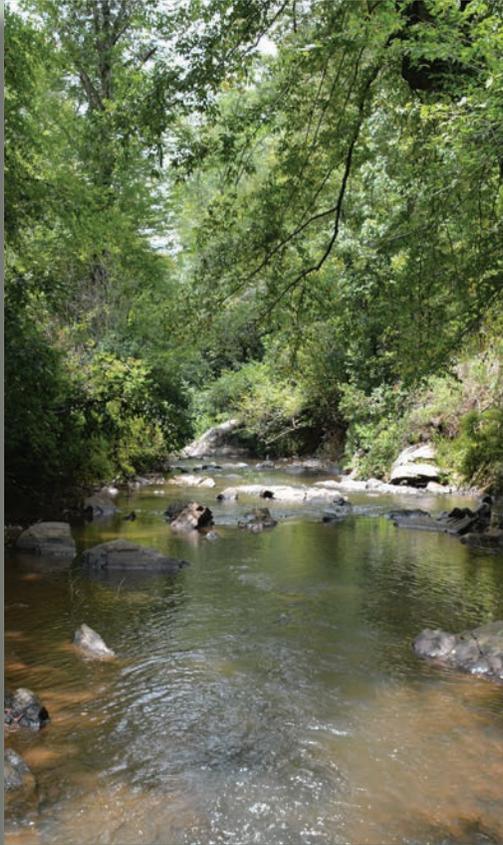




# 2015 Annual Report



Protect  
Sustain  
Educate

*We are the Alabama Forestry Commission*

The Honorable Robert Bentley  
Governor, State of Alabama  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Dear Governor Bentley:

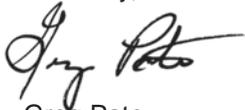
On behalf of the seven Commissioners and 250 associates of the Alabama Forestry Commission, I am pleased to submit this 46th Annual Report for State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to you and the citizens of Alabama. As a stand-alone agency under the control of the Governor, the Alabama Forestry Commission is **the** state agency voice for private forestland owners and forest interests in the state.

The \$21.4 billion per year forest products contribution to the Alabama economy is fueled by the more than 440,000 private forestland owners in the state. One of the missions of the Alabama Forestry Commission is to educate and advise these landowners in the sustainable management of their forestland. According to the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) – the only inventory made of the state’s forests – done continuously by the Alabama Forestry Commission, we are doing a good job. This inventory shows that Alabama’s timberland has grown to 23 million acres, the third most forested state in the contiguous 48, behind only Oregon and Georgia. Even with the tremendous amount of economic activity in the forestry sector, the 2014 FIA report shows we are growing 51 percent more timber than is being harvested for the same time period. There remains room to grow Alabama’s forest industry even more!

Over the past year, dedicated Alabama Forestry Commission associates continued to deliver a wide array of programs focused on protecting and sustaining our forest resource, while educating the public about the many benefits forests provide us all. These critical programs are becoming more difficult to deliver with annual budget reductions. We now have the fewest number of forest firefighters per square mile than any other Southern state. Each two-person crew in Alabama is charged with protecting 422 square miles of timberland. This critically low level of personnel not only places our firefighters in greater risk, but also the lives and property of the citizens of our state.

Unlike many agencies that have specialists who carry out certain programs to the public, each Alabama Forestry Commission firefighter also delivers the many programs reported here within their local area. They maintain a service-oriented mindset focusing on doing what is beneficial for the forest resource and the citizens of Alabama. I am proud to work with each of them and humbly submit this report for your review.

Sincerely,



Greg Pate  
State Forester



Robert Bentley  
Governor of Alabama



**Alabama Forestry Commission**

Tommy Thompson, Chairman  
Jerry Dwyer, Vice Chairman  
Stephen W. May III  
Kenneth Real  
Jane T. Russell  
Salem Saloom  
Jerry M. Smith

**State Forester**

Greg Pate

**Assistant State Forester**

Dan Jackson

**Administrative Division Director**

Arthur Hitt

**Forest Management Division Director**

Walter Cartwright

**Forest Protection Division Director**

John Goff

**Regional Foresters**

North.....Terry Ezzell  
Northeast.....Jason Dockery  
Northwest.....Hank McKinley  
East Central.....Bruce Springer  
Southeast.....Michael Older  
Southwest.....Benji Elmore

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

*Our Mission:*

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

## FIRE SUPPRESSION



The men and women of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) provide the public, especially forest landowners, excellent wildfire protection 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These wildland firefighters face difficult environmental factors in the course of responding to, suppressing, and returning from wildfires. In all types of terrain, day or night, in adverse weather conditions, facing unknown hazards, AFC firefighters protect the forest from wildfires and other natural hazards.

Due to average and frequent rainfall, wildland fire occurrences in Alabama remained below AFC averages during Fiscal Year 2015. A total of 2,377 wildfires were reported and suppressed, burning 26,106 acres across the state. Average fire size was 11 acres. These wildfires destroyed or damaged 111 structures; however, firefighters saved 2,042 homes. Additional fire statistics include 76 structures (other than homes) and 57 vehicles either destroyed or damaged, while 58 structures and 391 vehicles were saved. Other property often affected by wildfires is hay bales. Through the AFC efforts, 746 hay bales were saved while 1,522 hay bales were destroyed or damaged.

## HAZARD MITIGATION

Completing 482 prescribed burns on approximately 30,262 acres across the state, the Alabama Forestry Commission continued to assist landowners in protecting their lands from wildfires. Total prescribed burning in Alabama (including AFC, private landowners, and contractors) involved 12,772 burns on 907,644 acres, which is average for the state.

In an effort to increase prescribed burning in the state and offer training to landowners interested in conducting prescribed burns personally and more safely, the AFC presented a series of Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CPBM) training courses. In addition to the 84 new burners who were certified, the agency also provided recertification continuing education courses for 81 existing CPBMs, with an emphasis on prescribed burn planning and fuel management. The Commission anticipates prescribed burn numbers to remain consistent as a result of past

education efforts, and is prepared to offer more CPBM courses as needed to accommodate demand.

## WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

Through promotion of Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) and wildfire prevention, the Alabama Forestry Commission complies with its legislative mandate to educate citizens about the importance of protecting the forests.

- In FY 2015, AFC personnel completed 323 fire risk assessments for homeowners, helping them protect their property from wildfire.
- Also in FY 2015, the agency prepared 13 Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), ensuring that these communities are better prepared to deal with an approaching wildfire. This included improvements to structures to make them fire resistant, as well as devising a plan for fire professionals to enter the neighborhood when battling a wildfire.

## VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE



The Alabama Forestry Commission continues to be committed to providing all possible assistance to volunteer fire departments (VFDs) to better provide fire protection for citizens throughout the state. A strong partnership between VFDs and AFC personnel is key to our fire suppression efforts. This assistance includes pursuing funding opportunities available to VFDs, as well as providing training and equipment to these departments.

The 13-member Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) steering committee met four times during Fiscal Year 2015. Its purpose is to make recommendations to the State Forester regarding how to improve the rural community fire program and solve immediate problems including parts exchange, training, and financial assistance through federal grants. This steering committee is comprised of ten

### Forest Protection QUICK FACTS

**2,377 wildfires**  
burned **26,106 acres**

**AFC conducted 482**  
prescribed burns  
on approximately  
**30,262 acres**

**AFC completed 323**  
homeowners fire risk  
assessments

**AFC prepared 13**  
Community Wildfire  
Protection Plans  
(CWPP) in the state

volunteer firefighters appointed by the State Forester from ten districts across the state, one member of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD), one member of the Alabama Firefighters Association, and one member of the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs.



