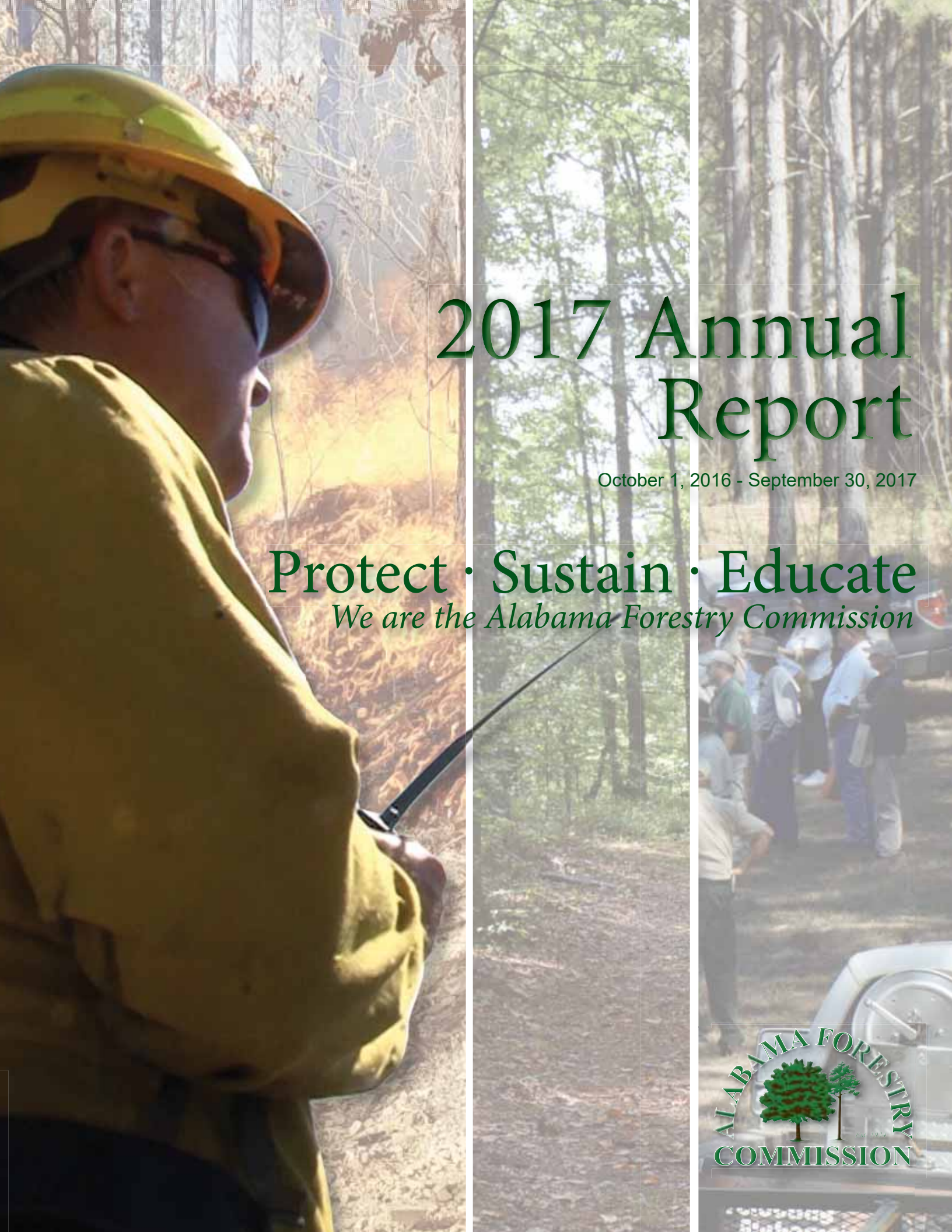

2017 Annual Report

October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2017

Protect · Sustain · Educate

We are the Alabama Forestry Commission

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama

Commissioners

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Jane T. Russell, Vice Chairman
Katrenia Kier
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State Forester
Rick Oates

Assistant State Forester
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Administrative Division Director
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Forest Management
Division Director
Will Brantley

Forest Protection
Division Director
John Goff

Regional Foresters

Northwest.....Terry Ezzell/Hank McKinley
Northeast.....Jason Dockery
Southwest.....Benji Elmore
Southeast.....Bruce Springer

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.

Our Mission:

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

The Honorable Governor Kay Ivey:

On behalf of the seven appointed commissioners and the 220 employees of the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), I am pleased to submit the agency's 48th Annual Report to you and the citizens of Alabama. This report covers Fiscal Year 2017. As a stand-alone agency, we are proud to help Alabama's 400,000 private landowners with management advice for their forest lands. We also stand ready to help them protect this valuable asset which is part of Alabama's economy and environment.

With over 23,000,000 acres of forestland and a $13 billion annual economic impact on the state, forestry is a major component of the economy in each of our 67 counties. Over 45,000 people are directly dependent on this industry for their livelihoods. Alabama is the second largest producer of pulp and paper in the United States, exporting more than $1.3 billion in products through the Port of Mobile. And, the good news is, we have the resources to grow these numbers even higher.

The men and women who make up the AFC are proud of their role in helping these landowners manage their property in a sustainable manner. The Alabama Legislature charges this agency to protect and sustain our forests, as well as educate people about the importance of forestry. We take all three of these tasks seriously.

The TREASURE Forest program is an outstanding example of how we help landowners manage in a sustainable way. Tying in with the Tree Farm and Stewardship programs, it recognizes landowners who go beyond the requirements of these programs. Commission employees worked with hundreds of landowners to determine who met the rigorous requirements of the TREASURE Forest program and helped get their property ready to be certified. In the end, we recognized 49 landowners who achieved this significant milestone, thereby demonstrating their commitment to sustainable forestry.

Our employees also conducted 300 Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMP) inspections on timber harvesting operations across the state. The forest industry uses BMPs to ensure that their activities are not adversely impacting water quality and endangered species. The AFC serves as a third-party auditor to make sure loggers and forest product companies are in compliance with these standards. The inspections provide the public with confidence that actions in the forest will not cause problems elsewhere. We also handle complaints about forest practices as they arise. In FY 2017, 34 such complaints were investigated and in the few cases where there was an actual problem, we worked with parties involved to remedy the situation.

