



Alabama Forestry Commission  
2013 Annual Report



# Robert Bentley Governor of Alabama



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

## Commissioners



Tommy Thompson  
*Chairman*



Salem Saloom  
*Vice-Chairman*



C. Irvin Eatman, Jr.



Don Heath



Johnny McReynolds



Kenneth Real



Jerry Smith

Linda S. Casey  
*State Forester*

Dan Jackson  
*Assistant State Forester*

Walter Cartwright  
*Forest Operations Division*

Hank McKinley  
*Northwest Regional Forester*

Terry Ezzell  
*North Regional Forester*

Jason Dockery  
*Northeast Regional Forester*

Gary Cole  
*Southwest Regional Forester*

Bruce Springer  
*East Central Regional Forester*

Otis French  
*Southeast Regional Forester*

### *Our Mission:*

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

# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

### Fire Suppression

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

Due to above-average rainfall, fire occurrences were low across the state. In Fiscal Year 2013, 1,682 wildfires were reported and suppressed, burning 30,340 acres in Alabama. Average fire size was 18.03 acres. Wildfires destroyed or damaged 11 structures, while 1,108 homes were saved. Additional fire statistics include 56 structures (other than homes) and 405 vehicles either destroyed or damaged, while 28 structures and 1,125 vehicles were saved.

### Hazard Mitigation

The Alabama Forestry Commission continued to assist landowners in protecting their lands from wildfires, completing approximately 21,026 acres of prescribed

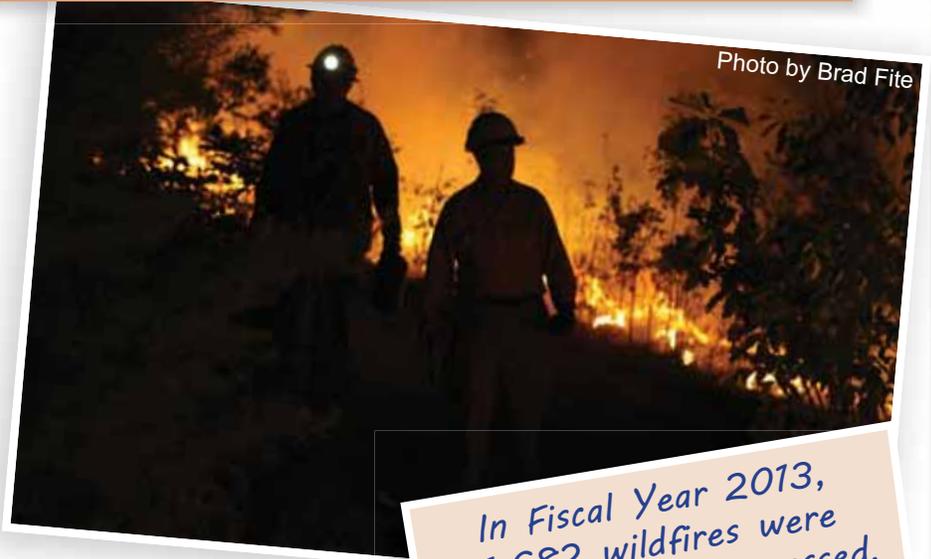


Photo by Brad Fite

*In Fiscal Year 2013,  
1,682 wildfires were  
reported and suppressed,  
burning 30,340 acres.*

burning across the state. Total prescribed burning in the state (conducted by private landowners and contractors, as well as AFC associates) involved 14,292 burns on 1,001,889 acres, which was above average for Alabama. The primary reason for the increase in the number of burns correlates with the increase in individuals being certified as prescribed burn managers. This is a direct result of the agency's effort to offer more training to landowners who have a personal interest in prescribed burning, by supporting a series of Certified Prescribed Burn Manager (CPBM) training courses. This year the AFC certified 111 new burners and provided recertification continuing education courses for 115 existing CPBMs, with an emphasis on prescribed burn planning and fuel management.

For more information about prescribed burning and the certification courses, visit our website at [www.forestry.alabama.gov/BurnCourses.aspx](http://www.forestry.alabama.gov/BurnCourses.aspx).

A piece of white lined paper with handwritten text in blue ink. The paper is pinned to the left side of the page with a metal fastener. The text on the paper reads: "Total prescribed burning in the state", "14,292 burns", and "1,001,889 acres".

*Total prescribed  
burning in the state  
14,292 burns  
1,001,889 acres*

# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

### Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI)

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

The goals of the WUI program include:

- Ensure sufficient firefighting resources for the future.
- Reduce hazardous fuels in forests, especially near communities.
- Work with volunteer fire departments and local residents to improve fire protection.
- Encourage post-fire mitigation to restore fire-damaged ecosystem.

In FY 2013, the AFC continued a public information campaign reaching citizens across the state through participation in public and private gatherings such as the partnership with the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Council and International Code Councils in presenting a “Wildfire Safe, Sound and CODESMART” Workshop held in Cullman. Alabama was also one of 19 states represented at the Southern Region and Mid-Atlantic Forest Fire Compact Wildfire Prevention and Firewise/WUI Exchange Workshop held in Charlottesville, Virginia. Discussion focused on how to coordinate the message across the states and with state forestry agencies, resource partners, and federal programs to increase risk reduction and prevention across the South. The regional representative from the national Firewise USA program made a two-day visit to Alabama to review the state program and see the great work the agency is doing in motivating neighborhoods and communities to work towards Firewise recognition. Alabama added three more Firewise communities in 2013.

### Volunteer Fire Assistance

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

The 13-member Rural Community Fire Protection (RCFP) Steering Committee met four times during Fiscal Year 2013. The purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the State Forester regarding how to improve the rural community fire program and solve immediate problems including parts exchange, training, and financial assistance through federal grants.



Completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans	12
Completed Homeowner Fire Risk Assessments	328
Nominated Firewise USA Communities for Certification	2

# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

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

- Administered \$1,155,468 in grant money, appropriated by the Alabama Legislature, through two installments. The first checks were issued in November 2012 to 1,000 qualifying volunteer fire departments, in the amount of \$577.73 per department. The second checks were issued in May 2013 to 997 qualifying volunteer fire departments, in the amount of \$579.47 per department.
- Worked jointly with the RCFP Steering Committee to administer \$95,792 in U.S. Forest Service grant monies to VFDs across Alabama to fund purchases of computer-based "Fire in the Field" Wildland Firefighter Training, wildland personal protective equipment (PPE), and other wildland firefighting equipment.
- Administered \$110,040 in U.S. Forest Service Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant funds which allowed AFC instructors to provide traditional classroom-style wildland firefighter training to volunteer firefighters, at no cost to VFDs.
- Provided and maintained county-wide communication systems for volunteer fire departments in 38 of Alabama's 67 counties.
- Maintained a list of volunteer fire department members who are eligible for "Firefighter" license plates for their personal vehicles, and made this list available to all vehicle-licensing agencies throughout Alabama as mandated by state law.
- AFC representation attended numerous volunteer fire department meetings and functions across the state to strengthen relationships between agencies and share information.

At the local level, AFC personnel continue to be closely associated with and supportive of VFDs throughout Alabama. AFC employees serve as a point of contact for sharing information between the Commission and local volunteer fire service, as well as being actively involved in joint efforts with volunteer fire departments to conduct wildfire prevention and suppression programs.



### During fiscal year 2013, Commission personnel provided the following instructional courses:

- 190 volunteer firefighters attended traditional classroom training for S-130 (Basic Wildfire Tactics), S-190 (Fire Behavior), I-100 (Basic Incident Command System), and L-180 (Human Factors on the Fire Line).
- Using the "Fire in the Field" program, 24 volunteer firefighters were taught S-130, S-190, I-100, and L-180.
- 32 volunteer firefighters received training in FI-110 (Wildland Fire Observations & Origin Scene Protection for First Responders).
- 19 volunteer firefighters were trained by AFC personnel in the proper use of fire shelters for firefighter safety.

# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

### Compact Fire Duties

As part of the agency training program, a total of twelve Alabama Forestry Commission personnel were sent to assist on several federal fires as well as response efforts after Hurricane Sandy made landfall in New Jersey, for a total of 2,374 man hours.

The Commission made a major commitment to assist states such as Montana, Idaho, Washington, California, and New York during these times of emergency response. This effort included sending personnel to serve and assist in various roles while on assignments throughout the aforementioned states.



*AFC wildland firefighter Jeff Owens pictured here was one of eleven AFC wildland firefighters that was on wildfire detail in Idaho with other Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina firefighters.*

The AFC will continue to train and stand ready to respond and assist the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) with the planning process and execution of commodity delivery in the event a major incident occurs in the state.

### Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)

The Commission continues to obtain property from various military bases through the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program of the Department of Defense (DoD) to use for fire suppression. The AFC acquired property totaling \$4,678,486 during the year, including 18 transports/tankers, eight grass trucks, and 11 other vehicles, such as vans. In addition to these vehicles, seven all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and 20 utility task vehicles (UTVs) were screened and issued to various counties. Nine vehicles were transferred to fire departments and 14 vehicles were transferred to Forestry Commission offices. The AFC also acquired three forklifts and two dozers. The Central Shop serviced two parts requests from fire departments to repair their current equipment.

# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

### Central Dispatch Center

The Central Dispatch Center is essential to the agency's ability to receive information pertaining to wildfires from 911 centers, sheriffs' offices, and the general public. In FY 2013, there were 4,953 calls associated with wildfires dispatched to AFC firefighters.

The dispatch center issued 14,294 burn permits for fuel reduction, hardwood control, land clearing, agricultural, wildlife enhancement, and miscellaneous burns in FY 2013.

Through an agreement with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the AFC dispatch center scheduled hunting reservations for disabled persons at Macon State Forest and Little River State Forest. A total of 176 calls were received in reference to this duty.

"Crisis Link" was established through AT&T to ensure the telephone system at the Central Dispatch Center could be switched to the backup dispatch center at the state office within a matter of minutes, in the event of a telecommunications failure.



### Dispatch Quick Facts:

Miscellaneous calls	4,566
Wildfire-related calls	4,953
Burn permits issued	14,294

### Communications

The Alabama Forestry Commission operates and maintains two complete radio systems and over 200 tower sites across the state. AFC personnel utilize the statewide VHF system for routine communications, fire prevention, and suppression operations, while a UHF radio system provides communication for volunteer fire departments in 38 counties throughout the state.

The Commission employs four communications technicians who service and maintain the UHF and VHF radio systems infrastructure within the state. These AFC technicians service over 1,000 agency radios and almost 500 RCFP (VFD) radios.

The AFC holds a position on the Alabama First Responders Wireless Commission (AFRWC), created by Gov. Robert Bentley, and responsible for strategic planning of a state-wide inter-operable system. This system will be used by first responders and support personnel in Public Safety, Public Health, and Public Works.

# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

### Law Enforcement

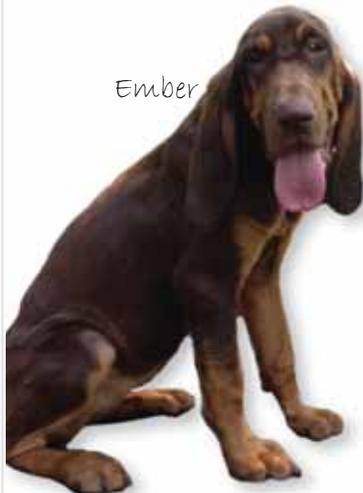
In an effort to provide better service to the public, the AFC's investigative unit has undergone positive change over the last five years. Some of these changes involved utilizing an electronic reporting and data storage system, usage of surveillance camera equipment, enhanced networking with other law enforcement agencies, amendments to fire and timber laws, and implementation of an annual awards program sponsored by the Alabama Forest Owners' Association.

Through donations, new handheld Global Positioning System (GPS) units were purchased to assist law enforcement officers during arson and timber investigations.

Three law enforcement officers completed wildland fire investigation training, resulting in all investigators being certified wildland fire investigators.

Public education efforts continued for timber and equipment theft prevention as well as fire prevention. These educational programs were delivered through public presentations, Blaze appearances, and literature produced by the Alabama Forestry Commission.

A second bloodhound, Ember, was purchased with donated funds. Upon completion of her training, she will be used primarily to investigate wildland arson fires and education in North Alabama.