Again this year, the Commission assisted the state's volunteer fire departments by continuing several beneficial programs:

- Administered \$1,155,468 in grant money, appropriated by the Alabama Legislature. Checks were issued in June 2015 to 990 qualifying VFDs, in the amount of \$1,167.14 per department.
- Worked jointly with the RCFP Steering Committee to administer \$120,000 in U.S. Forest Service grant monies to VFDs across Alabama to fund purchases of wildland personal protective equipment (PPE), and other wildland firefighting equipment.
- Provided and maintained county-wide communication systems for VFDs in 38 of Alabama's 67 counties.
- Maintained a list of VFD members who are eligible for "Firefighter" license plates for their personal vehicles, and made this list available to all vehicle-licensing agencies throughout Alabama as mandated by state law.

At the local level, AFC employees attended numerous volunteer fire department meetings and functions across the state during Fiscal Year 2015, serving as a point of contact for sharing information and strengthening relationships between the Commission and local volunteer fire service. AFC personnel continue to be closely associated with and supportive of VFDs throughout Alabama. Some examples of these relationships include Commission associates not only being active members of volunteer fire departments, but serving as officers in both VFDs and local or statewide volunteer fire associations as well. Agency

employees are also actively involved in joint efforts with VFDs to conduct educational programs in schools and communities regarding wildfire prevention and suppression.

Additionally this past year, 93 volunteer firefighters attended traditional classroom training where Commission personnel provided instructional courses including S-130 (Basic Wildfire Tactics), S-190 (Fire Behavior), I-100 (Basic Incident Command System), and L-180 (Human Factors on the Fire Line). AFC instructors also conducted or assisted in providing numerous non-wildland firefighter trainings throughout the state.

## FEPP

### Federal Excess Personal Property

The Forestry Commission obtains fire suppression property from various military bases through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). During the year, the agency screened and acquired 66 vehicles totaling \$5,633,194.62, including transports/tankers, grass trucks, and other vehicles such as vans and pumper engines. Of this equipment, 59 vehicles were transferred to volunteer fire departments, while seven were assigned to Commission offices. The 1999 E-One fire engine ladder truck (pictured here) was screened by the AFC and presented to the Sumiton Volunteer Fire Department in Walker County at a press conference on April 14, 2015.



In addition to these vehicles, 100 other pieces of equipment were screened and issued to various counties.

As federal property ages and becomes unusable, the AFC receives, advertises, and processes the sale of this equipment through Government Services Administration (GSA) federal auctions. During the year, the Commission disposed of and sold 49 vehicles.

The Commission also made some much needed repairs to the Central Shop, adding new metal siding, securing the facility with fence and gate, and replacing all lighting. The FEPP office was completely remodeled due to water damage, with all FEPP personnel

#### Forest Protection QUICK FACTS

AFC administered \$1,155,468 to VFDs

Worked jointly with the RCFP steering committee to administer \$120,000 USFS grants to VFDs

Trained 93 volunteer firefighters in wildland firefighting

Screened and acquired 66 vehicles worth over \$5.6 million through the FEPP program

relocated from the State Office to the Central Shop to improve efficiency. One new mechanic position was added to the shop which helps expedite preparation of trucks for issue to VFDs and AFC.

## EQUIPMENT

For the first time in eight years, in 2015 the Alabama Forestry Commission added much needed equipment to the agency's aging fleet of pickups, dozers, transports, lowboys, and Type 6 engines. A total of 14 Chevrolet 1500 pickups, eight Ford F-250s, and 21 Ford F-350s were purchased. The F-350s were outfitted with skid units making them Type 6 engines, available not only for suppressing wildfires in Alabama but also to help other states when the need arises.

New heavy equipment purchased this year included two John Deere 650Ks and two lowboy Pitts trailers. These units will replace aging equipment in Covington County and a dozer that was destroyed while suppressing a wildfire in Washington County.

In addition to this new equipment, eight D3 Caterpillar dozers that were screened through the Federal Firefighter Program in 2014 are currently at the dealer being outfitted with forestry packages in order to safely fight wildland fires in Alabama. Also through FFP, seven Freightliner road tractors with very low mileage were acquired. All seven units received new paint and installation of air conditioning. Additionally, the frames of four of these trucks are in the process of being stretched, making them into straight trucks able to haul dozers.

## COMPACT FIRE DUTIES



As part of the AFC training program, a total of 23 personnel were sent to assist on several federal fires and in-state emergency responses, taking 4,676 man-hours to complete. This effort included sending 18 employees to serve in various roles while on assignments throughout the Northwest, where the Commission made a major commitment to assist Idaho, Washington, and California. These states have suffered historic drought conditions that have caused catastrophic wildfires. While these assignments to

protect life and property are dangerous, they provide excellent experience for our staff.

Frequent rainfall and a below-average wildfire season here at home provided additional opportunities for AFC personnel to train and be better prepared to respond to incidents. In our support roles, we fulfilled several requests from local Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) offices to assist with train derailments, missing person searches, and storm cleanup and recovery. In addition to responding to these requests, the Alabama Forestry Commission will continue to train personnel, standing ready to respond and assist the AEMA with the planning process and execution of commodity delivery in the event of a catastrophic event.

## CENTRAL DISPATCH CENTER

The Central Dispatch Center is essential to the agency's ability to receive wildfire information from 911 centers, sheriffs' offices, and the general public. This information is then relayed to AFC firefighters so that they are dispatched in a timely manner. In FY 2015, AFC dispatchers received 5,102 calls associated with wildfires and in turn dispatched agency firefighters to the scene.

For safety purposes, Central Dispatch also records the movements of all on-duty personnel, utilizing dispatch logs and map boards to verify the safe return of all firefighters at the end of each work day.

The AFC dispatch center issued 12,772 burn permits for fuel reduction, hardwood control, land clearing, agricultural, wildlife enhancement, and miscellaneous burns in FY 2015. There were an additional 1,701 calls inquiring about the burn permit process and requirements, as well as requests for general forestry information. Through an agreement with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, AFC dispatchers also received a total of 153 calls regarding scheduling of hunting reservations for disabled persons at Little River State Forest.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Alabama Forestry Commission operates and maintains two complete radio systems and over 200 tower sites across the state. AFC personnel utilize the statewide VHF system for routine communications, fire prevention, and suppression operations, while a UHF radio system provides communication for the volunteer fire departments in 38 counties throughout the state. The AFC provides and maintains these repeaters 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no cost to the VFDs.

### Forest Protection QUICK FACTS

**23 AFC personnel assisted on several federal fires and in-state emergencies**

**The AFC dispatch center issued 12,772 burn permits**

**AFC maintains radio communications for over 1,000 AFC and 500 VFD radios**

**Outfitted 28 new trucks with VHF/UHF mobile radios and LED emergency lights**

This UHF/VHF radio system infrastructure, comprised of over 1,000 AFC radios and almost 500 VFD radios, is serviced and maintained by four Commission technicians, each responsible for a designated geographic area.

The Communications Section outfitted 28 trucks with VHF/UHF mobile radios and installed LED emergency lighting on the front and rear of trucks. Also purchased during the fiscal year, 19 F-350 Type 6 trucks are currently undergoing the installation of VHF, UHF radios, installation of 200-gallon pumper tanks, and LED emergency lighting. The future use and benefit of a digital radio system for both UHF and VHF is being explored. Some of the Rural Community Fire Protection counties have experienced weakened audio levels due to frequency narrow-banding. The AFC is currently working with volunteer fire departments to help alleviate this by adding additional sites in these counties. Bibb, Etowah, Washington, Crenshaw, Marengo, Perry, and Calhoun counties have benefited from additional repeater sites in their areas.

As a member of the Alabama First Responders Wireless Commission (AFRWC), the AFC assisted with the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights March in 2015. An AFC technician helped set up communications with Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) and Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) for the event, and assisted with programming of radio frequencies for law enforcement brought in for crowd protection. Additionally, the AFC attended an AFRWC meeting with First Net to discuss opting in to a data system that would give long-term evolution (LTE) data coverage statewide that would be used by first responders/support personnel in public safety, public health, and public works.

