water Resources

Committee of the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF). This will allow Alabama to have a measure of its program effectiveness along with the other 12 southeastern states.

Education is achieved by AFC associates talking to landowner and forest industry groups. This year over 300 individuals received BMP training at nine different programs around the state.

Internal training consisted of 66 AFC employees learning how to better serve the BMP needs of the state. Commission personnel also participated in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Environmental, Logger Education, Landowner Education, and Inconsistent Practices committees to encourage the proper implementation and maintenance of BMPs.

This year the AFC has responded to 46 complaints statewide. Of those complaints, 18 were invalid, 9 did not result from silviculture and have been sent back to ADEM, 36 were resolved at the AFC level through education, and 1 is still in the process of being resolved.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS (FIA) SURVEY PROGRAM



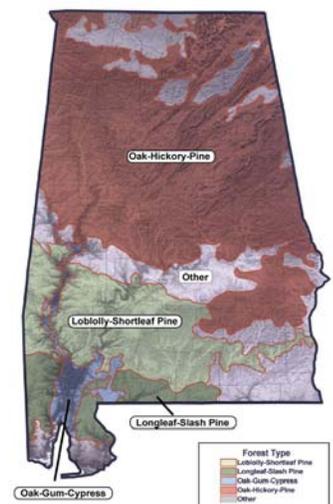
Most of the information on forest resources and its availability for new and expanding markets is obtained from the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) survey data that is being collected nationwide by the USDA Forest Service and state forestry agencies. This data is gathered from permanent inventory 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 the information when considering new plants or expansion in Alabama. Foresters also use this data for determining areas in Alabama that may require more intensive forest management, reforestation, and/or protection.

In FY 2008, a total of 789 plots were surveyed by the Alabama FIA crew. However, as published data is by "calendar year," 2007 figures are the most recent available. This 2007 FIA data indicates the following statistics:

- Alabama Forest Types:
 - 44% hardwood
 - 41% pine
 - 15% mixed pine/hardwood

- Individual or family-owned forests account for 14.6 million acres or 65% of the state's forestland.

- There are approximately 22.53 million acres of commercial forestland in Alabama, which is a decrease of 391.6 thou-



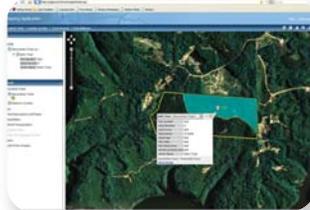
SUSTAIN

sand acres since 2000. Despite this loss, timber volume has increased by 3.7% since 2000.

- In addition, annual timber growth on commercial timberland exceeded annual removals of timber by 30% for the period 2001 to 2007.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

The agency took major steps to build a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section by employing a GIS Specialist, realizing a major advancement with the tools and techniques used to analyze and display geographic information. The implementation of GIS products included the purchase and configuration of ESRI's ArcGIS Server and ArcGIS Desktop GIS software applications. This software was immediately utilized to demonstrate and field the following GIS applications:



- Forest Stewardship Tract Web-Mapping application hosted by the Alabama Geospatial Office, Information Services Division
- A web-based demonstration project created for the AFC's Protection Division regarding the display of fire permits and the status of wildfire events across the state
- Streamlining of the Southern Pine Beetle mapping process, designed to reduce costs involved with the transfer of this information to AFC county offices

MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



As mentioned previously, forestry is big business in Alabama. The state has the second largest commercial timberland base in the United States. The Alabama Forestry 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 is also tracking Ecosystem Services and reporting information to landowner groups at meetings and through online links to information at our website, www.forestry.alabama.gov. We have been involved with the development of Woody Biomass to Fuels since 1984 and continue to attend meetings and conferences gathering up-to-date information. Some of these groups include the Governor's Alternative Energy Task Force and Alternative Energy Committee. We also participate on several subcommittees of

Alabama's Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy, where legislation is being drafted to promote the development and use of woody biomass for fuels and many other alternative energy sources.

Another component of the Ecosystem Services market is Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Trading, which is an emerging market from a perceived problem with "Global Warming." The Chicago Climate Exchange is trading carbon credits purchased from timberland owners and other sources to offset carbon emissions from industries and others. A Carbon Trading Team has been assembled within the Commission to gather and distribute the latest information on this emerging market. Information is made available on our website and through public meetings and presentations.