During fiscal year 2013, AFC law enforcement officers conducted 29 educational programs, including:

- Blaze Fire Prevention (4,138) 14
- Equipment Theft Prevention 3
- VFD Training 3
- Fire Laws 7
- Timber Theft Prevention 2

The investigative unit also conducted the following enforcement actions:

#### 207 Investigations

- Arson 65
- Illegal Burning 42
- Timber Thefts 68
- Equipment Thefts 11
- Other 21

#### 35 Arrests

- Wild land Arson 6
- Illegal Burning 13
- Timber Thefts 8
- Equipment Thefts 4
- Other 4

#### 27 Fire Warning Citations Issued

Timber Value Stolen	\$ 315,000
Equipment Value Stolen	\$ 264,225
Equipment Value Recovered	\$ 25,640
Restitution	\$ 702,884
Fines Imposed	\$ 2,921
Suppression Levied	\$ 2,755

Blaze

*Veteran arson dog, Blaze, made appearances at the 2013 Buckmasters Expo in Montgomery and the Annual World Deer Expo in Birmingham.*



# PROTECT

## Forest Protection

### Forest Health

As predicted, laurel wilt disease continued to spread in Alabama with a new find in Greene County. Ground reconnaissance surveys were completed in Baldwin and Sumter counties this past summer with no noticeable wilting laurel tree species identified.

In May of 2013, over 500 acres of mature, declining loblolly pines in Marion and Franklin counties were found to be infected by the loblolly pine sawfly. Later in the summer, these affected pines recovered from the attack, growing new lush, green needles.

Severe weather over the past few years has caused an increase in dogwood blight, harming flowering dogwoods in the area.

ALABAMA EXPERIENCED ITS SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR OF HAVING A LOW SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE (SPB) POPULATION. RESULTS FROM DETECTION FLIGHTS THIS PAST SUMMER.

June/July flights - 18 beetle spots with 790 infected trees  
 August/September flights - 87 beetle spots with 13,750 infected trees - a significant number of these spots were confirmed to be the Ips engraver beetle.

Storms in 2013 destroyed more than 48,000 tons of timber with a monetary loss of over \$1 million

Date	Counties Affected	Measurable Damage
January 30, 2013	Winston County	95 acres
March 18, 2013	Dekalb County	13.78 acres
April 11, 2013	Pickens & Winston counties	612.25 acres
Total		721.03 acres

### Forest Health (Insects & Diseases) and Invasive Species (Plants) Accomplishments:

Program	Activity	Total # Completed	# of Attendees / # of Acres
Forest Health	Public Presentations		
Forest Health	Stand Management Recommendations (SMRs)	12	524
Invasive Species	Stand Management Recommendations (SMRs)	800	31,082.02
		833	9,871.84

# PROTECT

## Forest management

### Forest Health (continued)



With the spread of laurel wilt disease in Alabama and the encroachment of other invasive pests, the AFC continues to inform citizens about the “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign. Partnering with 11 other Southeastern states, Alabama is emphasizing the connection between the movement of firewood and the introduction of non-native, invasive pests in to the state.

#### *“Don’t Move Firewood” Grant Activities & Accomplishments*

*Total # of Public Presentations - 28*

*Total # of Attendees - 20,276*



Non-native plants have also become a major destructive force to established ecosystems. Partnering with four other Southern states, Alabama has continued to implement corrective action under the cogongrass redesign grant. With 11 county road departments participating in the cogongrass cost-share program, more than 2,800 spots along rights-of-way have been identified for control treatment.

#### *COGONGRASS*

##### *Grant Activities & Accomplishments*

*10 public presentations with 150 attendees*

*1,008 spots detected for 1,290 acres*

Alabama has partnered with Mississippi on the kudzu redesign grant to assess and control this exotic vine in highly visible areas. On state lands managed by the AFC, approximately 35 acres were identified for eradication. Red Mountain Park located in Birmingham, a sub-recipient of the grant, received more than \$50,000 from the AFC and Wells Fargo/National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to suppress kudzu and other invasive plants, as well as restore these treated areas at the park.

# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### Stewardship



Stewardship in Alabama features forest management education. By providing non-industrial forest landowners with appropriate science-based information, the Alabama Forestry Commission accomplishes one of its legislative mandates: to increase the forest resources in the state.

To enhance the non-industrial private landowner's knowledge and understanding of multiple-use forest management, the AFC utilizes the national "Stewardship" program, sponsored by the US Forest Service, the "American Tree Farm System" sponsored by the American Forest Foundation, and the "TREASURE Forest" program, a state-sponsored program. These programs promote sound multiple-use forest management through education and recognition.

### Stewardship/Forest Management Accomplishments FY13

<b>Program</b>	<b>Landowners Assisted</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Stewardship Management Plans	406	52,822 acres
New Certifications	186	72,263 acres
Stand Management Recommendations	4,709	178,888 acres
Prescribed Burning	376	27,415 acres
Firebreak Plowing	390	581 miles
Forestry Consultant Referrals	688	N/A

# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### *Landowner Assistance/Cost-Share Programs*

The Alabama Forestry Commission offers services to Alabama's forest landowners to help them develop and meet their forest management objectives. AFC foresters and technicians provide guidance and technical assistance to landowners through on-the-ground assessments and forest management plans. These plans cover a variety of topics including timber and wildlife management, invasive species control, as well as threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. Additionally financial assistance is also available to qualified landowners through forestry cost-share programs.

The majority of funding available to Alabama forestland owners comes through the US Farm Bill. These dollars are principally routed through cost-share programs administered by two federal agencies: the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The AFC provides technical assistance to these federal agencies by completing needs assessments and recommendations for forestry cost-share applications.

#### *Farm Service Agency Programs (FSA)*

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – AFC county offices wrote plans for 653 contracts totaling 24,179 acres for the FY 2013 general CRP sign-up in Alabama.
- Emergency Forestry Restoration Program (EFRP) – provides funding for restoration of farmland and timberland caused by natural disasters. In 2013, landowners were still clearing damage to their property from the 2011 tornadoes which wreaked havoc across the state. Alabama counties were awarded \$3.31 million in 2011 and \$776,000 in 2012 for tornado restoration activities. During the first two years, AFC foresters reviewed approximately 570 applications for 37,980 acres in 38 Alabama counties. In FY2013, AFC foresters wrote 27 plans covering 2,026 acres.

