

*Alabama*  
Forestry  
Commission

ANNUAL REPORT  
2000-2001



# ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

October 1, 2001

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

Dear Governor Siegelman:

I am proud to submit this 32nd Annual Report of the Alabama Forestry Commission for the State Fiscal Year 2000-2001 to you and the citizens of this great state we serve.

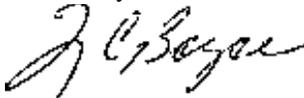
This was a very prosperous year for forest management in the state. Our landowner assistance programs were a catalyst for the implementation of professional forest management practices on 298,391 acres of private forestland in Alabama. An additional 161 landowners were certified under the principals of the TREASURE Forest program. These landowners brought with them 94,023 acres of land that now is being managed under one of the most admired land management programs in the nation. Currently there are 1,681 TREASURE Forests in Alabama totaling approximately 1.77 million acres of forestland.

I am proud to report that during the last fiscal year Alabama Forestry Commission firefighters and our state's volunteer firemen saved 603 homes and structures from being destroyed by fire. Commission firefighters responded to 3,230 wildfires that destroyed 36,051 acres. In June of last year we worked closely with the Alabama Army National Guard in adding to our emergency aerial fire suppression capabilities. With funds made available through your office the Commission was able to purchase three "Bambi" water buckets for use with National Guard helicopters.

The Commission has continued its efforts in landowner outreach. I have named an Outreach Advisory Council that will among other things help the Commission to better identify and serve the needs of our state's minority landowners.

Last year brought with it many changes, not only for our great state but for our nation as well. I am proud of the job done by the Alabama Forestry Commission team and I know that each individual will continue to help make Alabama a better place to live, work, and enjoy by carrying out their responsibilities with efficiency, professionalism and pride. I commend to you the associates of the Alabama Forestry Commission listed on pages 20 and 21 of this report.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Boyce  
State Forester

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Don Siegelman,  
*Governor of Alabama*

Timothy C. Boyce,  
*State Forester*

Richard H. Cumbie,  
*Assistant State Forester*

## **Board of Commissioners**

David Long, *Chairman*

Gary Fortenberry, *Vice Chairman*

Johnny Dennis

Ted DeVos

Charlie Hamilton

Dennis Harbor

Jerry Lacey

Alabama Forestry Commission policy prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or handicapping condition.

# ADMINISTRATIVE

## EQUIPMENT

This year we concentrated on our heavy equipment needs by developing specifications, ordering, and issuing ten 550H John Deere dozers as well as four 450H dozers. We ordered and issued fifteen Freightliner type II transports (beavertail trucks) and three Freightliner type III transports (truck-trailer). The new beavertail bed design was a major concern, but after making several modifications these trucks seem to be working well.

Working with state purchasing we established a contract for type II fire control trucks that will serve the Alabama Forestry Commission for multiple years. This type contract was a first for the Commission and should make ordering these units much easier in the future.

We developed specifications and ordered three large units to be used statewide in suppressing large wildfires and in hazard reduction. These units consist of John Deere 750C series II crawler dozers with 50,000 lb. winches and environmental cabs. The transports are Sterling LT9511 truck-tractors with heavy-duty lowboy trailers. Because of the size of these large units, we determined that special training was needed to operate them safely. The Equipment Section contracted with Trenholm State Technical College to instruct in the operation and maintenance of the new trucks to 15 students from across the state. Also, tractor training for the new 750C's

was included in the purchase agreement with John Deere.

Late in the fiscal year we ordered seven more units consisting of John Deere 550H models with Freightliner type II transports and nine 4x4 pickup trucks. These units should arrive in the first or second quarter of the new fiscal year.

In other miscellaneous activities, the Equipment Chief attended a tour of the John Deere factory in Dubuque, Iowa along with the equipment chiefs of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The Equipment Section held four equipment demonstrations ranging from small crawlers to large crawlers, as well as a brush-cutter demonstration. The Fire and Equipment Sections also conducted the annual Equipment Familiarization training (rookie school) during the year. Our section helped several counties with specifications for ordering transports, tractors, and pickups that were purchased locally. Several warranty issues were addressed including replacement engine parts on several vehicles and we provided the field with technical assistance on other fleet issues.

## CENTRAL SHOP

The State Central Shop had a productive year working on forty tractors, five of which were major overhauls and one was totally rebuilt. We also worked on 54 wheeled vehicles with the work ranging from minor repairs such as brake

work to major repairs such as engine exchanges. Approximately 41 Federal Excess trucks were put through the shop for issuance to fire departments and 131 parts requests were filled for Rural Community Fire Protection.

The track shop/storage building (replacing the track shop destroyed by fire in December 1998) was finished this year and shop personnel installed the new track press. This will save thousands of taxpayer dollars by allowing us once again to turn pins and bushings on our fleet of crawler tractors.

Also during this period we processed in from the counties and processed out to the state sales lot 15 motor vehicles and some 775 miscellaneous items (radios, computers, etc.). We moved the mobile command post to two fires in north Alabama. The shop supervisor taught equipment maintenance at the Alabama Wildland Fire Academy located in Shelby County.

The shop assisted in several equipment demonstrations as well as the truck driving school and also made several modifications to the large unit transports. The shop supervisor assisted the Federal Excess Property Program Section as a truck driver during the time they were without a driver.

## FEDERAL EXCESS PROPERTY

The Fire Division is responsible for the acquisition of excess property from several military bases scattered across the southeastern United States. The equipment is screened and picked up from the bases. Once the property is received it is inventoried, warehoused and distributed to the regions for fire control use, primarily by volunteer fire departments and in some cases by the Alabama Forestry Commission. The equipment is kept on inventory for the duration of its usable life, and after that it is sold at auction.

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

**Table 1**

### Items Acquired from the Federal Excess Program During Fiscal Year 2000-2001

Property	Value
Farm tractors/heavy equipment	\$ 293,296.00
Water tankers	164,525.00
Tools, turnout gear, generators, compressors, tires, shop equipment	324,475.00
Fire/crash trucks (8)	260,743.00
Pickups/flatbeds (43)	789,688.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,832,727.00</b>