On the protection side, every Alabamian is well aware of the devastating wildfire season we had last fall. A total of 2,198 wildfires burned just under 30,000 acres in October and November. AFC firefighters were able to contain these fires with minimal damage to structures and property, and no loss of life. This happened, despite having fewer employees than ever before. The agency spent over $2 million dollars and more than 25,000 man hours fighting fires during this time period. Additional good news is that none of our employees reported any accidents related to these fires.

Following the fire season and as a continued effect of the drought, landowners began seeing larger than normal amounts of damage due to southern pine beetle and other pests. In Alabama, this issue usually does not begin to impact our forests until summer and fall. This year however, significant infestations were noticed as early as February and continued through September and October. A complete report of the impact by these pests on Alabama landowners can be found later in this report.

These are just a few of the areas in which we work to protect the public. This report will provide further details on these and many other areas of the AFC's impact on Alabama's citizens. Our employees are excited that the things we do every day affect the lives of so many people, not only today, but for decades to come. Our work helps to ensure Alabama has a healthy environment and vibrant economy. I am proud to see that so much can be accomplished by the 220 people that are part of this great agency.

State Forester

Rick Oates

FOREST PROTECTION

Part of the mission of the Alabama Forestry Commission is to protect its forests from harm. We accomplish this through the programs administered by the Forest Protection Division.

We protect our resources, homes, and citizens from wildfire; we coordinate the response to natural disasters and emergencies; and we educate the public in areas of prescribed burning and overall forest health.

Wildland firefighters with the Alabama Forestry Commission provide Alabama's citizens, especially forest landowners, exceptional wildfire protection 24 hours a day, 7 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 hazards.

Wildfire Suppression

61% of the state's **FY2017 wildfires** occurred in the **two months** of **October and November.**

Because of state-wide drought conditions in late 2016, the AFC experienced one of the worst fall fire seasons in 10 years. Wildfire behaviors occurred that were out of the ordinary for Alabama such as re-burns (when a wildfire burns through a stand and the resulting needle cast falls on the forest floor, causing the stand to 're-burn' and escape containment); crown fires (when the tree canopy, rather than ground litter, is the carrier of the fire); as well as fires spotting a quarter mile in front of the flaming front, igniting yet another fire with which to contend and creating a very dangerous situation.

Beginning in mid-September and culminating on November 28, a total of 2,198 wildfires burned 29,533 acres. November 28, 2016, will be remembered in history as the day that wildfires raged through Gatlinburg, Tennessee, with 14 lives lost as a result of that tragedy. On that same day – November 28 with the number of active wildfires burning in Alabama within a 24-hour period, AFC wildland firefighters had their hands full as well responding to a RECORD 106 wildfires that scorched over 3,000 acres.

From a historical standpoint, in the past 10 years at least, Alabama has not experienced anything even close to this two-and-a-half month stretch with such a large number of fire occurrences or acres burned – 75 days with no breaks. For this many wildfires, it was also unprecedented for the agency to have as few as 156 wildland firefighters on staff. Remarkably, with AFC personnel spending so many long hours in the woods and on the roads, there were no significant injuries. The fact that they remained safe through all the wildfires says a lot about AFC employees and the quality of work they perform when protecting Alabama's forests.

During this wildfire season, the AFC partnered with several other agencies who assisted in wildfire suppression on a much higher level than normal, which was crucial to getting the job done due to our reduced staffing. Those partners included the US Forest Service, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), Alabama National Guard, countless volunteer fire departments, the Georgia Forestry Commission, Alabama A&M 'Fire Dawgs,' Westervelt Company, Warrior Tractor, state and county EMAs, as well as countless media outlets.

To save homes, the AFC additionally coordinated with the Alabama National Guard, ALEA, and the National Forests of Alabama for air support. Helicopters were activated not only for water drops, but also the first ever fire-retardant drop in Alabama.

Significant events from the 2016 fall fire season

In October, we progressed from a Fire Danger Warning, to a Fire Alert, eventually asking the Governor to issue a Drought Emergency 'No Burn' for the northern half of the state. This 'No Burn' was extended statewide in early November.

There were a total of 36 'named' wildfires (over 100 acres) including the difficult and large 1,308-acre Cyclops Fire; the 2,096-acre Lookout Mountain Fire; and the 930-acre Fox Mountain Fire.

To cover the shortage of wildland firefighters in the northern part of the state, 28 AFC employees were shifted from southern counties, serving one-week 'tours of duty' away from their homes and families.

A total of 16 equipment resources (dozers and wildland fire engines) were relocated from south Alabama to north Alabama.

BY THE NUMBERS

Because of the sheer number of wildfires and acres burned, the Governor held a press conference to appeal to citizens regarding the dangerous situation. This event took place on October 27 at the site of a recent wildfire.

The AFC spent just over $2 million to contain the 2016 fall wildfires.

At the end of October, AFC firefighters also responded to wildfires sparked by the Colonial Pipeline explosion that occurred in Shelby County.

2,721 homes,
1,722 other structures,
2,541 vehicles
saved by AFC firefighters.

Overall fire occurrences for Fiscal Year 2017 were well above AFC averages, with a grand total of 3,371 wildfires reported and suppressed, burning almost 47,000 acres across the state – ***more than double the total acreage for the previous year.*** Average fire size was 14 acres. Through AFC efforts, 2,721 homes in Alabama were saved, while wildfires destroyed or damaged 54 homes. Additional fire statistics include saving 1,722 structures (other than homes) and 2,541 vehicles, while 297 structures and 165 vehicles were either destroyed or damaged. Other saved property included 1,355 haybales, while 1,830 haybales were destroyed or damaged.

In addition to the high wildfire season this year, the Gulf Coast hurricane season also provided additional opportunities for AFC personnel to train and be better prepared to respond to incidents. The Commission assisted the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) with the planning process to prepare for Hurricane Irma landfall. Additionally, the AFC Incident Management team pre-positioned equipment at the Logistical Staging Area located at Maxwell Air Force Base. If Hurricane Irma had made an impact on Alabama, all commodities available for the citizens of the state would have been accepted, coordinated, arranged, and delivered from Maxwell AFB.

