

Alabama Forestry Commission

***ANNUAL REPORT
2001-2002***



ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

October 1, 2002

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

It is with great pride that I submit this 33rd Annual Report of the Alabama Forestry Commission for the State Fiscal Year 2001-2002 to you and the citizens of our great state.

The beginning of the year brought the release of the Forestry Inventory Analysis (FIA) results. Alabama's timber resource had a net gain of one million acres over the 1990 survey bringing the total number of acres of forested land in Alabama to 22.9 million acres. This gain was partially due to the outstanding efforts of resource managers working with our state's landowners to manage their land in the most productive methods. This year 118 new TREASURE Forests with over 40 thousand acres were certified. Currently there are 1,784 landowners in Alabama managing their land under the TREASURE Forest concept with almost two million acres involved. The Alabama Forestry Commission's foresters and technicians wrote approximately 462 TREASURE Forest management plans covering almost 67 thousand acres of forested land.

The Commission hired two new wildlife biologists this past year to work specifically with private landowners in the management of their natural resources. These two biologists joined two others that were already working with the Department of Conservation, Game and Fish Division and the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

In the 2001-2002 year, AFC associates worked hard to assist four new volunteer fire departments reach certification. Currently Alabama has 992 volunteer departments serving the majority of the citizens of the state. During the year Alabama experienced 4,242 wild land fires that burned 50,327 acres. I am proud to say that Commission fire-fighters helped save approximately 1,255 homes and 417 other structures from damage or destruction from wild-fire.

The Alabama Forestry Commission continues its commitment to minority outreach efforts, designing and implementing programs that will help identify and serve the needs of our state's minority landowners.

Finally, 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 through forestry. I am assured that they will carry out their responsibilities with efficiency, professionalism, and pride. These associates are listed on pages 24 and 25 of this report.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Boyce
State Forester

CONTENTS

Organization Officials	6
Administrative	7
Personnel	
Financial Services	
Equipment	
Central Shop	
Federal Excess Property	
Protection	10
Fire Suppression	
Hazard Mitigation	
Preparedness	
Communications	
Rural Community Fire Protection	
Law Enforcement	
Southern Pine Beetle Program	
Service	15
Forest Management Assistance	
TREASURE Forest	
National Stewardship Program	
Cost-Share Assistance	
Outreach	
Alabama's BMPs for Forestry	
State Lands	
Marketing and Economic Development	
Resource Information and Analysis	
Forest Inventory and Analysis	
Nurseries	
Tree Improvement	
Geneva State Forest Management	
Alabama Forestry Commission Associates	22
Directory of Alabama Forestry Commission County Offices	24



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

PERSONNEL

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) reached the goal of having three associates in every county for this fiscal year. This staffing requirement was considered a priority during 2002 in order to fight wildfires safely and adequately provide other services the public expects from the agency. Current vacancies are now due to retirements and separations.

The AFC personnel section was very active during 2002, due to several retirements associated with the implementation of the Hazardous Duty bill.

Personnel worked diligently to assure that positions were quickly filled with emphasis placed on maintaining the three associates in each county. (See Figure 1 below.)

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

Commission employees to slightly more than 390. That number represents a substantial improvement in staffing over the past several years. Virtually all of the additional employees have been assigned to county-level positions in order to strengthen the AFC's work in the areas of landowner assistance as well as fire prevention and control.

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 8 (Figure 2) was prepared with unaudited data. Also included in this annual report is a Balance Sheet for Fiscal Year 2001-2002, which is found on page 9 (Figure 3).

Figure 1
Alabama Forestry Commission Staffing for Fiscal Years Ending September 30

Category	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Clerical	40	37	31.5	32	31	29	29	26	25
Programming	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Accounting	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
General Services	4	3	2	4	4	4	4	3	3
Information/Education	5	5	5	4.5	4.5	5.5	5.5	4	5
Communications	26	23	21	24	24	22	24	23	22
Forestry Specialist/ Ranger/Worker ¹	219	198	168	165	161	148	152	161	167
Forester/Manager/ Specialist/Director	103	103	127	124	125	124	125	125	122
Nursery ²	10	5							
Aviation	13	11	9	8	8	6	6	6	5
Maintenance	9	9	8	8	7	7	7	6	5
Executive	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	5	5
Total	438	403	379.5	376.5	372.5	352.5	359.5	363	363
Net		-35	-23.5	-3	-4	-20	+7	+3.5	0

¹Forestry Specialists are included in this category since 2002.

²Consolidated with Forest Ranger and Forester categories in 1996.

Figure 2

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

	Actual					
	FY99	FY00	FY01	FY02	FY02 Budget	Balance
Expenditures						
Personnel	12,672,071	12,631,591	13,059,551	13,644,792	13,646,999	2,207
Fringe Benefits	2,662,040	2,950,984	3,231,699	3,517,008	3,517,293	205
In State Travel	355,403	305,571	279,243	342,150	387,811	45,661
Out Of State Travel	13,903	11,169	8,445	9,965	19,609	9,644
Repairs and Maintenance	559,981	365,407	282,906	286,247	385,510	99,263
Rental and Leases	343,873	317,271	202,214	166,817	185,819	19,002
Utilities and Communications	648,501	658,937	761,620	679,733	772,888	93,155
Professional Services	928,604	1,005,519	714,768	768,678	1,014,624	245,946
Supplies	1,330,519	1,047,091	1,067,061	1,186,396	1,285,665	99,269
Transportation Operations	1,335,389	1,372,516	1,308,437	1,128,886	1,235,714	106,828
Grants and Benefits	3,168,664	3,872,123	4,249,712	4,198,119	5,670,472	1,472,353
Transportation Equipment	2,028,973	3,116,145	2,060,745	1,541,333	1,554,000	12,667
Other Equipment	571,216	83,357	217,457	197,295	256,641	59,347
Excess Available						
Total Expenditures	26,619,139	27,737,680	27,443,857	27,667,499	29,933,046	2,265,546
Revenue Budget						
AFC Funds:						
Severance Tax	6,428,809	7,452,067	5,630,264	5,702,757		
Timber and Turpentine	46,377	46,141	43,438	44,744		
Fishing Permits	2,112	565	0	1,089		
Fines and Forfeits	8,358	22,234	11,185	6,387		
Radio Leases	1,580	600	0	0		
Oil Royalties	4,670	6,623	6,929	7,833		
Miscellaneous	23,072	2,877	1,836	3,790		
Prior Year Refunds	37,760	23,966	36,155	90,887		
Contract Services	0	131,045	0	0		
Equipment Sales	0	0	60	33,622		
Timber Sales	307,826	959,484	724,930	1,629,997		
Other Sales	65,793	16,944	23,369	975		
Seedling Sales	1,737,765	1,458,880	1,009,068	606,450		
Donations	0	0	0	0		
Intragovernment Sales	61,000	18,541	52,704	0		
Equipment Rentals	957	1,347	46	49		
Other Rents	16,483	17,692	19,975	18,710		
Plowing Firebreaks	145,457	126,079	96,999	150,515		
Prescribed Burning	185,290	185,944	104,674	165,344		
AFC Funds	9,073,308	10,471,029	7,761,633	8,463,150	8,463,149	(0)
State General Fund	12,806,224	13,699,132	14,168,191	14,269,611	14,269,611	0
Federal Funds						
Federal Grants	2,246,305	2,912,454	4,253,792	4,750,389		
Federal Agreements	9,845	13,135	244,942	209,913		
Federal Reimbursements	182,471	11,428	124,563	26,924		
Total Federal Funds	2,438,620	2,937,018	4,623,298	4,987,225	3,229,405	(1,757,820)
Local Funds						
County Appropriations	277,015	255,860	268,571	243,261		
Acreage Assessments	1,784,305	1,777,097	1,792,214	1,814,565		
Local Grants	20,543	9,651	565	4,349		
Total Local Funds	2,081,863	2,042,608	2,061,350	2,062,175	2,062,173	(2)
Budgetary Transfers In (Out)						
Supplement						
Severance Tax—County Share						
Operating Transfers						
Capital Transfers	(482,509)	(967,569)	(362,821)	(418,060)	(418,060)	0
Total Transfers	(482,509)	(967,569)	(362,821)	(418,060)	(418,060)	0
AFC Balance Forward	973,679	615,204	1,343,396	369,884	369,884	0
Federal Balance Forward	803,559	144,864	176,747	1,958,052	1,958,052	0
Local Balance Forward		315,537		0	0	0
Total Forward	1,777,238	1,075,605	1,520,143	2,327,936	2,327,936	0
Total Revenues and Transfers	27,694,744	29,257,823	29,771,793	31,692,036	29,934,214	(1,757,823)
Capital Transfers	482,509	967,569	362,821	418,060	418,060	
Capital Outlay	337,035	323,715	157,327	149,261	327,660	178,399
Unallotted Capital Transfers				0	90,400	
Reserve for Capital Outlay	145,474	643,854	205,494	268,799		
Agency Cash Available	28,177,253	30,225,392	30,134,614	32,110,096	32,352,274	(1,757,823)
Agency Expended and Reserved	27,101,648	28,705,249	27,806,678	28,085,559	30,351,106	2,443,945
Ending Cash Balance	1,075,605	1,520,143	2,327,936	4,024,537	1,168	(4,201,768)