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

	Actual					
	FY98	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY01 Budget	Balance
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Personnel	12,402,734	12,672,071	12,631,591	13,059,551	13,059,551	1
Fringe Benefits	2,769,338	2,662,040	2,950,984	3,231,699	3,235,337	3,638
In State Travel	282,895	355,403	305,571	306,175	306,175	0
Out Of State Travel	22,384	13,903	11,169	19,372	19,373	1
Repairs and Maintenance	297,739	559,981	365,407	360,040	360,041	1
Rental and Leases	359,118	343,873	317,271	231,753	231,754	1
Utilities and Communications	679,746	648,501	658,937	791,302	791,303	1
Professional Services	817,634	928,604	1,005,519	899,823	899,823	(0)
Supplies	1,091,420	1,330,519	1,047,091	1,136,066	1,136,066	0
Transportation Operations	1,192,775	1,335,389	1,372,516	1,347,365	1,347,366	0
Grants and Benefits	2,859,635	3,168,664	3,872,123	4,324,743	4,324,744	1
Transportation Equipment	1,318,799	2,028,973	3,116,145	2,064,818	2,060,745	(4,073)
Other Equipment	466,869	571,216	83,357	251,216	254,354	3,138
Excess Available	0	0	0	0		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>24,561,087</b>	<b>26,619,139</b>	<b>27,737,680</b>	<b>28,023,924</b>	<b>28,026,630</b>	<b>2,707</b>
<b>Revenue Budget</b>						
AFC Funds:						
Severance Tax	4,597,453	6,428,809	7,452,067	5,630,264		
Timber and Turpentine	63,404	46,377	46,141	43,438		
Fishing Permits	2,155	2,112	565	0		
Fines and Forfeits	9,881	8,358	22,234	11,185		
Radio Leases	3,150	1,580	600	0		
Oil Royalties	6,384	4,670	6,623	6,929		
Miscellaneous	5,862	23,072	2,877	1,836		
Prior Year Refunds	5,819	37,760	23,966	36,155		
Contract Services	0	0	131,045	0		
Equipment Sales	2	0	0	60		
Timber Sales	19,850	307,826	959,484	724,930		
Other Sales	38,160	65,793	16,944	18,869		
Seedling Sales	1,668,032	1,737,765	1,458,880	1,009,068		
Donations	100	0	0	0		
Intragovernment Sales	24,867	61,000	18,541	52,704		
Equipment Rentals	1,408	957	1,347	46		
Other Rents	18,531	16,483	17,692	19,975		
Plowing Firebreaks	116,998	145,457	126,079	96,999		
Prescribed Burning	111,898	185,290	185,944	104,674		
AFC Funds	6,693,955	9,073,308	10,471,029	7,757,133	7,756,854	1
State General Fund	11,967,999	12,806,224	13,699,132	14,168,191	14,168,188	(3)
Federal Funds						
Federal Grants	3,449,655	2,246,305	2,912,454	4,253,792		
Federal Agreements	6,875	9,845	13,135	244,942		
Federal Reimbursements	29,510	182,471	11,428	124,563		
Total Federal Funds	3,486,040	2,438,620	2,937,018	4,623,298	2,880,192	(1,743,106)
Local Funds						
County Appropriations	433,339	277,015	255,860	268,571		
Acreage Assessments	1,799,319	1,784,305	1,777,097	1,799,683		
Local Grants	32,583	20,543	9,651	565		
Total Local Funds	2,265,241	2,081,863	2,042,608	2,068,819	2,068,819	0
<b>Budgetary Transfers In (Out)</b>						
Supplement						
Severance Tax—County Share						
Operating Transfers						
Capital Transfers	(1,185,187)	(482,509)	(967,569)	(362,821)	(362,821)	0
Total Transfers	(1,185,187)	(482,509)	(967,569)	(362,821)	(362,821)	0
AFC Balance Forward	3,110,278	973,679	615,204	1,343,396	1,343,091	0
Federal Balance Forward		803,559	144,864	176,747	176,747	0
Local Balance Forward			315,537		0	0
Total Forward	3,110,278	1,777,238	1,075,605	1,520,143	1,519,838	0
<b>Total Revenues and Transfers</b>	<b>26,338,325</b>	<b>27,694,744</b>	<b>29,257,823</b>	<b>29,774,763</b>	<b>28,031,070</b>	<b>(1,743,108)</b>
Capital Transfers	1,185,187	482,509	967,569	362,821	362,821	
Capital Outlay	1,029,043	146,162	167,838	99,709	362,821	263,113
Unallotted Capital Transfers				72,428	0	
Reserve for Capital Outlay	156,144	336,347	799,731	190,685		
Agency Cash Available	27,523,512	28,177,253	30,225,392	30,137,584	28,393,891	(1,743,108)
Agency Expended and Reserved	25,746,274	27,101,648	28,705,249	28,314,317	28,389,451	265,819
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>1,777,238</b>	<b>1,075,605</b>	<b>1,520,143</b>	<b>1,823,267</b>	<b>4,440</b>	<b>(2,008,927)</b>

**Alabama Forestry Commission  
Fund Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2001**

	AFC Operations Fund	Emergency Fund	Stewardship Tag Fund	County Tobacco Tax Fund	Severance Tax Fund
Cash	5,816,738.50	195,778.29	425,835.99	4,384.45	
Accounts Receivable					
Due from Other Funds					
Advance Travel					
<b>Assets</b>	<b>5,816,738.50</b>	<b>195,778.29</b>	<b>425,835.99</b>	<b>4,384.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Vouchers Payable	341.94				
Seedling Sale Deposits	116,053.38				
Due to Other Funds					
Due to Other Governments					
Clay County				4,384.27	
Henry County				0.04	
Limestone County				0.01	
Randolph County				0.13	
Blount County				0.00	
Deferred Revenue:					
Federal Funds					
Local Funds					
Due to Employees					
Accounts Payable					
Receipts Pending					
Disbursement	194,913.85				
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>311,309.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,384.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Reserve for Pre-Encumbrances	0.00				
Reserve for Encumbrances	2,199,756.59				
Reserve for Capital Outlay					
FY 96	0.00				
FY 97	0.00				
FY 98	156,143.84				
FY 99	335,846.66				
FY 00	799,730.72				
FY 01	190,684.50				
Unallotted Capital Transfers	0.00				
Reserved Fund Balance	3,682,162.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unreserved Fund Balance	1,823,267.02	195,778.29	425,835.99	(0.00)	0.00
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>5,816,738.50</b>	<b>195,778.29</b>	<b>425,835.99</b>	<b>4,384.45</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**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 2000-2001, which is found on this page.

**PERSONNEL**

The Commission made significant progress during 2001 toward the goal of having a minimum of three employees in every county. At the end of 2000, 16 counties were operating with only two employees each. With a net increase of nine ranger positions, a major step was taken in reducing the number of two-person counties. (See Table 2 on page 8.)

We consider three people in a county to be the minimum number required to fight wildfires safely and provide other public services. Our focus in the area of

personnel during 2002 will be on reaching the three-person minimum staffing level in every county.

Hiring for the newly created ranger positions and filling several vacancies that existed at the end of the fiscal year will increase the total number of AFC employees to slightly more than 390. This will represent a substantial improvement in staffing over the past four years. Most new employees have been assigned to county-level positions in order to strengthen our work in the areas of landowner assistance and fire prevention and control.

**Table 2**

**Alabama Forestry Commission Staffing for Fiscal Years Ending September 30**

Category	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Clerical	42	40	37	31.5	32	31	29	29	26
Programming	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Accounting	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
General Services	4	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	3
Information/Education	5	5	5	5	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.5	4
Communications	26	26	23	21	24	24	22	24	23
Forest Ranger/Worker	218	219	198	168	165	161	148	152	161
Forester/Manager/ Specialist/Director	108	103	103	127	124	125	124	125	125
Nursery <sup>1</sup>	16	10	5						
Aviation	15	13	11	9	8	8	6	6	6
Maintenance	8	9	9	8	8	7	7	7	6
Executive	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>379.5</b>	<b>376.5</b>	<b>372.5</b>	<b>352.5</b>	<b>359.5</b>	<b>363</b>
<b>Net</b>		<b>-13</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-23.5</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>+7</b>	<b>+3.5</b>

<sup>1</sup>consolidated with Forest Ranger and Forester categories in 1996.

# EDUCATION

## ALABAMA FORESTRY CAMP

The 2001 edition of Alabama Forestry Camp was a success this year with approximately 27 students from 17 Alabama counties attending. Camp was held June 3 – 5, 2001 at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives facility near Epes in Sumter County.