#### *Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs (NRCS)*

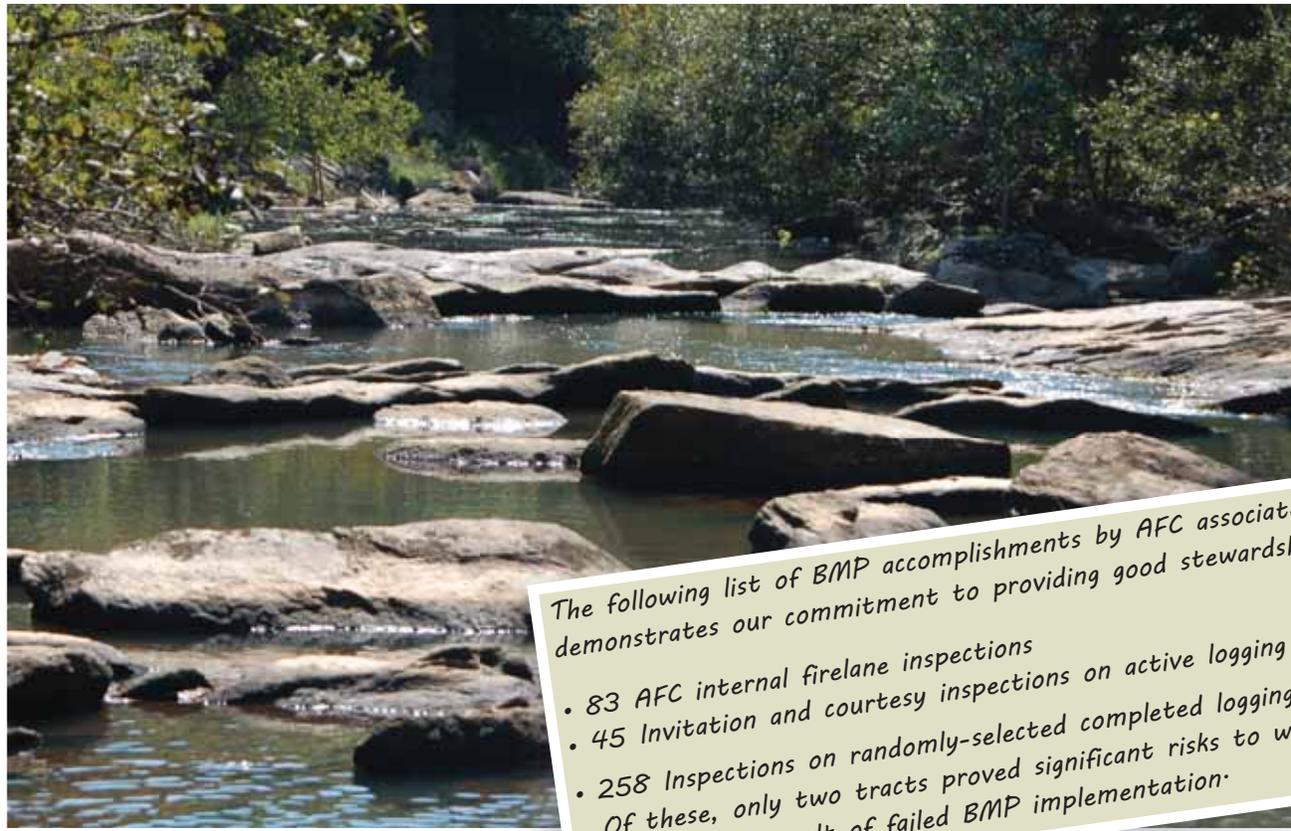
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – AFC foresters prepared 263 management plans for 16,600 acres.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) – AFC foresters prepared 46 management plans for 2,883 acres.
- Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) – AFC Technical Service Provider (TSP) foresters wrote four CAPs 106 Forest Management Plans in FY2013.
- CRP Conservation Plans – AFC foresters completed 210 CRP Conservation Plans for the NRCS in a contribution agreement that was meant to lighten the work load for District Conservationists in heavy CRP counties.



# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### Best Management Practices for Forestry



The following list of BMP accomplishments by AFC associates demonstrates our commitment to providing good stewardship:

- 83 AFC internal firelane inspections
  - 45 Invitation and courtesy inspections on active logging jobs
  - 258 Inspections on randomly-selected completed logging jobs.
- Of these, only two tracts proved significant risks to water quality as a result of failed BMP implementation.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Forestry are non-regulatory\* guidelines suggested to help Alabama's forestry community maintain and protect the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of waters of the State as required by numerous state and federal acts. \*The exception is the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' 15 mandated BMPs for forested wetlands.

The Alabama Forestry Commission accepts the responsibility of maintaining and updating these BMPs whenever necessary. The agency also accepts the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of these BMPs so that

the forestry community will have an unbiased implementation rate, proving the good stewardship being enacted by the private forest landowners of the state, as well as Alabama's forest industry.

Alabama has 22.8 million acres of forest land. Of that acreage, over 33 percent (7.5 million acres) is certified under one of the three third-party certification programs listed on page 11. Some of these acres maintain dual certification. Each certification program mandates the use of Alabama's BMPs for forestry; therefore, they are *not* voluntary guidelines for participants of

(Continued on page 14)

# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### Best Management Practices for Forestry

(continued)

any third-party certification. The AFC provided information dealing with BMP implementation to 22 forest products companies for their third-party audits. These same implementation numbers were submitted several times to professional forestry organizations for their use.

The Commission works cooperatively with state and federal agencies when dealing with water quality complaints resulting from silvicultural activity. This year the AFC responded to 30 complaints; 17 of these were deemed invalid or non-silviculture in nature, while 13 were valid. All 30 complaints were thoroughly investigated, with resolution being made on all but two. These two open complaints will be carried forward to the next fiscal year for resolution.

The Commission also conducts BMP training for interested parties. This year, 26 BMP programs were presented, reaching over 1,700 foresters, loggers, landowners, and students.

### Marketing and Economic Development Section



The Alabama Forestry Commission contributes to forest products marketing and economic development in a number of ways.

Along with the U.S. Forest Service, the AFC canvasses all primary wood-products industries during even-numbered years to determine industrial uses of roundwood and annual amounts of timber product drain.