Figure 3

**Alabama Forestry Commission
Fund Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2002**

	AFC Operations Fund	Emergency Fund	Stewardship Tag Fund	County Tobacco Tax Fund	Severance Tax Fund
Cash	7,347,835.93	95,778.29	157,812.77	50,816.22	53.28
Accounts Receivable					
Due from Other Funds	53.28				
Advance Travel					
Assets	7,347,889.21	95,778.29	157,812.77	50,816.22	53.28
Vouchers Payable					
Seedling Sale Deposits	75,080.85				
Due to Other Funds					53.28
Due to Other Governments					
Clay County				0.06	
Henry County				4,698.39	
Limestone County				26,110.94	
Randolph County				8,938.82	
Blount County				11,068.01	
Deferred Revenue:					
Federal Funds					
Local Funds					
Due to Employees					
Accounts Payable					
Receipts Pending Disbursement	11,054.00				
Liabilities	86,134.85	0.00	0.00	50,816.22	53.28
Reserve for Pre-Encumbrances					
Reserve for Encumbrances	1,837,424.88				
Reserve for Capital Outlay					
FY 96	0.00				
FY 97	0.00				
FY 98	136,118.19				
FY 99	145,474.20				
FY 00	643,854.02				
FY 01	205,493.93				
FY 02	268,798.93				
Unalloted Capital Transfers	0.00				
Reserved Fund Balance	3,237,164.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unreserved Fund Balance	4,024,590.21	95,778.29	157,812.77	0.00	0.00
Liabilities and Fund Balance	7,347,889.21	95,778.29	157,812.77	50,816.22	53.28

EQUIPMENT

The equipment section of the AFC made several new acquisitions in the past year. New units included nine International Type II transports fitted with drooping apron beds, seven John Deere 550H tractors fitted with the forestry protection package, four one-half-ton 4X4 pickups, one three-quarter-ton 2X4 pickup, and six sedans.

A federal grant for hazardous fuel mitigation allowed us to purchase seven Honda Rancher 4X4 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) that will be used for prescribed burns, eighteen water tanks with Aquaduk pumps designed to work on Commission pickup trucks, and four American Pace Cargo trailers to be outfitted as fire caches for regional support of fire fighter hand crews. An assortment of firefighting hand tools and personal protective equipment to outfit a 20-man crew was purchased and placed into each trailer.

CENTRAL SHOP

The Central Shop repaired 24 crawler tractors and 58 transports, pickups, sedans, and other state-owned equipment. They processed 60 Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) trucks through the shop and placed them on line, ready for issue to fire departments. The shop filled requests for 119 RCFP parts.

A total of 40 vehicles were condemned and transferred to the State sale lot along with 600 other property items.

Figure 4

Items Acquired from the Federal Excess Property Program During Fiscal Year 2001-2002

<u>Property</u>	<u>Value</u>
Farm tractors/heavy equipment (5)	\$95,450.00
Water tankers (5)	265,682.00
Tools, turnout gear, generators, compressors, & shop equipment	92,345.00
Diesel Engines (4)	17,667.00
Fire/crash trucks (3)	277,451.00
Bus (1)	18,082.00
Communication/Utility Vans (8)	115,337.00
Flatbed/Utility Trucks (17)	691,929.00
Pickup/Brush Trucks (30)	364,746.00
Total Value of Property Received	\$1,938,689.00

FEDERAL EXCESS PROPERTY

The Fire Division is responsible for the acquisition of excess property from military bases throughout the Southeastern United States. Once the equipment is screened and picked-up from the bases, it is inventoried and processed through our Central Shop in Autaugaville. It is then warehoused and distributed to the regions for fire sup-

pression use, primarily by volunteer fire departments and in some cases by the Alabama Forestry Commission. The property is kept on inventory for the duration of its usable life, and then it is sold at auction.

Items acquired from the Federal Excess Property Program last year are listed in Figure 4 above.

PROTECTION

FIRE SUPPRESSION

During fiscal year 2001-2002, Alabama experienced a recurrence of the drought that has plagued the Southeast for several years. During the year, Alabama experienced 4,242 wild land fires that burned 50,327 acres. The number of fires was five percent higher than the previous five-year average, while acres burned was twelve percent above the average. These trends reflect the impact of the drought on fire behavior. The total number of fires and acres burned by county are shown in Figure 5 on page 12.

The Alabama Forestry Commission continued to push safety as the number one priority throughout the year. The Commission is in the fourth year of implementing its new physical standards for frontline fire fighters, in accordance with the National Wildfire Coordinating Group standards. The 2002 pack test had a 90 percent pass rate.

Wild land fires destroyed 28 homes and 114 other structures and damaged 34 others. However, through the efforts of the AFC, 1,255 homes and 417 other structures were saved from burning.

Last fall's drought forced the Commission to declare a fire alert for all

of the eastern half of the state and a drought emergency in seven northeastern counties during November. The drought emergency was lifted on November 26, 2001. During this period, the State Emergency Management Agency (EMA) coordinated a request to Governor Siegelman for use of the Alabama National Guard helicopter to drop water on a wildfire in Jackson County that was in difficult terrain and threatening residences. A short fire alert was issued for Southeast Alabama on May 6, 2002, due to heavy smoke drifting into the area from a major wildfire in Georgia.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Our focus continued on prescribed burning and firebreak construction for landowners near wild land/urban interface areas. Through this program, the Commission prescribe burned about 26,000 acres and built over 900 miles of permanent firebreaks.

The AFC also worked to increase landowner and rural homeowner awareness of the wildfire hazard through a series of educational programs on the subject of FIREWISE protection and prescribed burning. During the year, over 60 workshops were held reaching over 600 rural homeowners.

PREPAREDNESS

The Commission worked to improve its wild land fire suppression capability by upgrading its equipment.

All AFC fire fighters were outfitted with new Nomex personal protective gear which included a Nomex wildland jacket and trousers, a safety helmet, goggles, goggle retainer (to secure the goggles to the helmet), a helmet headlamp, Nomex face/neck protector, leather gloves, web belt and suspenders. In addition to greatly improving the safety of the gear, this updated equipment will allow all AFC firefighting personnel to exhibit a professional image in all encounters with the public.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Alabama Forestry Commission owns and maintains two mobile communications systems: a statewide VHF system for Commission use and a UHF system for volunteer fire departments across the state.

Funds were made available in 2002 to purchase 18 new repeaters at a cost of \$4,500 each. The installation of this equipment replaced repeaters that were over twenty years old, improving the reliability of the VHF system. However, replacement of another 47 repeaters is needed in the future.

Three years ago, the Commission began upgrading the UHF radio system it provided for the volunteer fire service. New multi-channel radios allowed the AFC the capability to program local volunteer fire departments into the Commission VHF radios. However, only 19 counties in the state utilize the VHF radio frequencies while approximately

48 counties use the UHF system. Those county fire departments utilizing the Rural Community Fire Protection UHF radio system could not communicate with the Commission's VHF radio system during a fire situation. This created many problems, especially when AFC firefighting personnel and a volunteer fire department were on the same fire or assisting with other disasters in a local area.

Federal funds available to the Commission last year were used toward implementing this project upgrade. A total of 57 new multi-channel radios were purchased with a special feature that allows a connection between the forestry VHF radios and the new UHF radios. Turning a switch on the control panel allows the capability of cross talk or mobile repeater. Installation of the new radios began on October 1, 2002, with enough to cover the 20 counties with the highest fire occurrence. These federal funds will be available to the Commission for the coming year also.

RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

This year for the first time, the Alabama Forestry Commission awarded Wild Land Fire Prevention Grants to the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments. The Association subsequently administered a program by making sub-grants to individual volunteer fire departments.

The Alabama Forestry Commission assists in forming new volunteer fire departments in areas where fire protection is needed. In 2002, the formation of four new departments was accomplished, bringing the total number of fire departments statewide to 992. Volunteer fire departments serve their communities by working to prevent fires through educating the public on fire safety as well as preparing and training firefighters to control a fire should prevention fail.

In Fiscal Year 2002, a record number of certified volunteer fire departments applied for the Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) grant, resulting in 991 departments being awarded a grant in the amount of \$2,436.80. Additionally, grants of approximately \$500 dollars were awarded to each of the 67 county fire associations, and the eight district

fire associations were each awarded a \$200 dollar grant.

RCFP Steering Committee

The Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) Steering Committee was created under Alabama law to provide recommendations to the State Forester on all issues that affect the volunteer fire service. This committee is composed of twenty-five volunteer firefighters from the AFC's four forestry regions.

Firefighter Appreciation Day

Volunteer firefighters from across the state gathered in Valley, Alabama for the 18th Annual Firefighter Appreciation Day. This day of fun and relaxation for volunteer firefighters and their families, jointly sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Rural Community Fire Protection Steering Committee, is held each year in recognition of the service provided to the people of Alabama by local volunteer fire departments. This year, Chambers County Fire & Rescue Association hosted the event which was held at the Sportsplex in the city of Valley.

Over five hundred firefighters and their families enjoyed the day's events: camp stew cook-off, cake bake-off, chili cook-off, brush truck competition, and firefighter competition. The highlight of each year's event is the drawing for the "Brush Truck," a federal excess property truck which the Commission provides, painted the traditional "fire truck red" and equipped with a two hundred gallon tank and pump. All firefighters in attendance are eligible to register to win the use of this truck, which is put on permanent loan to the volunteer department of the winner. Rusty Gates of Fulton Volunteer Fire Department in Clarke County was the lucky firefighter for 2002.

