

Alabama Forestry Commission

Annual Report
1999-2000



ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

October 1, 2000

The Honorable Don Siegelman
Governor, State of Alabama
600 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Siegelman:

I am proud to submit this 31st Annual Report of the Alabama Forestry Commission for the State Fiscal Year 1999-2000 to you and the citizens of this great state we serve.

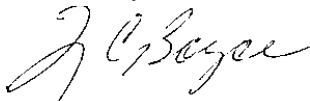
The continued drought placed a heavy demand on the Forestry Commission's firefighting resources last year. We responded to 6,437 wildfires that burned 87,441 acres. This extremely critical fire situation was handled in a professional and efficient manner with the help of the state's 988 volunteer fire departments and our other cooperators.

Providing technical assistance to forest landowners as they employ stewardship principals in meeting their management objectives is a high priority for our agency. This year 152 new TREASURE Forests totaling 83,308 acres were certified. This represents a 31 percent increase over acres certified the previous year. Currently 1,541 families are managing 1.79 million acres under this program.

The Forestry Commission now has an outreach coordinator in each of our four regions. These individuals are concentrating on making contacts with underserved landowners. This is one way our agency is ensuring that all landowners have access to information about our programs.

I am extremely proud of my teammates within the Alabama Forestry Commission. We have made significant contributions to the quality of life for Alabama's citizens through our achievements in forestry. Our employees continue to handle their responsibilities with efficiency and professionalism. I commend to you the associates of the Alabama Forestry Commission listed on pages 22-23 of this report.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Boyce
State Forester

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ADMINISTRATIVE

EQUIPMENT

During Fiscal Year 1999-2000, the Equipment Section wrote specifications for new pickups, vans and automobiles. One automobile, two communications vans and 31 pickup trucks were received during the year. Three additional pickup trucks were ordered. Nine transport trucks (four tilt-rollback, five truck-tractors) were delivered during this time period. Three heavy-duty lowboy trailers were also delivered.

Nine new 450 and 550 size tractors were delivered. These units were fitted with the forestry protection package. Along with the received equipment, specifications were developed for 14 450 and 550 size tractors. Due to continuing problems and weight limitations with tilt-rollback beds, the Equipment Committee developed a new transport bed design and these will be installed on 15 newly ordered transports. Four truck-tractor transports and two lowboys were also ordered.

The section also assisted several counties with specifications for ordering transports and pickups that were purchased locally. Several manufactures' recalls and numerous warranty issues were resolved including replacement and engine parts on several vehicles and tractors.

CENTRAL SHOP

Operating a state Central Shop enables us to repair AFC and Rural

Community Fire Protection vehicles. The AFC's first priority is to the RCFP program. This program allows us to loan fire equipment obtained from the military and other governmental agencies to fire departments. Approximately 55 RCFP trucks were put through the shop and issued to fire departments. Ninety-five RCFP truck parts were pulled and shipped, filling requests from 85 fire departments. The Central Shop also works on AFC transport trucks and fire tractors. This year AFC personnel worked on 47 tractors, 10 of which were major overhauls and one total rebuild. During the fiscal year we also worked on 15 transports and some 104 smaller trucks and other vehicles. This work ranged from minor repairs such as brake work to major repairs such as engine exchanges.

The Central Shop responds to several emergencies each year. One associate was dispatched to central Florida during their fire emergency to assist in repairing several units. This helped keep them operational during the emergency situation. Several field visits to replace thrown tracks and other emergency repairs were also made in-state. We also delivered and set up the AFC's Mobile Command Post on the Poplar Springs fire in Tuscaloosa County.

The section continues to work closely with Risk Management and an architect to secure replacement of the track shop and equipment lost in the fire of 1998.

FEDERAL EXCESS PROPERTY

Screening at Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi military bases is a time consuming and arduous task. This must be followed up by quickly retrieving screened property as soon as Government Services Administration approval is made. Once the property is received it is inventoried, warehoused and distributed to the regions for fire control use, saving the taxpayers of Alabama many thousands of dollars.

Table 1 lists items acquired from the Federal Excess Program last year.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Financial records of the Alabama Forestry Commission are maintained in accordance with accepted accounting procedures and conform to state and federal law as defined by the Comptroller, Examiners of Public Accounts and the U.S. Forest Service.

The operating statement on page 6 was prepared with unaudited data. Also included in this annual report is a Balance Sheet for fiscal year 1999-00, which is found on page 7.

During the year the Financial Services Section processed 16,623 payment vouchers consisting of 13,046 payments to miscellaneous vendors, 2,518 utility payments and 1,059 payments to volunteer fire departments. The section also made 144 deposits during the year.

PERSONNEL

For the first time in eight years, the Forestry Commission experienced a net gain in total number of employees in the year 2000. The increased number of employees over the previous year was primarily the result of the Commission's continuing effort to replace personnel who retired during the 1998 retirement incentive program for state employees. Even with a net gain of seven employees from 1999, the Commission is still operating with more than 100 fewer people than the agency employed in 1992 (see Table 2, page 8).

The Commission's most crucial personnel need is at the county level. At the end of the fiscal year, 16 counties had

Table 1

Items Acquired from the Federal Excess Program During Fiscal Year 1999-2000

Property	Number	Value
Trucks	41	\$884,390
Command Center	1	\$152,286
Generators, Tools, Office Furniture, Turnout Gear, Lumber, etc.		\$138,510
Total		\$1,175,186

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

	Actual					
	FY97	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY00 Budget	Balance
Expenditures						
Personnel	11,890,272	12,402,734	12,672,071	12,631,591	12,631,592	1
Fringe Benefits	2,853,808	2,769,338	2,662,040	2,948,709	2,948,710	1
In State Travel	245,812	282,895	355,403	371,828	371,828	0
Out Of State Travel	44,458	22,384	13,903	19,746	19,747	1
Repairs and Maintenance	267,730	297,739	559,981	432,936	432,937	1
Rental and Leases	631,277	359,118	343,873	377,785	377,785	0
Utilities and Communications	606,263	679,746	648,501	688,662	688,662	0
Professional Services	575,070	817,634	928,604	1,062,124	1,062,124	0
Supplies	993,617	1,091,420	1,330,519	1,185,590	1,185,591	1
Transportation Operations	1,167,720	1,192,775	1,335,389	1,375,398	1,375,399	1
Grants and Benefits	2,291,748	2,859,635	3,168,664	4,071,326	4,071,326	0
Transportation Equipment	440,541	1,318,799	2,028,973	3,280,550	3,280,550	0
Other Equipment	248,777	466,869	571,216	244,842	244,842	(0)
Excess Available	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures	22,257,093	24,561,087	26,619,139	28,691,088	28,691,093	5
Revenue Budget						
AFC Funds:						
Severance Tax	7,739,694	4,597,453	6,428,809	7,452,067		
Timber and Turpentine	40,751	63,404	46,072	46,141		
Fishing Permits	1,962	2,155	2,112	565		
Fines and Forfeits	7,996	9,881	8,358	22,234		
Radio Leases	8,050	3,150	1,580	600		
Oil Royalties	11,951	6,384	4,670	6,623		
Miscellaneous	9,810	5,862	23,072	2,877		
Prior Year Refunds	6,926	5,819	37,760	23,966		
Contract Services	0	0	0	131,045		
Equipment Sales	38	2	0	0		
Timber Sales	4,971	19,850	307,826	959,484		
Other Sales	35,182	38,160	65,793	16,944		
Seedling Sales	1,125,167	1,668,032	1,737,765	1,458,880		
Donations	0	100	0	0		
Intragovernment Sales	31,516	24,867	61,000	18,541		
Equipment Rentals	496	1,408	957	1,347		
Other Rents	25,107	18,531	16,483	17,692		
Plowing Firebreaks	200,429	116,998	145,457	124,583		
Prescribed Burning	124,759	111,898	185,290	188,550		
AFC Funds	9,374,805	6,693,955	9,073,003	10,472,139	9,980,842	(491,297)
State General Fund	11,684,479	11,967,999	12,806,224	13,699,132	13,699,132	0
Federal Funds						
Federal Grants	2,081,418	3,449,655	2,246,305	2,912,454		
Federal Agreements	12,849	6,875	9,845	13,135		
Federal Reimbursements	48,489	29,510	182,471	11,428		
Total Federal Funds	2,142,756	3,486,040	2,438,620	2,937,018	2,760,271	(176,747)
Local Funds						
County Appropriations	173,843	433,339	277,015	255,860		
Acreage Assessments	1,812,600	1,799,319	1,784,305	1,777,097		
Local Grants	38,931	32,583	20,543	9,651		
Total Local Funds	2,025,374	2,265,241	2,081,863	2,042,608	2,042,608	(1)
Budgetary Transfers In (Out)						
Supplement						
Severance Tax—County Share						
Operating Transfers						
Capital Transfers	(393,058)	(1,184,678)	(482,509)	(967,569)	(967,569)	
Total Transfers	(393,058)	(1,184,678)	(482,509)	(967,569)	(967,569)	
AFC Balance Forward						
Federal Balance Forward	533,016	3,110,278	974,188	715,408	715,408	
Local Balance Forward			803,559	144,864	144,864	
Local Balance Forward				315,537	315,537	
Total Forward	533,016	3,110,278	1,777,747	1,175,809	1,175,809	
Total Revenues and Transfers	25,367,372	26,338,834	27,694,948	29,359,136	28,691,093	
Capital Transfers	393,058	1,184,678	482,509	967,569	967,569	
Capital Outlay	279,664	940,506	101,328	36,644	967,569	
Unallotted Capital Transfers				0	0	
Reserve for Capital Outlay	113,394	244,173	381,181	930,925		
Agency Cash Available	25,760,430	27,523,513	28,177,457	30,326,706	29,658,662	
Agency Expended and Reserved	22,650,151	25,745,766	27,101,648	29,658,658	29,658,662	
Ending Cash Balance	3,110,278	1,777,747	1,075,809	668,048	(0)	