BY THE NUMBERS

Central Dispatch

The AFC Central Dispatch Center is essential to the agency's ability to receive wildfire information from 911 centers, sheriffs' offices, and the general public. This information is then relayed to AFC firefighters so that they are dispatched in a timely manner.

over
3,500 Number of wildfire-related calls received by a staff of 13 dispatchers

Most of these fires occurred in the fall of 2016 during one of the worst fire seasons on record, burning almost 30,000 acres. Additional personnel had to be pulled from state headquarters to assist high volume of fire calls during October and November.

over
12,000 Number of burn permits the dispatchers also issued last year.

Permits included fuel reduction, hardwood control, land clearing, agriculture, wildlife enhancement, and miscellaneous burns totalling almost 812,000 acres.

Through an agreement with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Central Dispatch also received a total of 43 calls to schedule hunting reservations for disabled persons at Macon State Forest.

Communications

The AFC operates and maintains two complete radio systems and over 200 tower sites

AFC personnel utilize the statewide VHF system for routine communications, fire prevention, and suppression operations, while a UHF radio system provides communication for the volunteer fire departments in 37 counties throughout the state.

Four AFC communication technicians service and maintain the VHF and UHF radio systems infrastructure within the state, a

total of over 1,000 AFC radios and almost 500 RCFP (VFD) radios. These UHF repeaters are provided and maintained 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no cost to the volunteer fire departments.

During the year, Communication Section activities included completing installation of a 'Cradle Point' to replace an old microwave hop that allowed for radio traffic in the north to travel to the dispatch center in Montgomery. Installation advantage provides crisp audio traffic to the dispatch center.

AFC technicians also participated in the Alabama Emergency Management Agency hurricane exercise and reverse contraflow exercise in Butler County.

The Communication Section is in the process of upgrading dispatch consoles and equipment in the Central Dispatch Center which will allow for new hardware devices and the ability to migrate to multiple dispatch centers in the future.

Volunteer Fire Assistance

The Alabama Forestry Commission continues to be committed to providing all possible 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 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 2016. The steering committee is comprised of ten volunteer firefighters appointed by the State Forester from ten districts across the state, one member of the Alabama Association of Volunteer Fire Departments (AAVFD), one member of the Alabama Firefighters Association, and one member of the Alabama Association of Fire Chiefs. 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.

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

- Administered $1,042,810 in grant money, appropriated by the Alabama Legislature. The checks were issued in August 2017 to 986 qualifying volunteer fire departments, in the amount of $1,057.62 per department.
- Worked jointly with the RCFP Steering Committee to administer $100,612 in U.S. Forest Service grant monies to VFDs across Alabama to fund purchases of wildland personal protective equipment (PPE) and other wildland firefighting equipment.
- Provided wildland firefighter training to 76 volunteer firefighters throughout Alabama.
- Provided and maintained county-wide communication systems for volunteer fire departments in 37 of Alabama's 67 counties.
- Maintained a list of VFD 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.
- Certified one new volunteer fire department, Craft Volunteer Fire Department in Marion County.
- AFC representatives 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. Some examples of these relationships include Commission associates being active members of volunteer fire departments, and serving as officers in both VFDs and local or statewide volunteer fire associations. Agency employees also serve as a point of contact for sharing information between the Commission and local volunteer fire services, as well as being actively involved in joint efforts with VFDs to conduct wildfire prevention and suppression programs.

Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)

The Commission obtains property from various military bases through the U.S. Department of Defense Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP). This equipment is tranfered to volunteer fire departments and Forestry Commission county offices for fire suppression.

36 vehicles

63 pieces of equipment

AFC acquired 96 FEPP items including vehicles and other equipment totaling

$1,095,765

The AFC also disposed of and sold 45 FEPP vehicles throught the Government Services Administration federal auctions. These vehicles had been turned back into the AFC because of age and are no longer usable.

BY THE NUMBERS

Hazard Mitigation . . .

... is **defined** as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from hazard events. It is an on-going process that occurs before, during, and after disasters and serves to break the cycle of damage and repair in hazardous areas.

Alabama landowners and the AFC use prescribed burning as a tool to help mitigate the threat to life and property from wildfire.

12,158 Rx burns — Number of prescribed burns conducted in 2017 by the AFC, private landowners, and contractors combined.

811,839 acres — Total number of acres burned by the AFC, private landowners, and contractors combined.

25,397 acres — Specific number of those acres on which the Alabama Forestry Commission conducted prescribed burns.

Forest Health

Bark Beetles

After Alabama's worst drought in many years, there were reports of dying pines throughout the state. The Alabama Forestry Commission conducted aerial surveys in the spring to quantify pine mortality, then implemented ground verification to accurately identify the pests. Although most of the detected spots were caused by the Ips engraver beetle, some pines were infested with deodar weevil and a few succumbed to southern pine beetle or black turpentine beetle attacks. From January 1 to June 2, a total of 459 spots were detected infesting 20,499 pines.

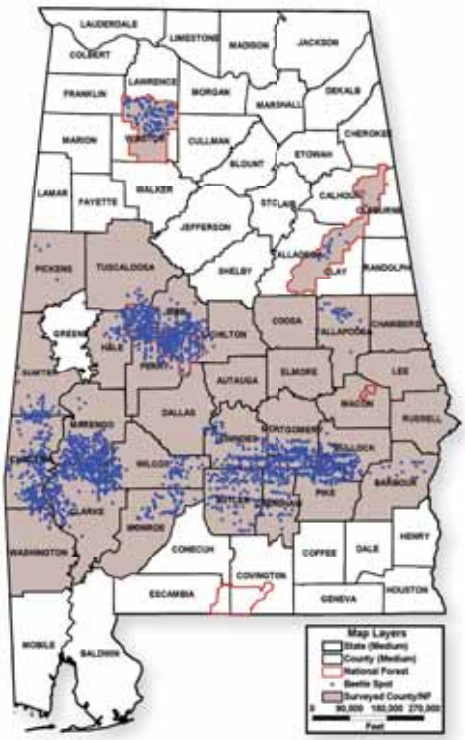
With economic impacts expected to be significant, forestry professionals from several natural resource agencies and organizations met on March 3 and March 29 in Montgomery to address the large number of trees dying in Alabama's forests, develop a strategy for control measures, and explore available resources. These joint meetings were hosted by the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Alabama Forestry Association, with attendees including representatives from Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, the USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, ALFA, and forest industry.