During the Awards Banquet each year, the RCFP Steering Committee makes several presentations for exceptional service. Two Alabama Forestry Commission employees were recognized for their outstanding work with volunteer fire departments: Clayton Schwind of Chambers County received the County Manager Award for 2002 and the 2002 Associate of the Year was presented to Jeremiah (Bull) Rodgers of Pike County. The Grant Volunteer Fire Department in Marshall County received the "Walter

Figure 5

Wildland Fire Statistics by County

October 1, 2001 - September 30, 2002

County	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Average Size	County	Number of Fires	Acres Burned	Average Size
Autauga	92	297.4	3.2	Houston	19	150.2	7.9
Baldwin	195	3,644.6	18.8	Jackson	49	2,708.9	55.3
Barbour	44	401.1	9.1	Jefferson	96	784.0	8.2
Bibb	61	394.2	6.5	Lamar	15	211.0	14.1
Blount	42	269.5	6.4	Lauderdale	60	393.7	6.8
Bullock	71	1,598.3	22.5	Lawrence	42	572.6	13.6
Butler	71	843.3	12.1	Lee	53	334.9	6.3
Calhoun	61	690.1	11.3	Limestone	7	26.5	3.8
Chambers	90	298.5	3.3	Lowndes	39	262.4	6.7
Cherokee	153	2,219.1	14.5	Macon	149	4,133.1	27.7
Chilton	112	465.5	4.2	Madison	16	80.0	5.0
Choctaw	30	107.1	3.6	Marengo	40	292.3	7.3
Clarke	37	152.1	4.1	Marion	50	789.0	15.8
Clay	92	946.2	10.3	Marshall	19	523.5	27.6
Cleburne	120	3,198.3	26.7	Mobile	252	4,833.5	19.2
Coffee	29	241.6	8.3	Monroe	57	374.4	6.6
Colbert	41	157.6	3.8	Montgomery	22	213.5	9.7
Conecuh	79	577.5	7.3	Morgan	26	166.4	6.4
Coosa	47	533.8	11.4	Perry	44	141.1	3.2
Covington	63	715.5	11.4	Pickens	22	174.9	8.0
Crenshaw	33	125.6	3.8	Pike	24	126.9	5.3
Cullman	23	205.4	8.9	Randolph	61	542.2	8.9
Dale	19	105.2	5.5	Russell	139	1,659.1	12.0
Dallas	40	238.2	6.0	Shelby	79	735.9	9.3
DeKalb	82	1,480.3	18.1	St. Clair	76	522.0	6.9
Elmore	110	949.1	8.6	Sumter	17	80.9	4.8
Escambia	91	1,230.5	13.5	Talladega	169	1,902.5	11.3
Etowah	70	1,149.1	16.4	Tallapoosa	89	381.1	4.3
Fayette	23	89.0	3.9	Tuscaloosa	47	279.3	6.0
Franklin	45	856.2	19.0	Walker	75	579.9	7.7
Geneva	20	184.3	9.2	Washington	121	1,255.1	10.4
Greene	41	119.2	2.9	Wilcox	64	227.6	3.6
Hale	23	115.0	5.0	Winston	31	147.7	4.8
Henry	23	122.5	5.3	State Totals	4,242	50,326.93	11.9

Vest Award” as the Outstanding Volunteer Fire Department of the Year. This year’s recipient of the “Ray Tucker Memorial Award” was Lawrence Huffman of Colbert County, recognizing him as outstanding member of the RCFP Steering Committee.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Commission currently has 58 law enforcement officers. Four have full-time law enforcement responsibilities and the remainder have forestry responsibilities in addition to enforcement.

Fiscal year reports account for 78 arrests associated with fines, court costs, and restitution of \$185,182. A total of 110 investigations resulted in civil action associated with \$37,800 in court judgments. In ten actions, officers applied suppression charges instead of arrests to account for \$2,265. There were 92 Unlawful Burning Notices (UBN) issued. The UBN is like a warning ticket; it requires no court action but officially notifies an individual of a violation and requires action if another incident occurs.

The Alabama Forestry Association, through the Alabama Loggers Council, sponsors a reward program associated with information that helps forestry investigations. The program is very valuable but produced no applications for this fiscal year.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

The overall Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) situation in 2002 went from both large numbers and size of spots in the Northwest (NW) Region to a shift of the epidemic toward central and south Alabama. The number of new spots statewide stayed fairly constant (1,012 spots in January to 1,837 spots in September). This was welcomed news from the record setting numbers in 2000 and 2001. The control efforts increased in the northern regions and this effort was reflected in the drastic decrease in the number of active infestations.

Overall private forest landowners did an excellent job in their control efforts.

The total number of spots for 2002 was 4,966. The control rate varied from the northern to the southern regions with an overall control rate of 52 percent. For 2002, the economic impact of SPB was

\$7.4 Million. This is significantly lower than past years.

During the January/February 2002 SPB detection flight, there were 1,012 active spots containing 100,134 infested pines. The northern regions had the vast majority of the active spots. The NW Region had 422 spots with 75,209 infested trees and the Northeast (NE) Region had 486 spots with 21,445 infested trees. There were active infestations in 43 counties and 21 of these counties were under epidemic conditions. The worst counties were Shelby, Calhoun, Walker, Jefferson, Jackson, Cherokee, DeKalb, Tuscaloosa, and St. Clair.

With the early drought conditions the situation changed during the April/May detection flight. During the winter flight, 91% of the active spots had been in the NW and NE Regions. The spring flight showed the distribution of the beetle epidemic shifting southward, with the NW Region having 23%, the NE Region having 35 %, and the Southeast (SE) Region having 35% of the total spots. However, the larger spots were still in the NW and NE Regions. There were 50 counties with active SPB infestations and 23 counties were classified as epidemic. The counties with the worst problems were: Russell, Bullock, Shelby, DeKalb, Jackson, Macon, Lowndes, Calhoun, St. Clair, Cherokee, and Marengo.

Statewide during the June/July flight there were 1,774 active spots containing 61,320 infested trees. The location of the beetle epidemic continued shifting southward, with the NW Region having only 6% of the spots and the other regions sharing the remaining active spots. There were 54 counties with active southern pine beetle infestations

and 36 counties were classified as epidemic. The worst counties at this time were: Bullock, Lowndes, Wilcox, Marengo, Clarke, Russell, Monroe, Macon, Calhoun, and Lee.

Statewide during the August/September flight there were 1,837 active spots containing 56,500 infested trees. The numbers of spots were located as follows: NW Region, 2%; NE, 28%; SE, 37%; and Southwest (SW), 32%. These numbers were essentially level from the June/July flight. This indicated that the control efforts in some counties were taking effect. There were 48 counties with active SPB infestations, 31 of these being epidemic. The worst counties going into the winter were: Wilcox, Marengo, Bullock, Macon, Russell, Coosa, Cherokee, DeKalb, Monroe, and Clarke.

The tables and maps that follow below and on page 14 show the trends and current conditions of SPB spots and salvage information for the year. The number of SPB spots and infested trees have stabilized during the last two flights of the season, and for the first time in several years the forest landowners have a chance to stop the epidemic. Control during the winter months is highly effective: each spot controlled in the winter reduces the number of spots for the next summer. As the Commission assists landowners with aggressively controlling Southern Pine Beetle spots, Alabama forests should be in better condition next year.

The AFC will begin aerial SPB detection flights again in January of 2003.

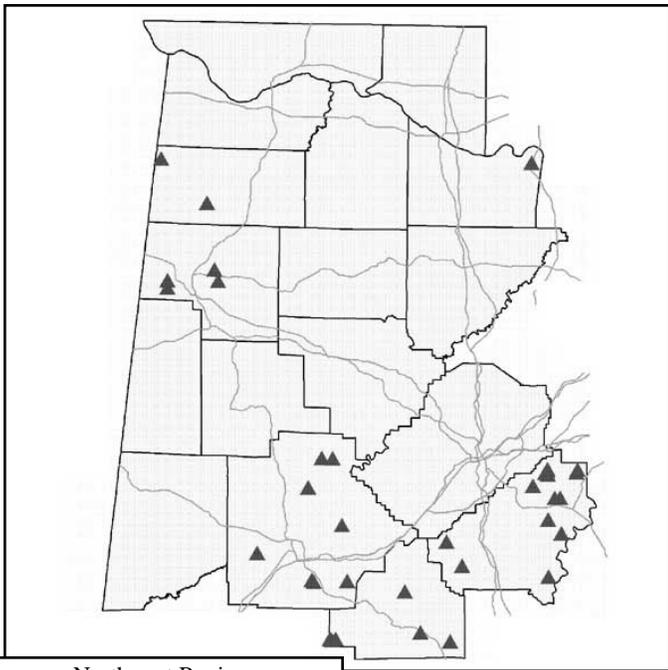
Figure 6

Number of SPB Spots by Detection Flight FY 2002

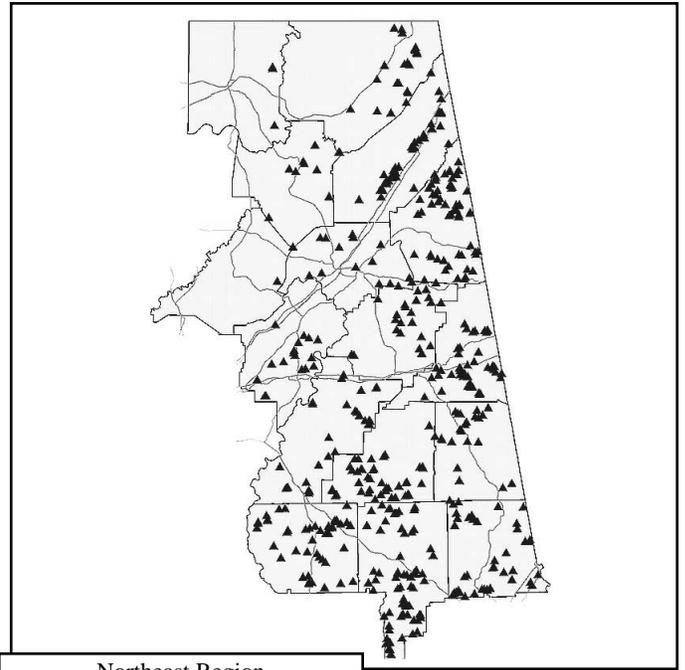
Region	Jan/Feb	Apr/May	Jun/Jul	Aug/Sep
Northwest	422	226	103	44
Northeast	486	346	526	515
Southeast	56	351	624	688
Southwest	48	111	521	590
Total	1,012	1,034	1,774	1,837