**Alabama Forestry Commission
Fund Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2000**

	AFC Operations Fund	Emergency Fund	Stewardship Tag Fund	County Tobacco Tax Fund	Severance Tax Fund
Cash	4,561,464.59	195,778.29	456,210.50	53,202.35	42,936.99
Accounts Receivable					
Due from Other Funds	42,936.99				
Advance Travel					
Assets	4,604,401.58	195,778.29	456,210.50	53,202.35	42,936.99
Vouchers Payable	0.00				
Seedling Sale Deposits	194,994.05				
Due to Other Funds					42,936.99
Due to Other Governments					
Clay County				9,690.83	
Henry County				4,820.37	
Limestone County				27,675.62	
Randolph County				6,868.55	
Blount County				4,146.98	
Deferred Revenue:					
Federal Funds	1,500.00				
Local Funds					
Due to Employees					
Accounts Payable					
Receipts Pending					
Disbursement	265,984.83				
Liabilities	462,478.88	0.00	0.00	53,202.35	42,936.99
Reserve for Pre-Encumbrances	61,800.00				
Reserve for Encumbrances	1,695,028.30				
Reserve for Capital Outlay					
FY 95	0.00				
FY 96	4,435.30				
FY 97	113,393.63				
FY 98	244,172.89				
FY 99	381,181.13				
FY 00	930,925.47				
Unallotted Capital Transfers	0.00				
Reserved Fund Balance	3,430,936.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unreserved Fund Balance	710,985.98	195,778.29	456,210.50	(0.00)	0.00
Liabilities and Fund Balance	4,604,401.58	195,778.29	456,210.50	53,202.35	42,936.99

only two employees each. The Commission considers three people to be the minimum number required to fight wildfires safely and provide other services the public expects from the agency. Several of the state's larger counties have a much higher number of fires and greater demand for services, and thus require more than the three-person minimum to operate safely and efficiently.

The Commission continues to work with the legislature and the administration to address the shortage of personnel

at the county level. The FY 2001 budget should allow the Commission to begin adding additional personnel in some of the counties now operating with two employees. Reaching the three-person minimum staffing level will be the focus of the Commission's efforts in the area of personnel for the foreseeable future.

Table 2

Alabama Forestry Commission Staffing for Fiscal Years Ending September 30

Category	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Clerical	42	42	40	37	31.5	32	31	29	29
Programming	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Accounting	5	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2
General Services	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	4
Information/Education	6	5	5	5	5	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.5
Communications	29	26	26	23	21	24	24	22	24
Forest Ranger/Worker	235	218	219	198	168	165	161	148	152
Forester/Manager/ Specialist/Director	99	108	103	103	127	124	125	124	125
Nursery ¹	26	16	10	5					
Aviation	14	15	13	11	9	8	8	6	6
Maintenance	9	8	9	9	8	8	7	7	7
Executive	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3
Total	475	451	438	403	379.5	376.5	372.5	352.5	359.5
Net		-24	-13	-35	-23.5	-3	-4	-20	+7

¹consolidated with Forest Ranger and Forester categories in 1996.

EDUCATION

FORESTRY CAMP

Twenty-six students attended the Fourth Annual Forestry Camp held June 4-8, 2000, at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives' facility in Epes, Alabama. The students were given instruction in forest management, wildlife, urban forestry, forest measurements, TREASURE Forest and other natural resource topics. A college and career night was held one evening where representatives from colleges, universities and natural resource agencies talked to students about opportunities in the field of forestry.

ALABAMA FORESTS FOREVER

The Alabama Forestry Commission joined the Alabama Forestry Association, the State Board of Registration for Foresters and the Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to form the Alabama Forests Forever Foundation. The AFFF is responsible for administering a forestry public awareness campaign that includes several components: a brochure, a video, billboards around the state, educational CD-ROMs for middle and elementary school students, and radio and television spots. Alabama Forests Forever held a kick-off

press conference at a Montgomery middle school in May 2000.

Three aspects of Alabama's forests are emphasized in the campaign: environmental benefits, forest products and recreational opportunities. Funding for the campaign is primarily provided through a grant from sales generated by the forestry car tag.

OUTREACH

The AFC continues its commitment to help minority and underserved landowners stay in the business of forestry and assist new landowners interested in forestry.

In 1999 and continuing into 2000, an intense initiative was developed to "reach out" to underserved and minority landowners who were not receiving access to information, assistance and programs provided by the state and federal forest programs.

The vision of the AFC's outreach program is "to engage minority/underserved landowners in enhancing the forest resources in the state by increasing participation, understanding and trust through a focused outreach effort by technically competent professionals."

The AFC's outreach program is ahead of similar programs in other states and is

used as an example of what can and should be done. During the past fiscal year, two additional outreach foresters were hired. This means there is now one outreach forester in each of the four AFC regions. Unlike other foresters in the regions, the outreach foresters will focus most of their efforts on the underserved and underrepresented populations.

We are in the process of developing a statewide database that will identify where underserved landowners are and what forestry needs they have. Over 200 additional landowners have been identified and added to the existing database. Over 100 underserved landowners have been encouraged to attend landowner conferences and forestry tours. In addition, numerous underserved landowners have attended technical workshops on heir property, tax credits, the importance of management plans and the process of applying for services such as cost share, the TREASURE Forest program, etc.

The AFC has aggressively recruited more minorities into the work force. Fourteen were hired last fiscal year; six foresters, two technicians, four clerical and two forestry workers, which is a training position for forest ranger/technicians.

To accomplish our outreach goals, the AFC sought the “buy in” of its managers by providing team-building and cultural diversity training. One hundred twenty managers and supervisors attended a two-day training session. The primary objectives of the training were to:

- Increase sensitivity and awareness of individual values about race, gender, age and income, which affect participants’ thinking and, in turn, their behaviors.

- Educate participants about today’s demographic realities; i.e., who is available to do the work.
- Enhance skills necessary for managing differences in the areas of interpersonal communication, conflict resolution, and team-building.
- Develop strategies to integrate diversity into the organization in the areas of recruitment, selection and retention of employees.

The AFC has continued supporting the Federation of Southern Cooperatives. Several demonstration projects are underway at their training and research center located near Epes, Alabama. Several technical workshops were also conducted at their facilities. In addition, AFC has also continued our collaboration with Alabama A&M, Tuskegee and Auburn University.

PROTECTION

FIRE SUPPRESSION

During Fiscal Year 1999-2000, Alabama experienced the third year of a deepening drought. The lack of rain led to parts of central and west Alabama reaching severe drought levels several times during the summer of 2000.

The drought led to increased numbers of wildfires. Alabama experienced 6,537 wildfires that burned 88,474 acres. These rates were a 62.4 percent increase in the number of fires and a more than doubling (121 percent increase) in the acreage burned as compared to the average of the previous five years. The number of fires and acres burned by county are shown in the maps on this page and on page 10.