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.

Counties represented at Camp were Calhoun, Chambers, Chilton, Coosa, Green, Jackson, Lowndes, Macon, Madison, Marengo, Montgomery, Perry, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Walker, and Wilcox.

## OUTREACH

The Alabama Forestry Commission continues its commitment to help minority and underserved landowners stay in

the business of forestry and assist new landowners interested in forestry.

The vision of the Commission’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.”

We continued to develop a statewide database that will identify where underserved landowners are and what forestry needs they have. Over 260 additional minority and underserved landowners have been identified and added to the existing database. Five forest management plans and six TREASURE Forest plans were written for minority landowners. The Commission’s four outreach foresters assisted with 100 additional Cost Share/Rural Assistance program activities.

State Forester Timothy C. Boyce named an Outreach Advisory Council that will, among other things, help the Commission to better identify and serve the needs of our states minority landowners. The primary objective of the Council is to create an atmosphere of trust between the Commission and the

underserved forestland owners. This will be accomplished by establishing opportunities to communicate in a timely consistent manner and to provide a collegial environment for free exchange between the Council and the Commission. The Council will assist the AFC in reaching out to the forestland owners to identify and address priority areas and provide feedback to the Commission with respect to the effectiveness of the outreach program. In addition, the Council will stimulate interest and encourage participation of underserved forestland owners in sustainable forest management practices by conveying the AFC’s commitment to understanding and addressing their needs.

Through the Commission’s outreach efforts the minority attendance at the Alabama TREASURE Forest and Landowner Conference has increased by over 15 percent.

Other outreach activities include the following:

- The AFC is supporting research at Alabama A&M University regarding goat production in conjunction with timber management. Approximately five landowners in the state are currently participating in this research.

- A two-day bus tour was held for minorities of several managed properties around the state including stops in Wilcox County, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives in Sumter County, and properties in Tallapoosa and Macon counties. Aside from the

bus tour, 10 additional forestry tours were held in conjunction with Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University.

The Commission continues to provide financial and technical assistance to the Federation of Southern Cooperatives for

demonstration projects and outreach efforts. We assisted the Federation in securing a Ford Foundation grant which provides approximately \$250,000 for five years to do community-based forestry education and demonstration programs.

# PROTECTION

## **FIRE SUPPRESSION**

During Fiscal Year 2000-2001, Alabama finally ended a three-year drought which had brought with it a large number of very destructive wildfires. During the year Alabama experienced 3,230 wildfires that burned 36,051 acres. These rates were about half those of FY 1999-2000 and were about 80 percent of the average of the previous five years. The number of fires and acres burned by county are shown in Table 3 on page 10.

The Alabama Forestry Commission pushed safety as our number one priority throughout the year and as a result had no serious injuries and only one civilian fatality. The Commission is in its third year of implementing its new physical standards for frontline fire fighters, in line with National Wildfire Coordinating Group standards. The 2001 test had an 87 percent pass rate.

Wildland fires destroyed 89 homes and structures, with one civilian fatality. Through the efforts of the AFC, 603 homes and structures were saved from burning. The Commission began the fiscal year with 31 counties under a Fire Alert, which was spread statewide later in October, before being lifted on November 7, 2000. Another Fire Alert was issued in Mobile and Baldwin Counties in southwest Alabama during May and June of 2001.

The Commission worked with the Alabama Army National Guard for emergency aerial fire suppression support. Three "Bambi" water buckets were purchased for National Guard helicopters and were used on a fire in Baldwin County in late May. The use of the buckets is a coordinated effort by the Alabama Forestry Commission, the National Guard, and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

## **HAZARD MITIGATION**

The AFC increased prescribed burning and construction of firebreaks for landowners near wildland urban interface areas. Through this program, the Commission prescribe burned about 16,000 acres and built over 760 miles of permanent firebreaks.

We also worked to increase the awareness of rural and wildland urban interface homeowners about the wildfire hazard by developing landowner education programs on the subject of Firewise, Prescribed Burning, and Wildfire Hazard Reduction. By October 1, 2001, lesson plans were developed and tested. This carry-over project will include 80 landowner education sessions held during the fall and winter of 2001-02.

## **PREPAREDNESS**

The Commission worked to improve its wildland fire suppression capability by upgrading its equipment. We established fire caches in each of the four regions, with one statewide reserve cache consisting of personal protective equipment and fire fighting hand tools. The caches will be used to supply hand crews called out for project fires near or in wildland urban interface areas.

Work has begun on a targeted fire prevention project. The Commission identified critical fire occurrence areas within the wildland urban interfaces in ten counties in Alabama and after detailed analysis is developing and deploying a focused fire prevention campaign in these counties. The plans will be tailored to the specific problems of that interface site. This project was begun in Fiscal Year 2000-01, but because of the lateness in getting the grant funding it will be carried over into Fiscal Year 2001-02.

We are working to improve the safety of our employees by purchasing new fire protective clothing this year. This clothing meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for all Commission fire personnel. This project was begun in Fiscal Year 2000-01, but because of the lateness in getting the grant funding it will also be carried over into Fiscal Year 2001-02.

## **FIRE COMPACT SUPPORT**

The summer of 2001 was the latest in a series of high fire occurrence seasons in the western United States. The Alabama Forestry Commission was able to assist the federal firefighters by sending a full fire crew out west consisting of eight Commission associates and several municipal fire fighters and USDA Forest Service personnel. The crew went from Alabama to central Washington State and helped with the Virginia Lake fire complex. The crew received high marks from their incident commanders.

The Alabama Forestry Commission is a member of the Southeastern Fire Compact, which authorizes the AFC to send crews out of state for fire suppression assistance. This compact also enables the Commission to call for help from our sister states when Alabama is facing a fire emergency.

## **RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION**

As we reflect on the events of 2001, there have been many things for which we can be grateful. Many of our volunteer departments have been able to purchase new equipment for use in their communities. This has been made possible by the hard work of our volunteer firefighters. Many times, combining additional funding from their local county with the grant money from the