Figure 7

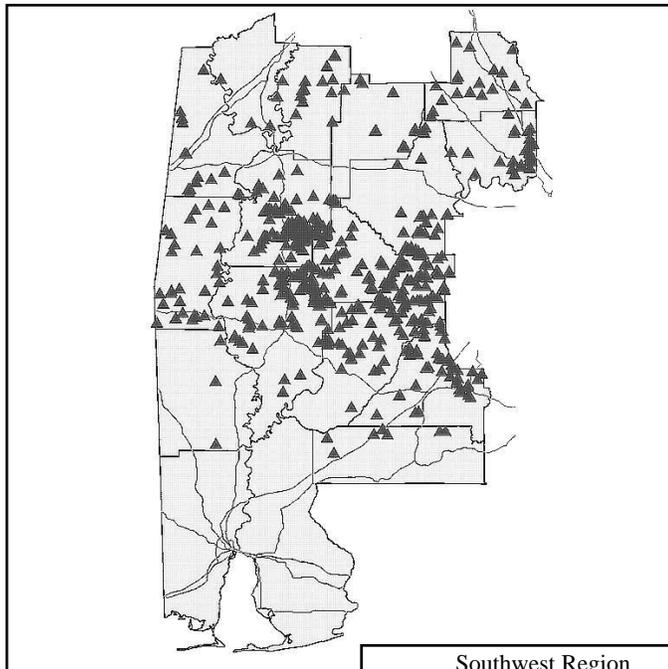
Southern Pine Beetle Control Data for Fiscal Year 2001-2002



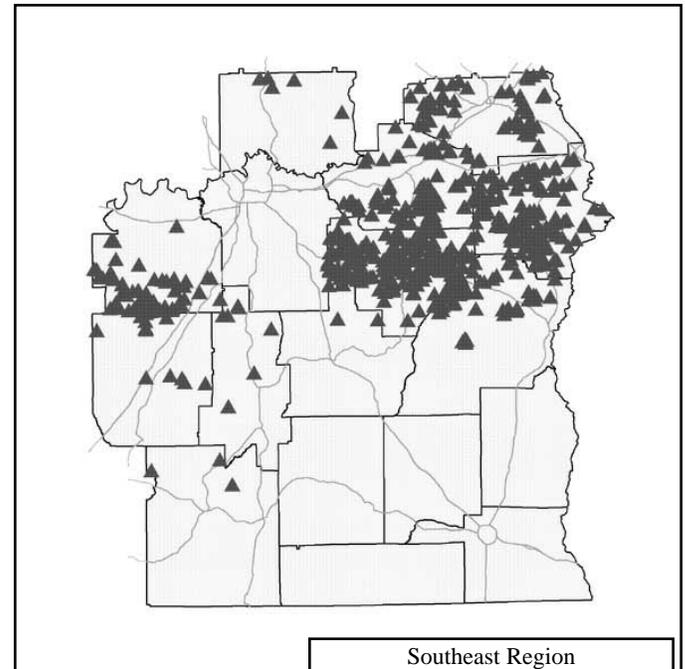
Northwest Region
Active SPB Spots Fall 2002 Fight



Northeast Region
Active SPB Spots Fall 2002 Fight



Southwest Region
Active SPB Spots Fall 2002 Fight



Southeast Region
Active SPB Spots Fall 2002 Fight

Figure 8

Statewide Spot Control Data - FY 2002

Region	# Spots	Spots Controlled	Percent Controlled	Salvaged Cords	Salvaged MBF
Northwest	637	572	88	1,418	156
Northeast	1,511	980	65	12,804	167
Southeast	1,570	656	42	2,409	28
Southwest	1,248	378	30	1,709	25
Total	4,966	2,586	52	42,684	376

SERVICE

FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

An important part of the Forestry Commission's threefold mission is to assist landowners to carry out responsible forest management on their property. Our professional foresters and rangers provide technical assistance to private landowners. This helps the Commission increase the forest resources of the state, which is one of the legislative mandates for our agency. The following programs are the primary avenues used to provide this assistance:

- TREASURE Forest Program
- National Stewardship Program
- Forestry Cost-Share Assistance Programs

Collectively, AFC assistance through these programs was a catalyst for the implementation of professional forest management practices on over 324,000 acres of private forestland in Alabama (see Figure 9).

Figure 9

Statewide Forest Management Accomplishments FY 02

Program	Landowners Assisted	Acres Impacted
TREASURE Forest Management Plans	462	66,786
New TREASURE Forests Certified	118	40,518
Stand Management Recommendations	1,688	121,976
Tree Planting (softwood and hardwood)	781	29,043
Hazardous Fuel Reduction (prescribed burning)	432	30,643
Timber Stand Improvements	678	35,398

TREASURE FOREST

The TREASURE Forest Program was established in 1974 by the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (AFPC). The word TREASURE is an acronym for **T**imber, **R**ecreation, **E**nvironment, **A**esthetics, for a **S**ustained **U**seable **R**ESource. 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 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 land.

This year, 118 new TREASURE Forests totaling 40,518 acres were certified. Currently there are 1,784 certified TREASURE Forests in Alabama that collectively represent 1.82 million acres of forestland under TREASURE Forest management. To further the purposes of the TREASURE Forest program, 462 TREASURE Forest management plans, covering 66,786 acres of Alabama forestland, were written this year. Over a thousand TREASURE Forest management plans have been written during the past three years.

The average number of annual landowner certifications and acres accepted into the TREASURE Forest Program has increased by 96 percent and 59 percent, respectively, during the past four years, as compared to the average from the previous five years (see Figure 10).

The AFC has developed two new forms to assist landowners in the Stewardship/TREASURE Forest process. The first is the *Application form*. Landowners interested in managing their property under the TREASURE Forest

Figure 10

New TREASURE Forest Landowner Acres Certified

Year	TREASURE Forests		Acres	Average
	Certified	Average		
2001-02	118*		40,518	
2000-01	161	155 (4 year avg)	93,630	70,261 (4 year avg)
1999-00	152		83,308	
1998-99	189		63,589	

1997-98	126		55,128	
1996-97	92		63,487	
1995-96	57	79 (5 year avg)	37,737	44,281 (5 year avg)
1994-95	48		27,532	
1993-94	73		37,521	

*Due to a rescheduling of the Subcommittee's meetings in FY2002, there were only 3 meetings rather than the usual 4.

philosophy can submit this form and request a visit from an AFC resource professional. The second new form is the *Nomination form*. It is used to submit a landowner's name for TREASURE Forest Certification. This form provides an opportunity for individuals outside our organization to nominate a deserving landowner. Both forms are submitted to the AFC's Stewardship/TREASURE Forest Coordinator at the Alabama Forestry Commission State Office. (These forms are currently available on the AFC's website.)

The AFC conducted four week-long TREASURE Forest training sessions for its employees at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center in April and May of 2002.

These workshops were designed to educate our employees on the TREASURE Forest program, which has undergone numerous changes over the last several years. A total of 74 foresters, county managers, and wildlife biologists completed the training. This was the first statewide TREASURE Forest management training conducted in several years. All the participants felt the training was valuable and helped to clarify the TREASURE Forest Management Plan procedures.

NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Several activities were conducted as part of the National Stewardship Program. The TREASURE Forest program is a primary component of the Stewardship Program. Many additional activities were also conducted to provide technical assistance and education to forest landowners.

Four wildlife biologists were employed to provide specific wildlife information to landowners. These biologists work across the State to provide individualized recommendations based on the landowner's objectives and resources on their property.

The Commission continues to publish the *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* quarterly magazine and periodically produces other publications designed to educate forest landowners with proper management techniques.

The Commission continues to support other organizations and groups who promote good forest management. An exam-

ple of this support includes assisting the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association. This group is actively engaging landowners to properly manage their forestlands. They also provide training workshops and mentoring programs to landowners. Other examples include the Teacher's Conference Workshop, Forests Forever, and Project Learning Tree (PLT) programs, where teachers from across the state gain valuable information from a variety of resource professionals to use in their classrooms.

The Commission also continues to support the annual Alabama Forestry Camp for youth interested in forestry. The agency supports the efforts of Alabama A&M University, and complements them with a staff of outreach foresters and county managers to provide technical assistance and education to underserved landowners.