## FOREST HEALTH

Forests cover approximately 20 percent of the earth's surface. In Alabama, approximately 69 percent of the land is forested, a higher percentage than in most parts of the world. Due to living in a mobile environment (migration of people) and a thriving global economy (imports of goods), the status of our forests are prone to change from these effects. The article, "Forest Health – In a Changing World" summarizes how human and environmental influences can change the dynamics of a forest. For instance, the introduction of new forest pests and the movement of such species can vastly alter the function of our current forests. Alabama is now experiencing some of these pest problems. However, with collaboration of other natural resource groups, the Alabama Forestry Commission is actively identifying and resolving many of the known forest health issues.

## Emerald Ash Borer/Walnut Twig Beetle/Thousand Cankers Disease

In March of 2015, officials from the University of Tennessee met with Alabama Forestry Commission and Tennessee Valley Authority personnel to discuss a survey plan to detect walnut twig beetle (*Pityophthorus juglandis*), one of the causes of thousand cankers disease. A trap was deployed from July to the end of September in most of the north region counties of Alabama. However, no walnut twig beetles were identified in any of the 12 traps.

In July of 2015, the Forestry Division of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture contacted the Alabama Forestry Commission about a confirmed identification of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) – just a few miles north of Jackson County, Alabama. In collaboration with the AFC, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries deployed 547 traps statewide, but no emerald ash borers were found.

## Gypsy Moth

The U.S. Forest Service deployed 12 gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) traps in Alabama. No gypsy moths were found in any of the traps this year.

## Laurel Wilt Disease

There were several reports of possible laurel wilt disease in Baldwin County. Ground surveys were conducted in the identified areas, closely examining symptomatic redbay trees. Stem samples from host trees were sent to the Forest Service laboratory for analysis. The results did not confirm the presence of the *Raffaelea lauricola* fungus or the redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*).

## Loblolly Pine Sawfly

In 2015, as in the last two years, extended infestations of the loblolly pine sawfly emerged in Northwest Alabama.

There were only a few reports of isolated infestations, with most of them occurring in Marion County. A formal aerial survey was not performed; however, several spots were located during reconnaissance and southern pine beetle detection flights. A total of 55 infestations were documented in Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Limestone, and Marion counties.



Larvae of loblolly pine sawflies feed on loblolly pine needles.

## Southern Pine Beetle

A rather accurate predictor of southern pine beetle (SPB) (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) population, the SPB pheromone survey was initiated in March 2015 at several selected sites in the state. An additional area on federal property was surveyed this spring because of an increase in the SPB population from last year. From the nine sites surveyed with a total of 27 deployed traps, the results predicted another slight increase in the beetle population in 2015.

Statewide southern pine beetle detection flights were conducted in May/June and August/September of 2015. An increase in the number of reported beetle infestations in July resulted in the late summer detection flights continuing well into October. As predicted from the SPB pheromone survey in March, there was an increase in the number of SPB infestations.

2013: 109 spots infesting 14,620 trees  
 2014: 168 spots infesting 18,785 trees  
 2015: 378 spots infesting 23,545 trees

SPB Combined Flights 2015		
Region	# of Spots	# of Trees
North	1	50
Northwest	36	1,000
Northeast	5	135
East Central	64	1,350
Southeast	20	500
Southwest	252	20,510
Statewide Total	378	23,545

After a five-year absence, the southern pine beetle prevention cost-share program became available again in 2014 to Alabama landowners. A total of 41 landowners were approved for funding to complete the various prevention practices. Another cost-share program was implemented in 2015. A total of 120 non-industrial private forest landowners applied, but because of high enrollment and limited funds, only 47 landowners were approved.

## Sudden Oak Death

In 2015, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences conducted sudden oak death surveys at six nursery sites in Alabama to detect the presence of the *Phytophthora ramorum* pathogen. For three consecutive weeks in early April and again in early October, weekly water samples were collected and tested from an aquatic area near the perimeter

of each nursery. One site that previously tested positive for the pathogen, tested positive again in 2015.

## Cogongrass Redesign Grant

Several county agencies participating in a cost-share program finalized their spray treatments of cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical*) along rights-of-way. A total of 2,887 cogongrass spots were identified, with 1,741 spots encompassing 107.45 acres receiving at least one spray application.

The Alabama Forestry Commission continued to purchase spray equipment and treat cogongrass infestations on state-managed property. AFC personnel also identified and documented new infestations. Spot information was entered into the agency's cogongrass database, accumulating 37,108 spots as of the first of October 2015.

## Firewood Redesign Grant

To enhance the continued promotion of the 'Don't Move Firewood' campaign this year, several new promotional/educational items were purchased and distributed at venues throughout the state, including Oak Mountain State Park, Paul Grist State Park, the Deer Expo in Birmingham, and Buck Masters Expo in Montgomery. The AFC also renewed contracts with Auburn University and the University of Alabama radio broadcast networks to announce the 'Don't Move Firewood' message during the respective pre-game and coaches' post-game talk shows throughout the 2015 football season.

## Kudzu Redesign Grant

The AFC continued spray treatment of kudzu (*Pueraria Montana*) on state-managed property. In the East-Central Region, treatment was applied at Stauffer State Forest, Macon State Forest, and Thorsby Seed Orchard, for approximately 15 acres total. Several additional spray units were purchased to aid with this effort.

Red Mountain Park's sub-recipient agreement with the AFC ended on September 30, 2015. Utilizing those funds, Red Mountain Park controlled kudzu, Chinese privet, and other invasive plants on additional areas at the park, and a significant portion of these treated sites were restored with native trees and various ground vegetation. For testing purposes, 75 longleaf pines were planted on one particular restored site. Because of the overwhelming response from the public, Red Mountain Park has contracted once again with 'Goat Busters' to use goats in controlling invasive plants.

### Forest Health QUICK FACTS

A total of 55 loblolly pine sawfly infestations spots were detected in northwest Alabama

SPB detection flights were conducted in May/June and August/September

378 SPB spots were detected, infesting 23,545 trees

As of September 30th 37,108 cogongrass spots have been identified

# Forest Management



The AFC Forest Management Division assists timberland owners through a number of programs that promote and help them manage sustainable forests on their properties. Six program managers administer state or federally funded programs including forest management plans, stand management recommendations, technical assistance for federal cost-share assistance, state lands management, urban and community forestry, Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMPs), hardwood management, auxiliary state forest management, Legacy lands acquisition, as well as Tree Farm, Stewardship, and TREASURE Forest certifications. The Division includes a Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) coordinator and six crew leaders that conduct a perpetual inventory of Alabama's 23 million acres of forest land.

Training sessions were conducted in Fiscal Year 2015 for foresters, loggers, landowners, consulting foresters, and others on topics ranging from proper BMP implementation and wetlands issues to mitigation of threatened and endangered species. The division conducted Forest Certification workshops in north, central, and south Alabama. Division employees served on the Alabama Natural Resources Council, Alabama's State Tree Farm Committee, and several sub-committees. Other activities included presentations to visitors from Japan about forestry practices in Alabama, and attending Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) meetings in San Antonio, Texas, and Charlottesville, Virginia, and the 3rd Biannual Shortleaf Pine Workshop in Knoxville, Tennessee. Division staff also participated in ongoing planning to host the SGSF Annual Meeting, June 2016 in Mobile, Alabama.