Table 3

# Wildfire Statistics by County

October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001

County	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Average Size	County	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Average Size
Autauga	33	87.8	2.7	Houston	15	135.0	9.0
Baldwin	172	5,772.2	33.6	Jackson	31	705.5	22.8
Barbour	20	112.6	5.6	Jefferson	99	676.6	6.8
Bibb	50	302.3	6.0	Lamar	13	147.7	11.4
Blount	22	238.0	10.8	Lauderdale	86	490.7	5.7
Bullock	21	188.3	9.0	Lawrence	56	639.8	11.4
Butler	54	384.9	7.1	Lee	19	70.4	3.7
Calhoun	57	633.2	11.1	Limestone	7	112.2	16.0
Chambers	27	226.8	8.4	Lowndes	36	163.5	4.5
Cherokee	148	4,171.6	28.2	Macon	56	422.5	7.5
Chilton	85	405.3	4.8	Madison	41	265.3	6.5
Choctaw	49	335.5	6.8	Marengo	21	133.6	6.4
Clarke	23	71.5	3.1	Marion	49	306.5	6.3
Clay	48	563.1	11.7	Marshall	14	258.5	18.5
Cleburne	81	1,486.2	18.3	Mobile	279	4,521.8	16.2
Coffee	13	30.9	2.4	Monroe	66	355.2	5.4
Colbert	41	309.1	7.5	Montgomery	19	78.1	4.1
Conecuh	68	465.0	6.8	Morgan	14	48.9	3.5
Coosa	33	584.8	17.7	Perry	31	260.5	8.4
Covington	42	399.0	9.5	Pickens	19	97.6	5.1
Crenshaw	27	158.5	5.9	Pike	9	16.3	1.8
Cullman	26	79.8	3.1	Randolph	46	293.8	6.4
Dale	12	94.8	7.9	Russell	40	297.5	7.4
Dallas	25	79.0	3.2	Shelby	74	480.1	6.5
DeKalb	110	1,345.0	12.2	St. Clair	43	410.0	9.5
Elmore	57	108.3	1.9	Sumter	5	23.3	4.7
Escambia	103	674.8	6.6	Talladega	111	1,681.5	15.1
Etowah	37	351.8	9.5	Tallapoosa	68	238.8	3.5
Fayette	24	131.8	5.5	Tuscaloosa	30	252.3	8.4
Franklin	45	631.8	14.0	Walker	66	704.6	10.7
Geneva	20	124.6	6.2	Washington	93	729.7	7.8
Greene	16	83.0	5.2	Wilcox	40	174.3	4.4
Hale	13	23.9	1.8	Winston	18	127.4	7.1
Henry	14	77.0	5.5				
				<b>State Totals</b>	<b>3,230</b>	<b>36,051.4</b>	<b>11.2</b>

Alabama Forestry Commission has made these equipment purchases possible. Each year the Commission assists in forming new volunteer fire departments in the areas where fire protection is needed. In 2001 five new departments were formed. We now have around one thousand certified volunteer fire departments serving the citizens of Alabama. The Alabama Forestry Commission and the Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) Steering Committee will continue to provide assistance to the volunteer fire service whenever needed.

### **RCFP Steering Committee**

This committee was created under Alabama law to monitor all statewide volunteer fire department programs and make recommendations to the state forester on all issues that affect the volunteer fire service. The committee makes recommendations for the distribution of the grant money made available by the legislature and placed in the Commission's budget to be divided equally among all certified volunteer fire departments. This year \$2.4 million was appropriated by the legislature for the state's volunteer fire departments and each department that applied received \$2,454.27. In addition, a grant of \$500.00 was made to each of our sixty-seven volunteer county fire associations, and \$200.00 was distributed to each of the ten district fire associations.

### **Fire Tag Roster**

Each year the RCFP section compiles, updates, and prints a list of firefighters eligible to purchase a distinctive firefighter license plate. The 2001 directory contains more than 29,500 firefighters. This directory is provided to all county license commissioners and probate judges each December.

### **Firefighter Appreciation Day**

Over 250 fire fighters attended the event this year that was hosted by the Limestone County Firefighters Association. Firefighters and their families enjoyed the Friday night Awards Banquet recognizing several individuals for their years of devotion to the volunteer fire service. Dan Jackson of Walker County was recognized as the Alabama Forestry Commission County Manager for 2001 and William (Bill) DeYampert

of Perry County was honored as the Alabama Forestry Commission Associate of the year. Every year the Ray Tucker Memorial Award is presented to a member of the RCFP Steering Committee. Euell Hodge of Cullman County was the recipient for 2001. A new award has been added in recognition of Walter Vest, who worked in the RCFP Program until his retirement from the Commission. This award, which recognizes the outstanding volunteer fire department of the year, was presented to the Micaville Volunteer Fire Department in Cleburne County for 2001.

The next day, over 500 firefighters and their families assembled at the city park in Athens to enjoy the day's events including a firefighter's competition, camp stew cook-off, cake baking and chili cook-off. The highlight to close the day's events was the drawing for a federal excess property truck provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission. Painted the traditional red and equipped with a 200-gallon tank and pump, each firefighter present was eligible to register to win use of it. The lucky firefighter was Kevin Slaten of the Tanner Volunteer Fire Department in Limestone County.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

On January 19, 2001, a tornado struck our communications building in Montgomery, completely destroying the building. After consulting with our insurance carrier, we were able to contract with Alabama Correctional Industries to renovate an equipment shed on the same site. At a total cost of \$134,914.41, the renovation required no additional funds from the Alabama Forestry Commission or the State General Fund. This project has been completed, and the communication technicians are in the process of moving into the new building.

It has been another busy year for the communication section. The Commission purchased several new trucks and tractors that required removal and reinstallation of two-way radio equipment.

The highway department acquired our Northeast Regional Administrative headquarters office in Dadeville to make room for a new four-lane highway. In order for our Dadeville office to continue dispatching and communicating with field personnel and volunteer firefighters

in the county, temporary communications equipment had to be installed. The operations center in the new facility is now operational.

Our repeater system is almost 20 years old and the manufacturer no longer maintains an inventory of parts for repair and maintenance of these units. The Commission has ordered 18 new repeaters to begin replacement of the old repeaters.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

The Alabama Forestry Commission has seventy commissioned law enforcement officers. Four officers have full-time enforcement assignments, with one assigned to each of the four administrative regions. Since timber theft investigations often involve multiple counties, much of their time is spent on these investigations. Forty-two officers are assigned to counties. In addition to law enforcement duties, they are also responsible for forest management activities and forest fire suppression. The remainder of the officers are assigned to supervisory, administrative and technical staff positions. This staffing leaves about half the counties without law enforcement.

Even though the officers have duties in addition to enforcement, 855 man-days were devoted to enforcement in the last year. A significant amount of that investigative time resulted in civil cases. During the fiscal year, there were 185 arrests. That total included situations where plea bargaining produced payment of "suppression charges." Monies collected from fines, court costs, suppression charges and civil cases totaled \$64,219. One significant civil recovery resulting in a \$45,000 judgment stemmed from an investigation. Officers were involved in 450 investigations that did not result in a legal action as those incidents did not produce sufficient information for prosecution. About one-third of the officers have from one to several ongoing investigations at any given time.

Attrition continues to reduce the number of officers as retirement and administrative processes take effect. A hazardous duty bill allows officers to buy additional retirement time. Several officers have indicated a desire to take advantage of this opportunity and may leave enforcement during the next fiscal year.

## SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE PROGRAM

The April/May aerial flights showed that the Northwest (NW) Region contained the vast majority of the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) infestations in Alabama. Fifty-two counties had SPB populations and 27 of these were considered epidemic. There were 3,018 spots statewide containing 1,053,436 infested trees (NW Region had 2,351 spots and 1,027,176 infested trees). Counties with the worst infestations were Winston, Walker, Marion, Franklin, Cullman, Jefferson, Shelby, Colbert, and Fayette. Even with these seemingly high numbers flights were showing improvement in reduced numbers of spots.

In June/July, aerial flights showed that the NW Region still had the majority of the SPB infestations. There were 52 counties with SPB populations with 31 of these being epidemic, an increase from the April/May flight. Statewide there were 2,540 spots containing 462,124 infested trees (NW Region had 1,350 spots and 426,859 infested trees). The statewide problem had decreased since April/May by 500 spots and 591,000 infested trees. The worst counties were

Cullman, Walker, Marion, Morgan, Jefferson, Shelby, Conecuh, Winston and Franklin.