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 Alabama Forestry Commission performs the crucial function of providing technical guidance to guarantee that efficient and professional forest management is practiced on Alabama lands through each cost-share program. AFC county associates provide sound technical specifications and recommendations 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. During the year Commission personnel provided written guidance and inspected such forestry practices as tree planting, timber stand improvement, recreational enhancement, fire lane plowing, and prescribed burning on more than 2,700 sites covering approximately 188,000 acres of Alabama forestland.

Stewardship Incentive Program 2002 Forest Health Initiative

The Stewardship Incentive Program (SIP) Forest Health Initiative sign-up was created to encourage landowners to reduce the vulnerability of existing and newly established pine stands to insect and disease infestations, especially from the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB). Financial assistance (cost share) was provided to encourage proper stand establishment practices and intermediate treatments known to reduce the susceptibility for forest health problems. Funds were provided by the USDA Forest Service and administered by the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Eligible landowners included private individuals, joint owners, non-wood using corporations, and non-profit organizations that have a TREASURE Forest/Stewardship Management Plan.

Eligible stands included pine stands harvested or killed by SPB, pine stands rated as high SPB hazards and needing stand treatments, and areas needing low-density tree planting. This year the program assisted 65 landowners with over 2,400 acres.

ALABAMA'S BMPs FOR FORESTRY

The Alabama Forestry Commission continued its 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* 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 Commission also worked with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to address water quality complaints associated with forestry operations. Commission personnel responded to 43 water quality complaints received by ADEM, Alabama's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) hotline, and the public where forestry operations were cited as the potential cause. When responding, AFC personnel notified the appropriate landowner to get permission to visit the

site and determine if a forestry practice was involved and if BMPs were properly used during the operation. If BMPs are not followed, Commission personnel work with the landowner, timber harvester, and timber buyer to educate them on the proper use and benefits of BMPs. The AFC outlines specific, voluntary measures that can be used to successfully resolve problems associated with the operation in question. In most cases, Commission recommendations are followed, the problems are voluntarily corrected, ADEM is notified, and the case is closed. On the few occasions where the voluntary measures are not initiated, the case is referred to ADEM for further action at their discretion (see Figure 11). Only ADEM has the mandated authority to enforce state and federal water quality laws in Alabama.

In addition, AFC personnel conducted 213 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 95 percent of the sites monitored in the southern half of the state, BMPs were properly applied during the timber harvest operation.

Water quality issues continue to be a major concern in the natural resources management field. Non Point Source pollution (NPS) is a major contributor to water quality degradation on Alabama's

waters. Silvicultural activities are used along with BMP guidelines to reduce sediment levels of Alabama's waterways. The AFC is committed to continue educating landowners and loggers on the proper practices and their implementation.

The Commission conducted a statewide training course to address this water quality issue. All AFC foresters and ranger technicians who are involved with BMP monitoring were required to attend the course. This watershed training gave Commission personnel the ability to report accomplishments relating to water quality on a watershed basis.

OUTREACH

We have continued to upgrade our statewide outreach database and have identified additional landowners and their needs. This year the AFC has assisted a total of 418 minority landowners. This included 227 new contacts and the development of 52 TREASURE Forest Plans. The new assists consisted of 60 cost-share cases, 20 plow and burn cases, 43 assists with Southern Pine Beetle infestations, and 39 TREASURE Forest Plans.

The State Forester's Outreach Advisory Council assists the Commission in identifying and serving the needs of minority landowners.

The Council has three primary objectives. First, to create an atmosphere of trust between the AFC and underserved

forestland owners of Alabama by establishing opportunities to communicate in a timely and consistent manner and to provide a collegial environment for free exchange between the two. The second objective is to assist the AFC in effectively reaching out to underserved forestland owners to identify and address priority areas and provide feedback to the Commission with respect to the effectiveness of the outreach program. Thirdly, the Council hopes to 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.

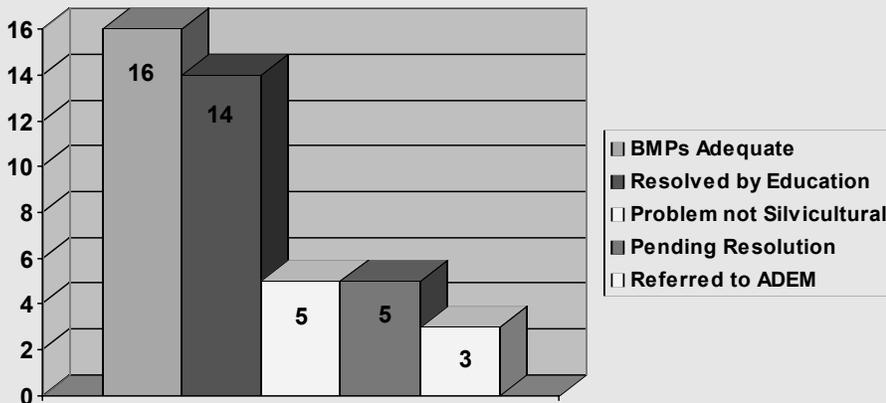
As a result of the advisory council, an innovative research and outreach project has emerged using goats as a tool for fuel reduction and a way for minority landowners to generate year-round income. This project is a collaborative effort with the AFC, Tuskegee University, and Alabama A&M University (AAMU) conducting the research, and the Alabama Department of Agriculture developing the market study/plan.

The project will address whether goat rearing and tree growing together provide (1) a viable land management alternative for landowners and (2) an effective strategy for reducing hazardous wildland-fuel accumulations and the associated wildfire problems. The faculty, staff, and students of Alabama A&M and Tuskegee University will help establish ten herds of goats: two as demonstration projects and eight on private property. Each herd will be treated as a case study and will be a variant on a range of land areas, cover types, and grazing intensities. The landowners will be provided training as well as financial and technical assistance in establishing and managing the herds, and they in turn will provide information about their activities and outcomes to researchers. Records will be maintained and analyzed by AAMU personnel.

The proposed modified tree-farming system could provide a profitable mechanism for hazardous wildland-fuel mitigation and bring about economic development in rural communities. We plan to continue our efforts in increasing the number of participants in subsequent phases.

Figure 11

BMP COMPLAINTS FY 2002



If successful, this pilot study could be expanded into a larger, regionally-funded long-term study. Whatever the results, the findings will be shared by oral and written presentations to landowners and the academic extension communities as a innovative approach to solving economic development and wildland fire problems. This project is being funded through the Economic Action Community Assistance Program under the Title IV Fire Plan.

Through the Commission's outreach efforts this year, minority attendance at TREASURE Forest, Landowner, and other conferences have doubled in some cases. Minority landowners have participated in a number of agri-forestry and technical workshops held throughout the regions.

Other outreach activities included the following:

- Provided financial support to Alabama A&M to hire a part-time person to work with their outreach program for assistance to minority landowners, coordination of outreach council meetings, and recruitment of minority students.
- Participated in the Alabama A&M Center of Excellence program through hiring summer interns and funding a work-study program.
- Provided over ten technical workshops to minority landowners at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Training Center (FSC) including both fire prevention and management courses on equipment training/maintenance, prescribed burns, fire lanes, and buffer zones.
- Provided funds to the FSC to enhance their community-based forestry program.
- Developed a forest demonstration project on FSC's facilities and provided tours for landowners.

In addition to landowner assistance, the Alabama Forestry Commission has aggressively recruited minorities for positions at our headquarters as well as the field. More foresters, forest rangers, and clerical workers have been hired.

Alabama Forestry Camp

For the sixth year, the Commission conducted a successful forestry youth camp. There were 28 students in attendance at the 2002 Alabama Forestry Camp, representing all four regions. The

Camp was held June 3-7 at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives Rural Training Center located near Epes, Alabama.

Students were given instruction in forest management, wildlife management, urban forestry, TREASURE Forest and other natural resource topics. The traditional college/career night was held one evening where representatives from colleges, universities, the wood products industry, and natural resource agencies talked to students about opportunities in the field of forestry.

STATE LANDS

The State Lands section is responsible for the management of three state forests. The section also 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, these lands are used as demonstration areas for various forestry and related practices.

Two work areas that required the greatest amount of time and effort from Commission personnel involved in the state lands program were timber sales and prescribed burning. Accomplishments of the AFC in these areas for the past year, including revenue received, are detailed in Figure 12. Additional work accomplished involved seedling plantings at Fountain, St. Clair, and Tutwiler Correctional Facilities, as well as at Dallas and Coffee County Lakes for a total of 200 acres. Also accomplished was the chemical site preparation of 30 acres in Tuscaloosa County and another chemical release of 80 acres in Tuscaloosa County for the Department of Mental Health.

MARKETING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alabama has the second largest commercial timberland base in the United States. This resource supports a large forest and wood products industry that contributes approximately \$13 billion in value of product shipments annually. It

directly employs 70,000 Alabamians who work for over 850 forestry firms. Forestry is big business in Alabama.

Because of the importance of the forest products industry in Alabama, a survey was conducted which resulted in two published reports during FY 2001-2002. A document called *Alabama's Timber Industry – An Assessment of Timber Product Output and Use* was released which contains findings of changes in forest product output and residue use since 1997. Also, a new directory called the *Directory of Alabama Forest Industries – Primary and Secondary Forest Products* was compiled and completed for the same period. This directory lists all known forest products manufacturers by county, product, and standard industrial classification (SIC) and includes an exporters listing. Both documents are available online.

