



Educate

Education completes the mission of the Alabama Forestry Commission. We are dedicated to providing our state's landowners, school children, government officials, fire departments, and the general public with the best information and data available. It is important that all Alabama citizens understand the importance of our state's forest resources and how they benefit each of us by providing abundant wildlife habitat, clean streams and rivers, recreational benefits, and hundreds of forest products.

The Commission is also committed to providing our own team members with the best possible training and technical equipment possible to ensure they have the knowledge and tools needed to better serve the citizens of the state.

In order to focus on meeting the informational needs of landowners, the AFC:

- Works with local landowner groups and other natural resource agencies to organize and conduct landowner workshops, field days, and tours.
- Publishes *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* magazine three times a year to provide forest landowners with timely information on forest management, wildlife practices, cost share programs, and technology.
- Maintains a high quality website where landowners, citizens, and the media can

obtain the latest information about forestry and forestry-related issues: www.forestry.alabama.gov.

- Produces various literature and presentations for landowner groups such as Selling Your Timber, PreHarvest Guide, Prescribed Burning Guide, BMP Guidelines, 50 Ways to Make your Home Firewise; and Five Ways to Protect Your Forestland.
- Joins with other federal, state, and local forestry and environmental groups to exchange ideas and resource information that will better serve landowners and residents of our state.
- Provides an outreach program to identify and inform underserved and minority landowners.

Other educational programs conducted by employees of the Alabama Forestry Commission include:

- Working with rural volunteer fire departments, the media, and other local organizations to promote outdoor fire safety.
- Organizing and conducting fire suppression and prevention training for rural volunteer fire departments and other government agencies.
- Conducting educational programs for local schools, civic, and other community groups on the importance of Alabama's forests and forest resources.

THE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Protect

Sustain

Educate

Alabama is blessed with an abundance of healthy, diverse, and productive forests. These forests provide many benefits including recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, clean water and clean air, and they support one of the largest manufacturing industries in the state – the forest products industry.

The Alabama Forestry Commission understands the value of our forests to the state's economy and environment. As the state agency responsible for protecting and promoting this vast resource, we provide leadership and guidance to ensure that Alabama's forest resources are properly managed and protected, not only for our needs but for future generations as well.

The mission of the Alabama Forestry Commission is three-fold:

- *Protect* the forests from wildfire, insects, and disease.
- *Sustain* by helping landowners responsibly manage their forests using professional technical assistance to benefit themselves, their land, and society.
- *Educate* the public about the importance of Alabama's forests.

For more information, contact...

THE ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

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Arson Hotline 1-800-222-2927

The Alabama Forestry Commission is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



Protect

The primary responsibility of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) is to protect our state's forested land from harmful wildfire and other destructive agents such as insects and disease. The Commission has highly trained firefighters who are the first on call to suppress wildfire in Alabama's rural and urban/wildland areas, as well as respond to natural disasters. This protective service is provided on 22.8 million acres of forestland, 365 days a year, 24 hours, seven days a week. We also operate one of the best Southern pine beetle detection and landowner notification programs in the nation. Other services provided by the AFC to help protect our state's forest resources and citizens include:

- Operating an aerial detection system and toll-free fire reporting system to ensure timely reporting

and efficient response to wildfires across the state.

- Conducting an aggressive fire prevention campaign to educate the public, volunteer fire departments, and other stakeholders about wildland fire prevention. This includes providing Firewise hazard assessment/mitigation plans and Community Wildfire Protection Plans in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Working with rural volunteer fire departments in areas related to acquisitions, communications, training, and equipment so that they can better and safely assist in fire suppression efforts.
- Maintaining a staff of trained law enforcement officers who investigate forestry-related crimes such as wildland arson, timber theft, and vandalism or theft of harvesting equipment.
- Conducting forest health monitoring to record the health status of Alabama's forests; notifying landowners of infestations, then providing advice and assistance in controlling insects and disease.
- Providing emergency response teams during natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, and ice storms, as well as providing law enforcement assistance for special events and emergency situations.



Sustain

The Alabama Forestry Commission also helps keep our forests healthy and productive by assisting private landowners with managing their forestland, ensuring that this valuable renewable resource is available not only today, but will also be sustained into the future. Our employees work closely with landowners to help them reach their management goals such as timber production, enhancing wildlife habitats, and conserving "threatened and endangered" species and their ecosystems.

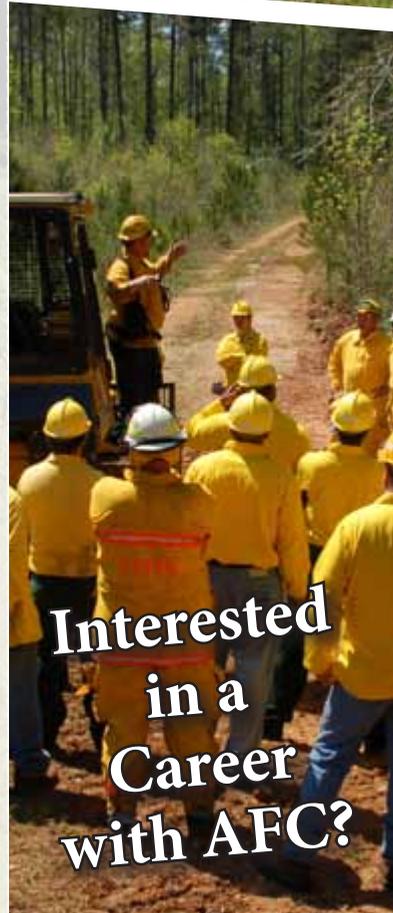
Alabama's forests help support one of the state's largest manufacturing industries – the forest products industry. The AFC works with forest-based companies and businesses to ensure that we have healthy markets for our state's wood products.

Some of the ways used by the Forestry Commission to help sustain our forest resources include:

- Motivating landowners to manage and protect their forestland.
- Offering a variety of cost-share assistance programs to help landowners meet their management objectives.
- Encouraging landowners to participate in multiple-use forest management programs such as Stewardship Forest, Tree Farm, and TREASURE Forest.

- Providing technical assistance to forest landowners through on-the-ground assessments, written forest management plans, and stand management recommendations.
- Partnering with landowners and other stakeholders to manage our state's forest resource so that it enhances and protects watersheds and riparian zones.
- Offering assistance to landowners and timber harvesters regarding Best Management Practices (BMPs) to help ensure good water quality.
- Assisting landowners with prescribed burning and fire lane construction to protect from harmful wildfires and promote wildlife habitat.
- Providing landowners with wildlife habitat management recommendations through a team of wildlife biologists.
- Participating in an annual forest inventory analysis (FIA) to collect data about Alabama's forest resource which is used for current and future economic development recruitment and planning.
- Completing an annual survey of forest products companies in the state to develop, attract, and locate opportunities for Alabama's forest products firms.
- Working with cities and communities to enhance the quality of life by improving the management of urban trees.

Need Assistance?



Interested in a Career with AFC?

Terry Spivey Photography, Bugwood.org