## Stewardship QUICK FACTS

**145 new certifications impacting 34,118 acres**

**239 stewardship management plans impacting 41,438 acres**

**2,940 stand management plans impacting 191,523 acres**

**367 forestry consultant referrals**

**482 prescribed burns impacting 30,262 acres**

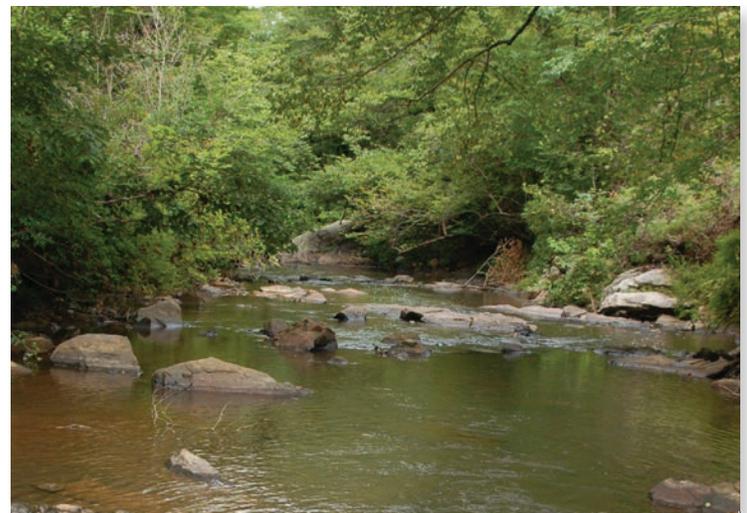
**537 firebreaks plowed totaling 873 miles**

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship in Alabama consists of three complementary programs: the national Stewardship Forest, Tree Farm, and TREASURE Forest. Each program is designed to acknowledge a landowner's efforts in properly managing his property according to recognized stewardship principles. Nearly 4.6 million acres are currently certified under these programs, representing 20 percent of the commercial forest land in Alabama.

Commission associates assist private landowners by providing stand management recommendations and guidance with various cost-share assistance programs, by providing direct services, and by providing information and educational programs.

Commission associates also work with private landowners to provide written forest management plans. A strategic component of all of the programs, these plans provide a landowner with a structured outline and a schedule of appropriate management activities to help achieve stated objectives. Once the management plan is in place, current accomplishments are acknowledged by awarding Stewardship Forest certification. Following this designation, the AFC partners with the American Tree Farm System to present the merits of Tree Farm and third-party certification to the landowner.



As the landowner progresses in multiple-use forest management, a threshold is reached where he or she becomes eligible for Alabama's flagship program, TREASURE Forest. TREASURE is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, and Aesthetics for a Sustained Usable REsource. When landowners are awarded TREASURE Forest status, they have demonstrated sound multiple resource management to meet their own objectives, while at the same time protecting and enhancing the forest resources of Alabama.

## LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE/ COST-SHARE PROGRAMS



Helping landowners achieve their management objectives is one of the most rewarding experiences a forester or technician can have. Qualified landowners can apply for financial assistance through a variety of federal and state programs to help them complete forestry practices and achieve their goals. In the past, these programs were known as cost-share programs and are often still referred to as such.

AFC foresters and technicians are available to meet with landowners and provide technical assistance through on-the-ground assessments. AFC personnel produce written management plans that give instructions for installing forestry practices covered through financial assistance. These practices are varied which allows them to be utilized by a broad section of landowners. There are practices to help landowners achieve goals pertaining to timber and wildlife management, invasive species control, implementation of Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry, as well as for restoration of threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems.

The U.S. Farm Bill is the primary source of funding for federal financial assistance programs. The distribution of these funds is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These funds are used for a variety of agricultural programs, including forestry. The AFC is responsible for writing plans to implement requirements of the forestry financial assistance practices. Following is a list of all forestry

financial assistance programs that were available in Fiscal Year 2015, with the corresponding plans and acres produced by AFC foresters and technicians for Alabama timberland owners enrolled in these programs.

### FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) Programs

#### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- AFC county offices wrote 304 stand management recommendations/plans totaling 11,690 acres during FY15 for general and continuous CRP practices.
- AFC county offices performed 462 CRP compliance/practice checks on a total of 16,620 acres during FY15.

#### Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

- Designed to provide funding for restoration of farmland and timberland damaged by natural disasters, FSA county offices can request EFRP funding when damage occurs on rural property. In FY15, AFC reported writing five plans for 117 acres in three Alabama counties including Blount, Escambia, and Washington.

### NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) Programs

#### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- AFC county offices wrote 203 stand management recommendations/plans for 13,317 acres.
- AFC county offices performed 47 EQIP compliance/practice checks on a total of 2,209 acres during FY15.

#### Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)

- AFC technical service provider (TSP) foresters wrote 12 CAP or 106 forest management plans for 415 acres in FY15.

### STATE OF ALABAMA Funded Programs

#### Alabama Agricultural & Conservation Development Commission Program (AACDCP)

- Administered by the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (ASWCC) and managed by the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ASWCD) located in counties throughout the state, this state-funded program received no new funding in FY15.
- AFC counties prepared five stand management recommendations/plans totaling 188 acres.
- AFC counties performed 31 AACDCP compliance/practice checks on a total of 962 acres during FY15.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Alabama timberland covers 23.0 million acres, the third largest commercial forestland in the nation. Approximately 94 percent of the state's timberland is privately owned, and 6 percent is publicly owned. Forest industries (companies that own a wood processing plant) own approximately 7 percent of Alabama's timberland, while 87 percent falls into the non-industrial private forest (NIPF) sector<sup>1</sup>. In 2010, total sales of forestry and commercial logging was \$1.0 billion and total sales of forest products manufacturing was \$10.2 billion<sup>2</sup>. To say the least, forestry and the private forest landowner are very important to Alabama's economy.

The forestry community is constantly under a microscope for non-compliance of environmental issues whether it be threatened and endangered species habitat, water quality, and/or wetland preservation. The Alabama Forestry Commission's Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMP) program is dedicated to ensuring protection of the environment, educating all the stakeholders, and prevention of the degradation of Alabama's natural resources from any silvicultural practices.

Components of the BMP program with 2015 accomplishments include the following:

### Complaint Resolution

The AFC has MOUs with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist them, as the forestry technical expert, when addressing complaints

that may be the result of a silvicultural activity. This year the AFC investigated 49 complaints alleged to have originated from silvicultural activities. Of those, 22 were deemed as a "not valid" complaints or "not related to silvicultural activities." The other 27 complaints were deemed "valid" and remediation actions taken. The AFC also worked with the State Implementation Committee of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (a third-party certification program) to mitigate two inconsistent practices cases.

### Education

Environmental laws and regulations are very dynamic and change rapidly at

times. To keep all forestry stakeholders informed the AFC is committed to be the most up-to-date forestry technical agency dealing with and relating these changes through BMP program events. This year the AFC completed 29 such events, reaching 1,367 stakeholders. The agency was also able to donate 15,000+ BMP manuals to the State Department of Education (ALSDE) for distribution to agriculture teachers in support of their teaching efforts in classrooms throughout Alabama. They will also be used as part of an in-kind match for an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Forestry Worker Certification Program grant.

### Prevention

As part of the ongoing effort to monitor the implementation of forestry BMPs, the AFC completed a total of 360 inspections: 265 inspections of randomly-selected, active logging jobs; 29 landowner invitations to inspect; and 66 internal AFC fire-line audits. Inspections on active tracts target deficient areas that showed up from inspections on closed-out tracts during the implementation monitoring cycle that is done every third year. These inspections on active tracts enable AFC personnel to interact with the loggers as they work, and provide one-on-one active instruction.

1 – Alabama Forestry Commission, 2014 Forest Resource Report

2 – Economic Impacts of Alabama's Agricultural, Forestry, & Related Industries, 2013

## MARKETING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The Alabama Forestry Commission contributes to the marketing of forest products and economic development in a number of ways. One of these ways is through the AFC's involvement with the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program. FIA provides vital statistical data pertaining to Alabama's forest resource. Land consultants and forest industry representatives utilize FIA data to make important decisions such as where to locate new wood products mills and how to make expansions to existing mills. They often request and are provided this data from AFC personnel.