Since the forest products industry is an Alabama manufacturing leader, Alabama Forestry Commission personnel and partners are working to recruit new markets and expand existing markets for timber stumpage as well as other forest products. To focus on the opportunities that exist through developing the forest and wood products industry, a Forestry Team Program is utilized. 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 AFC 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; Technical Utilization; and Resource Information and Analysis.

Forestry Team and partner highlights over the past year include:

- **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 Commission in 1996 for the purpose of facilitating the growth and development of Alabama's secondary wood processing industry. The ACAWT developed and implements a program of study entitled Wood Products Technology and issues short-term certificates for technical profi-

Figure 12

State Lands Management Revenue

TIMBER SALES	Sale Value	Revenue to AFC
<i>Department of Corrections:</i>		
Fountain Correctional Farm	\$74,015.00	\$7,401.50
Red Eagle Correctional Farm	7,152.00	715.20
St. Clair Correctional Facility (insect salvage)	5,280.00	528.00
Total	\$86,447.00	\$8,644.70
<i>Department of Conservation:</i>		
Monroe County Lake	\$40,000.00	\$4,000.00
<i>Department of Mental Health:</i>		
Romulus Tract	\$101,244.00	\$10,124.40
Morgan Tract	68,477.00	6,847.70
Jaycee Camp Tract	17,000.00	1,700.00
Total	\$186,721.00	\$18,672.10
<i>Alabama Historical Commission:</i>		
Confederate Memorial Park	\$66,580.00	\$4,660.60
Grand Total	\$379,748.00	\$35,977.40

PRESCRIBED BURNING	Acres	Revenue
<i>Department of Corrections:</i>		
Fountain Correctional Farm	190	\$2003.50
<i>Department of Conservation:</i>		
Chambers County Lake	50	\$500.40
Lamar County Lake	65	947.10
Lee County Lake	41	515.15
Coffee County Lake	15	250.00
Dallas County Lake	36	602.28
Total	207	\$2,814.93
Grand Total	397	\$4,818.43

ciency. In 2001-2002 the Center held 17 seminars for industry, directly consulted 11 companies on wood manufacturing technology, and helped form the Alabama Wood Products Council.

- The Commission contracts with the **Alabama International Trade Center (AITC)**, located 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 80 wood products companies in FY 2001-2002. This assistance included tailored market research, export counseling, trade show promotion, and introduction to foreign buyers from around the world. The Center specifically targets Alabama's value-added forest products industries such as furniture, cabinetry, plywood, veneer, dimension, and other building materials. In coop-

eration with AITC, the *Alabama Wood Products Export Directory* is distributed to individuals and companies throughout the United States and to other countries.

- **The Forest Product Development Center**, located on the campus of Auburn University, is sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Commission for the purpose of assisting the forest products industry and community development. The Center is available to help in forest product industrial recruitment, provides assistance and guidance to local communities in attracting forest product manufacturing, and provides technical information and analytical assistance to new and expanding companies. In 2001-2002 the Center worked directly with four potential mill expansion and relocation projects, assisted four local communities in economic development and gave numerous presentations and special studies.

Federal grants brought financial assistance to Alabama in FY 2001-2002 through the National Fire Plan Economic Action Program (EAP). This federal assistance program is administered by the Alabama Forestry Commission and funded four projects for nearly \$200,000. Those projects include Development of Forest Based Projects and Biomass Energy Opportunities for Rural Communities, the Jefferson-Shelby Wildland Urban Interface Extended Outreach Project, a Pilot Study: An Innovative Research and Outreach Approach to Evaluating Goat-Tree Silvo-Pastoral Systems As a Method of Hazardous Wildland-Fuel Mitigation, and Establishment of the FireWise Council of Southwest Alabama to Implement Education and Outreach on Wildland/Urban Interface.

RESOURCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

As part of a continuing collection of data, connections with numerous agencies are maintained including the USDA Forest Service, the Alabama Department of Revenue, the Alabama Executive Budget Office, Alabama Agricultural Statistics, and the US Census Bureau to partner in forestry data sharing.

The USDA Forest Service's Southern Research Station in Knoxville, Tennessee assisted in compiling and distributing the latest available 2000 Alabama periodic survey data on forest volumes, ownership patterns, periodic growth and removals, and other statistics. All survey units have been published (USDA Forest Service Resource Bulletins SRS-55, SRS-56, SRS-66, SRS-64, SRS-63, and SRS-60) and distributed to appropriate Alabama field locations as well as the statewide report SRS-67.

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

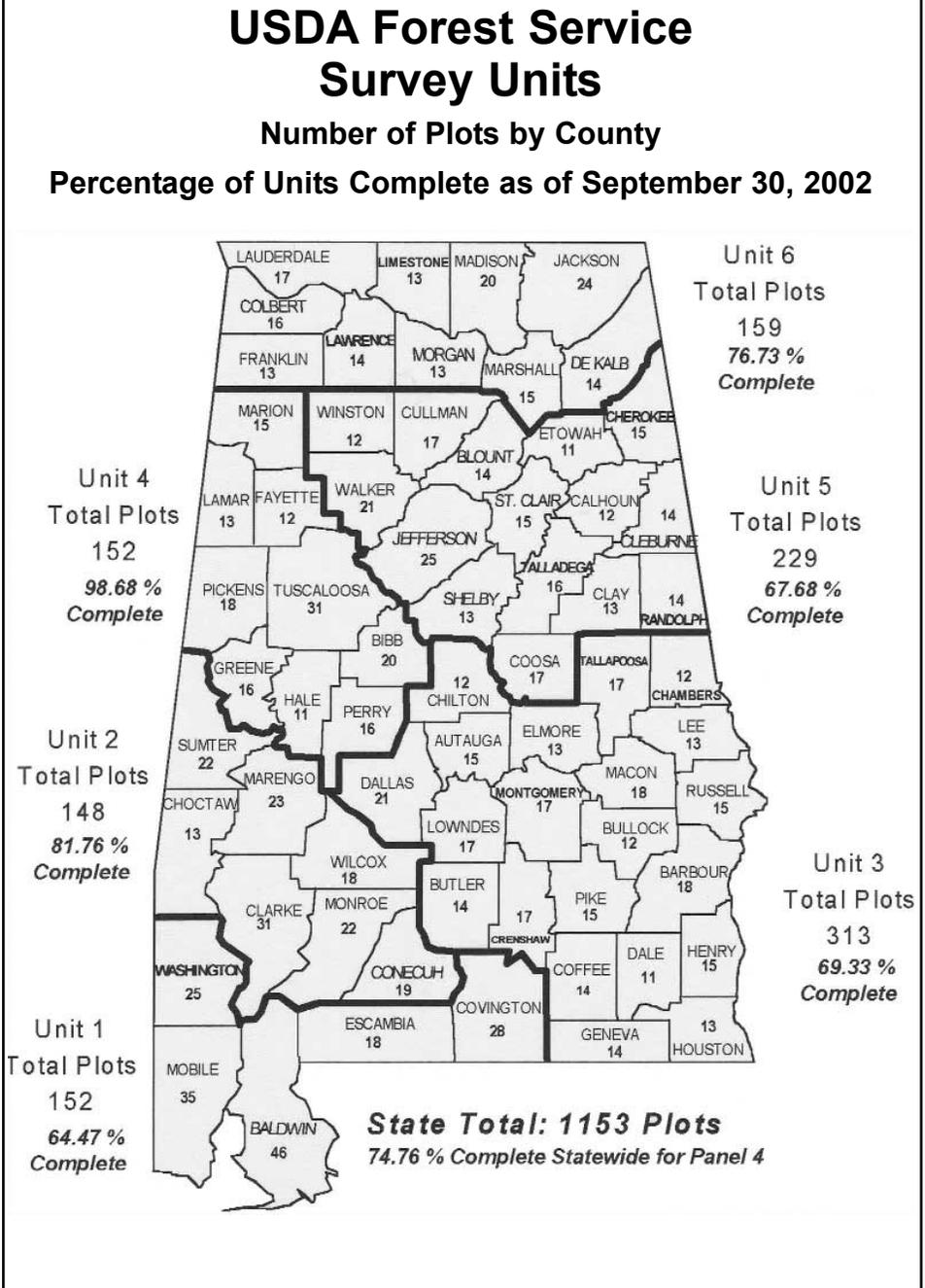
Improvements were incorporated in the agency accomplishment reporting system. This system provides a record of all accomplishments deemed important to the Commission and is collected from all 67 counties. A database has been compiled from these reports through the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2001-02.

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 FY 2001-02. Other publications that were compiled and maintained include *Alabama Forestry Cash Receipt Report*, *Alabama Timber Price Report*, and *Forest Product Production Report*.

FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The Commission's Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) crews, in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, completed the sixth periodic inventory of Alabama's forests and began the Southern Annual Forest Inventory System (SAFIS) inventory. Under SAFIS, 12 FIA crew members will measure approximately 1,160 plots per year (one panel) with the entire project completed in five years. In December 2001, FIA crews finished the first panel of SAFIS (Panel 3). The second panel (Panel 4) was started in January 2002 and should be completed in December 2002.

Figure 13



AFC crews completed 194 plots from October to the completion of Panel 3 in December. Since that time, 862 plots have been measured in Panel 4 of SAFIS (see Figure.13). This is a total of 1,056 plots that have been measured during the 2002 fiscal year. As of September 30, 2002, Panel 4 is 74.76% complete. At this time, we have two USDA Forest Service people assigned to the state that provide Quality Control/Quality Assurance for AFC crews.