The Commission produces an annual forest resource report which contains economic status indicators of the forest industry and forest resources for Alabama for the previous year. The "Forest Resource Report 2012" was completed and posted to the AFC's website in late May.

Through the AFC's involvement with the Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) program, vital statistical data pertaining to Alabama's forest resource is obtained. Land consultants and forest industry representatives utilize FIA data to make important decisions regarding where to locate new wood products mills and make expansions to existing mills. Quite often this data is provided by Commission personnel.

This year's implementation rating for BMPs in the following categories are:

Harvesting - 97.14%  
Streamside Management Zones - 98.39%  
Site Preparation - 96.77%  
Fireline Establishments - 96.83%  
Forest Roads - 93.09%  
Forest Chemical Applications - 100%  
Stream Crossings - 93.44%  
Overall BMP Implementation - 97.75%

# SUSTAIN

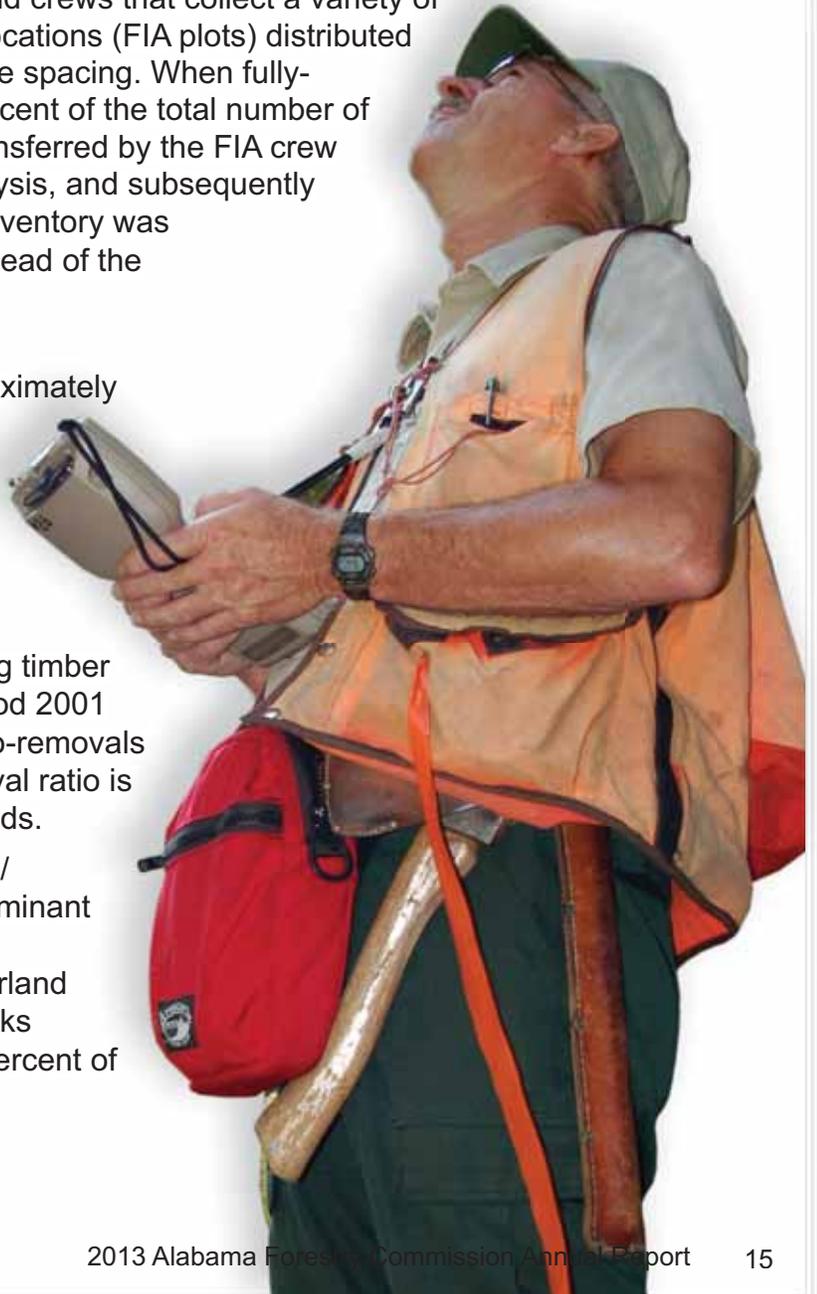
## Forest Management

### Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA)

FIA is a continuous, nationwide timber and forest resource inventory that has been ongoing for more than 70 years in Alabama. FIA data is the primary source of forest resource information and it plays a vital role in economic development. Some of the more significant information that comes from FIA includes the status and trends relating to forest area, forest volume, and tree growth vs. removals.

This information is obtained by AFC two-man field crews that collect a variety of forest resource data from a set of field sample locations (FIA plots) distributed across the landscape at an approximate 3x3-mile spacing. When fully-staffed, the AFC's five field crews sample 15 percent of the total number of FIA plots annually. The collected field data is transferred by the FIA crew leader to U.S. Forest Service personnel for analysis, and subsequently compiled into statistical reports. The 2013 FIA Inventory was completed August 21, more than four months ahead of the deadline.

- FIA data from 2012 indicates there are approximately 22.8 million acres of timberland in Alabama, accounting for 68 percent of the state's total area. This amount of area remains virtually unchanged since 2000. Individual or family-owned forests account for 13.9 million acres, or 60.7 percent of the state's timberland.
- 2012 FIA data shows that Alabama is growing timber faster than it is being harvested. For the period 2001 to 2012, the average annual rate of growth-to-removals is 1.39:1 for all species. The growth-to-removal ratio is 1.31:1 for softwoods, and 1.62:1 for hardwoods.
- According to 2012 FIA data, the "loblolly pine/shortleaf pine" forest-type group is the predominant forest type group in Alabama, occupying approximately 37.5 percent of the total timberland area. The "oak/hickory" forest-type group ranks second, accounting for approximately 31.4 percent of timberland acreage.



# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### State Lands Management and Assistance

The AFC is responsible for managing approximately 27,346 acres of forestland in Alabama. More than 16,000 acres are under the agency's direct control, including 12 state forests, as well as numerous old fire tower sites. In addition, the Commission has entered into cooperative agreements with three other agencies to manage their forestlands: 19 state fishing lakes (4,786 acres) for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, seven tracts (5,060 acres) for the Department of Mental Health, and over 1,500 acres at the old Fort McClellan post for the McClellan Development Authority.

#### 2013 Revenues from State Lands Management Program

**Timber Sales/Mgt Fee Revenue**  
 Alabama Forestry Commission  
 Department of Mental Health  
 McClellan Development Authority  
**Total**

**Revenue to AFC**  
 \$ 997,479  
 \$ 24,286  
 \$ 35,340  
**\$ 1,057,107**

**Prescribed Burning**  
 Department of Mental Health  
 Department of Conservation  
**Total**

**Acres**  
 489  
 539  
**1,028**

**Revenue**  
 \$ 9,508  
 \$ 14,224  
**\$ 23,732**

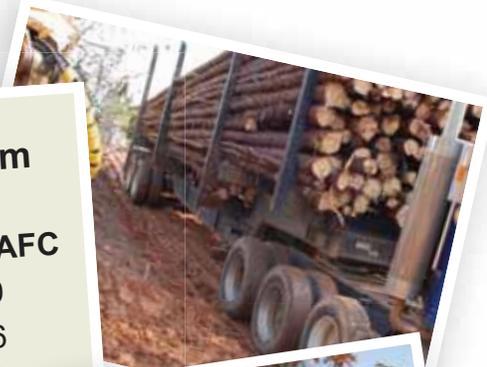
**Land Management Fees**  
 Department of Conservation  
 Department of Mental Health  
 McClellan Development Authority  
**Total**

**Acres**  
 4,786  
 5,060  
 1,260  
**11,106**

**Revenue**  
 \$ 4,786  
 \$ 5,060  
 \$ 1,260  
**\$ 11,106**

**Grand Total**

**\$ 1,091,945**



# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### Urban & Community Forestry



The Alabama Forestry Commission's Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) program strives to help Alabama towns and cities professionally manage their urban forests. The agency provides technical and federal financial assistance to accomplish this goal. The primary program measures are communities that hire professional staff, complete tree inventories and management plans, create effective tree ordinances, and establish tree boards.

U&CF grant sub-recipients included Your Town Alabama, Trenholm State Community College, and the City of Prattville. Through various partnerships over the year, the AFC acquired a total of 14,369 volunteer hours assisting 65 communities. A total of 79 Arbor Day activities were conducted, and 494 technical assists were provided.

- In 2013, the AFC gave away 150,000 tree seedlings to residents, towns, and cities of Alabama.
- In 2013, the Alabama Tree Recovery Campaign awarded a total of \$30,000 to 18 cities of North Alabama. This partnership between AFC and the Arbor Day Foundation is designed to help restore the urban forests in Alabama towns and cities that were devastated by 2011 storms.

- Another monumental accomplishment for the Urban Forestry Program was participating in the "Week of Empowerment" held in Birmingham. The AFC provided technical assistance, trees, and staff for plantings in designated parks.
- AFC began a new program entitled, "Tree Initiative Program." Working with high schools, this program educates students on the benefits of trees, proper pruning techniques, and urban land management.
- Auburn University at Montgomery conducted their inaugural Arbor Day celebration, becoming the first college in Montgomery to be named a Tree Campus USA.
- Alabama A & M, located in Huntsville, reached an unprecedented milestone by becoming the first of the Historical Black Colleges and Universities to be named a Tree Campus USA.
- AFC hosted a city management plan training for the Scottsboro Tree Board. Eric Kuehler, with the U.S. Forest Service, created a computer-based model which makes it easier for cities to complete management plans, compared to the previous more cumbersome paper method for those preparing for or interested in a five-year plan which leads to Tree City USA.

# SUSTAIN

## Forest Management

### Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the Alabama Forestry Commission brings in new and challenging projects every year. In 2013 the AFC accepted responsibility as one of four technical advisory positions for the developmental process of SouthWRAP (wildfire risk assessment project) web application for wildfire prevention and mitigation.

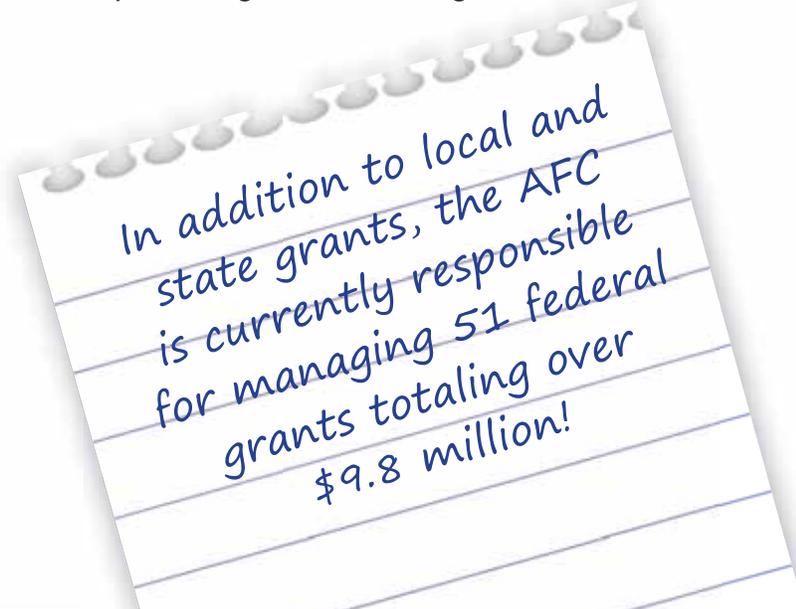
Once unveiled, the Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment through SouthWRAP will be the primary mechanism providing data that will be used by the Southern Group of State Foresters to make wildfire risk information readily available to the public, individual state agencies, local governments, cooperators, and other stakeholders in a timely and efficient manner.

Since GIS is an integral part of the AFC's decision-making process, employees were given a refresher course to enable efficiency. The training had several components which included Maptitude software for GIS, global positioning systems devices (Garmin/Recon), as well as editing and displaying collected data on Maptitude or Google Earth.

The AFC's GIS program continues to grow, proving to be a vital tool for the citizens of Alabama as the agency's leadership pursues the goal of ensuring sustainable forestry management and environmental integrity for the state.