The AFC's involvement with the FIA program consists of forest resource data collection by field crews, and the fulfilling of forest resource data

### BMP QUICK FACTS

**AFC investigated 49 BMP complaints**

**22 deemed "not valid"**  
**27 deemed "valid" and remediation actions taken**

**Conducted 29 BMP educational events reaching 1,367 stakeholders**

requests by the FIA Coordinator. The FIA Coordinator responded to 35 requests for forest resource and industry-related information during FY 2015.

Another way the AFC contributes to the marketing of Alabama's forest resource is by the development of the annual forest resource report. This document contains valuable economic status indicators of the forest industry and forest resources in Alabama for the previous year. The *Forest Resource Report 2014* was completed in May and is available on the AFC website.

Finally, the AFC is a member of the Southern Group of State Foresters' Services, Utilization, and Marketing (SUM) Committee. The goal of the SUM committee is to coordinate actions to market forest resources, forest products, and other forest values of the South. One major accomplishment of the SUM committee was the recent creation of the Primary Forest Products Locator website. This website provides a directory of mills which produce lumber, plywood, pulp, paper, and other wood products from roundwood (logs). The FIA Coordinator keeps the website up to date for the AFC.

## FOREST INVENTORY ANALYSIS



Ongoing for more than 70 years in Alabama, Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) is a continuous, nationwide timber and forest resource inventory. FIA data is the primary source of forest resource information and it plays a vital role in economic development. Some of the more significant data that comes from FIA are the status and trends relating to forest area, forest volume, and tree growth versus harvest removals. This information is obtained by AFC two-man field crews that collect a variety of forest resource data from a set of field sample locations (FIA plots) distributed across the landscape at approximately 3 x 3 mile spacings. When fully staffed, Alabama has six field crews that sample 15 percent of the total number of FIA plots annually. The field data collected is transferred by the FIA crew leader to US Forest Service personnel for analysis, and subsequently compiled into statistical reports.

- The 2015 FIA Inventory will be completed in October. A total of 765 plots were inventoried in FY15, exceeding the desired goal by 26 plots (3.5 percent).

- 2014 FIA data indicates there are 23.0 million acres of timberland in Alabama, accounting for 69 percent of the state's total area. This amount of area remains virtually unchanged since 2000. Individual or family-owned forests account for 13.6 million acres, or 59.1 percent of the state's timberland.
- 2014 FIA data shows that Alabama is growing timber faster than it is being harvested. The average annual rate of growth-to-harvest removals for all species is 1.56:1 for the period 2001 to 2014. The growth-to-harvest removals ratio is 1.47:1 for softwoods, and the ratio is 1.80:1 for hardwoods.
- According to 2014 FIA data, the "loblolly pine" forest type is by far the predominant single forest type in Alabama, occupying approximately 36.7 percent of total timberland area. The "mixed upland hardwood" forest type ranks a distant second, accounting for approximately 10.7 percent of timberland acreage.

## STATE LANDS MANAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE

Approximately 47,600 acres of forest land in Alabama are managed by the Alabama Forestry Commission. More than 16,000 acres are under the agency's direct control; these include 12 state forests, as well as numerous old fire tower sites. These sites are managed by the local AFC field offices with assistance from the State Lands section of the AFC. The Commission has entered into cooperative agreements with three other agencies to manage their forestlands: seven state parks (24,774 acres) for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; seven tracts (4,867 acres) for the Department of Mental Health; and approximately 2,000 acres at the old Fort McClellan post for the McClellan Development Authority. All of these lands are managed by the AFC State Lands section under TREASURE Forest guidelines for multiple use and sustainability.

During Fiscal Year 2015, Commission personnel were involved in a variety of management activities on these lands, including preparation of timber sales and oversight of harvesting activities; prescribed burning for wildlife habitat improvement, aesthetics, and wildfire hazard reduction; site preparation and tree planting; forest health monitoring; and road, bridge, and building maintenance. In addition to timber sales handled for the above agencies, the AFC entered into an agreement with the City of Prichard in November 2014 to handle a timber sale on 150+/- acres at High Pointe Golf Course. All logging operations on this timber sale were completed by June 2015. Revenues from timber

sales and other services on these lands are shown in the following table.

Revenues from State Lands Management Program FY 2015		
Timber Sales	Sale Value	Revenue to AFC
<b>Alabama Forestry Commission</b>		
LRSF Stump Sale #14-13	\$17,464	\$17,464
GSF Stump Sale #14-14	\$18,453	\$18,453
GSF Stump Sale #15-2	\$1,963	\$1,963

City of Prichard		
Sale #15-1	\$48,260	\$4,826

Department of Conservation		
Clay County Lake #15-3	\$34,288	\$3,429
Desoto State Park Shortleaf Restoration	\$143,400	\$14,340
<b>McClellan Development Authority</b>		
Sale #15-4	\$492,296	\$49,230
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$109,704</b>

Prescribed Burning	Acres	Revenue
<b>Department of Conservation</b>		
Monroe Lake	39	\$1,375
Madison Lake	40	\$860
Lee Lake	60	\$1,130
Chambers Lake	13	\$333
Geneva Lake	82	\$1,610
Paul Grist State Park	64	\$3,680
<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>\$8,988</b>

Management Fees	Acres	Revenue
Department of Conservation - State Parks	varies	\$1,000
Department of Mental Health	4,867	\$4,867
McClellan Development Authority	700	\$700
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,567</b>	<b>\$6,567</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$125,259</b>

The State Lands section actively participated in the AFC's career development program in FY2015 by teaching Forestry Tools (F-138) and Forest Silviculture (F-131) to classes in all regions of the state. These classes are to instruct AFC rangers with no formal forestry education in the use of basic forest measurement tools and map reading, as well as forest management principles and practices. Foresters also attend as a post-graduation refresher course.

## STATE FORESTS



### Geneva State Forest

Located in Geneva County on 7,200 acres of forestland, Geneva State Forest (GSF) offers primitive camping, picnicking, fishing, and hunting. With 23 miles of roads and trails, other recreational activities include ATV riding, horse riding, and hiking. Permits for these activities using an honor system totaled 2,030 visitors for FY2015. Through affiliated partnerships, GSF is utilized for both public education and employee training. During FY2015, three wildland firefighter classes were conducted, as well as three demonstration tours and two organized trail rides.

Forest management accomplishments at GSF during FY2015 include:

- prescribed burning on 523 acres, training future wildland firefighters in the process.
- timber harvest preparations on 243 acres, for future revenue estimated at \$283,000.
- The AFC also maintains 105 acres of pine seed orchards which were established to improve the quality of seedlings available for Alabama landowners. To facilitate this effort, these orchards were leased to International Forest Company (IFCO) for seed production. Income from orchard leases during FY2015 totaled \$67,974.43.

Geneva State Forest Wildlife Management Area offers 6,800 acres of public hunting with 41 acres of maintained wildlife openings. Activities in FY2015 included:

- 560 man-days of public hunting, with an estimated 36 legal deer kills. Man-days per deer killed totaled 15.6, and man-day hunter success percentage totaled 6.4 percent.
- Relocation of seven gopher tortoises from Mobile County to GSF, in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). This was part of a multi-state cooperative conservation effort to reduce the further need for listing the gopher tortoise as an endangered species, and GSF was recognized for having the required habitat for viable populations.