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 grew 12-million bare-root seedlings at the E. A. Hauss Nursery near Atmore, and continued to contract for approximately 350,000 containerized seedlings with the Jack Hopper Experimental Forest Nursery at

Wallace State Community College in Hanceville.

Loblolly pine sales fell short of expectations, as the timber market remained weak. The nursery has adjusted for reduced sales next year.

All pine was grown using genetically improved seed obtained from Geneva, Stauffer, and Thorsby Seed Orchards. All loblolly and slash pine seedlings are 1.5- or 2nd- cycle. The nursery continued growing hardwoods, with ten species beneficial to wildlife available for purchase in packages as small as 25 seedlings each.

A new cab tractor was placed into full operation for applying pesticides. The new precision 8-drill seeder planted all the loblolly and slash pine seed this year.

Increased capacity seedling coolers were constructed at Tuscaloosa and Ozark this past year and will make it easier to store and distribute seedlings.

Jake Stauffer Hardwood Orchard/Seedling Distribution Point

Seed harvested for planting at Hauss Nursery continued at Stauffer Nursery as sawtooth oak (928 pounds), autumn olive (7.8 pounds), and American dogwood (16 pounds) were harvested and cleaned. The seedling cooler at Stauffer Nursery was maintained as the nursery continued to be a seedling distribution point.

J. R. Miller Hardwood Orchard/Seedling Distribution Point

The Autaugaville cooler continues to be a distribution point for seedling deliveries. A lease on 40 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 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 high-quality, genetically improved loblolly, slash, and longleaf pine seed. The numbers in Figure 14 reflect seed production at Geneva and Thorsby Seed Orchards.

Seed Orchards

The progeny test measurements continued under leadership from Thorsby Seed Orchard. During the fall and winter, four tests were measured. The orchard produced 1,182 pounds of seed from the second-cycle piedmont loblolly pine orchard.

The Geneva State Forest pine seed orchards provided 2,298 pounds of 1.5-cycle coastal loblolly pine seed, 350 pounds of 2nd-cycle coastal loblolly pine seed, 138 pounds of 1.5-cycle slash pine, and 677 pounds of 1st-cycle longleaf pine.

Continuing with the agency's commitment for advanced improvements is an ongoing activity. A major grafting task was accomplished this year with the first phase of establishing the 3rd-cycle loblolly pine orchards (piedmont and coastal). By grafting clones into position in the orchards the agency will advance the overall establishment by a year. Also grafted this year were poly-mix and sub-line grafts, as assigned by our tree improvement cooperative. Over 2,000 individual grafts were made this season to accomplish this task. A total of 4,500 coastal and 4,500 piedmont pine seedlings were also planted for future grafting rootstock.

Controlled breeding of Livingston Parish clones with our cooperative's coastal pollen mix was achieved in March and April 2002 for intended breeding value tests.

Open pollinated progeny tests of our 2nd-cycle coastal seed orchard clones were shade-house grown and tests were established.

General maintenance and cultural practices continued on the seed orchards, clone banks and archives.

GENEVA STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Geneva State Forest (GSF), consisting of 7,120 acres, is Alabama's largest state forest with mostly longleaf pine scattered over the area. It is certified as a TREASURE Forest and its resources are managed under this concept. This year GSF generated \$1,403,752.51 from three timber sales. These sales aided the state economics as well as supported the management goals of the forest. In December 2001, timber sale 02-1 was sold to the highest bidder, Tri-State Timber Company. In February 2002, the highest bidder for sale 02-3 was Posey-Kilcrease, Inc. Baseline Forest Services, Inc. was the highest bidder for sale 02-9 in July 2002. These were all sold as lump-sum bids for shelter-wood cuts and received competitive bids from many companies.

The 100-acre fishing lake was reopened to the public on May 31, 2002. In a four-month period the lake issued 967 permits through an honor pay system, taking in revenue of \$820.87. Geneva continued to be part of the Covington Wildlife Management Area with deer and turkey as primary resources. It is a favorite tour site by many local clubs and schools, as well as the USDA Forest Service.

Figure 14

Seed Production for 2001-2002

Species	Cycle	Pounds of Seed	Estimated Production
Loblolly (Piedmont)	2.0	1,182.6	12,700,000
Loblolly (Coastal)	1.5	2,298.9	28,600,000
Loblolly (Coastal)	2.0	350.0	1,500,000
Longleaf	1.0	677.0	1,100,000
Slash	1.5	138.1	1,200,000

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION ASSOCIATES

<i>Timothy P. Albritton</i>	<i>William L. Carlisle</i>	<i>William B. Ellis</i>	<i>Derrick V. Heckman</i>
<i>Terry L. Allen</i>	<i>James A. Carr</i>	<i>Benjamin F. Elmore</i>	<i>Jimmy R. Helms</i>
<i>Stanley R. Anderson</i>	<i>Steve W. Carr</i>	<i>Olen K. Elmore</i>	<i>Terry R. Helms</i>
<i>Gregory S. Athey</i>	<i>Christopher M. Carter</i>	<i>Betty R. Emfinger</i>	<i>Brian R. Hendricks</i>
<i>Tony D. Avery</i>	<i>Tony M. Chandler</i>	<i>Kelvin Ephraim</i>	<i>Henry J. Henry</i>
<i>Jeffery Baity</i>	<i>Danny C. Clark</i>	<i>Johnnie M. Everitt</i>	<i>Ronnie L. Hickman</i>
<i>Charles L. Baldwin</i>	<i>Larry D. Clark</i>	<i>Charles D. Ezzell</i>	<i>James M. Highfield</i>
<i>Adam K. Ball</i>	<i>Morris D. Clark</i>	<i>Terry D. Ezzell</i>	<i>Madeline W. Hildreth</i>
<i>James A. Barker</i>	<i>William H. Clem</i>	<i>Lester W. Fields</i>	<i>Janice C. Hines</i>
<i>Glenn W. Barnett</i>	<i>Clifton F. Cobb</i>	<i>Bradlee Fite</i>	<i>Sandra H. Hines</i>
<i>John T. Barrentine</i>	<i>Donald C. Cobb, Jr.</i>	<i>Jesse L. Fitzpatrick</i>	<i>James A. Hitt</i>
<i>T. Ethan Barrett</i>	<i>Kenneth W. Colburn</i>	<i>Travis E. Ford</i>	<i>Sammy W. Holdsambeck</i>
<i>Vernon L. Barrett</i>	<i>Dianna G. Cole</i>	<i>James N. Foreman</i>	<i>Willie C. Holston</i>
<i>Joel A. Bartlett</i>	<i>Felicia E. Cole</i>	<i>Carolyn T. Fox</i>	<i>John P. Horne</i>
<i>James E. Bennett</i>	<i>Gary M. Cole</i>	<i>Brian C. Frazier</i>	<i>Susan M. Horton</i>
<i>Paul Beverly, Jr.</i>	<i>Cora Coleman</i>	<i>David A. Frederick</i>	<i>Leon V. Howell</i>
<i>Johnny Beville</i>	<i>Gary Coleman</i>	<i>Freddie B. Frederick</i>	<i>Paul E. Hudgins</i>
<i>Lillian Black</i>	<i>Lemoral Coleman</i>	<i>Otis G. French</i>	<i>Cedric D. Hudson</i>
<i>Randy S. Blackwell</i>	<i>John W. Connell</i>	<i>Ruth E. Garner</i>	<i>Charles B. Hunnicutt</i>
<i>George H. Bolling</i>	<i>C. Thomas Conway</i>	<i>Judith R. Garrett</i>	<i>Aaron B. Hunt</i>
<i>Lynn A. Booth</i>	<i>Stan A. Cook</i>	<i>Karen Gates</i>	<i>Robert D. Hurst</i>
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<i>Bruce A. Bowden</i>	<i>Jeffie A. Cotney</i>	<i>Jason E. Gillikin</i>	<i>L. Louis Hyman</i>
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<i>Timothy C. Boyce</i>	<i>John W. Craft</i>	<i>Christopher J. Glover</i>	<i>Jasper W. Jackson</i>
<i>Jeffery S. Bradford</i>	<i>Freddie M. Craig</i>	<i>Johnna D. Godsey</i>	<i>Bennie L. Jemison</i>
<i>Brian A. Bradley</i>	<i>Vanessa H. Craig</i>	<i>David B. Gohring</i>	<i>James Jennings</i>
<i>Jeremy N. Brand</i>	<i>Billy W. Crumpton</i>	<i>Kenneth L. Grable</i>	<i>James P. Jeter</i>
<i>Linda C. Breland</i>	<i>Richard H. Cumbie</i>	<i>Gene A. Grant</i>	<i>Buford W. Johnson</i>
<i>Christopher M. Brewer</i>	<i>Gladys M. Daily</i>	<i>Daniel K. Green</i>	<i>Elishia B. Johnson</i>
<i>James T. Brooks</i>	<i>James S. Daniel</i>	<i>Brian P. Greer</i>	<i>Herbert R. Johnson</i>
<i>Everette F. Brown</i>	<i>Kelvin J. Daniels</i>	<i>Ronald D. Grider</i>	<i>Voncile D. Johnson</i>
<i>Tim Browning</i>	<i>Amy K. Davenport</i>	<i>Roy J. Griffith</i>	<i>Huey L. Jones</i>
<i>Phillip S. Bryant</i>	<i>David A. Davis</i>	<i>Ronald D. Gullede</i>	<i>Steven M. Jones</i>
<i>Mary C. Brye</i>	<i>Timothy J. Davis</i>	<i>Andrew S. Guy</i>	<i>Daniel L. Jordan</i>
<i>David D. Bullion</i>	<i>Robert A. DeVaughan</i>	<i>Charles E. Hall, Jr.</i>	<i>Harold J. Jordan</i>
<i>Benjamin G. Burke, Jr.</i>	<i>William A. DeYampert</i>	<i>Scott S. Hallman</i>	<i>Calvin Judkins</i>
<i>Stephen D. Burnett</i>	<i>John Dickson</i>	<i>Brandon W. Hamilton</i>	<i>Jim M. Junkin</i>
<i>Mary Burton</i>	<i>Ann A. Dillard</i>	<i>Kenneth F. Harbison</i>	<i>Douglas L. Justiss</i>
<i>Timothy C. Byers</i>	<i>Phillip N. Drake</i>	<i>John R. Harbison III</i>	<i>William J. Keener</i>
<i>Karl E. Byrd</i>	<i>Robert P. DuBois</i>	<i>Diane C. Harris</i>	<i>Blake R. Kelley</i>
<i>LaKedra C. Byrd</i>	<i>David L. Duckett</i>	<i>Brannon D. Harrison</i>	<i>David S. Kelley</i>
<i>Prentiss Byrd</i>	<i>Jerry M. Dwyer</i>	<i>Kenneth D. Harvill</i>	<i>Timothy W. Kelley</i>
<i>James R. Cannon</i>	<i>Earnest H. Edmonds</i>	<i>Chester E. Hatchett, Jr.</i>	<i>David A. Kelly</i>
<i>Ruth Carden</i>	<i>Phyllis Y. Ellis</i>	<i>Betty J. Haynes</i>	<i>Kenneth W. Kendrick</i>