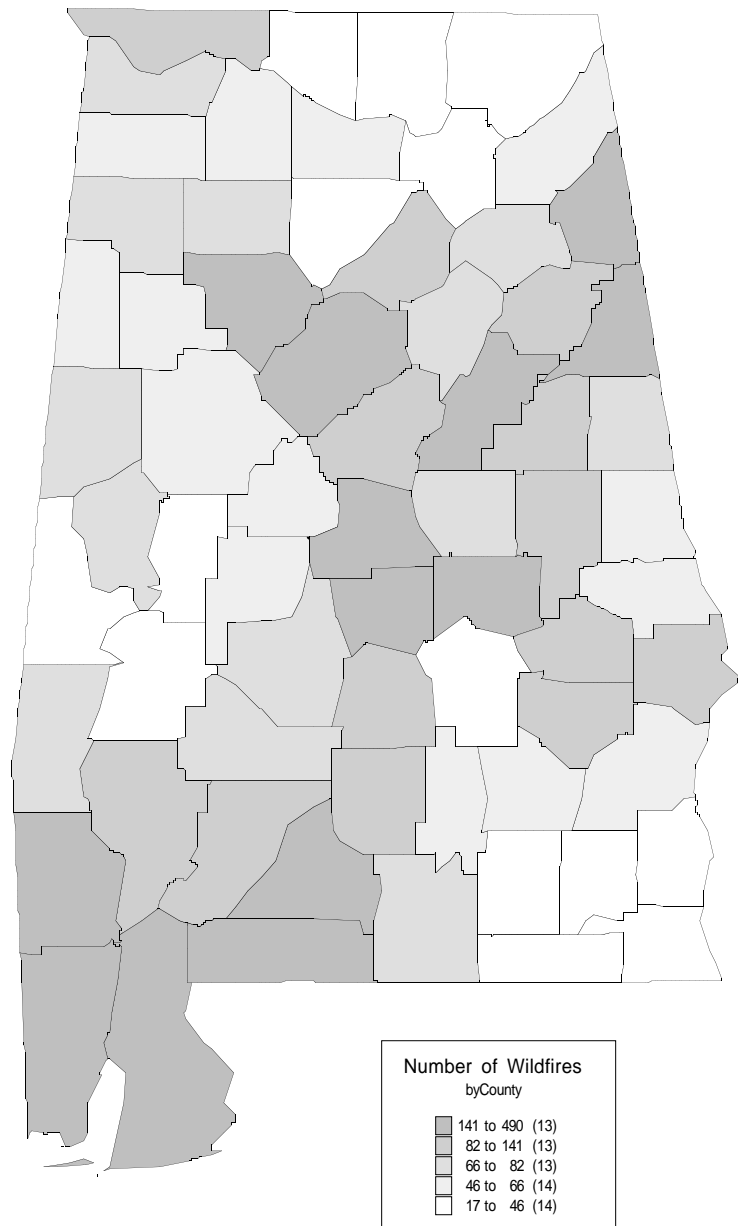
The Commission pushed safety as our number one priority throughout the year and as a result only had two serious injuries. The Commission is in the second year of implementing its new physical standards for front line firefighters, in line with National Wildfire Coordinating Group standards. The 2000 test had an 89 percent pass rate.

The Commission is working to update its equipment as well. During FY 2000, the Commission purchased three new helicopter buckets designed to work with Blackhawk helicopters flown by the Alabama Army National Guard. The Guard pilots are undergoing training and the buckets will be available for firefighting during FY 2000-01.

FIRE EMERGENCIES

The severe drought Alabama faced during 2000 greatly increased the potential for dangerous wildfires. The Commission used all the fire prevention

**Number of Wildfires by County
October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000**



tools at its disposal, including the issuance of fire alerts. During a fire alert, the Commission restricts prescribed burning in a designated area. Combined with other prevention methods, fire alerts keep fire problems at a manageable level.

The Commission was forced to issue 15 fire alerts for various parts of the state during FY 1999-2000. A map showing the number of days each county was under a fire alert is on page 11.

During September, a major fire occurred along the Tuscaloosa-Jefferson county border. The Poplar Springs Fire was a major campaign fire, utilizing

equipment and manpower from the Commission, the Alabama National Guard, the Tuscaloosa County Highway Department, Alabama Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Steel, Alawest and three volunteer fire departments. The fire was supervised by a Fire Management Team, which marked the first formal use of the Incident Command System for wildfires by the Commission. The fire was controlled at 2,800 acres.

RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

Looking back over the past 12 months, some predicted that Y2K was going to create many problems. There was concern that our fire personnel would be affected by communications outages and we would be unable to notify them to respond to emergencies. The AFC prepared for the worst, but things went smoothly as the new year materialized.

It is through the rural community fire programs and the partnership with the volunteer fire departments that we provide protection from wildfires and perform suppression activities quickly and effectively so losses from wildfire can be kept as small as possible.

Volunteer Fire Department

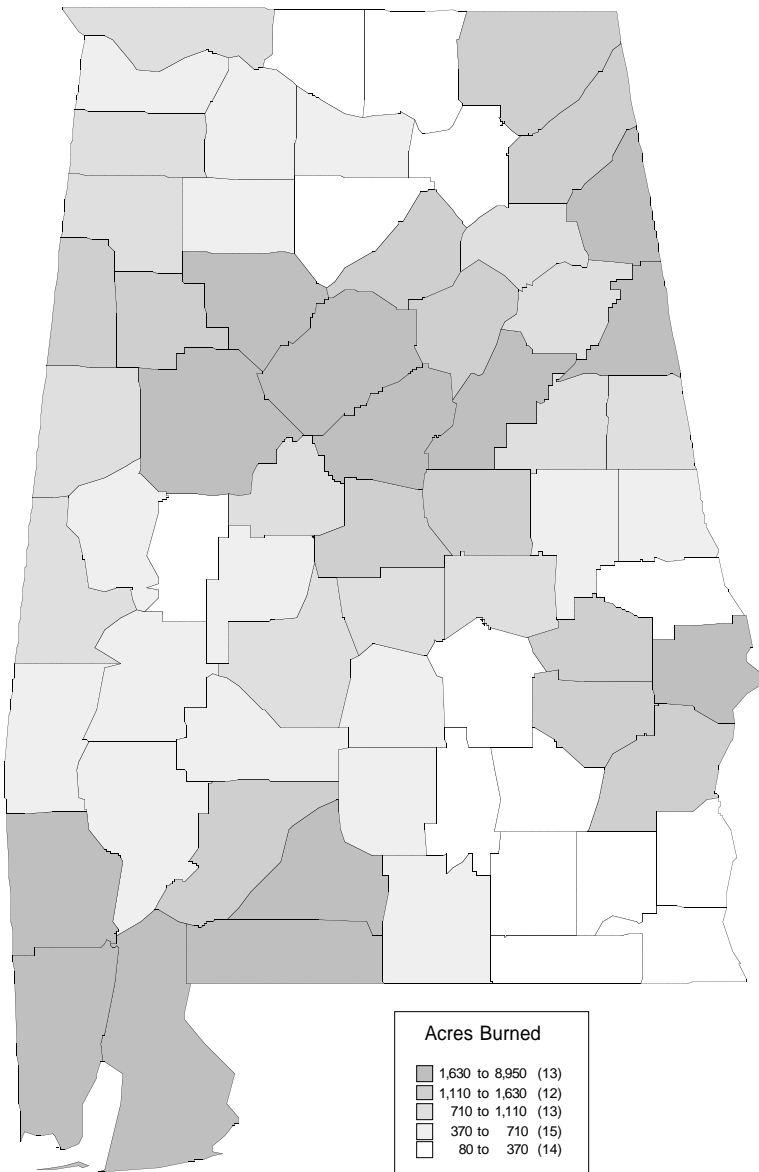
Funding—The Alabama Legislature provides funding each year to the Alabama Forestry Commission to be used in the Rural Community Fire Protection program. This year's funding was \$2.4 million for the state's volunteer fire departments. From these funds each volunteer fire department that applied for assistance received \$2,401.57, and each county fire association received \$500 to assist them with training. We also provided assistance to volunteer fire departments by providing a statewide UHF communication system.

RCFP Steering Committee

Created under Alabama law, this committee provides recommendations to the state forester on all issues that affect the volunteer fire service. This committee monitors all funds that are made available to the Forestry Commission for use in the rural community fire protection program and makes recommendations to the state forester for the expenditures of these funds. Each year, in appreciation for the volunteer fire service's dedication and hard work, the steering committee sponsors a Firefighter Appreciation Day hosted by a county association. Each year the governor has issued a proclamation proclaiming this day as "Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day," and the week as "Volunteer Firefighters Appreciation Week."

Firefighter Appreciation Day—This year's Firefighter Appreciation Day was hosted by the Walker County Firefighters Association, and the day's events were

Acres Burned in Alabama October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000



held at the fairgrounds in Jasper, Alabama. Along with their families, 450 firefighters enjoyed the day's event. As we have for the past four years, the Alabama Forestry Commission provided a federal excess property truck that had been converted into a brush truck to be put on permanent loan to a volunteer fire department. The truck was painted the traditional red and equipped with a 200-gallon tank and pump. Other related firefighting equipment was provided. Each firefighter was eligible to register to win this truck. The lucky winner was Danny Turner of Yellow Creek Volunteer Fire Department in Tuscaloosa County.