These numbers were significantly high, but compared to the 16,000 spots found statewide in July 2000 it seems as if Alabama had little problem with beetle infestations this year. The stumpage value of killed trees is estimated at \$34 million. Landowners with beetle infestations in 2000 were quicker to respond this year than last.

The August/September aerial flights showed that the NW Region continued to have the majority of SPB infestations. There were 52 counties with SPB populations and 45 of these were epidemic, an increase from the June/July flight. Across the state there were 4,977 spots containing 530,678 infested trees (NW Region had 2,376 spots and 424,893 infested trees). The statewide problem had increased since June/July by 2,437 spots and 67,819 infested trees. However, the average infestation size had decreased from 178 trees per spot in July to 106 trees per spot. Counties worst hit were Shelby, Jefferson, Walker, Coosa, Tuscaloosa, Calhoun, Cullman, Bibb, Fayette, and St. Clair.

Again, these numbers seem significantly high but when compared to 14,290 spots containing 903,828 infested trees found in September 2000, it seems like Alabama had little problem. The stumpage value of killed trees for 2001 is estimated at \$71 million.

With the wetter weather this past year the spots did not grow at the same rate as last year, therefore more spots were controlled. A mild winter will cause the infestations to continue and explode this spring. Landowners should try to control all their infestations this winter. Every spot controlled this winter will prevent ten spots from being active next spring.

Statewide in 2001 there were a total of 10,861 Southern Pine Beetle infestations. Landowners controlled 6,948 of these spots, giving a statewide control rate of 64%. There were 42,684 cords and 6,979,000 board feet reported salvaged.

The pulpwood market is still reduced, so the majority of control continues to be by the cut and leave method instead of salvage. If landowners can get a salvage control crew they should expect to get lower stumpage prices for their pulpwood.

See Table 4 on page 13 for regional and statewide SPB data.

# SERVICE

## FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

A critical part of the Alabama Forestry Commission's threefold mission is **to service and help landowners carry out responsible forest management** on their property, using professional technical assistance. Providing this assistance to the private landowner will help the Commission increase the forest

resources of the state, which is one of the legislative mandates for our agency. The primary avenues used to provide this assistance is 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 298,391 acres of private forestland in Alabama. Accomplishments in several forest management areas are shown in Table 5.

## TREASURE FOREST

The TREASURE Forest Program was established in 1974 by the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (AFPC). 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.

**Table 5**

### Statewide Forest Management Accomplishments

Project	Number	Acres
TREASURE Forest Plans	369	65,278
Technical Assistance Cases	11,970	N/A
Stand Management Plans	3172	126,380
Cost Share Assistance Plans	250+	64,733
Prescribed Burning and Timber Stand Improvement		42,000

Table 4

## Southern Pine Beetle Control Data for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

NORTHWEST REGION						SOUTHEAST REGION					
County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF	County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
Bibb	291	111	38	370	0	Barbour	24	3	13	0	0
Colbert	247	177	72	8,635	30	Bullock	135	17	13	0	0
Cullman	414	300	72	533	139	Butler	95	7	7	0	0
Fayette	722	592	82	3,643	142	Coffee	3	3	100	0	0
Franklin	323	228	71	1,567	90	Covington	9	6	67	107	0
Jefferson	496	287	58	551	227	Crenshaw	18	7	39	0	0
Lamar	160	158	99	3,876	49	Dale	1	1	100	0	0
Lauderdale	79	65	82	169	66	Elmore	73	47	64	180	9
Lawrence	102	95	93	166	550	Geneva	0	0	N/A	0	0
Limestone	52	49	94	0	0	Henry	0	0	N/A	0	0
Marion	468	382	82	667	84	Houston	0	0	N/A	0	0
Morgan	125	86	69	0	0	Lee	32	14	44	175	0
Pickens	113	113	100	438	50	Lowndes	106	12	11	2,399	16
Shelby	694	325	47	298	0	Macon	67	51	76	0	0
Tuscaloosa	476	296	62	2,802	453	Montgomery	2	0	0	0	0
Walker	983	690	70	142	0	Pike	0	0	N/A	0	0
Winston	682	637	93	5,749	5,340	Russell	131	34	26	75	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,427</b>	<b>4,591</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>29,606</b>	<b>6,725</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2,629</b>	<b>25</b>
NORTHEAST REGION						SOUTHWEST REGION					
County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF	County	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
Blount	102	40	69	1,000	0	Autauga	47	16	34	0	0
Calhoun	266	113	42	2,309	0	Baldwin	15	15	100	0	0
Chambers	41	14	34	125	0	Chilton	159	10	6	141	0
Cherokee	179	136	76	0	0	Choctaw	5	5	100	80	0
Clay	129	90	70	830	0	Clarke	40	40	100	800	9
Cleburne	169	75	44	200	0	Conecuh	310	276	89	820	0
Coosa	290	68	23	520	0	Dallas	96	64	67	50	10
DeKalb	102	23	23	0	0	Escambia	124	87	70	0	0
Etowah	64	36	56	0	0	Greene	26	18	69	37	0
Jackson	103	34	33	321	77	Hale	24	24	100	6	0
Madison	58	19	20	30	0	Marengo	54	54	100	0	0
Marshall	123	7	6	84	14	Monroe	74	72	97	0	0
Randolph	127	108	85	0	0	Perry	119	87	73	0	0
St Clair	328	285	87	300	22	Sumter	49	49	100	0	0
Talladega	222	128	58	1,970	0	Washington	11	11	100	0	0
Tallapoosa	138	94	68	467	2	Wilcox	128	54	42	358	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,441</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>8,156</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>948</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>2,292</b>	<b>114</b>

## Statewide Control Data

Region	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
Northwest	6,427	4,591	71	29,606	6,725
Northeast	2,441	1,207	49	8,156	115
Southeast	696	202	29	2,629	25
Southwest	1,297	948	73	2,292	114
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,861</b>	<b>6,948</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>42,684</b>	<b>6,979</b>

Recognition is accomplished through the certified TREASURE Forest award, which is given to landowners who are actively implementing TREASURE Forest principles on their land. To be eligible for the award, landowners must own a minimum of ten acres of forestland and take the following steps with regard to all their land in Alabama:

- Identify a primary and at least one secondary management objective. Choices include timber, wildlife, environmental education, recreation, or aesthetics.
- Acquire or possess a written multiple-use management plan, or approved documentation, addressing the management of all their land in Alabama.
- Actively practice multiple-use management.

To receive the reward, the following items must then occur:

- The landowner and their property must be nominated.
- The property must be inspected by a registered forester and a wildlife biologist to ensure that management activities are consistent with TREASURE Forest principles.
- 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 161 new TREASURE Forests totaling 93,747 acres were certified. Currently there are 1681 certified TREASURE Forests in Alabama that collectively represent 1.77 million acres of forestland under TREASURE Forest management. To further the purposes of the TREASURE Forest program, 369 TREASURE Forest management plans covering 65,278 acres of Alabama forestland were written this year.

The average number of annual landowner certifications and acres coming into the TREASURE Forest Program has increased by 111% and 81% respectively, during the past three years as compared to the average from the previous five years (see Table 6).

### 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 a national program, the National Stewardship Program that 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 Game and Fish Division, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation, to promote and support the TREASURE Forest Program.
- Portion of the 18th Annual Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference in Auburn.
- TREASURE Forest promotional and educational materials.
- Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine.
- Alabama TREASURE Forest Association.
- Technical and information transfer needs.
- Other forest productivity and educational projects.

### COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE

One state and three federal cost-share programs 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 Commission performs the crucial function of providing technical guidance to ensure that efficient and professional forest management is practiced on Alabama lands through each program. 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 Commission personnel provided written guidance and inspected completed forestry practices such as tree planting, timber stand improvement, and prescribed burning on more than 500 sites. These sites covered approximately 65,000 acres of Alabama forestland under the four cost-share assistance programs.

**Table 6**

#### Annual TREASURE Forest Landowner Certifications and Acres

Year	# Forests Certified	Average	# Acres	Average
2000-01	161	167 (3 year avg.)	93,747	80,175 (3 year avg.)
1999-00	152		83,308	
1998-99	189		63,589	
1997-98	126	79 (5 year avg)	55,128	44,281 (5 year avg)
1996-97	92		63,487	
1995-96	57		37,737	
1994-95	48		27,532	
1993-94	73		37,521	

## ALABAMA'S BMPs FOR FORESTRY

We continued our efforts to promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Forestry to protect and improve water quality. The AFC updated and reprinted Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry guideline book and distributed more than 1200 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.

The AFC has also worked with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to address water quality complaints associated with forestry operations. Commission personnel respond to water quality complaints received by ADEM, Alabama's Sustainable Forestry Initiative Line (800-206-0981), 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 majority of the complaint cases are resolved through our educational efforts.

We conduct random checks of forestry activities and evaluate the implementation of BMPs. If BMPs are not followed, Commission personnel works with the landowners, timber harvesters, and timber buyers 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 Commission are not used to remedy the situation, 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 169 random BMP monitoring reports to assess the BMP implementation rate on harvesting operations across the state.

The Commission continues to be encouraged by the frequency with which BMPs are used in forestry operations. On approximately 87 percent of the sites monitored, BMPs were properly applied during the timber harvest operation.

## STATE LANDS

The Alabama Forestry Commission State Lands Section is responsible for the management of three state forests totaling some 340 acres. In addition, the section manages, under cooperative agreements, 9,005 acres of forested lands belonging to the Alabama Department of Corrections (15 facilities), 4,250 acres belonging to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (19 state lakes), and 5,657 acres belonging to the Alabama Department of Mental Health (8 tracts). These 18,912 acres of forestland are managed under TREASURE Forest guidelines. In addition, the

land is used as demonstration areas for various forestry and allied practices.

The two work areas that required the greatest amount of time and effort from Commission personnel were timber sales and prescribed burning.

Accomplishments of Commission personnel in these areas for the past year, including revenue received, is in Table 7 below. Because of unusually low timber prices and 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 seedling planting at both Ventress and Tutwiler Correctional Facilities, and also Panther Creek and St. Stephen's State Forests for a total of 180 acres. Chemical site preparation was also accomplished on 120 acres at Fountain Correctional Facility, 30 acres at Coffee County Lake, and 6 acres at Dallas County Lake.

**Table 7**

### State Lands

<b>TIMBER SALES</b>	<b>Sale Value</b>	<b>Revenue to AFC</b>
<i>Corrections:</i>		
Draper Correctional Farm	\$72,901.56	\$7,290.16
Fountain Correctional Farm	14,954.74	1,495.47
St. Clair Correctional Farm	23,000.00	2,300.00
St. Clair Correctional Farm (insect salvage)	4,690.70	469.07
St. Clair Correctional Farm (insect salvage)	2,864.40	286.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$118,411.40</b>	<b>\$11,841.14</b>
<b>PRESCRIBED BURNING</b>		
<i>Conservation:</i>		
Monroe County Lake	40	\$430.00
Walker County Lake	103	1,480.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>\$1,910.50</b>
<i>Corrections:</i>		
Draper Correctional Farm	40	\$728.50
Fountain Correctional Farm	318	2,883.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>\$3,611.50</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>\$5,522.00</b>

## **MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Alabama's forest and wood products industry continues to bolster the state's economy contributing approximately \$14.4 billion in value of product shipments in 2001. Annual forest product exports totaled in excess of \$1 billion. Alabama's forest products industry both directly and indirectly provides employment for approximately 170,000 people. In 2001, timber was the state's dominant crop contributing over \$1 billion in value to Alabama's economy. It is not surprising that the forest and wood products business continues to be Alabama's number one manufacturing industry.

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

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 the state's forest industry. The Alabama Forestry Commission acts as the Forestry Team coordinator. Marketing and Economic Development personnel utilizing the Forestry Team concept 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 850 forest products operations producing wood products. Wood products is the number one manufacturing industry in Alabama and continues to be the number one investor in Alabama. Investment by Alabama's forest product industry has

totaled in excess of \$1.2 billion in new plants and equipment over the last 4 years.

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 effort 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, Academic Centers for Economic Development, utilities and local economic development groups in support of their efforts by providing current information on Alabama's forest resources and forest products industry. The following economic development strategy initiatives are facilitated to increase wood products new and expanding industries:

- Promote value-added investment operations
- Market forest products manufactured in Alabama
- Encourage export development
- Intensify wood and bark residual utilization/development programs
- Support existing industry regarding expansion and retention of jobs
- Educate rural communities regarding forest industry development

We work with local and regional offices of the U.S. Forest Service to coordinate economic development opportunities by utilizing Forest Service grants and other rural development programs. This close working relationship has 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**

Our 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 2001.

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 round-wood drain information. The census serves as a barometer of Alabama's industry and provides a database for various directories and economic development efforts. In 2001, 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 Commission contracts with the Alabama International Trade Center (AITC) on the campus of the University of Alabama for the purpose of promoting international trade of Alabama-produced wood products. AITC provided export and international trade assistance on a case-by-case basis to 60 wood products companies in 2001. This assistance included tailored market research, export counseling, trade show promotion, and introduction to foreign buyers from around the world. Export sales reported for the year were approximately \$18.9 million of Alabama wood and value-added products to the Caribbean, the European Union, Asia, Mexico, Canada, and Latin America. The Center specifically targets 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 is distributed to individuals and companies throughout the United States and to other countries.

## **FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS (FIA)**

Alabama Forestry Commission FIA crews in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service completed the sixth periodic inventory of Alabama's forests. The project began in February of 1997 and was completed in December of 2000. Also, FIC crews have been trained for the new national field manual that was implemented under the Southern Annual Forest Inventory System (SAFIS). Under SAFIS, FIA crews will measure approximately 1,160 plots per year (one randomly chosen panel) and the entire project

will be completed in five years. FIA crews began measuring plots in late January and completed the first panel in late 2001.

Inventory crews completed 252 plots from October to the completion of the periodic inventory in December. Since that time, 965 plots have been measured in the first panel of SAFIS. This is a total of 1,217 plots that have been measured during the 2001 fiscal year (see map on this page). At this time, we have one Forest Service person assigned to the state that provides Quality Control/Quality Assurance for FIA crews. Forest Inventory data is available for all six units.

### TECHNICAL UTILIZATION

The Commission in cooperation with its partners 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 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. The center works 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 has been developed for certificate or degree programs for students seeking careers in the secondary wood products industries. ACAWT's technology transfer program helps build a modern manufacturing workforce, assisting Alabama companies to become and remain internationally competitive and promote environmentally sound processing technologies.