<i>Moses J. Kenney, Jr.</i>	<i>Doris P. McGee</i>	<i>Houston K. Poole, Jr.</i>	<i>Mark W. Sullivan</i>
<i>Harry L. Kepler</i>	<i>Jerry McGhee</i>	<i>Richard Porch</i>	<i>Michael B. Sullivan</i>
<i>Robert S. Kimbro</i>	<i>James D. McGlone</i>	<i>Ross H. Presley</i>	<i>Scott L. Sweat</i>
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<i>Nancy M. King</i>	<i>Henry K. McKinley</i>	<i>Laurice M. Prince</i>	<i>Gregory T. Taggart</i>
<i>Randy L. Kinman</i>	<i>Dana McReynolds</i>	<i>Charles T. Quinn</i>	<i>Henry N. Taylor</i>
<i>Joe E. Kirkland, Jr.</i>	<i>James C. Mead</i>	<i>David D. Rathel, Sr.</i>	<i>Kevin R. Taylor</i>
<i>Johnny W. Kline</i>	<i>Kenny D. Mehearg</i>	<i>Charles R. Rawls</i>	<i>James M. Thomas</i>
<i>Johnny E. Knighten</i>	<i>Gertrude Miles</i>	<i>Linda C. Reaves</i>	<i>Gary D. Thompson</i>
<i>Laverne W. Knox</i>	<i>Regina M. Miller</i>	<i>David W. Reid</i>	<i>Richard L. Toomey</i>
<i>Jarred K. Kornegay</i>	<i>Jason M. Milligan</i>	<i>Cary A. Rhodes</i>	<i>Augustus Townes, Jr.</i>
<i>Edgar T. Kyser</i>	<i>Johnny K. Mims</i>	<i>Stephanie M. Roberts</i>	<i>Donald VanHouten</i>
<i>Michael L. Kyser</i>	<i>Tilda L. Mims</i>	<i>James L. Robinson</i>	<i>Coleen Vansant</i>
<i>Jerry D. Lacey</i>	<i>Louise B. Miracle</i>	<i>Jeremiah Rodgers</i>	<i>DeWitt Vincent</i>
<i>Stephen O. Lamkin</i>	<i>Timothy H. Money</i>	<i>Rhonda V. Rogers</i>	<i>James E. Wade</i>
<i>Bradford H. Lang</i>	<i>Phillip M. Montgomery</i>	<i>Virgil T. Rowland</i>	<i>Patrick E. Waldrop</i>
<i>Thomas K. Lang</i>	<i>Robert T. Montgomery</i>	<i>Richard W. Royce</i>	<i>Max L. Washington</i>
<i>Michael S. Lanier</i>	<i>Phearthur Moore</i>	<i>Charles W. Salter</i>	<i>Virgina A. Watts</i>
<i>Shirley A. Larkin</i>	<i>Scotty Mosley</i>	<i>Wiley D. Sanders</i>	<i>Nelson H. Watts, Jr.</i>
<i>Jimmy D. Lassetter</i>	<i>Lynell J. Mosley</i>	<i>Dana Sanderson</i>	<i>Dewey Weaver</i>
<i>Barry L. Lawrence</i>	<i>George E. Motley</i>	<i>Lucious Scott, Jr.</i>	<i>Robert L. Wiggins</i>
<i>Tracy W. Lawrence</i>	<i>Roy L. Mott</i>	<i>Lydia W. Simmons</i>	<i>Derrick D. Wilkerson</i>
<i>Kenneth L. Lee</i>	<i>Chris D. Murphy</i>	<i>Albert F. Singleton</i>	<i>Alan H. Williams</i>
<i>Kenneth L. Leslie</i>	<i>Robert D. Nappier</i>	<i>Eric C. Skinner</i>	<i>Barton M. Williams</i>
<i>W. Neil Letson</i>	<i>Henry Nazario</i>	<i>Guy E. Slayden</i>	<i>Bruce P. Williams</i>
<i>Bobby J. Light</i>	<i>Joel L. Neighbors</i>	<i>Douglas A. Smith</i>	<i>James D. Williams</i>
<i>Garland W. Ligon</i>	<i>Michael R. Nelson</i>	<i>Douglas C. Smith</i>	<i>Lester L. Williams</i>
<i>Billy H. Lingo</i>	<i>Roger K. Nichols</i>	<i>Earl H. Smith</i>	<i>Steven E. Williams</i>
<i>Steve D. Lloyd</i>	<i>Keith A. Niedermeier</i>	<i>Hodges Smith</i>	<i>Samuel W. Williams, Jr.</i>
<i>Stephen G. Lyda</i>	<i>John S. Nix</i>	<i>Jerry H. Smith</i>	<i>Tommy Wilson</i>
<i>Ronald E. Lyons</i>	<i>Louis L. Nix</i>	<i>Larry S. Smith</i>	<i>Paul A. Wingard</i>
<i>Lonnie Manuel</i>	<i>James C. North</i>	<i>Patrick R. Smith</i>	<i>Jack R. Wingate</i>
<i>Tunney M. Markham</i>	<i>Verdie P. Nummy</i>	<i>Philip M. Smith</i>	<i>Zane W. Winsted</i>
<i>Bernard I. Marshall</i>	<i>Michael E. Older</i>	<i>Scott J. Smith</i>	<i>Charles E. Wise</i>
<i>Mamie D. Mason</i>	<i>Brian K. Osborn</i>	<i>Clay Snider</i>	<i>Steve J. Wolfe</i>
<i>Bobby Matthews</i>	<i>Mildred B. Owens</i>	<i>Barry W. Snow</i>	<i>Gregory F. Wood</i>
<i>Rosilind Y. Maxwell</i>	<i>Donnie W. Parker</i>	<i>Steven R. Snuggs</i>	<i>Floyd S. Woodham</i>
<i>Roy Maye</i>	<i>Tommy H. Patterson</i>	<i>James E. Spradley</i>	<i>James E. Woods</i>
<i>Albert W. Mayo</i>	<i>James H. Payne</i>	<i>Joseph E. Spradlin</i>	<i>Bobby C. Wooten</i>
<i>Franklin L. McAliley</i>	<i>Marshall T. Peacock</i>	<i>Bruce E. Springer</i>	<i>Mickey C. Worthington</i>
<i>Patricia D. McAliley</i>	<i>Linda Pearson</i>	<i>Charles W. Squires</i>	<i>James L. Wright</i>
<i>Richard C. McCain</i>	<i>Hubert H. Peden</i>	<i>Gerald T. Steeley</i>	<i>Jesse C. Wright</i>
<i>Leitha L. McClain</i>	<i>William S. Perdue</i>	<i>Paula J. Stinchcomb</i>	<i>James R. Yarbrough</i>
<i>Monica M. McCravy</i>	<i>Johnny G. Piland</i>	<i>James T. Stokley</i>	<i>Max A. Ziglar</i>
<i>Charles L. McDaniel, Jr.</i>	<i>John C. Pirtle</i>	<i>S. Wayne Strawbridge</i>	
<i>Stephen E. McEachron</i>	<i>Robert F. Pitts</i>	<i>Paul R. Stuckey</i>	

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334-775-3496

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Centreville, AL 35042
205-926-4917

Blount County
49686 U.S. Highway 231
Oneonta, AL 35121
205-274-2231

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334-738-3040

Butler County
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Greenville, AL 36037
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LaFayette, AL 36862
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1715 E. Pushmataha Street
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251-459-2928

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Cullman, AL 35055
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