Fire Tag Roster—The Alabama Forestry Commission must compile, update and print a directory each year from a certified list of firefighters eligible to purchase a distinctive firefighter license plate. The 2000 roster contained over 1,050 departments (paid and volunteer) and names of more than 29,000 firefighters. This directory must be sent to all county probate judges and license commissioners in December each year.

Federal Excess Property—The requests by volunteer fire departments for federal excess property continue to increase each year. Brush trucks were in high demand this year. Even though we were not able to meet the demand, we were able to screen and issue over 65 units.

RCFP Communications—The Alabama Forestry Commission provides a statewide UHF communication system for the volunteer fire service at no cost to fire departments. This requires extensive planning and adequate funding. Last year we spent over \$70,000 for maintenance and improvements to the statewide system.

Legislation—The Alabama Legislature passed an amendment to Act No. 291 that will provide assistance to the volunteer fire service. This bill provides immunity from liability for companies and governmental entities that donate equipment to volunteer fire departments. The amendment changed the state inventory law regarding property that is given to the Forestry Commission to be passed on to volunteer fire departments. Under the new law, the Commission will no longer have to place this property on its inventory when it is received, then remove it from inventory when a volunteer fire department takes

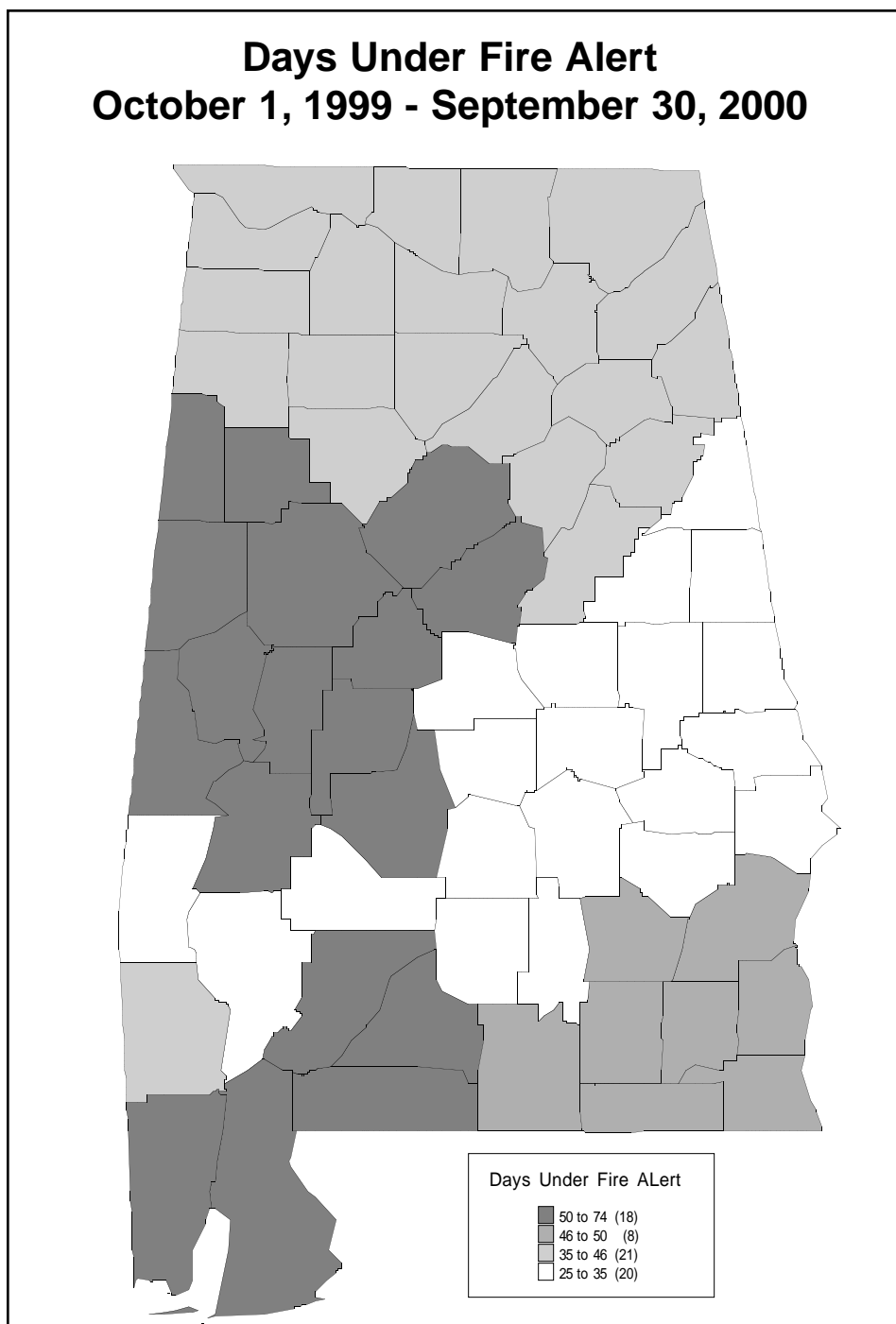
possession of the property. The law will drastically reduce the paperwork involved in these transactions.

The Legislature passed a bill that provides a permanent tag for all vehicles titled to fire departments in an unincorporated area. In the past, the fire department had to go to the courthouse each year to obtain a new tag. This is a service that was long overdue.

During the 1999 special session, a bill was passed that authorized the Revenue Department to create a permanent license plate for surplus vehicles transferred from the federal government to the

Forestry Commission and volunteer fire departments. The Revenue Department had stopped issuing tags for such vehicles because the federal government actually loans the vehicles to fire departments rather than transferring title.

The Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee and The Alabama Forestry Commission will continue to provide assistance to the Legislature on matters that will affect the volunteer fire service.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Alabama Forestry Commission owns and maintains two mobile communication systems. A statewide VHF system is used for Commission work and a UHF system is for the use of volunteer fire departments. The communication section has three full time technicians and a communication chief. They maintain all AFC communications equipment with the exception of equipment in 17 counties.

Last year's report contained plans for several improvements to our 20-year-old communication system that were being implemented as fiscal year 1999 ended. To date, we have completed installation of over 400 mobile radios, which includes over 100 in crawler tractors. We have replaced over 200 portable radios. We have replaced the dispatch center equipment at our Tuscaloosa, Selma, Brewton and Montgomery regional offices, and have added new repeaters in Sumter, Randolph and Escambia counties. In the past, the Commission had used fire towers to locate and house antennas for our repeaters. Several of these fire towers had been condemned and were unsafe to climb, preventing our technicians from maintaining these antennas. These fire towers, located in Monroe, Escambia and Baldwin counties, have been taken down and replaced with communication towers providing space for our RCFP and AFC antennas.

Improvements for both systems will continue as projects for 2001 are being completed and should be finalized by the end of 2001.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

During the fiscal year, AFC officers affected 416 arrests. Of those, 177 were handled through a process known as "suppression charges." This process allows the defendant to choose to pay for the cost of suppressing the fire and therefore not be required to appear in court. In short, the courts have allowed the violator to plead guilty at the scene and receive punishment consisting of paying costs associated with suppressing the fire. This leaves 239 cases that actually went to court. The prosecution/suppression charges associated with enforcement activities amounted to \$619,000.

A new law is now available that has some impact upon forestry law enforce-

ment. The tire disposal law requires everyone who is hauling used tires to have a permit. Illegal dumps are a source of wildfires and tires are often part of that total problem. If an officer observes an individual hauling tires in a wooded area, where dumps are common and the driver has no permit, it is reasonable to cite that individual and likely prevent another wildfire from a dump.

AFC officers spent approximately 921 days in actual enforcement involving 519 investigations. At the time of this report, there were 157 cases still being investigated. Other than four individuals, all officers also have forestry duties in addition to enforcement. These include, but are not limited to, fire suppression, forest management and public relations.

The number of AFC officers continues to decrease. The 1998 report accounted for 101 officers. The 1999 report accounted for 88 officers. We currently have 72 officers and many of them are now in administrative positions that require a minimum of enforcement activity. Forty percent of the officers are over 50 years old and only two officers are in their thirties.

Twenty-seven counties are without a permanently assigned officer. Those counties are serviced by an officer who works out of a regional office and is responsible for approximately 17 counties.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

The record drought of 2000 continued into the summer months and the result was enormously stressful on the pines of the state. The unusually warm weather combined with the stressed condition of the pines created a situation that allowed them to be easily attacked and killed by Southern pine beetles. Alabama entered last fall with a large number of infestations, and with very little cold weather the spots continued to spread. The infestations were still active in the February detection flight and with the hot and dry weather that followed, the population exploded.