## Little River State Forest/ Little River State Park

AFC Southwest Region personnel continued to manage 2,000 acres at Little River State Forest located in Escambia and Baldwin counties, conducting ongoing forest management activities that include inventory cruises, timber sales, site preparation and planting, annual prescribed burns, and invasive species control. Specific silvicultural activities for FY15 included:

- site prep burning of 110 acres
- contracting/administering planting 110 acres of longleaf/slash pine
- contracting/administering aerial site prep spraying of 210 acres
- spraying seven cogongrass spots
- installation/rehabilitation of 7.5 miles of firebreaks
- completion of 4 miles of roadwork including three culvert installations



Additionally, AFC staff also conducted the following training at Little River during FY15:

- a week-long equipment familiarization course for new AFC employees, including classroom instruction and hands-on operation
- a one-day prescribed burn class for five local landowners, followed by a live fire demonstration
- a weekend forestry class for community Boy Scouts working toward merit badges

While Iron Men Outdoor Ministries operate the 95-acre Little River State Park and receive revenue from park day-users and campers, the AFC staff continues to oversee and provide support/assistance for infrastructure and maintenance issues. AFC personnel removed seven hazard trees inside the park in 2015, and also acquired used playground equipment from a local school and delivered to the park.

## Choccoloco State Forest

Located in Calhoun County near Anniston, Choccolocco State Forest consists of 4,408 acres



of pine and hardwood timber, with a portion included in the Talladega Wildlife Management Area. Surrounded by mountains, it is one of the last remaining old growth mountain longleaf pine forests in the world, with numerous trees over 200 years old. It adjoins the Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge and contains some of the best remaining examples of a mountain longleaf pine ecosystem. Forest management activities for Fiscal Year 2015 included:

- Planting 66 acres of trees.
- Conducting prescribed burning on 532 acres of planted longleaf.
- Conducting prescribed burning on another 250 acres for timber stand improvement (TSI) and site prep.
- Installing two gates after recent timber harvest.
- Installing and/or maintaining 14.5 miles of firebreaks.
- Maintaining five miles of access roads.

State Forests in Alabama	
Name	Acres
Geneva State Forest	7,120
Choccolocco State Forest	4,403
Little River State Forest	2,120
Johnson-Gjerstad State Forest	240
Weogufka State Forest	240
Hauss Demonstration Forest	235
Macon State Forest	192
Stauffer Nursery / Seed Orchard	180
Thorsby Seed Orchard	180
Panther State Forest	80
Crawford State Forest	80
Miller Nursery	80
Washington State Forest	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,354</b>

## URBAN FORESTRY

This past fiscal year was a building period for the Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF) program in the Alabama Forestry Commission. The primary goal – to promote the professional management of the crucial urban forests in Alabama’s cities, towns and communities – continues to be the focus of the program. It also relies upon excellent support received from fellow employees in the regions and counties. This year saw the completion of past sub-recipient grants, the building of relationships within and outside of Alabama, and the foundational changes needed to establish a solid and growing program within the state.

The core workers in the AFC regions and counties continued to work hard on urban forestry activities, representing the state well at Arbor Day events and tree distributions. The AFC’s many community partners are also appreciated for holding these tree celebrations. Yearly estimates show over 17,998 volunteer hours were invested in tree planting and other urban forestry functions. More than 261 individual homeowners and communities were contacted by AFC personnel to provide technical assistance on their trees and to promote Tree City USA certification/recertification.

Other U&CF accomplishments in the 2015 fiscal year included:

- The Arbor Day Foundation (ADF) recognition programs: Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA, were supported, with application deadlines in December. The final number of Tree City USA certifications in the state for the complete 2014 calendar year, were up again reaching 82, or two more than 2013. Three communities received growth awards. There were also eight Tree Campus USA participating institutions (up three from last year) and one Tree Line USA company.
- The annual AFC tree give-aways were held in and around the last week of February, which Alabama celebrates as “Arbor Week.” More than 85,000 seedlings of nine different species were distributed to state residents. A three-

year agreement was signed with Wallace State Community College to provide quality seedlings and to contain tree distribution costs.

- After wrapping up the U&CF sub-recipients grants from fiscal year 2012, a request for proposals was sent out on September 25 for fiscal year 2014 grant funding for work to be completed in 2016. Two to four grants are expected to utilize the \$20,000 in pass-through funds targeted at increasing local urban forestry capacity and investing in state-wide projects to promote urban forest management.
- Your Town Alabama was supported both with funding and labor for their annual workshop in September 2015. Over 60 municipal officers and professionals in related industries attended this two and one-half day workshop on town design and planning. The new U&CF Partnership Coordinator participated, networking with municipal officers and learning the importance of advanced planning to build strong towns with healthy green infrastructure.
- The AFC U&CF promoted and advertised the Alabama Power Foundation’s “Good Roots” program. In partnership with the Alabama Forestry Association and the Alabama Urban Forestry Association, the Foundation provides Good Roots grants to purchase trees to cities, towns, and nonprofit organizations. Through this program, 38 Good Roots grants have been awarded annually totaling more than \$33,000 to help communities across Alabama plant trees.
- Six regional Tree City USA training workshops were conducted, and the AFC U&CF provided a training table for the Birmingham Urban Forestry Festival. All events worked to build a closer relationship with the Alabama Urban Forestry Association.
- Following the successful completion of the Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign in 2014, the Arbor Day Foundation selected the AFC U&CF Coordinator to participate in the ADF Community Recovery Workshop in the development of a manual for states experiencing catastrophic tree loss. The Coordinator also chaired the Southern Group of State Foresters Urban and Community Forestry committee, and was selected as a council member for “Green Ribbon” schools.



## GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

To meet the growing challenges of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), the AFC is looking at a centrally-integrated enterprise mapping tool that would enable agency staff to perform online mapping

seamlessly and efficiently. ESRI's ArcGIS Platform is being explored for its versatile applications, including ArcGIS Online as a mapping tool. Recently, the mapping technology was presented to AFC regional foresters and executives to demonstrate its performance as a web mapping apparatus, including its mobile dexterity in a 'no network, typical forestry field environment'. As much of the AFC work involves collecting geospatial data literally "on the go," disconnected editing was tested using ESRI's Collector for ArcGIS. With this mobile app, remote or mobile users may continue to work with

and modify data even though they are disconnected from the network. When connection to the network is reestablished, any changes made to the data can be transferred to, and integrated with, data maintained in the central database. Disconnected editing is also being tested for collecting forest health monitoring data and best management practices data by the agency's veteran pilots. The AFC is exploring the possibilities of securing federal funds to build and implement ArcGIS Platform as a mapping tool to meet its strategic decision-making needs for forestry operations management.

## Education and Outreach



### OUTREACH

During Fiscal Year 2015, the Alabama Forestry Commission's outreach program continued initiatives to increase visibility within the state, both in and out of the classroom. The agency's six regional outreach coordinators hosted numerous school programs, reaching over 3,000 children grades K – 8. Other collaborative efforts offered the wildfire prevention message to adult crowds throughout the state, enhancing the knowledge and awareness of those attending.

### YOUTH CAMP

Celebrating its 20th year, the Butler County Forestry Planning Committee's Natural Resources Youth Camp has provided Butler County youth the opportunity to become more aware of the value of forest resources to Alabama's environment and economy, as well as the relationship these resources have to their everyday lives. An outdoor classroom was the setting for 28 energetic, inquisitive sixth-grade students who were chosen by their school principals and/or science teachers to attend this three-day/two-night

camp. This camp offered 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 Forestry Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Butler County Soil & Water Conservation District, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, USDA Farm Service Agency, Larson & McGowin Forest Managers, Alabama Ornithological Society, and others conducted "hands-on" classes concerning forestry-related subjects which included native plants, wildlife management and identification, non-game birds, as well as several Project Learning Tree activities. Additionally, an on-site visit from Winged Ambassadors provided an up-close visit with some local birds of prey.