The Marketing and Economic Development 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 2001: (1) Alabama Forestry Council

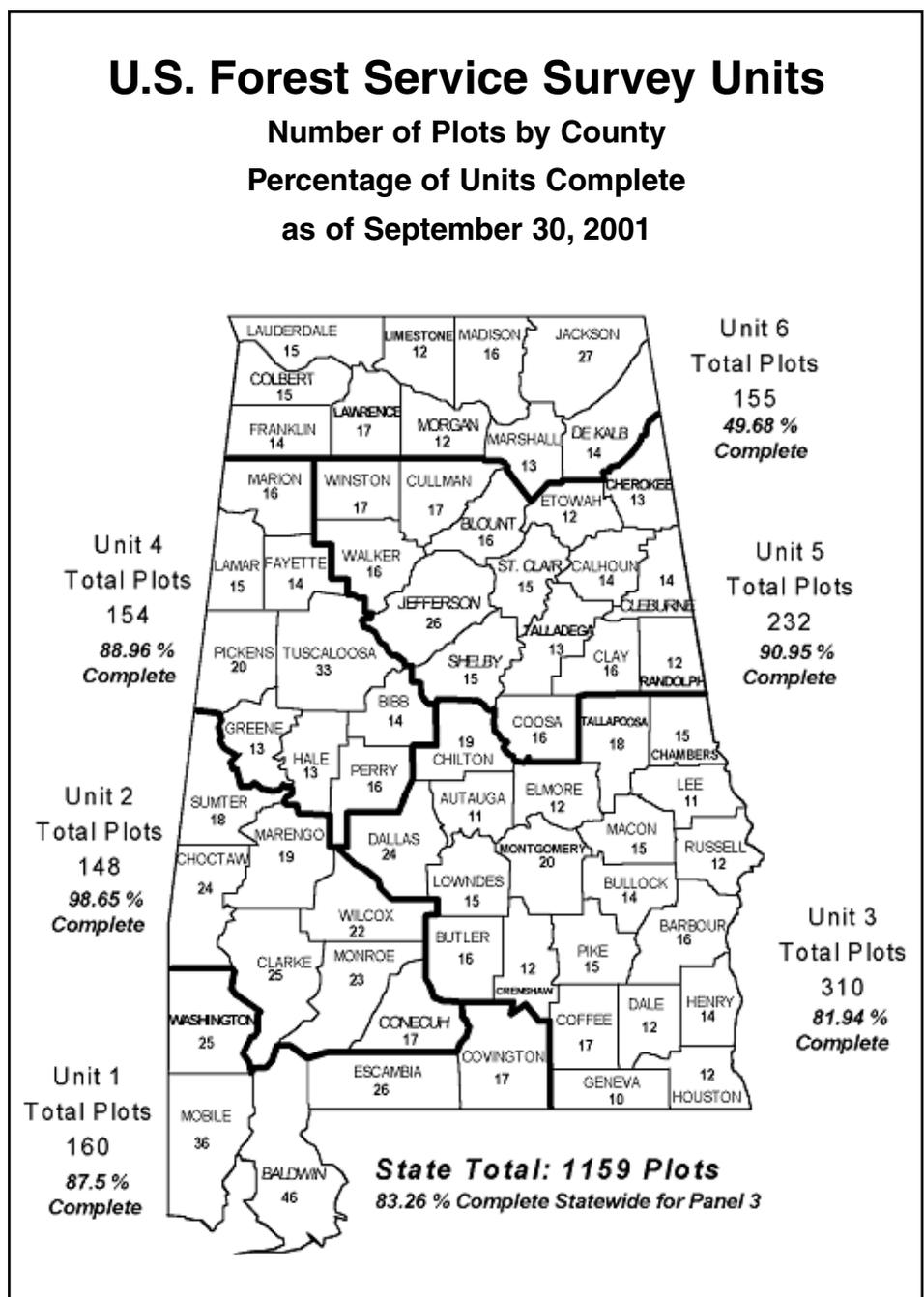
Annual Meeting, (2) Elmore County and Washington County Alabama TREASURE Forest Association chapters, (3) Alabama Forestry Association Annual Meeting, and (4) Alabama TREASURE Forest Association Annual Meeting.

### RESOURCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

Resource Information and Analysis is responsible for collecting forestry-related data and coordinates the demands and needs for forestry information based on these data. In-house agency requests as well as requests from a diverse number of users are handled on a daily basis.

As part of a continuing collection of data, the AFC resource analyst maintains connections with agencies like the U. S. Forest Service, the Alabama Department of Revenue, the Alabama Executive Budget Office, Alabama Agricultural Statistics, and the U. S. Census Bureau to partner in forestry data sharing.

The U. S. Forest Service's Southern Forest Experiment Station in Starkville, Mississippi has assisted the resource analyst in compiling and distributing the latest available 2000 Alabama periodic survey data on forest volumes, ownership patterns, periodic growth and removals, and other statistics. Three of the six survey units have been published (USFS



Resource Bulletins SRS-55, SRS-56 & SRS-60) and distributed to appropriate Alabama field locations.

The resource analyst has continued to be a part of the latest SAFIS Survey team (see FIA). As data becomes available, Resource Information and Analysis promotes and distributes finalized data in partnership with the USFS Alabama analyst. The resource analyst chairs an Alabama FIA Data Review Committee designed to give oversight, approve, and edit the most recent FIA unit data. All six Alabama survey units were reviewed in 2001. The committee approved data for publication and helped in four public reviews. Three public meetings were held in Grove Hill, Carrollton and Huntsville.

The latest information on forest economics in Alabama is periodically 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 forest resources and forest economics are done by request. These reports provide 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 will be updated when the new FIA data is made available.

The forest resource analyst has developed an agency accomplishment reporting system. This reporting system provides a record of all accomplishments deemed important to the Commission and is collected from all 67 counties. A database was compiled from these reports for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2000-01.

The Executive Budget Office (EBO) Quarterly Performance Report with agency performance indicators was collected and sent to the State Director of Finance for the appropriate quarters for Fiscal Year 2000-01. The U. S. Forest Service's Performance Measurement Accountability System (PMAS) responsibility was given to the resource analyst and is currently being developed and compiled.

Current publications which are compiled and maintained by the resource

analyst include *Alabama Forestry Cash Receipt Report*, *Alabama Timber Price Report* and *Forest Product Production Report*.

## 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.

### E. A. Hauss Nursery

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.

E. A. Hauss Nursery planned to grow 42.2 million bareroot pine seedlings and 1.6 million bareroot hardwood and wildlife seedlings but only 32.9 million attained plantable size. Heavy rains after planting, poor germination, no available seed (Chinese chestnut, plum, cherrybark oak, and gobbler sawtooth oak), etc. accounted for the lowered production. During lifting season, contract harvesting accounted for approximately 20 million seedlings; a portion of the unsold seedlings was distributed to landowners through the Outreach Program. The longleaf took longer to sell out, so possibly the longleaf crises may have peaked and started to decline. We will reduce the planned quantity for longleaf pine for next year. Loblolly sales remained down.

All genetically improved seed for the loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine seedlings came from our seed orchards. Second generation loblolly seedlings were produced for the eighth year. All loblolly pine is 1.5 or 2nd cycle. Hauss Nursery grew 2.515 million pine seedlings. Nineteen 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 ten species beneficial to wildlife were available for purchase by the public. The wildlife species were available in small quantities (minimum of 25 seedlings per order). The 25-seedling package had to be one species.