The year 2000 was a record year in SPB populations, with increased number of spots and infested trees compared to 1999. The winter flight (Jan/Feb. 2000) showed 49 counties (15 epidemic) with SPB populations of 702 spots containing 39,534 infested trees.

The May 2000 detection flights showed 34 counties with SPB populations; 23 of those counties classified as epidemic. These 34 counties had 1,949 spots containing 65,572 infested trees. This is a 278 percent increase in the number of spots and a 166 percent increase in the number of infested trees from February. This was an extreme percent increase for that early in the year.

The June 2000 flights showed an even greater increase in the number of spots and infested trees. There were 59 counties with SPB infestations having 8,716 spots containing 378,840 infested trees. There were 51 counties that were epidemic. This was a 447 percent increase in the number of spots from May 2000 and a 578 percent increase in the number of infested trees from May 2000. The worst area was the Northwest Region in Bibb, Tuscaloosa, Jefferson and Shelby counties. The Northwest Region had 4,046 Spots containing 177,775 infested trees. The stumpage value was estimated at \$28 million, which far exceeds any previous year in June.

In July the increasing trend continued with 16,071 spots containing 944,679 infested trees. There were 65 counties with SPB and 59 of those were epidemic. The Northwest Region had 8,442 spots containing 534,627 infested trees. The value of the pines killed statewide had reached \$113 million. This is greater than the combined total of the last 10 years.

The September flight finally showed a decrease in the devastation. There were 14,290 spots containing 903,828 infested trees in 63 counties. Fifty-seven counties were now epidemic. The Northeast Region had a slight increase in number of spots and trees. The flight crews reported seeing more control measures and this was the reason for the decrease. The worst area continued to be the Northwest Region in Bibb, Tuscaloosa, Shelby, and Jefferson counties.

Alabama had a record 24,465 spots containing 1,438,100 infested trees during the year. Due to the depressed markets, drought, and the monthly increasing numbers of spots, the control rate was only 38.1 percent. There were 75,355 cords and 14,159 MBF salvaged. The majority of the control efforts were using the cut and leave method. See Table 3 for regional and statewide SPB data.

Table 3

Southern Pine Beetle Data for Fiscal Year 1999-2000

NORTHWEST REGION						SOUTHEAST REGION					
County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvage Cords	Salvage MBF	County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvage Cords	Salvage MBF
Bibb	913	209	22.9	930	901	Barbour	315	132	41.9	0	0
Colbert	263	45	17.1	816	7	Bullock	374	16	4.2	0	0
Cullman	241	92	38.2	2,883	161	Butler	181	73	40.3	0	0
Fayette	838	176	21.0	327	78	Coffee	105	31	29.5	215	0
Franklin	456	63	13.8	1,654	112	Covington	198	37	18.6	259	5
Jefferson	686	275	40.1	3,515	590	Crenshaw	104	60	57.7	160	0
Lamar	1,070	331	30.9	6,712	105	Dale	37	4	10.8	0	0
Lauderdale	118	72	61.0	2,951	67	Elmore	330	192	58.1	787	76
Lawrence	247	84	34.0	0	0	Geneva	5	3	60.0	0	0
Limestone	13	5	38.5	0	0	Henry	102	53	51.9	0	0
Marion	781	229	29.3	539	105	Houston	1	1	100	0	0
Morgan	104	2	19.2	0	0	Lee	208	0	0	0	0
Pickens	1,217	678	55.7	3,070	272	Lowndes	649	335	51.6	5,748	521
Shelby	704	135	19.2	0	0	Macon	706	228	32.3	0	0
Tuscaloosa	1,590	450	28.3	7,190	1,343	Montgomery	203	76	37.4	1,110	40
Walker	1,208	94	7.8	0	0	Pike	62	0	0	0	0
Winston	322	106	32.9	500	120	Russell	539	93	17.3	1,230	0
Total	10,771	3,040	28.2	31,087	3,861	Total	4,119	1,334	32.4	9,509	642
NORTHEAST REGION						SOUTHWEST REGION					
County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvage Cords	Salvage MBF	County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvage Cords	Salvage MBF
Blount	367	96	26.2	4,000	0	Autauga	437	286	65.4	0	0
Calhoun	161	47	29.1	3,596	9,059	Baldwin	45	35	77.8	0	0
Chambers	151	36	23.8	128	0	Chilton	552	404	73.1	3,550	41
Cherokee	32	3	9.3	0	0	Choctaw	203	140	68.9	410	0
Clay	170	114	67.0	470	0	Clarke	608	473	77.8	9,460	118
Cleburne	338	47	13.9	676	0	Conecuh	542	376	69.4	2,640	149
Coosa	426	203	47.6	710	0	Dallas	556	302	54.3	140	30
Etowah	143	50	34.9	2,000	0	Escambia	126	90	71.4	0	0
Jackson	3	0	0	0	0	Greene	141	34	24.1	480	0
Madison	25	3	12.0	0	0	Hale	199	74	37.4	64	0
Marshall	191	3	1.6	3	0	Marengo	746	406	54.4	0	0
Randolph	252	112	44.4	0	0	Monroe	298	175	58.7	400	0
St Clair	565	116	20.5	130	0	Perry	559	417	74.6	0	0
Talladega	601	145	24.1	4020	0	Sumter	171	87	50.9	0	0
Tallapoosa	311	261	83.9	776	22	Washington	74	26	35.1	0	0
Total	3,736	1,198	31.8	16,509	9,081	Total	5,839	3,754	62.3	18,250	575

Statewide Control Data

Region	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvage Cords	Salvage MBF
Northwest	10,771	3,040	28.2	31,087	3,861
Northeast	3,736	1,198	31.8	16,509	9,081
Southeast	4,119	1,334	32.4	9,509	642
Southwest	5,839	3,754	62.3	18,250	575
Total	24,465	9,326	38.1	75,355	14,159

The fiscal year ended with the state still in the middle of a Southern pine beetle emergency. If control measures are not intensified, it looks like all-time records will be broken on numbers of spots and numbers of trees killed by these pests. Landowners have been advised to check their pine stands and control any spots as soon as they are detected.

FOREST HEALTH MONITORING

The Forest Health Monitoring effort began in Alabama in 1991 with the installation of 204 permanent plots.

These plots are monitored annually and data is taken on a wide range of indicators. The indicators recorded in 2000 were Tree Growth, Tree Damage, Tree Mortality, Tree Crown Condition, Tree Regeneration, Soils, and Bioindicators Plants. Plots were surveyed using Alabama Forestry Commission Forest Inventory and Analysis crews in the summer months.

Data over the last several years shows that overall the health of the forests in Alabama is good. During the drought years the crown measurements reflected a problem with growth (crown density and transparency), which is expected. These reflections give more creditability

to the monitoring effort in that changes will be picked up by the data. The addition of soil and lichens will add diversity to the data and will be used to discuss other health issues rather than only forestry issues.

In 2000 the Forest Health Monitoring Program began merging with the Forest Inventory and Analysis Program. This overall concept will allow better interpretation of the data and give creditability to both programs as programs that are concerned about all phases of the forest. Annual reports will be written each calendar year.

SERVICE

FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

The Alabama Forestry Commission is making the U.S.D.A.-Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program available to interested forest landowners of the state. Forest Legacy is a federal forestland conservation program administered by the states. This program will be used by Alabama to acquire conservation easements or fee simple purchases of critical forestland to help reduce a growing trend of forest fragmentation.

This Forestry Commission program will be administered by the Alabama Forest Resources Center. The conservation easements or property deeds purchased for this program will be held by the Conservation Department's State Lands Division. Work began in late 2000 on an Assessment of Need Document and will be followed by public meetings, which will identify areas of the state that qualify for the program.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

A critical part of the Forestry Commission's threefold mission is to service and help landowners to carry out responsible forest management on their property, using professional technical assistance. Providing this assistance to the private landowner will help the Forestry Commission increase the forest resources of the state, which is one of the legislative mandates for our agency. This assistance is largely provided through the following programs:

- TREASURE Forest Program
- National Stewardship Program
- Forestry Cost-Share Assistance Programs
- Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry

Collectively, AFC activities under these programs were a catalyst for the

implementation of professional forest management practices on over 180,000 acres of private forestland in Alabama. Accomplishments in several forest management areas are shown in Table 4.

TREASURE FOREST

The TREASURE Forest Program was established in 1974 by the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (AFPC). The word TREASURE is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, Aesthetics, for a Sustained Useable RESource. The program promotes sound multiple-use forest management through education and recognition. Education is accomplished through *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine, on-the-ground technical assistance to forest landowners, and the annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference. Recognition is accomplished through the certified TREASURE Forest award, which is given to landowners who are actively implementing TREASURE Forest principles on their forestland. To be eligible for the award, landowners must own a minimum of 10 acres of forestland and do the following with regard to all their land in Alabama:

- 1) Identify a primary and at least one secondary management objective. Choices include timber, wildlife, environmental education, recreation, or aesthetics.