An opportunity to spend time in one of Alabama's many creeks is an annual highlight of the camp. Campers explored Mussel Creek, looking for inhabitants and often being surprised by what they found.

**Education and Outreach  
QUICK FACT**  
Statewide, AFC employees conducted or assisted with over 1,100 public educational programs, reaching more than 92,000 citizens, children and adults



The final day provided a chance for the campers to display their marksmanship in different shooting sports event such as shotguns, rifles, black powder, and archery. This event was overseen by the Department of Conservation and the Conservation Officer's Association.

From the beginning, this unique camping experience has been provided at no cost to the campers or their families. Funding for the project comes from tremendous support via the local community, private individuals, forest industry, and civic clubs. Additional funding is provided through grants from the Alabama Forests Forever education grant and the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.

## MEDIA/PUBLICATIONS

The AFC Media/Publications Team continued with the ongoing public awareness campaign in 2015 to favorably market the agency, not only to the state's forest landowners but also the general public. Communication and positive media coverage was achieved statewide through the usual avenues of distributing news releases and media advisories, as well as through social media networks including Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

The AFC website ([www.forestry.alabama.gov](http://www.forestry.alabama.gov)) continues to be a major source of educational information for landowners and citizens across the state. During Fiscal Year 2015, the website had over 925,357 page views.

For the fourth straight year, the Media Team coordinated the Alabama Forestry Commission's participation in two of Alabama's largest three-day venues with exhibits at the Annual World Deer Expo in July at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) and the Annual BuckMasters Expo in August at the Montgomery Convention Center/ Renaissance Hotel. Agency associates were on hand to talk with attendees, answer questions, provide contact information for local Commission offices, and distribute informative AFC brochures and publications regarding forest management/stewardship, wildfire prevention, and insect protection. In cooperation with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA),

Blaze and Ember, the AFC's former arson dogs, made special appearances. These two canine ambassadors of the state always prove very successful with audiences, especially making a big hit with children. An assortment of Blaze & Ember, Smokey Bear, and Woodsy Owl merchandise was also provided for event-goers.

Other Media Team projects during the year included:

- Assistance with the two-day Gulf Coast Hot Air Balloon Festival in May located in Foley, Alabama.
- Publication of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* – Entering its 33rd year, the magazine continued to provide forest landowners with stewardship principles and proper forest management techniques/advice.
- Production of three video presentations for the annual Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Awards for the 24th year.
- Assistance with production of the annual Alabama "Tree Farmer of the Year" video presentation.
- Continued implementation of the "Don't Move Firewood" campaign, in cooperation with other members of the Southern Group of State Foresters.
- Annual production of the brochure for Butler County Natural Resources Youth Camp, as well as four issues of *TREETopics*, the AFC employee newsletter.

In an effort to make the AFC more visible and recognizable, the media team was assigned the task of redesigning the agency logo. The revised emblem was rolled out on new AFC trucks and will be phased in on older trucks in the coming months. Additionally, the media team designed a tailgate wrap for the new pickups which displays a wildfire message, promoting one of the AFC's primary missions.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) section has completed its initiative to replace all of the older computers within the agency, resulting in all AFC computers currently having Windows 7 or Windows 10.

The employee-only website, Phoenix, has been continually updated and now provides a strong foundation upon which all AFC tasks are managed and recorded. It serves as the AFC's central hub for time entry, accomplishments, property management, financial tracking, as well as many other critical tasks. With many of the larger web-based programs now finished, the IT staff believes Phoenix will be complete within the next year.

## PERSONNEL

Fiscal Year 2015 saw an overall increase in AFC personnel with 252 employees at September 30, 2015, up from 246 employees at October 1, 2014.

This difference came despite ten retirements over the course of the year and the transfer of our seven law enforcement personnel to the state's newly-formed Alabama Law Enforcement Agency. While this total represents neither an ideal nor safe staffing level, it is a step in the right direction. Ongoing statewide budgetary concerns have created the need for more strategic placement of field personnel while continuing strong efforts toward recruitment and retention.

Personnel has oversight for ensuring appropriate actions with regard to appointments and separations, payroll and benefits, evaluation, safety, readiness and training, and other auxiliary services for over 250 employees statewide.

Additional large projects this year focused on the random drug testing process, commercial driver license (CDL) policy clarification, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) process refinement, pre-employment medical standards, and preparation for the new statewide time and attendance system.

## UNIFORM COMMITTEE

The Alabama Forestry Commission organized a committee made up of regional representatives to develop a new agency uniform. The committee conducted an employee uniform questionnaire, and information from this survey guided the committee to create a revamped uniform, including the revised agency logo. The group met several times in 2015 to discuss options and specifications, with uniforms finally being ordered the latter part of the summer.

The uniform committee was also tasked with updating the AFC dress code policy.

Prior to this year, custom fire boots were not an option for agency employees because of the boots' expense. However, this year the AFC contracted with

Nick's Boots, a custom footwear company, to make a more affordable tailor-made product. Nearly 100 AFC employees took advantage of this option.

## TRAINING

The Commission's readiness and training program has been redesigned to better prepare employees to perform to the level of national standards in wildland fire fighting, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) response, and forest management. This training and preparation provides leadership and assistance to other entities in times of natural disasters, while also assisting the citizens of Alabama.

AFC Training 2014-2015		
Category	Sub-Category	Hours
BMPs	BMP Training	723
FIA	Training	1,212
SFA Preparedness	Westpoint ICS Training	14
SFA Preparedness	Annual Fire Safety Review	1,224
SFA Preparedness	Basic Wildland Firefighter	1,032
SFA Preparedness	Fire Equipment Training	3,094
SFA Preparedness	ICS Training	3,275
Training	Work Capacity Test Readiness	1,494
Training	State Personnel	459
Training	Career Development	2,118
Training	AFC	10,103
Training	Prescribed Burn Manager	742
Training	FIF 100	614
Training	Selma 50th March Type-1 Shadow	204
Training	eSTART	127
Urban and Community Forestry	Training Attended	410
Urban and Community Forestry	Training or Presentation	343
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYEE TRAINING 10/1/14 to 9/16/15:</b>		<b>27,188</b>
VFA	Basic Wildland Firefighter (VFD)	958
Training	LBW Community College	1