As a response to forest landowner concerns about dying trees from drought-related conditions, the AFC conducted three workshops. Attendees were presented information on the identification of different bark beetles, their method of attack, and how to control infestations. Approximately 30 attendees were present at each landowner workshop: Calhoun County on April 18; Marengo County on May 17; and Elmore County on June 22.

As drought-related bark beetle infestations subsided, southern pine beetle (SPB) activity increased just as the spring pheromone survey had indicated. Aerial surveys continued in the summer with a focus on counties in central Alabama. Ground verification surveys confirmed that most of the detected spots were SPB infestations. From June 5 to September 30, a total of 2,322 spots were detected infesting 212,135 pines. The total value of pines destroyed is estimated to be approximately $1.8 million.

2017 Beetle Aerial Survey
January 1, 2017 to June 2, 2017

2017 SPB Aerial Survey
June 5, 2017 to September 30, 2017



Dying Hardwoods

The drought not only affected pines, but hardwoods as well. Many started showing signs of drought-related problems in the fall of 2016. By early summer 2017 there were numerous reports of hardwood mortality, mainly oaks and hickories with distinguishing signs of hypoxylon canker.

Cogongrass Monitoring

Several southeastern states applied for grant funds to participate in a cogongrass project to determine seed viability and homogeneity. This year was the first time Alabama participated in this project. Seed and leaf samples were collected this spring from Hale County and sent to laboratories in Georgia and Florida for analysis.

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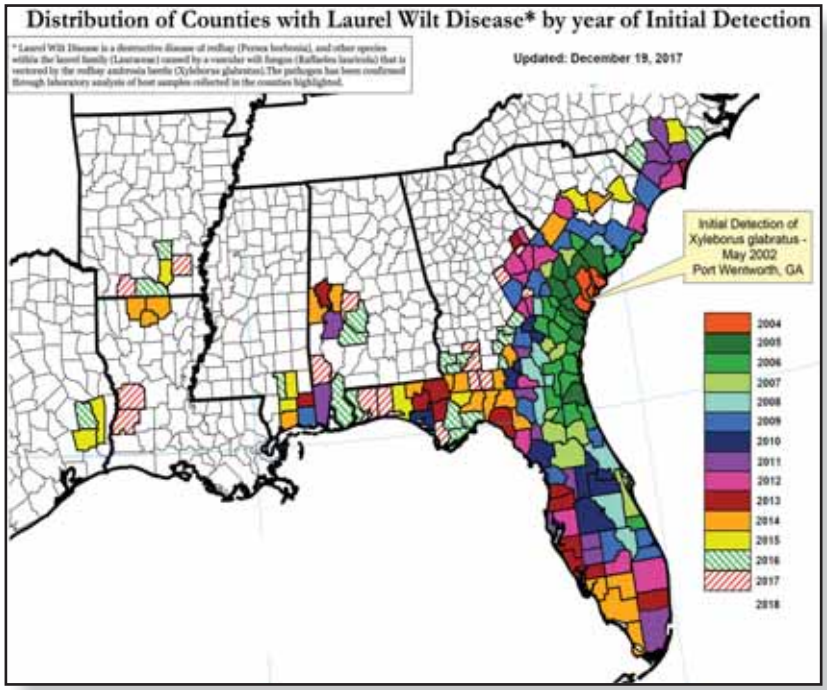
Ground Monitoring for Invasive Pests



Highly susceptible counties were surveyed this summer for non-native invasive pests, specifically laurel wilt disease and emerald ash borer.

Washington, Covington, Perry, Lowndes, and Autauga counties were monitored to assess natural spread of laurel wilt disease. Stem samples from symptomatic sassafras collected in both Perry and Washington counties were sent to the laboratory and later confirmed. However, only Perry County was added to the national map. In Covington County, the only known stands of pondberry, an endangered plant species, were observed for possible infection of the non-native forest pest.

After confirmation of emerald ash borer in Alabama, a formal quarantine was adopted on February 14 for three counties – Cherokee, Calhoun, and Cleburne. The AFC conducted monitoring activities in neighboring counties of Etowah, St. Clair, and Talladega for natural spread. Symptomatic ash trees were evident in Calhoun, Talladega, and St. Clair counties. Larvae samples extracted from ash trees in Calhoun and Talladega counties were later confirmed to be emerald ash borer. USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) laboratory conducted a second analysis of larvae samples.

Emerald Ash Borer
Counties in Alabama

Monitoring Storm Damage

An informal tornado report was completed for January 20–22 when tornadoes descended in areas of Choctaw, Pike, Russell, and Houston counties. Approximately 190 acres of forestland were destroyed in Choctaw County.

Although several hurricanes came across the southern United States with ravaging force and destruction in the summer, Alabama did not receive severe damage like other areas. However, during Hurricane Harvey, areas in Pickens, Fayette, Hale, Bibb, and Blount counties received some level of damage from tornadoes. Hurricane Nate spawned tornadoes in Autauga, Chilton, and Lowndes counties.

Forest Health Training

Two forest health training sessions were organized by Dr. David Coyle from Southern Regional Extension Forestry, with assistance of Dr. Nancy Loewenstein from Auburn University School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences. Forest insects, diseases, and non-native plant information was presented to AFC employees and other natural resource specialists at Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville on June 27-28 (with 12 AFC attendees) and Solon Dixon Forestry Center near Andalusia on July 18-19 (with three AFC attendees).