Table 4

Statewide Forest Management Accomplishments

Project	Acres
TREASURE Forest Plans	60,500
Pine Reforestation	62,100
Prescribed Burning and Timber Stand Improvement	60,200

- 2) Acquire or possess a written multiple-use management plan, or approved documentation, addressing the management of all their land in Alabama.
- 3) Actively practice multiple-use management.

Once these items have been addressed, the following must occur to receive the reward:

- 1) The landowner and their property must be nominated by someone associated with one of the member agencies or groups of the AFPC.
- 2) The property must be inspected by a registered forester and a wildlife biologist to ensure that management activities are consistent with TREASURE Forest principles.
- 3) The TREASURE Forest Subcommittee of the AFPC, composed of natural resource professionals and other certified TREASURE Forest owners, must review the nomination and inspection record and vote to approve the nomination.

This year 152 new TREASURE Forests totaling 83,308 acres were certified. This represents a 31 percent increase over acres certified the previous year. Currently there are 1,543 certified TREASURE Forests in Alabama that collectively represent 1.79 million acres of forestland under TREASURE Forest management. To further the purposes of TREASURE Forest, 344 TREASURE Forest management plans covering 60,574 acres of Alabama forestland were written this year.

2 MILLION BY 2000

FY 99-00 also marked the fourth and final year of the TREASURE Forest campaign called “2 Million by 2000.” The goal of 2 Million by 2000 was to increase the number of certified TREASURE Forest acres to 2 million by the end of Fiscal Year 2000. During the four years of the campaign 559 new TREASURE Forests totaling over 265,000 acres were certified. Through the combined efforts of all agencies and groups that support TREASURE Forest, this goal will be achieved soon and the amount of Alabama forestland managed for multiple uses will further benefit the entire citizenry of this state.

NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The TREASURE Forest Program has long been heralded and admired as a premier concept in stimulating and rewarding responsible forest management on private lands. It was so successful and admired that in 1990 Congress approved the National Stewardship Program, which was patterned after TREASURE Forest. In Alabama, the National Stewardship Program operates under the TREASURE Forest umbrella. Through the National Stewardship Program, Alabama received federal funding to conduct a number of projects:

- Wildlife biologist positions with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Wildlife Federation to promote and support the TREASURE Forest Program.
- Portion of the 17th Annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference.
- TREASURE Forest promotional and educational materials.
- Management Plan Contract Program—The program contracts with private forestry and wildlife consultants to assist with multiple-use management plan preparation for private lands. This year 42 landowners received plans for over 24,000 acres.
- Production of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine, which provides forestry information to more than 12,000 people each quarter.
- Alabama TREASURE Forest Association support.
- Technical and information transfer needs.
- Handbook on forest and wildlife management.
- Other forest productivity and educational projects.
- Hosted the National Stewardship Assessment Team.

COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE

Four cost-share programs—three federal and one state—assist private landowners in Alabama with performing

sound forest management practices. These programs include the following:

- Alabama Agricultural Conservation Development Commission Program (AACDCP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)
- Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)

The AFC performs the crucial function of providing technical guidance to ensure that efficient and professional forest management is practiced on Alabama lands through each program. AFC county associates provide sound technical specifications to participating landowners. This ensures that the forestry practices to be cost-shared are conducted properly and will result in a quality project for both the cost-share program and the landowner.

This year AFC personnel provided written guidance and inspected completed forestry practices such as tree planting, timber stand improvement, and prescribed burning on more than 1,600 sites. These sites covered approximately 62,000 acres of Alabama forestland under the four cost-share assistance programs. The majority of the acres planted under the cost-share programs were under the CRP program and many of those acres were planted in longleaf pine. In response to this demand for both seedlings and technical information on longleaf, the AFC partnered with The Longleaf Alliance to provide educational workshops for landowners and tree planters.

ALABAMA'S BMPS FOR FORESTRY

The AFC continued its efforts to promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Forestry to protect and improve water quality. The AFC reprinted “Alabama’s Best Management Practices for Forestry” with updated contact information and distributed more than 1,200 copies to loggers, forest industries, private landowners, universities, and other interested groups. Educational programs and tours were held to highlight the benefits of using BMPs by landowners, loggers, foresters, and others when conducting forest management activities.

Table 5

State Lands

TIMBER SALES	Sale value	Revenue to AFC
<i>Conservation:</i>		
Coffee County Public Lake	\$24,646.00	\$2,464.60
Total	\$24,646.00	\$2,464.60
<i>Corrections:</i>		
Fountain Correctional Farm #1	\$165,024.45	\$16,502.44
Fountain Correctional Farm #2	37,504.36	3,750.44
St. Clair Correctional Facility (insect salvage)	263.70	26.37
Alexander City Work Release Center (easement)	600.05	60.00
Fountain Correctional Farm (insect salvage)	1,697.06	169.71
Totals	\$205,089.62	\$20,508.96
Grand Total	\$229,735.62	\$22,973.56
PRESCRIBED BURNING	Acres	Revenue
<i>Conservation:</i>		
Chambers County Public Lake	48	\$480.70
Crenshaw County Public Lake	90	965.00
Lee County Public Lake	84	943.20
Lamar County Public Lake	38	483.20
Pike County Public Lake	80	1,002.50
Walker County Public Lake	35	517.50
Washington County Public Lake	50	626.50
Total	425	\$5,018.60
<i>Corrections:</i>		
Fountain Correctional Farm	435	\$3,976.50
Red Eagle Honor Farm	20	250.00
Total	455	\$4,226.50
Grand Total	880	\$9,245.10

The AFC has also worked with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to address water quality complaints associated with forestry operations. AFC personnel respond to water quality complaints received by ADEM, Alabama's Sustainable Forestry Initiative 1-800-206-0981 line, and the public, where forestry operations are cited as a potential cause. When responding, AFC personnel notify the appropriate landowner and seek permission to visit the site and determine if a forestry practice is involved and if BMPs were properly used during the operation.

The AFC conducts random checks of forestry activities and evaluates the implementation of BMPs. If BMPs are not followed, AFC personnel work with the landowner, timber harvester, and timber buyer to educate them on the proper use and benefits of BMPs and outline specific, voluntary measures that can be used to successfully resolve problems associated with the operation in question. In most cases AFC recommendations are followed, problems are voluntarily corrected, ADEM is notified and the case is closed. On the few occasions where the voluntary measures recommended by the AFC are not used to remedy the situa-

tion, the case is referred to ADEM for further action at their discretion. Only ADEM has the mandated authority to enforce state and federal water quality laws in Alabama.

In addition, AFC personnel conducted over 150 random BMP monitoring reports to assess the BMP implementation rate on harvesting operations across the state. The AFC continues to be encouraged by the frequency with which BMPs are used in forestry operations. On approximately 98 percent of the sites monitored, BMPs were incorporated during timber harvest operations. This represents a 5 percent increase in BMP compliance from the previous year.

STATE LANDS

State Lands is responsible for the management of five state forests totaling some 360 acres. In addition, the section manages, under cooperative agreements, 9,005 acres of forested lands belonging to the Alabama Department of Corrections (15 facilities) and 4,250 acres belonging to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (19 state lakes). These 13,615 acres of forestlands are managed under TREASURE Forest guidelines. In addition, these lands are used as demonstration areas for various forestry and allied practices.

Two work areas that required the greatest amount of time and effort from Forestry Commission personnel involved in the state lands program were timber sales and prescribed burning. Accomplishments, including revenue received, of Commission personnel in these areas for the past year is in Table 5. Because of unusually low timber prices and the overall poor timber market, sales this year brought less revenue than expected, and some sales were cancelled until the market situation improves.

Additional work accomplished involved chemical site preparation at Ventress and Tutwiler Correctional Facilities, and Panther Creek and St. Stephens State Forests for a total of 180 acres. These areas will be replanted to pine seedlings during the winter of 2000-2001.

MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alabama's forest and wood products industry continues to bolster the state's economy by contributing approximately \$13.2 billion in value of product shipments. It isn't surprising that the number one manufacturing industry in Alabama is forest products. Alabama's forest products industry directly and indirectly provides employment for approximately 170,000 people. In 2000, the forest resource contributed over \$1.2 billion in value of timber harvested to Alabama's economy.