The AFC purchased an environmentally approved cab tractor for use when applying pesticides. A new precision 8-drill seeder was bought, and the seedling "clumps" normally associated in the nursery beds with the old Whitfield planter disappeared. The nursery purchased and installed an alarm system for the seed cooler that will alert the nursery when cooling problems occur. The seedling cooler will be tied to the system when time allows. Dr. Chuck Davey, renowned soils expert, spent three days at the nursery training the employees.

### Jake Stauffer Nursery

Seed harvested for planting at Hauss Nursery continued at Stauffer Nursery as sawtooth oak (1,074#), autumn olive (7.5#), and dogwood (15.75#) were harvested and cleaned. No redbud seed was harvested due to a lack of seed. The seedling cooler at Stauffer Nursery was maintained as the nursery continued to be a seedling distribution point.

Inventory was taken of the oak orchards, and survival ranged from 80.7% in the northern red oak to 100% in the swamp chestnut oak.

### J. R. Miller Nursery

The headquarters for the Nursery and Tree Improvement Section continued to be at John R. Miller Nursery near Autaugaville where the Federal Excess Property Program Coordinator shares the nursery office. A lease extension for forty acres of unused fields at Miller Nursery continued as a good income source for unused land. Other ongoing projects at Miller included maintaining and measuring two Plantation Selection Seed Source Studies, continuing to be 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 highest quality, genetically improved loblolly, slash and longleaf pine seed at a reasonable cost.

The selection of candidates for the 3rd cycle orchards was completed and we are awaiting approval of the selections. Questionnaires were sent to the sources

of these selections to obtain information regarding the seed source.

Despite dry conditions in general, production for last year was very rewarding as much needed seed was harvested. Due to the dry conditions, and shortage of longleaf pine seed, we checked into harvesting wild longleaf seed. The orchard produced more cones than estimated, so the wild seed was not needed. We did a check on 20-bushels of wild seed vs. 20-bushels of orchard seed. The wild cones yielded 0.0405 pounds of seed per bushel, while the orchard cones produced 1.158 pounds of seed per bushel. The new seed cooler at Hauss Nursery will serve as a storage facility for seed. The seed production for last year is included in Table 8.

**Geneva Seed Orchard**

Approximately 600 grafts were completed to be established in our third cycle breeding clone bank and our Poly-mix clone bank. The Poly-mix will be used for controls in our future tests. The crew planted 3,500 each of loblolly pine, coastal and piedmont, rootstock for grafting 3rd cycle selections. A slash pine buffer zone was planted around the longleaf orchard.

Containerized seedlings of open pollinated 2nd cycle loblolly pine coastal were planted and will be outplanted next year.

**Thorsby Seed Orchard**

The progeny test measurements continued under the leadership from Thorsby Seed Orchard. This fall/winter, four tests will be measured.

Another round of rouging the orchard occurred to open the areas to sunlight. This orchard can produce all the loblolly pine piedmont seed needed at the state nursery. Contractors were used to harvest the crop.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT:  
GENEVA STATE FOREST**

Geneva State Forest (GSF), consisting of 7,120 acres, is Alabama’s largest state forest, with mostly longleaf pine scattered over the area. GSF has been a TREASURE Forest and managers continue to manage its resources under this concept.

Based on the number of permits issued for camping and horse riders, the use of the forest declined slightly over the past year. Fishing was discontinued all year due to the low water level, but the water control system repair was successful. The lake is full once again, and could open this winter after the area biologist makes fish population checks. Many other day-use persons such as hikers, picnickers, etc. used the area. Geneva continued to be part of the Covington Wildlife Management Area, with deer and turkey as primary resources. It is a favored local site for tours by many of the local clubs, schools, U.S. Forest Service, etc.

Associates at Geneva State Forest established fire lanes and conducted controlled winter and summer burns on 1,173 acres.

Additional work at the state forest included marking a timber sale for early next year, assisting Lurlene B. Wallace Junior College forestry class with training projects, establishing and maintaining fire lanes, and conducting tours. We also constructed a meeting/break room from an unserviceable room; continued the salvage of dead trees; installed several gates for safety and control of traffic; and developed a brochure covering the Geneva State Forest roads, rules and regulations, etc.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Cycle</b>	<b>Pounds of Seed</b>	<b>Estimated Production</b>
Loblolly (Piedmont)	2	3,020.9	48,700,000
Loblolly (Coastal)	1.5	1,492.0	24,100,000
Longleaf	1	5,938.1	22,900,000
Slash	1.5	764.3	7,900,000

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256-974-8168

**Lee County**  
651 Lee Rd. 113  
Opelika, AL 36801  
334-742-0320

**Limestone County**  
P.O. Box 164  
Athens, AL 35612  
256-232-7940

**Lowndes County**  
P.O. Box 206  
Hayneville, AL 36040  
334-548-2402

**Macon County**  
1696 U.S. Hwy 29 North  
Auburn, AL 36830  
334-727-3783

**Madison County**  
819 Cook Ave. Room 203  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
256-532-1565

**Marengo County**  
P.O. Box 480716  
Linden, AL 36748  
334-295-5811

**Marion County**  
P.O. Box 561  
Hamilton, AL 35570  
205-921-3843

**Marshall County**  
P.O. Box 262  
Guntersville, AL 35976  
256-582-4212

**Mobile County**  
1070 North Schillinger Rd.  
Mobile, AL 36608  
251-639-9629

**Monroe County**  
P.O. Box 538  
Monroeville, AL 36461  
251-743-2350

**Montgomery County**  
11261 U.S. Hwy 331  
Montgomery, AL 36105  
334-280-3701

**Morgan County**  
4208 Hwy 31 South  
Decatur, AL 35603  
256-308-0093

**Perry County**  
P.O. Box 482  
Marion, AL 36756  
334-683-8537

**Pickens County**  
P.O. Box 247  
Carrollton, AL 35447  
205-367-8232

**Pike County**  
P.O. Box 167  
Troy, AL 36081  
334-566-3436

**Randolph County**  
P.O. Box 10  
Wedowee, AL 36278  
256-357-2178

**Russell County**  
62 Mathis Rd.  
Seale, AL 36875  
334-855-3302

**Shelby County**  
P.O. Box 768  
Columbiana, AL 35051  
205-669-4133

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

**Sumter County**  
P.O. Box 104  
Livingston, AL 35470  
205-652-6500

**Talladega County**  
P.O. Box 561  
Talladega, AL 35161  
256-362-4848

**Tallapoosa County**  
P.O. Box 4  
Dadeville, AL 36853  
256-825-4244

**Tuscaloosa County**  
P.O. Box 599  
Northport, AL 35476  
205-333-1490

**Walker County**  
P.O. Box 1209  
Jasper, AL 35502  
205-384-6344

**Washington County**  
P.O. Box 267  
Chatom, AL 36518  
251-847-2972

**Wilcox County**  
P.O. Box 355  
Camden, AL 36726  
334-682-4421

**Winston County**  
P.O. Box 595  
Double Springs, AL 35553  
205-489-5014

**Alabama Forestry Commission  
513 Madison Avenue  
P.O. Box 302550  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2550**

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**[www.forestry.state.al.us](http://www.forestry.state.al.us)**