### Grant Management System

The Alabama Forestry Commission designed and implemented a new grant management system this year. A part of this new system was the addition of a grant coordinator to the state office team. This individual is the official gate keeper for all things grants, regardless of whether the funding source is local, state, non-profit, or federal. State office personnel and key field staff attended multi-level grants management training over the last nine months of 2013. The AFC continues to be committed to identifying, obtaining, and masterfully managing additional resources which allow us to meet our mission of serving the landowners of Alabama while protecting and sustaining our natural resources.



In addition to local and state grants, the AFC is currently responsible for managing 51 federal grants totaling over \$9.8 million!

# EDUCATION

## *Outreach and Education*

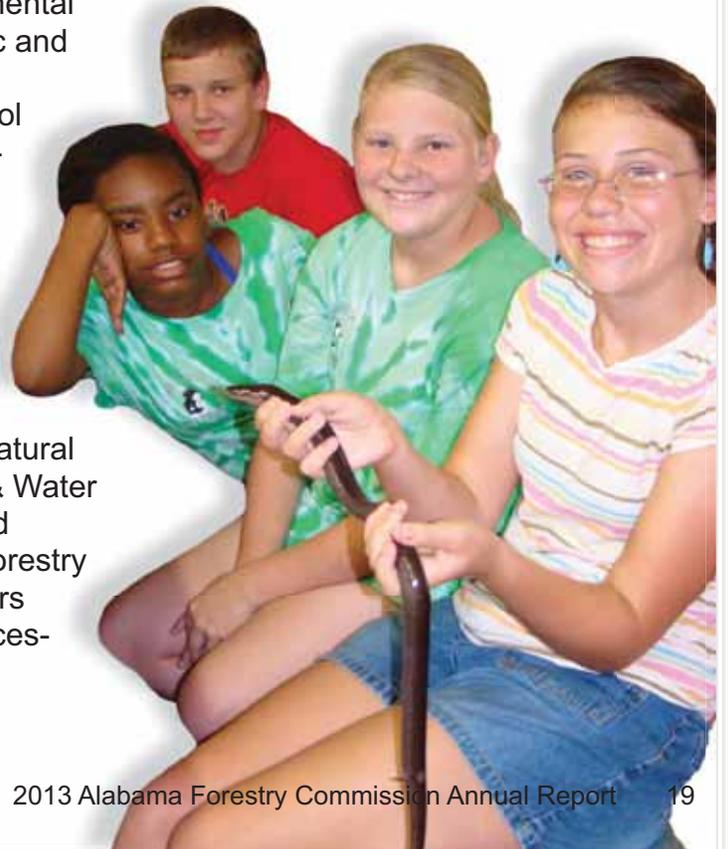


Fiscal year 2013 was a year of continuity for the AFC's Outreach Program. With assistance from our six regional outreach coordinators, the program operated smoothly through continued initiatives. These regional coordinators hosted numerous school programs that reached over 1,000 children grades K – 8. Other collaborations and outreach efforts offered the same message to adult crowds throughout the state, enhancing the fire prevention knowledge of those who attended. AFC employees provided hands-on demonstrations and educated attendees on the services provided by the agency to citizens of the state.

### *Butler County Natural Resources Youth Camp*

For the 18th year, the Butler County Forestry Planning Committee's Natural Resources Youth Camp provided local Butler County youth the opportunity to become more aware of the value of Alabama's forest resources to both our environment and our economy, as well as the relationship of these resources to their everyday life. This outdoor environmental educational classroom was the setting for 28 energetic and inquisitive "just graduated" sixth-grade students who were lucky enough to have been chosen by their school principals and/or science teachers to attend this three-day/two-night experience. This camp offered the students the opportunity to learn about forestry, wildlife, ecology, tree identification, fire protection, forest products, soil and water conservation, and the people who manage these vast Alabama resources.

Instructors from the Alabama Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Butler County Soil & Water Conservation District, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Farm Service Agency, Alabama Forestry Association, Alabama Ornithological Society, and others provide "hands-on" classes concerning natural resources-



# EDUCATION

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related subjects which included native plants, wildlife management and identification, non-game birds, as well as several Project Learning Tree activities. In addition to an on-site visit from Winged Ambassadors which provided an up-close visit with some local birds of prey, the campers were given an opportunity to spend time in one of Alabama's many creeks, often the highlight of the camp. Students spent time exploring Mussel Creek, looking for its inhabitants, sometimes surprised by what they found. The final day provided a chance for the campers to display their marksmanship skills in different shooting sports events.

Since the beginning of this unique educational experience, the opportunity has been provided at no cost to the campers or their families. Funding comes from tremendous support from the forest community, private individuals, and civic clubs. Additional funding is provided through grants from the "Forests Forever" License Plate Educational Committee and the Rayonier Foundation.

### Alabama Forestry Camp

This past June, 18 high school students from around the state enjoyed a jam-packed week as they were exposed to the natural resource fields at Alabama Forestry Camp. For the 19th year, the camp was held at the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund's Rural Training and Research Center located in Epes (Sumter County). The five-day event was conducted by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, comprised of personnel from the Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama A&M University, and Tuskegee University who collectively directed each day's varied activities.

Sponsors helping make this year's camp successful included Alabama Forestry Foundation, Alabama Tree Farm Association, and the National Park Service.

#### The week's agenda

- ✓ TREASURE Forest tour
- ✓ Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam tour
- ✓ Forestry and wildlife activities
- ✓ Fishing trip
- ✓ Appearance by Blaze, the AFC arson dog
- ✓ Forestry skills competition
- ✓ Moundville wood products and archeological park tour



# EDUCATION

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### Media/Publications

The AFC Media/Publications Team continued to attain goals during the year in the ongoing public awareness campaign to market the agency. In addition to obtaining positive media coverage through producing and distributing news releases and media advisories statewide, communication was also achieved through newer “social media” networks including Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. Keeping abreast of such trends, Quick Response (QR) barcodes were also employed to direct target audiences to the agency’s website.



Publication of *Alabama’s TREASURED Forests* magazine entered the 31st year, providing forest landowners with proper forest management principles/techniques and advice. The process was completed of making all “back issues” of the magazine available on the AFC website, extending all the way back to the inaugural issue published in the Fall of 1982.