Along with the contribution of the wood products industry, the private non-industrial landowner holds the key to the productivity of our forest, not just in terms of timber production but also in terms of wildlife habitat, clean water and soil productivity, as well as environmental enhancement. For this reason, the Alabama Forestry Commission is dedicated to assisting these landowners in managing their property.

Marketing and Economic Development personnel are working to recruit new markets and to help expand existing markets for timber stumpage products. To focus on the opportunities that exist through development of the forestry and wood products industry, we utilize the "Forestry Team Program." The Forestry Team Program brings all of the state resources under one umbrella to maximize the effectiveness of each agency for Alabama's forest industry—unique in the United States. The Alabama Forestry Commission acts as the Forestry Team coordinator. The Forestry Team maintained an exhibit at the 2000 International Woodworking Fair in Atlanta, Georgia, for the purpose of recruiting forest industries to Alabama and to promote Alabama produced wood products.

Utilizing the Forestry Team concept, Marketing and Economic Development personnel work in the following areas: Economic Development; Marketing And International Trade; Forest Inventory Analysis; Technical Utilization; and Resource Information and Analysis.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Today in Alabama there are over 1,800 forest products related companies. The forest products industry continues to be the number one investor in Alabama. Investment by Alabama's forest products industry has totaled in excess of \$4 billion in new plants and equipment over the last seven years. During that period of time, approximately 3,200 jobs have been created annually by new and expanding forest products industry in Alabama.

Marketing and Economic Development personnel, in support of other state agencies and groups, are dedicated to the task of developing, attracting and locating opportunities for Alabama's forests products firms. This concentration of efforts is aimed toward Alabama's existing forest industry base and secondary forest product opportunities that complement established operations. We work very closely with the Alabama Development Office, utilities and local economic development groups in support of their efforts by providing current information on Alabama's forest resources and forest products industry. We work with the U.S. Forest Service locally and with the regional office in Atlanta to coordinate economic development opportunities by utilizing Forest Service grants and other rural development programs. This close working relationship has tremendously enhanced Alabama's efforts to attract forest products industries that are both complementary to our existing industry and also environmentally sensitive.

MARKETING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The AFC's first allegiance is to enhance market opportunities for Alabama's existing forest products industry. We answered over 150 requests for information about Alabama's forest resource and forest products industry in 2000.

A strong contribution to marketing efforts has been the Alabama Forestry Commission's forest industry census conducted periodically in cooperation with the Alabama Development Office and the U.S. Forest Service to gather commodity production and roundwood drain information. The census serves as a

barometer of Alabama's industry and provides a database for various directories and economic development efforts. In 2000, Alabama Forestry Commission personnel were utilized to conduct the latest survey of the forest product industry. Approximately 1,000 firms were visited or contacted by phone. Approximately 300 custom generated reports regarding Alabama's forest product manufacturing industry were dispersed to individuals or companies throughout the United States and other countries.

In addition, the section has led an effort to improve domestic and international knowledge of the many wood products produced in Alabama. The Alabama Forestry Commission contracts with the Alabama International Trade Center (AITC) for the purpose of promoting international trade of Alabama-produced wood products. AITC provides export and international trade assistance on a case-by-case basis to a minimum of 35 wood products companies annually. This assistance included tailored market research, export counseling, trade show promotion, and introduction to foreign buyers from Mexico. Export sales reported for the year were approximately \$8 million of Alabama wood and valued added products to the Caribbean, the European Union, Asia, Mexico, Canada, and Turkey. The Center will especially target Alabama's value-added forest products industries, such as furniture, cabinetry, plywood, veneer, dimension, and other building materials. In cooperation with AITC, the "Alabama Wood Products Export Directory" that highlights Alabama's wood products exporting companies is dispersed to individuals and companies throughout the United States and to other countries.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS (FIA)

The Alabama Forestry Commission is continuing its cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service to complete the forest inventory periodic survey. This involves remeasuring 5,825 plots systematically placed over the state. AFC crews will measure 20 percent of the total plots in the state each year. Therefore, the inventory will be completed every five years instead of the previous 10-year interval. The Southern Annual Forest Inventory

system (SAFIS) will provide more up-to-date inventory data in the future.

Three U.S. Forest Service crews along with nine AFC crews completed 1,666 plots statewide during the year. By the end of September, 5,536 plots had been measured, leaving the state 95.1 percent complete. After the current periodic inventory is completed, the Forest Service crews will move to Kentucky to

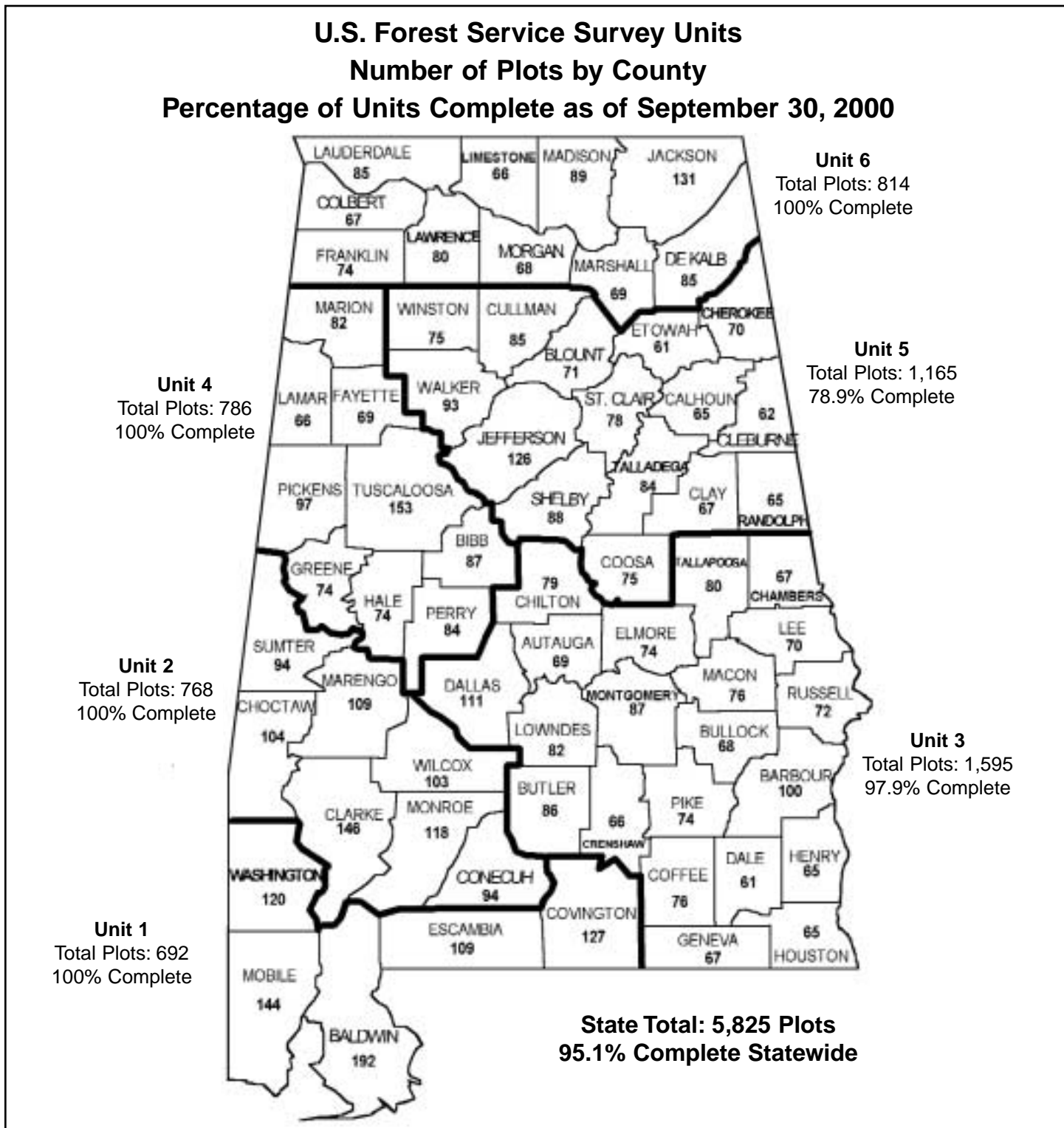
assist with the ongoing periodic inventory there. Two Forest Service personnel will remain in the state to provide quality control/quality assurance for AFC crews.

At this time, Units 1, 2, 4, and 6 have been completed (see map below). We have preliminary data for Units 1 and 2 at this time, and data for the other units are expected in the near future. Once data for these units are released, plans

are to hold public meetings in these areas to discuss the results.

TECHNICAL UTILIZATION

In cooperation with its partners, the AFC provides technical expertise in timber utilization and wood products manufacturing. Areas include sawmill efficiency, drying and grading, and utilization of modern timber bridge components.