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Alabamians have long relied on forests to sustain and improve the quality of their lives. Our forests provide numerous benefits to society. Along with protecting our forest assets, proper management is a key component of ensuring these benefits continue far into the future for the coming generations to enjoy. The foundation of sustainable forest management is “the use of the natural resources for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time.” (Gifford Pinchot, 1947) The Alabama Forestry Commission’s Forest Management Division strives to assist stakeholders with managing the forests in ways that are beneficial today, tomorrow, and for years to come.

The goal of sustainable forest management is “to create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.” (Executive Order 13514, Federal Register, 2009) Environmental, technological, and financial conditions are constantly changing, but the pursuit of sustainable forestry practices remains a worthwhile endeavor. The Alabama Forestry Commission’s Forest Management Division oversees several programs to help landowners manage the timber on their properties for sustainability. The Division also assists other state agencies with managing their forest lands. The programs administered by the Forest Management Division are designed to help protect and manage our forests for the good of the people that own and utilize them, as well as the flora and fauna that call them home.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Alabama ranks third in the nation with over 23 million acres of commercial timberland. Approximately 94 percent of the state's timberland is privately owned, while 6 percent is publicly owned. Non-industrial private landowners make up about 87 percent of privately-held acres. Forest industries, companies that own wood processing plants, own the remaining private timberland. Commercial logging and the forest products industry provide many jobs for Alabamians. Private forest landowners play an important role in the state's economy.

The forestry community has implemented many processes to evaluate and ensure compliance with state and federal rules, policies, and laws regarding threatened and endangered species, water quality, and wetland preservation. Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry (BMP) program is dedicated to ensuring protection of the environment, educating all the stakeholders, and prevention of the degradation of Alabama's natural resources from silvicultural practices. The BMP program has three components, they are listed below with their respective 2017 accomplishments.

Complaint Resolution 34 complaints investigated

The AFC has signed memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist them, as forestry technical experts, when addressing complaints that may be a result of silvicultural activity. During fiscal year 2017, the AFC investigated 34 such alleged complaints. Of those, 14 were deemed as 'not valid' or not related to silvicultural activities. The remaining 20 complaints were deemed 'valid' and remediation efforts were taken. The AFC also works with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, a third-party certification program, to mitigate cases where education did not work.

Education 30 BMP program events completed

Environmental laws and regulations change periodically and can change rapidly at times. To keep all forestry stakeholders informed, the AFC is committed to being the most up-to-date forestry technical agency dealing with and relating to these changes through BMP program events. In fiscal year 2017 the AFC completed 30 such events, reaching 1,245 stakeholders which included loggers, foresters, environmental professionals, lawmakers and politicians, students, and the public.

Prevention 350 BMP inspections conducted

The AFC monitors the implementation of BMPs. Inspections on active tracts target deficient areas identified from inspections on closed-out tracts during the implementation monitoring cycle, which is completed every third year. Active tract inspections allow for AFC personnel to interact with loggers as they work, and provide instruction or guidance if necessary. During fiscal year 2017 the agency conducted a total of 350 BMP inspections. Of those inspections, 256 were on randomly-selected active logging jobs, 18 were landowner-invitation inspections, and 76 were internal AFC fire-line audits.

Forest Inventory and Analysis

Ongoing for more than 70 years in Alabama, Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) is a continuous or perpetual nationwide timber and forest resource inventory. FIA data is the primary source of forest resource information and it plays a vital role in economic development. Some of the more significant data that comes from FIA are the status and trends relating to forest area, forest volume, and tree growth versus harvest removals and mortality.

This information is obtained by AFC two-person field crews that collect a variety of forest resource data from a set of field sample locations (FIA plots) distributed across the landscape at approximately 3x3-mile spacing. When fully staffed, as we were for 2017, Alabama has six crews that are responsible for sampling 15 percent of the total number of plots annually. This field data is transferred by the crew leader to U.S. Forest Service personnel for analysis, and subsequently compiled for statistical reports. The 2017 FIA inventory was completed in August, well ahead of the December 31 deadline. A total of 955 plots were inventoried in FY17, exceeding the desired goal by 216 (29 percent).

23.1 million acres of forestland indicated

- 2017 FIA data indicates there are 23.1 million acres of forest land in Alabama, accounting for more than 68 percent of the state's total area. The amount of area has been nearly stable since 2000. Family-owned forests account for over 13 million acres, and are growing over 1 billion cubic feet of wood annually.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 2017 FIA data shows that Alabama is growing and harvesting timber sustainably. The ratio of all live tree volume growth to volume harvested and lost to mortality is +1.35. For sawtimber-sized trees, the ratio is even more positive, at +1.48.
- The volume of wood is increasing in the state. Over the past year, it is estimated that net tree volume increased by 2.4 percent. Growth is estimated to have been 3.6 percent for softwoods, while it was 1.0 percent for hardwoods.
- The single most prominent forest type in Alabama is the loblolly/shortleaf pine type, which occupies 40 percent of the state's forest area. Second is the oak/hickory type, occupying 30 percent of total forest area.

Landowner Assistance/Financial Assistance

Writing forest management plans is one of many services the Alabama Forestry Commission offers Alabama timberland owners to assist them in meeting their objectives for their property. The federal government offers a variety of financial assistance programs to help landowners meet those management objectives. AFC foresters and technicians are available to meet landowners and provide technical assistance through on-site assessments, then prepare stand management plans for implementing financial assistance practices. These plans include detailed instructions and lists of local forestry consultants and vendors. Forestry practices available in these plans can include prescribed burning, forest site preparation, tree planting, maintaining Alabama's Best Management Practices for Forestry, invasive species control, and others.

The two most common avenues for seeking forestry practice financial assistance are through the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency or USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The funding for these federal programs comes primarily through the US Farm Bill. The AFC provides service to Alabama citizens by writing many of these plans which outline practice requirements. It is worth noting that federal and state financial assistance funds have diminished since FY13, therefore less practices are being implemented on the ground.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- AFC county offices wrote 175 stand management recommendations/ plans for a total of 9,460 acres during FY17 for general and continuous CRP practices.
- AFC county personnel conducted 387 CRP compliance checks on 12,956 acres during FY17.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Programs:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- AFC personnel wrote 204 stand management recommendations/plans for 12,759 acres in FY17.
- AFC personnel performed 27 compliance/practice checks on a total of 1,078 acres during FY17.