URBAN FORESTRY PROGRAM



FY2008 completed a year of transition for the state's urban and community forestry program, witnessing an historic agreement between the Alabama Forestry Commission and Alabama Cooperative

Extension System. Restructuring through a signed MOA, both agencies agreed to better coordinate their resources in delivering a state urban and community forestry program. This agreement recognizes that each agency has unique program strengths that form the framework for improved collaboration.

The Forestry Commission continues to measure program success using the agency's 2008 Accomplishments Scorecard. Three urban forestry-related objectives are part of this agency performance measure document:

- Increase national recognition of Alabama's individual urban forest programs through number of Tree City USA certifications: Target 90; Actual 84
- Increase professional management of Alabama's urban forest through number of cities and towns that employ, share, or retain services of city forester or equivalent: Target 50, Actual 53
- Increase assessments of Alabama's urban forest resource through cities and towns that produce active urban forest management plans: Target 20; Actual 16

The AFC also completed its 32-year relationship with the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program. Each year, the State Forester approves applications from applicant communities and then forwards them to the Arbor Day Foundation for national recognition. In FY 2008, a total of 84 Alabama communities received Tree City USA certification. This number continues an upward trend that began several years ago. Another 11 communities received the prestigious Tree Growth awards.

The Forestry Commission also became the pass through entity for the USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program. Of the \$315,698 the agency received, a total of \$140,000 was used for base funding requirements; \$60,000 to fund a Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project; and the remaining \$115,698 was awarded to project proposals from eligible applicants. Other accomplishments include:

- Incorporating arboricultural standards in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Project.
- Assisted Auburn University in completing U&CF "Hurricane" supplemental program.
- Assisting National Urban & Community Forestry Advisory Council in national listening sessions.
- Established relationship with Alabama Association of Regional Planning and Development Councils.

AFC WEBSITE

The Alabama Forestry Commission recognizes the importance the internet plays in helping educate landowners and citizens about forestry and forest management techniques. In an effort to make it more user friendly the Commission launched an improved, redesigned website in August. It is structured so that visitors can navigate the entire site using the global menu, or do a search of the site without leaving the home page. There are six primary drop down menu selections:

- Fire in the Woods
- Manage Your Forest & Wildlife
- Insects, Disease & Invasive Species
- Homes, Communities in the Forest
- Information & Educational Resources
- Forest Fun!



Landowners can easily locate information on subjects such as Protecting your Home from Wildfire, the Wildland Urban Interface, Carbon Sequestration, Cogongrass and other invasive species. Visitors can also find ideas and Forestry Commission recommendations to help them meet their forest and wildlife management objectives.

TREASURED FORESTS MAGAZINE

The Alabama Forestry Commission continued to publish *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine during 2008 with an "Invasive Species" special issue in the summer. This publication, designed to educate forest landowners with proper management techniques and forestry information, is distributed three times each year at no cost to the subscribers and is also posted on the AFC website.



OUTREACH



This past year was a bridge-building year for the AFC's Outreach Program. We worked to establish new relationships, strengthen existing ones, and rekindle old ones.

The AFC was awarded a grant from the USDA Forest Service to specifically assist with increasing outreach efforts. Keeping service to landowners as the main focus, this funding will help with the creation of a new landowner database, printing resource materials for landowners, providing site-preparation services to landowners, landowner education on AFC services, and training AFC employees on the importance and purpose of continuous community outreach.

Alabama Forestry Camp

In its 11th year, Alabama Forestry Camp is designed to provide Alabama high school students a one-week, hands-on experience with forestry and other natural resource practices. This year, 36 students participated and were exposed to urban and community forestry practices, GIS mapping, tree identification and so much more. Hosted each year at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund's Rural Training and Research Center in Epes (Sumter County), the camp is coordinated by the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Federation, and Tuskegee University. The camp would not be an annual success if it were not for the support of other organizations that help with everything from presentations to campers' transportation.