The Alabama Center for Advanced Woodworking Technology (ACAWT), located on campus at the Northwest-Shoals Community College in Phil Campbell, Alabama, was created with the assistance of the AFC in 1996 for the purpose of facilitating the growth and development of Alabama's secondary wood processing industry. ACAWT celebrated its grand opening in July 2000. The center will work to achieve its mission by functioning in the following areas: management and worker training, manufacturing technology transfer, and technical consulting services. A curriculum of study is being developed for certificate or degree programs for students seeking careers in the secondary wood products industries. ACAWT's technology transfer program will help build a modern manufacturing work force, assisting Alabama companies to become and remain internationally competitive and promote environmentally sound processing technologies. The Alabama Forestry Commission awarded a grant of \$30,000 to Northwest-Shoals Community College for the Center for Advanced Woodworking Technology in 1997. The center has become one of only eight similar centers in the United States.

Personnel are frequently involved in continuing education seminars and workshops for the purpose of educating Alabama's citizens on the importance of forestry in Alabama. Marketing and Economic Development personnel developed presentations for the following seminars and workshops in 2000: (1) the Alabama Forestry Council Annual Meeting; (2) the Southern Forest Resource Sustainability Assessment; (3) the Forest Industry Commodity/Drain Survey Training and (4) the Forest Inventory Analysis Data Review Committee.

RESOURCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Resource Information and Analysis is now permanently assigned to the Alabama Forestry Commission State Headquarters after being recently attached to the Economic Research and Communications Division at the Alabama Development Office. Increased data collection from a new forest inventory survey (FIA) and a reduction in AFC staff caused the reassignment.

Resource Information and Analysis is responsible for forest resource and economic data collection and assists with the demands for forestry information. As part of a continuing collection of data, the AFC resource analyst maintains a computer link with the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Forest Experiment Station in Starkville, Mississippi and has access to the latest survey data on forest volumes, ownership patterns, periodic growth and removals, and other statistics.

Alabama is nearing the completion of the seventh state forest inventory (see FIA). A major responsibility of the resource analyst has been forming and assisting with a new group called the Forest Inventory Review Committee. This data review committee, made up of industry, government and academic users, has been formed to 1) provide a significant measure of quality control 2) produce an accurate FIA database and 3) distribute certified FIA data in a timely manner. Two of six units have been reviewed by the committee and the first public announcements have been arranged.

The latest information on forest economics in Alabama is continually being collected and updated through the resource analyst. Current timber prices are tracked and a history of these prices retained. Forest commodities, wages, employment, payroll, capital investments and value-added data is gathered and sent to specific forestry data users across the state.

Custom reports on the forest resource and on forest economics are done by request. These reports give specific information about forestry in any region of Alabama. A master copy called the "Forest Resource Analysis and Economic Impact Study for the State of Alabama" has been developed and is available to data users. The new 2000 data will make this report even more valuable.

Current publications compiled, maintained, and available through the resource analyst are as follows:

- Alabama Forestry Cash Receipt Report
- Forest Product Production Report
- Timber Commodity Comparison Report
- Forestry Capital Investments in Alabama

NURSERIES

The primary objective of the Nurseries Section is to ensure that Alabama's landowners have access to top quality genetically improved forest tree seedlings at a reasonable price.

The Commission operated one bare-root nursery, the E.A. Hauss Nursery, near Atmore, and continued to contract for containerized seedlings with the Jack Hopper Experimental Forest Nursery at Wallace State Community College at Hanceville. The mast-producing species of containerized seedlings from Hopper Nursery were distributed to Alabama forest landowners in cooperation with the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

E.A. Hauss Nursery grew 37.5 million seedlings. Of this number 2 million were hardwood. Heavy rains after planting, poor seed lots, no available seed (overcup oak, shumard oak), etc. accounted for a lower production than planned. The demand for seedlings was down this year due to the consecutive years of dry weather. Site preparation for planting has been delayed or stopped in many cases. Soil moisture was too low for many plantings to take place. The Conservation Reserve Program continues to cause a large demand for longleaf seedlings. The quantity of longleaf seedlings grown by the Commission was increased from 3 to 4 million to help meet this demand. Longleaf seedlings sold out very early in the season. Another increase in the quantity of longleaf pine seedlings grown at Hauss Nursery will occur next year. Collection of seed will be critical to the production of a crop for the following season.

All genetically improved seed for the loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine seedlings came from AFC seed orchards. Second generation loblolly seedlings were produced for the seventh year and sold out. Hauss also grew 3 million pine seedlings on contract. Twenty-one different species or varieties of hardwood and wildlife seedlings, as well as loblolly, slash, and longleaf pine, were grown. The growing of a small number of hardwoods for the wildlife species nursery program continued, and 10 species beneficial to wildlife were available for purchase by the public. The wildlife species were made available in small quantities (minimum of 25 seedlings per order), and up to five different species could be

FOREST MANAGEMENT AT GENEVA STATE FOREST

Geneva State Forest, consisting of 7,120 acres, is Alabama's largest state forest, and is made up of mostly longleaf pine. GSF met the requirements for recognition as a TREASURE forest and continues to manage its resources under this concept.

The use of the forest declined slightly over the past year. Primitive camping continued around the lake area with the issuance of 54 permits for 602 people for camping and horseback riding. Fishing was interrupted as a bad leak developed at the water control system, and the GSF crew repaired the problem. Due to the severe drought, the lake has been very slow to fill. No fishing is allowed until the lake fills. Many other day-use persons such as hikers, picnickers, etc. used the area. GSF continued to be part of the Covington Wildlife Management Area, with deer and turkey as primary resources. GSF continued to host tours for many of the local clubs, schools, Forest Service, etc.

Other work accomplished included control burning of 1,760 acres, assisting with the FIA survey, planting 42-acres of under-utilized land, and assisting with planting 30-acres of browntop millet for public dove hunting.

Table 6

Seed Production for 1999-2000

Species	Cycle	Pounds of Seed	Estimated Production
Loblolly (Piedmont)	2	1,322	19,800,000
Loblolly (Coastal)	1.5	0	0
Longleaf	1	563	1,500,000
Slash	1.5	131	1,400,000

purchased with a 25-seedling order.

During the year a seed cooler was constructed and placed in use at Hauss nursery. A new warehouse has been purchased and will be constructed on this site by Commission personnel.

The state of Alabama hosted the biennial Southern Forest Nursery Association Conference in Mobile in June. In attendance were approximately 200 nursery-persons from all over the South, other parts of the country and the world. Part of the conference included a tour of Hauss Nursery. The efforts put forth by several highly motivated members of the Nursery and Tree Improvement Section led to a successful conference.

Harvest of seed for planting at Hauss Nursery continued at Stauffer Nursery as sawtooth oak (1,022 pounds), autumn olive (17.75 pounds), redbud (11.5 pounds) and dogwood (63.5 pounds) were harvested and cleaned. Another progeny test planted at Stauffer Nursery brought the total to three. Seedling and seed coolers of Stauffer Nursery continued in use as needed, and Stauffer Nursery continued as a seedling distribution point.

The headquarters for the Nursery and Tree Improvement Section continued to be at John R. Miller Nursery near Autaugaville. The new federal excess property coordinator shares the nursery office. A lease extension for 40 acres of unused fields at Miller Nursery continued, and this year possible expansion is being examined. Other ongoing projects at Miller included maintaining two Plantation Selection Seed Source Studies, continuing as a seedling distribution point, and sharing facilities and workers with the Central Shop.

TREE IMPROVEMENT

The AFC Tree Improvement Section continued with its commitment to provide the state nursery with the highest quality, genetically improved loblolly, slash and longleaf pine seed at a reasonable cost.

Unfortunately, the year was another poor one for seed production. The succession of droughts for the past few years has led to poor cone/seed production. Cones were produced in the loblolly (coastal) orchard, but the seed failed to develop. Next year's seed crop looks much better based on the presence of conelets. The seed production for last year is included in Table 6.

Approximately 600 grafts were completed for future work in the third cycle orchards and Poly-mix clone bank at Geneva State Forest (GSF). Progress continued on the third cycle plan, as 10-acres each loblolly (piedmont) and loblolly (coastal) were prepared, and rootstock planted in place. Third cycle selections will be grafted in place next spring. Selections for the third cycle orchards will continue based on input of progeny test data and field observations, as more of the data are completed.

The progeny test measurements continued under leadership from Thorsby Seed Orchard. Open pollinated tests planted last year will be measured in four years to obtain roguing information. The winter schedule includes measuring four progeny tests.

Due to the continued reduction in personnel and budgets, both GSF and Thorsby Seed Orchard used work release inmates to achieve their goals. Both units were pleased with the achieved results.

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