EQIP Endowment Project

- The EQIP Endowment Project is a special grant agreement the AFC and NRCS entered into for FY17 with focus areas including the 'US Endowment for Forestry' counties and the 'Alabama Strike Force' counties. The objective is to provide additional support to traditionally underserved landowners in these counties.
- AFC foresters wrote 54 stand management plans for 3,838 acres.

Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)

- AFC Technical Service Provider (TSP) foresters prepared 12 CAP forest management plans for 598 acres during FY17.

State of Alabama Funded Programs:

Alabama Agricultural & Conservation Development Commission Program (AACDCP)

- This state-funded program, administered by the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee (ASWCC) and managed by the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ASWCD) located in counties throughout the state, received no new funding in FY17.
- AFC personnel wrote five stand management recommendations/plans for 194 acres during FY17.
- AFC personnel completed 11 compliance/practice checks for 335 acres during FY17

Stewardship

Alabama's Forest Stewardship program provides technical assistance to private forest owners to encourage and enable active long-term forest management. A primary focus of the program is the development of comprehensive, multiple-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services.

AFC staff members work with private landowners to educate them on multi-resource forest management. Using a stand management recommendation (SMR), we provide the landowners with a written proposal to address a specific situation. Next, the landowner is encouraged to address the management of the entire property through a Stewardship forest management plan. Once the management plan is in place, current accomplishments are acknowledged by awarding of Stewardship certification. Partnering very closely with the American Tree Farm System, the AFC presents the merits of Tree Farm and third-party certification once a landowner becomes a Forest Steward.

As a private landowner grows in the knowledge of multiple-use forest management, a threshold is reached where the landowner becomes eligible for Alabama's flagship program, TREASURE Forest. TREASURE is an acronym for Timber, Recreation, Environment, and Aesthetics, for a Sustained Usable REsource. When a private landowner is awarded TREASURE Forest status, they have demonstrated sound multiple resource management to wisely meet their own objectives while at the same time protecting and enhancing the forest resources of Alabama.

BY THE NUMBERS

Stewardship/Forest Management FY17 Accomplishments			
Program	**Landowners Assisted**	**Impact** (acres, miles, people)	
Stewardship Management Plans	183	24,682	acres
New Certifications	127	38,325	acres
Stand Management Plans	3,334	144,597	acres
Prescribed Burning	351	25,397	acres
Firebreak Plowing	381	620	miles
Forestry Consultant Referrals	352	N/A	

State Lands Management & Assistance

Approximately 47,000 acres of forestland in Alabama are managed by the Alabama Forestry Commission. More than 16,000 acres are under the agency's direct control, including numerous old fire tower sites, as well as 12 state forests where hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, horse-riding, and other recreational opportunities are available. These sites are managed by the local AFC field offices with some assistance from the State Lands section of AFC. The Commission has entered into cooperative agreements with three other agencies to manage their forestlands: seven state parks (24,774 acres) for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, five tracts (4,155 acres) for the Department of Mental Health, and approximately 2,000 acres at the old Fort McClellan post for the McClellan Development Authority. All of these lands are managed by the AFC State Lands section under TREASURE Forest guidelines for multiple uses and sustainability.

During FY2017, the AFC's State Lands section conducted numerous timber sales on various AFC properties. In addition to assisting in marking and cruising two Geneva State Forest select-cut timber sales, State Lands also managed all aspects of an approximately 56-acre clearcut on the Thorsby Seed Orchard property in Chilton County, clearcuts on five tower sites in the Southwest Region, and a second thinning on approximately 63 acres of pine plantation on the old Stauffer Nursery property in Lee County. Total income from timber sales on AFC-owned properties was $321,132. Total income from commissions generated by handling timber sales for other agencies was $19,349. Total revenues from timber sales and other services on these lands are shown in the accompanying table.

Additionally in FY2017, Commission personnel were involved in a variety of management activities on these lands, including preparation of timber sales and oversight of harvesting activities; prescribed burning for wildlife habitat improvement, aesthetics, and wildfire hazard reduction; forest health monitoring; and road, bridge, and building maintenance.

Revenues from State Lands Management Program - FY 2017

TIMBER SALES	Sale Value	Revenue to AFC
Alabama Forestry Commission		
Thorsby Timber Sale #17-1	$48,500	$48,500
Orvin Tower Site Timber Sale #17-2	$19,020	$19,020
Wildfork Tower Site Timber Sale #17-6	$19,725	$19,725
Cobb Tower Site Timber Sale #17-7	$20,550	$20,550
Brooks Tower Site Timber Sale #17-8	$35,146	$35,146
Wallace Tower Site Timber Sale #17-9	$7,540	$7,540
Geneva State Forest Timber Sale #17-10	$33,705	$33,705
Geneva State Forest Timber Sale #17-11	$115,370	$115,370
Stauffer State Forest Timber Sale #17-12	$21,576	$21,576
Department of Conservation - State Parks	**$71,560**	**$7,156**
Department of Mental Health	**121,934**	**12,193,**
TOTAL TIMBER SALES		**$340,481**
PRESCRIBED BURNING	**Acres**	**Revenue**
Department of Mental Health	220	$5,320
MANAGEMENT FEES	**Acres**	**Revenue**
Department of Mental Health	4,867	$4,867
GRAND TOTAL		**$350,668**

Threatened & Endangered Species Program

The Threatened and Endangered Species Specialist for the Alabama Forestry Commission continued to monitor the federal register and address impacts of increased numbers of species being protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. This position was created in 2016 to educate citizens, AFC staff, and those involved in Alabama's forest industry about threatened and endangered species and the Endangered Species Act.