## DIRECTORY OF ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION COUNTY OFFICES

**Autauga County**  
2226 Hwy 14 West, Suite I  
Autaugaville, AL 36003  
(334) 361-0576

**Baldwin County**  
41261 State Highway 225  
Bay Minette, AL 36507  
(251) 937-7771

**Barbour County**  
431 Highway 51 South  
Clayton, AL 36016  
(334) 775-3496

**Bibb County**  
9712 Highway 5  
Brent, AL 35034  
(205) 926-4917

**Blount County**  
49686 US Highway 231  
Oneonta, AL 35121  
(205) 274-2231

**Bullock County**  
974 Hicks Industrial Blvd.  
Union Springs, AL 36089  
(334) 738-3040

**Butler County**  
59 Firetower Road  
Greenville, AL 36037  
(334) 376-9114

**Calhoun County**  
3985 AL Highway 21 North  
Jacksonville, AL 36265  
(256) 435-6245

**Chambers County**  
101 Jane Place  
LaFayette, AL 36862  
(334) 864-9368

**Cherokee County**  
1420 East Main Street  
Centre, AL 35960  
(256) 927-3163

**Chilton County**  
221 County Road 423  
Clanton, AL 35045  
(205) 755-3042

**Choctaw County**  
1715 East Pushmataha St.  
Butler, AL 36904  
(205) 459-2928

**Clarke County**  
14833 Old Hwy 5 South  
Grove Hill, AL 36451  
(251) 275-3283

**Clay County**  
75 McCrary Street  
Lineville, AL 36266  
(256) 396-2441

**Cleburne County**  
7315 Highway 78  
Heflin, AL 36264  
(256) 463-2876

**Coffee County**  
1155 East McKinnon St.  
New Brockton, AL 36351  
(334) 894-6734

**Colbert County**  
1101 Hwy 72 East Suite 16  
Tuscumbia, AL 35674  
(256) 383-4376

**Conecuh County**  
1473 Owassa Road  
Evergreen, AL 36401  
(251) 578-3226

**Coosa County**  
228 Coosa County Rd. 157  
Rockford, AL 35136  
(256) 377-4638

**Covington County**  
1803 Dr. MLK Jr. Expwy.  
Andalusia, AL 36420  
(334) 222-0379

**Crenshaw County**  
2338 N. Glenwood Road  
Goshen, AL 36035  
(334) 335-5712

**Cullman County**  
1527 Sportsmans Lake Rd NW  
Cullman, AL 35055  
(256) 734-0573

**Dale County**  
1233 W. Roy Parker Rd.  
Ozark, AL 36360  
(334) 774-5139

**Dallas County**  
7577 AL Highway 22  
Selma, AL 36701  
(334) 875-7131

**DeKalb County**  
151 14th Street NE  
Fort Payne, AL 35967  
(256) 845-1331

**Elmore County**  
191 Red Eagle Drive  
Wetumpka, AL 36092  
(334) 567-5486

**Escambia County**  
2430 Ridge Road  
Brewton, AL 36426  
(251) 867-7798

**Etowah County**  
1511 Crudrup Road  
Attalla, AL 35954  
(256) 538-2535

**Fayette County**  
5434 Highway 171  
Fayette, AL 35555  
(205) 932-6223

**Franklin County**  
1004 Highway 36  
Russellville, AL 35653  
(256) 332-2460

**Geneva County**  
3670 Enterprise Road  
Geneva, AL 36340  
(334) 684-2876

**Greene County**  
2385 County Road 167  
Eutaw, AL 35462  
(205) 372-3459

**Hale County**  
25653 Highway 69  
Greensboro, AL 36744  
(205) 371-2290

**Henry County**  
1462 US Hwy 431 South  
Abbeville, AL 36310  
(334) 585-2403

**Houston County**  
4855 Hodgesville Road  
Dothan, AL 36301  
(334) 677-5454

**Jackson County**  
288-A Shelby Drive  
Scottsboro, AL 35769  
(256) 574-3217

**Jefferson County**  
6650 Old Hwy 31 North  
Gardendale, AL 35071  
(205) 631-3974

**Lamar County**  
48878 Highway 17  
Sulligent, AL 35586  
(205) 695-7530

**Lauderdale County**  
1212 Waterloo Road  
Florence, AL 35630  
(256) 764-4382

**Lawrence County**  
*(Relocated to Morgan Co.)*  
4208 Highway 31 South  
Decatur, AL 35603  
(256) 974-8168

**Lee County**  
1696 U.S. Hwy 29 North  
Auburn, AL 36830  
(334) 725-0034

**Limestone County**  
1109 W. Market St. Suite F  
Athens, AL 35611  
(256) 232-7940

**Lowndes County**  
*(Relocated to Montgomery Co.)*  
11261 U. S. Highway 331  
Montgomery, AL 36105  
(334) 280-3701

**Macon County**  
1696 U.S. Hwy 29 North  
Auburn, AL 36830  
(334) 725-0034

**Madison County**  
4299 Highway 72 East  
Brownsboro, AL 35741  
(256) 776-4411

**Marengo County**  
20540 U.S. Hwy 43  
Linden, AL 36748  
(334) 295-5811

**Marion County**  
164 Smokey Bear Road  
Hamilton, AL 35570  
(205) 921-3843

**Marshall County**  
140 Claysville School Rd.  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
(256) 582-4212

**Mobile County**  
3572 Fire Tower Road  
Semmes, AL 36575  
(251) 649-1380

**Monroe County**  
887 Veterans Avenue  
Monroeville, AL 36460  
(251) 743-2350

**Montgomery County**  
11261 U.S. Highway 331  
Montgomery, AL 36105  
(334) 280-3701

**Morgan County**  
4208 Highway 31 South  
Decatur, AL 35603  
(256) 308-0093

**Perry County**  
1900 Turner Memorial Hwy  
Marion, AL 36756  
(334) 683-8537

**Pickens County**  
12481 Highway 86 W  
Carrollton, AL 35447  
(205) 367-8232

**Pike County**  
4130 County Road 5513  
Troy, AL 36081  
(334) 566-3436

**Randolph County**  
60 Hillcrest Avenue  
Wedowee, AL 36278  
(256) 357-2178

**Russell County**  
4735 Highway 431 South  
Seale, AL 36875  
(334) 855-3302

**Shelby County**  
1281 Highway 70  
Columbiana, AL 35051  
(205) 669-4133

**St. Clair County**  
18909 U.S. Highway 411  
Springville, AL 35146  
(205) 629-6421

**Sumter County**  
320 M L King Parkway W  
Livingston, AL 35470  
(205) 652-6500

**Talladega County**  
425 Al Hwy 275  
Talladega, AL 35160  
(256) 362-4848

**Tallapoosa County**  
21070 Highway 280  
Dadeville, AL 36853  
(256) 825-4244

**Tuscaloosa County**  
8115 McFarland Boulevard  
Northport, AL 35476  
(205) 333-1490

**Walker County**  
1710 Alabama Ave. Suite 202  
Jasper, AL 35501  
(205) 384-6344

**Washington County**  
893 Carpenter Road  
Milry, AL 36558  
(251) 847-2972

**Wilcox County**  
231 Camden Bypass  
Camden, AL 36726  
(334) 682-4421

**Winston County**  
225 Coats Street  
Double Springs, AL 35553  
(205) 489-5014

**State Office**  
513 Madison Avenue  
P.O. Box 302550  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 240-9300  
[www.forestry.alabama.gov](http://www.forestry.alabama.gov)

# REVENUE & OBLIGATIONS SUMMARY

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

TOTAL REVENUES		
Description	Actual YTD	Forecasted/ Budgeted
Severance Taxes	5,253,000	5,319,380
Timber and Turpentine	35,594	43,008
Fishing Permits	4,096	4,527
Fire Suppression	1,955	1,132
Oil Royalties	2,704	7,922
Insurance Recoveries	105,822	45,271
Reimbursements Not Classified	20,651	9,620
Prior Year Refunds	72,404	2,264
Contract Services	1,080,410	633,798
Salvage Equipment	23,733	11,318
Timber Sales	91,550	1,584,496
Other Sales	0	0
Intragovernmental Receipts	52,149	36,217
Other Rents	27,253	22,636
General Fund Transfers	8,799,263	8,799,263
Interfund State	1,060	0
Interfund Federal	0	0
Federal Reimbursements	4,896,813	6,857,515
County Forest Collections/Assessments	1,775,695	1,823,872
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>22,244,150</b>	<b>25,202,239</b>
TOTAL OBLIGATIONS:		
Personnel Costs	11,155,735	12,078,234
Employee Benefits	4,669,771	5,064,588
Travel, In-State	144,841	210,000
Travel, Out-of-State	48,338	56,000
Repairs & Maintenance	318,909	364,000
Rentals & Leases	55,753	119,284
Utilities & Communication	584,683	700,000
Professional Services	671,382	886,280
Supplies, Materials, & Operating Expenses	1,183,689	1,209,000
Transportation Equipment Operations	1,415,659	1,995,000
Grants & Awards	1,305,230	1,465,000
Capital Outlay	75,865	583,700
Transportation Equipment Purchases	2,337,975	2,371,000
Other Equipment Purchases	366,230	450,000
Miscellaneous	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>24,334,062</b>	<b>27,552,086</b>





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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2550  
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*If an individual believes they have 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*