Presenters and trainers during the 2008 Camp were from the Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama A&M University Center for Forestry and Ecology, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and Tuskegee University Cooperative Extension, as well as the Alabama Cooperative Extension Systems, the USDA Forest Service, the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association, International Paper, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/LAF, Livingston City Fire and Rescue, the Westervelt Company, Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, the Alabama Department of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Moundville Archeological Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tuscaloosa Parks and Recreation, the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, Alabama Department of Emergency Management, University of West Alabama, Alabama Forestry



EDUCATE

Association. Along with those who represent an organization in a professional capacity, there were several who volunteer their personal time, property, and expertise. For instance, students traveled to John Besh's TREASURE Forest Property and Oakhurst Farms, where they received close-up lessons responsible land stewardship and opportunities in recreational and commercial inland fish management.

Butler County Natural Resources Youth Camp

The Butler County Forestry Planning Committee's Natural Resources Youth Camp is offered to help Butler County youth become more aware of the value of forest resources to Alabama's environment and economy, and how these resources relate to everyday life. The indoor/outdoor classroom is for energetic and inquisitive sixth-grade students and offers them the opportunity to learn about forestry, wildlife, ecology, tree identification, fire protection, forest products, soil and water conservation, and the people who manage these vast Alabama resources. Instructors from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Management Services, Inc., Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Forestry Association, Alabama Ornithological Society, and others conduct hands-on classes concerning forestry-related subjects including "Native Plants," "Wildlife Management and Identification," and several Project Learning Tree activities.



Not only did the young campers get to see authentic Native American artifacts, but they also received a lesson on reptiles. They each held two different kinds of snakes, a frog, and a salamander. Each camper was also given books that help them learn about natural resources and inhabitants of the outdoors.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Division provides financial and administrative support to agency personnel as well as the general public. When the Commission went through a statewide reorganization in June of 2008, this division helped facilitate the transition with its associated challenges. Other notable achievements for the year include:

- Established the AFC's Records Disposition Authority (RDA).
- Published a monthly Accomplishment Scorecard which provides a snapshot of the agency's objectives and year-to-date status.
- Implemented the State's SMART Budgeting process which has enabled the Leadership Team to better plan annual agency goals. During the FY2010 SMART Budget training, the Commission was spotlighted/received recognition for incorporating the process into our strategic planning.

- Revamped tracking and reporting capabilities to a web-based system, providing tremendous flexibility in recording both annual and historical accomplishments.
- Improvements to the networking infrastructure at state headquarters involved re-wiring of the building to fully take advantage of 2007 upgrades. This also supports efforts to move toward web-basing our core mission-critical applications.

PERSONNEL

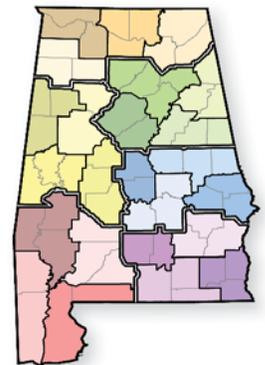
The Personnel Section, tasked with upholding the Commission's leadership efforts to streamline operations and advocate more effective personnel management procedures, plays an intricate role in identifying the most qualified candidates, developing skill sets, and supporting the diverse employees that are on the frontlines, ultimately working to meet the needs of the Alabama landowners.

Current AFC Staffing:

- 322 Employees
- 67 County Offices
- 24 Work Units*
- 6 Regional Offices
- State Headquarters

* Matching colors depict Work Units
= Region Boundaries

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



Reorganizing from four to six regions during the past year, the Commission currently employs 322 associates statewide. This reorganization has resulted in:

- Increased statewide responsiveness to the communities in which we serve;
- More effective lines of supervision and enhanced internal communications;
- Enhanced opportunities for personnel progression to leadership roles.

The AFC is committed to the prohibition of discrimination in all programs, activities, and operations on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of program information are encouraged to contact the Commission's state headquarters at (334) 240-9300. If an individual believes he or she has been discriminated against by the Alabama Forestry Commission, a complaint may be filed by calling toll free (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD), or by writing to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Civil Rights 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250-9410

The Alabama Forestry Commission is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Alabama Forestry Commission