- Reviewed the federal register and provided comments to the Department of Interior as needed regarding the listing of threatened and endangered species.
- Met with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel and other conservation agencies/organizations to gather Strategic Habitat Unit (SHU) information. This data was used to create guidelines for incorporating SHU information into stand management recommendations at the work unit level.
- Reviewed and revised management information sheets on AFC website for use by agency employees and citizens as time allowed. Submitted two articles for the AFC's Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine related to threatened and endangered species.
- Created and updated an Excel spreadsheet listing each threatened and endangered species in Alabama by county.
- Assisted with coordination and implementation of one shortleaf workshop in Jasper and four landowner 'Chat and Chew' meetings in Jackson, Marion, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties. Information regarding threatened and endangered species was disseminated at each event.
- Met with Geneva State Forest personnel on several occasions to discuss gopher frog and gopher tortoise management needs. A revision of the harvest schedule is being implemented to improve gopher tortoise habitat in stand units 14, 15, and 20. This may lead to the creation of a minimum viable population within the forest boundaries.
- Presented information regarding the Endangered Species Act at several education-based workshops, youth camps, and Professional Logging Manager (PLM) courses for various members of the public including children, timber company employees, landowners, and loggers.
- Reviewed documents and participated in meetings as requested by other government agencies and private organizations to ensure forestry perspectives are included in processes related to providing protection to species under the Endangered Species Act.
- Visited two sites in Covington County to monitor populations of pondberry, an endangered plant, to ensure they are not being impacted by laurel wilt disease.

Urban and Community Forestry

Encouraging proper care for the estimated 240 million urban trees in Alabama is the responsibility of the AFC Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program. The two-person team primarily focuses on the trees where people live, work, and play. The goal of promoting, protecting, and enhancing the urban forests in all 67 counties within Alabama is not easily achieved, and it takes considerable assistance from volunteers, county personnel, and state staff to accomplish it. The program is normally funded with a $200,000 annual allotment from the Consolidated Payment Grant (CPG) through the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry (S&PF) organization, which is matched by in-kind service from the AFC. However, the program was fortunate to receive a one-time increase for the 2017 fiscal year for a total of $214,000.

The 2017 fiscal year was memorable for the program in other ways too. The extraordinary fall 2016 wildfire season and a constrained budget required adjustments to goals and planned activities. Seedling purchases for distribution at Arbor Day events were limited to nursery credits remaining from the previous year, and for the most part seedling purchases were shifted to outside sources. We are thankful for the county forestry

committees, soil and water committees, Alabama Power, tree boards, and beautification councils who stepped up to support the Arbor Day seedling distributions. Through this cooperative effort, more than 40,000 seedlings of eight different species were delivered across Alabama for Arbor Week.

Work was focused on activities where non-AFC grant funds paid for nearly all costs. An example of this and a highlight for the year was the Urban Forestry Strike Teams training held in Mobile County from May 7-10, 2017. Urban Forest Strike Teams (UFST) are a disaster response and recovery project initiated by the Urban & Community Forestry programs in Virginia and North Carolina in 2007 and supported by the Southern Group of State Foresters. UFST have responded to more than 11 disasters in 11 states in the eastern US since its inception. Local communities, FEMA regional debris managers, and disaster management consultants have directly benefited from UFST assessments, data collection, and risk/damage reports developed for their use within FEMA public assistance. For the Mobile exercise, 23 team members from seven states participated in the technical specialist training. This was the first time that the UFST training was held in conjunction with a statewide disaster drill, and the first time that the Emergency Management Assistance Compact was tested from request to response.

Other grant work in 2017 included the closure of four 'pass through' grants from fiscal year 2014, following their modification to extend the grant through 2017. Alabama's Urban & Community Forestry Leadership Volunteer Training Program was held on December 6, 2016, with 75 stakeholders from across Alabama participating in interactive sessions aimed at improving urban forest management capacity. The Blountsville grant resulted in 50, 8-feet tall saplings of six different species planted around the Blountsville Recreational Park. The Montgomery Trees grant culminated in tree distributions and promotions within the city of Montgomery, building the local tree organization's membership and activities. Thanks to the CAWACO grant, a neighborhood in northeast Birmingham has an urban forest management plan and the state has a plan template to follow for future efforts. This project also created a persisting team of experts who continue to work on Birmingham tree projects.

Two Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grants have been awarded to Alabama in the past two competitive cycles. The first, an $85,700 fiscal year 2016 LSR grant, is entitled 'Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management.' A single city has been selected and the Green Infrastructure Center out of Charlottesville, Virginia, will act as the consultant to analyze and recommend tree protection and placement to minimize the 'flushing' effect of stormwater street surges and mitigate flooding. The second LSR is from fiscal year 2017 and centers upon using hyperspectral imaging. This $105,000 grant proposes remote detection of emerald ash borer-susceptible tree species to aid plans for combatting this non-native invasive pest. The data will also be used for urban forestry management plans. Two urban LSR proposals were submitted for 2018: one on 'Trees and the Law,' and a second led by Texas on promoting urban forestry in the edge communities around larger cities.

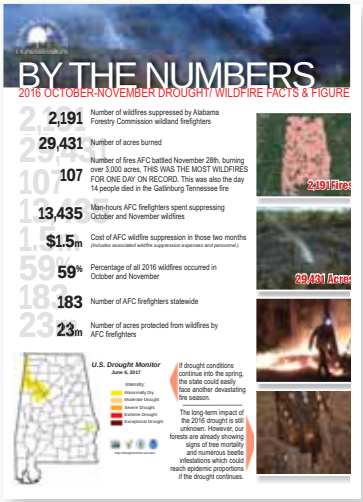
Arbor Day Foundation recognition programs of Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA have long been the core of the U&CF Program. Requirements for recognition vary between programs, but all include an entity responsible for the trees within the jurisdiction, documented tree ordinance or plan, budgets for tree care, and a celebration for Arbor Day. In 2017, there were 82 successful Tree City USA applicants and 13 individual Tree Campus USAs, with Alabama Power as the sole Tree Line USA member. The '40 for 40' goal of adding 40 new Tree City USA successful applicants by the end of 2019 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Tree City USA program continued by laying groundwork with a dozen past Tree City USAs.