Members of the Media Team again coordinated the agency’s participation in two of Alabama’s largest three-day venues with exhibits at the Annual World Deer Expo at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center (BJCC) in July and the Annual BuckMasters Expo at the Montgomery Convention Center/Renaissance Hotel in August. AFC associates were on hand to talk with visitors, answer questions, provide contact information for local Commission offices, and distribute informative AFC brochures and publications regarding forest management/stewardship and fire/insect protection. Additionally this year, “Blaze” the AFC Arson Dog made special appearances at both events and was well-received as a successful ambassador of the agency, especially with the younger set. An assortment of Blaze, Smokey Bear, and Woodsy Owl merchandise was also available.



Other projects for the year 2013 included:

- Production of three video presentations for the annual Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Awards for the 22nd year; assistance with production of the annual Alabama Tree Farmer of the Year video presentation.
- Continued implementation of the “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign, in cooperation with other members of the Southern Group of State Foresters.
- Assisting the AFC Law Enforcement team, publicizing an extensive door-to-door Arson Awareness Campaign in Cleburne and Cherokee counties to target arson-related wildfires in North Alabama.
- A \$10,000 grant from the Alabama Forests Forever Foundation made possible the purchase of promotional materials featuring “Blaze” and the AFC’s Arson Hotline.
- Production of the annual brochures for both Alabama Forestry Camp and the Butler County Natural Resources Youth Camp, as well as four issues of *TREETopics*, the AFC employee newsletter.

# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

## Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Division has upgraded the in-house server at State Headquarters, allowing for greater space on the shared drive and granting better network flexibility. Due to constant budget constraints, many of the AFC computers have been in use long past their prime. Although still under constraints, IT is proposing to have many of these computers replaced or upgraded. So far in this effort, the IT team has sent 130 computers to condemnation, dispersed 23 new machines to the field, and replaced several computers with newer refurbished machines.

## Personnel

The Alabama Forestry Commission Personnel Office continues to focus on the overall mission of the agency in a time of change. Through the use of innovative human resources management techniques, the Personnel Office is responsible for processing personnel actions related to appointments and separations, payroll and benefits, evaluations, safety, readiness, and development as needed for 253 employees statewide.

With increased turnover and a retirement-ready workforce, the emphasis this past year was for succession planning, while balancing external and internal requirements. Specific projects included:

- Participation in varied job fairs across the state, including the Black Belt Region
- Coordinated development and implementation of career development courses improving promotional and leadership opportunities within
- Revision of the *AFC Personnel Handbook* for distribution on AFC "Employees Only" website

## Training and Readiness

Consistency is the goal of the Commission's readiness and training program, preparing employees to perform to the level of national standards in Wildland Fire Fighting, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Forest Management, and Law Enforcement. This training and preparation provides leadership and assistance to other entities in times of natural disasters, while assisting the citizens of Alabama. This fiscal year yielded over 15,000 hours dedicated to training individual employees to meet these standards.



<i>AFC Employee Training Courses</i>	<i>Hours</i>
<i>Annual Wildland Fire Safety Refresher</i>	<i>2,023</i>
<i>Basic Wildland Firefighter</i>	<i>715</i>
<i>BMP Training</i>	<i>809</i>
<i>Fire Equipment Familiarization</i>	<i>1,769</i>
<i>Prescribed Burn Manager</i>	<i>184</i>
<i>Incident Command System</i>	<i>7,758</i>
<i>Law Enforcement</i>	<i>679</i>
<i>Urban Forestry</i>	<i>149</i>
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	<i>1,465</i>
<i>Total AFC Training Hours:</i>	<i>15,551</i>

# ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

## Revenue & Obligations Summary

As of September 30, 2013

Description	Actual YTD	Forecasted/ Budgeted
<b>TOTAL REVENUES:</b>		
Severance Taxes		
Timber and Turpentine	4,968,096.72	4,796,084.18
Fishing Permits	37,234.26	38,035.93
Fire Suppression	3,808.35	4,509.06
Oil Royalties	1,045.00	5,684.43
Insurance Recoveries	6,730.78	7,000.00
Reimbursements Not Classified	44,152.54	50,000.00
Prior Year Refunds	8,658.46	7,000.00
Contract Services	7,276.57	6,956.56
Salvage Equipment	655,781.85	537,804.98
Timber Sales	11,084.21	10,000.00
Other Sales	1,057,106.67	100,000.00
Intragovernmental Receipts	16,000.00	0.00
Other Rents	22,816.70	22,816.70
General Fund Transfers	50,761.80	51,524.00
Interfund State	9,124,653.00	9,124,653.00
Interfund Federal	800.00	800.00
Federal Reimbursements	92,951.72	68,000.00
County Forest Collections/Assessments	7,792,383.00	7,094,450.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>1,943,344.06</u>	<u>1,820,000.00</u>
	25,844,685.69	23,745,318.84
<b>TOTAL OBLIGATIONS:</b>		
Personnel Costs	11,549,875.15	12,455,384.00
Employee Benefits	4,313,985.61	4,614,802.00
Travel, In-State	190,899.68	190,900.00
Travel, Out-of-State	30,198.34	30,200.00
Repairs & Maintenance	297,078.15	355,316.00
Rentals & Leases	62,703.66	62,704.00
Utilities & Communication	658,904.58	672,953.00
Professional Services	477,982.44	1,570,148.00
Supplies, Materials, & Operating Expenses	929,379.65	1,093,643.00
Transportation Equipment Operations	1,712,799.85	1,712,846.00
Grants & Awards	1,699,806.45	1,901,919.00
Capital Outlay	4,386.82	154,387.00
Transportation Equipment Purchases	691,987.00	723,125.00
Other Equipment Purchases	46,886.90	116,700.00
Miscellaneous	775,852.62	1,013,161.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>23,442,726.90</u>	<u>26,668,188.00</u>



*The Alabama Forestry Commission remains committed to the prohibition of discrimination in programs, activities, and operations on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital or family status, or disability. Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs. Persons with disabilities who require alternate means of program information are encouraged to contact the Commission's state headquarters at (334) 240-9300.*

*If an individual believes they have been discriminated against by the Alabama Forestry Commission, a complaint may be filed by calling toll free (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD) or by writing to:*

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