Statement of Operations For Fiscal Years Ending September 30

	Actual						
	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY08 Budget		Balance
Personnel	12,427,941	13,499,714	14,073,666	14,594,917	14,856,963		262,046
Fringe Benefits	4,134,666	4,520,317	4,913,617	5,232,631	5,192,202		(40,429)
In State Travel	142,293	213,465	237,099	365,303	314,002		(51,301)
Out Of State Travel	8,393	30,528	38,830	63,798	56,225		(7,573)
Repairs and Maintenance	253,932	412,663	458,939	461,650	467,790		6,140
Rental and Leases	107,275	113,347	105,463	136,805	114,489		(22,316)
Utilities and Communications	650,909	648,990	683,916	760,337	763,908		3,571
Professional Services	399,541	554,893	749,799	1,239,224	1,288,995		49,771
Supplies	934,707	916,433	1,530,351	1,233,197	1,409,814		176,617
Transportation Operations	1,358,768	1,877,838	1,968,945	2,666,605	2,238,183		(428,422)
Grants and Benefits	3,496,315	11,238,018	5,734,639	5,262,703	6,569,154		1,306,451
Capital Outlay		85,652	40,011	306,199	463,000		156,801
Transportation Equipment	2,247,321	119,067	1,496,796	1,971,619	1,354,270		(617,349)
Other Equipment	133,316	514,404	953,059	264,836	627,864		363,028
Transfers							
031 Expenditures	26,295,377	34,745,330	32,985,131	34,559,824	35,716,858		1,157,034
Revenue Budget							
AFC Funds:							
Severance Tax	5,400,544	5,310,196	5,113,679	5,270,942			
Timber and Turpentine	42,817	42,033	43,293	43,313			
Fishing Permits	1,454	1,136	668	2,769			
Fines and Forfeits	3,087	7,755	14,208	6,212			
Radio Leases							
Oil Royalties	14,281	14,020	14,047	16,359			
Insurance Proceeds	104,866	64,552	15,879	124,724			
Miscellaneous	47,577	30,770	31,404	34,774			
Prior Year Refunds	120,902	10,402	7,209	18,136			
Contract Services							
Equipment Sales	36,378	249,724	7,771	30,164			
Timber Sales	206,523	49,781	99,040	1,342,429			
Other Sales	2,000	19,529	45,000	43,005			
Seedling Sales	275,763	76,035					
Donations							
Intragovt Sales	83,467	24,566	22,677	34,524			
Equipment Rentals	473		201				
Other Rents	30,670	52,153	47,528	58,187			
Plowing Firebreaks	135,541	223,472	290,218	225,131			
Prescribed Burning	163,633	305,952	403,511	377,858			
031 AFC Funds	6,669,976	6,482,076	6,156,333	7,628,527	8,597,250		968,723
031 State General Fund	10,215,811	10,482,769	15,545,359	15,118,938	15,118,938		
Federal Funds							
Federal Grants	10,991,751	17,789,133	6,635,809	8,733,865			
Federal Agreements	500		2,620				
Federal Reimbursements	82,559	856,162	440,245	903,477			
Interfund Federal Reimbursements	185,910	72,499	29,176	42,785			
031 Federal Funds	11,260,720	18,717,795	7,107,850	9,680,126	11,680,206		2,000,080
Local Funds							
County Appropriations	129,523	277,958	142,505	126,439			
Acreage Assessments	1,787,263	1,765,721	1,755,859	1,857,117			
Local Grants	2,303	58,000	5,000	11,862			
031 Local Funds	1,919,089	2,101,679	1,903,364	1,995,418	1,995,418		
Budgetary Transfers In(Out):							
Supplement							
Severance Tax - County Share							
Operating Transfers							
Capital Transfers							
031 Transfers							
AFC Balance Forward	3,040,940	2,894,193	615,556	133,922	133,922		
Federal Balance Forward	556,000	4,472,965	9,790,591	8,000,000	2,000,000		(6,000,000)
Local Balance Forward							
Total Forward	3,596,940	7,367,158	10,406,147	8,133,922	2,133,922		(6,000,000)
031 Revenues and Transfers	33,662,535	45,151,477	41,119,052	42,556,931	39,525,734		(3,031,197)
Appropriation Unit 050							
Capital Transfers							
Capital Outlay							
Unalloted Capital Transfers							
Reserve for Capital Outlay							
Agency Funds Available	33,662,535	45,151,477	41,119,052	42,556,931	39,525,734		(3,031,197)
Agency Expended and Reserved	26,295,377	34,745,330	32,985,131	34,559,824	35,716,858		1,157,034
Prior Period Adjustments				15,506			
Ending Cash Balance	7,367,158	10,406,147	8,133,922	8,012,613	3,808,877		(4,203,736)

Unaudited; includes reserves for encumbered funds



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