The Urban & Community Forestry Program would not be effective without the help and support of the entire AFC workforce and the many volunteers who work for a better, healthier, and more resilient urban forest. AFC employees completed 172 urban forestry technical assists across the state in a fiscal year that included one of the worst fire seasons in a decade or more. To do this they logged 7,834 hours, allowing the match and receipt of $235,213 in grant money. There were more than 60 Arbor Day and seedling distribution events in 31 counties, and non-AFC volunteers worked 19,198 documented hours on urban forestry projects.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Media/Publications

The historical drought/wildfire season of Fall 2016 presented several unique challenges for the Alabama Forestry Commission's Media/Publications Team. Each day brought new inquiries and interview requests from television, radio, and print news media outlets across the state. The Media Team responded to these requests, and distributed numerous news releases to keep the public informed of the different stages of burn restrictions as we progressed in October and November from Fire Danger Warning to Fire Alert, eventually culminating with a statewide Drought Emergency 'No Burn.'



To facilitate in keeping the public and media informed, a 'by the numbers' fact sheet was produced and updated weekly on the AFC website, showing the growing number of wildfires and acres burned.

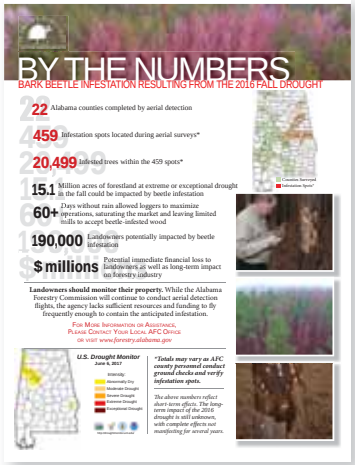
Throughout the two months, the Media Team maintained almost continuous contact with the Governor's office regarding the status of different wildfires, especially the larger ones that threatened homes and businesses, as well as the Colonial Pipeline explosion fires. In light of the increasingly dangerous situation across the state, the Media Team coordinated a press conference with the Governor's office. On October 27, the Governor and State Forester jointly made their appeal to the public on the site of a recent large wildfire in Walker County with blackened soil and charred remains of a pine plantation in the background.

On November 2, a camera crew from the Weather Channel spent an entire day following AFC firefighters into the woods as they battled wildfires, accompanied by AFC media team members. In addition to several 'live' broadcasts throughout this day, the national network continued featuring the AFC over the next week by running recorded segments in their continuing coverage of the extreme drought/wildfire situation across the Southeast.

As the year progressed, the Media Team continued with the ongoing public awareness campaign to favorably market the agency to the state's forest landowners, legislators, and the general public. In addition to attaining positive media coverage through the traditional avenues of statewide distribution of news releases and media advisories, larger audiences were reached through the AFC's social media networks such as Facebook (with just under 7,000 followers), Twitter, and YouTube. The AFC website (www.forestry.alabama.gov) also continues to be a major source of educational information for landowners and citizens across the state. During Fiscal Year 2017, the AFC website had over 1.5 million page views, a 67.7 percent increase over the previous year. These numbers spiked significantly during the heavy fire months of October and November.

The AFC website had 1,560,786 pageviews in FY 17

In response to forest landowner concerns about dying trees in the spring, considerable media coverage was dedicated to bark beetle damage across the state. This included publicizing the joint meetings on March 3 and March 29 of forestry professionals from several natural resource agencies and organizations, hosted by the AFC, as well as the resulting three public beetle workshops conducted by the AFC. Also, a 'by the numbers' infestation fact sheet was produced and updated weekly.



While budgets continue to be reduced, the AFC's UAS (drone) offers a cost-efficient tool to help the agency meet its mandate to Protect, Sustain, and Educate. Not only during the extreme fall wildfire season, but throughout the year, the drone gave wildland firefighting crews a bird's-eye view of wildfires and prescribed burns by monitoring hotspots and checking fire breaks.

One of the most notable events in which the AFC drone was used to assist county personnel included a 390-acre wildfire in St. Clair County that AFC firefighters battled for four days. There were concerns of a communication tower being located in the area. Within a matter of minutes,

(Continued on page 20)

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the drone was used to determine that there were no towers in the area, saving time and allowing firefighters to focus on controlling the wildfire rather than spending time doing a ground search. Also on that fire, while crews were conducting a burn-out on the west side of the fire, the drone was used to inspect the fire line on the southeast side and determined that a jump had occurred. Without the early detection by the drone, the acres lost would have been much greater.

Following the Colonial Pipeline explosion in Shelby County, the drone provided aerial images of the acres burned by subsequent wildfires. By utilizing the drone, the AFC reduced the costs of sending up manned aircraft who were already engaged with wildfires in other areas of the state. The drone crew also assisted the State Fire Marshal's office in investigating the origin of a Tuscaloosa County wildfire that burned 80 acres, destroying a church and threatening a horse barn.

In the spring when forest health teams began inspecting dying trees from insect and disease outbreaks, the drone provided high resolution aerial imagery and mapping for AFC county personnel and landowners. The drone was later deployed to capture aerial images of tornado damage in Pickens County following Hurricane Harvey. The drone crew also assisted with aerial inspections of several AFC communication towers, saving time and money by allowing the communication technicians to safely make assessments from the ground.

Additionally, AFC drone personnel attended two landowner tours to demonstrate the benefits of the new technology and how the agency is using this tool to assist county personnel and landowners.

In March, media team members assisted other agency associates in representing the AFC at the Alabama's Legislative Sportmen's Caucus at the State Capitol. They talked with attendees and distributed informative brochures and publications regarding services provided by the AFC such as forest management/stewardship, wildfire prevention, and insect protection.

Other Media Team projects during the year included:

- Publication of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* for the 35th year – Published continuously since 1982, the magazine continued to provide landowners with forest stewardship principles and management techniques/advice. Current circulation is a little over 13,000.
- Production of three video presentations for the Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Awards for the 26th consecutive year, which were unveiled during the annual awards banquet of the Alabama Natural Resources Council.
- Production of *TREETopics*, the AFC employee e-newsletter, which evolved from quarterly to monthly publication beginning in the summer.
- Production of brochures for the annual Butler County Natural Resources Youth Camp.

Outreach

The Alabama Forestry Commission's Outreach Program continued efforts to maintain visibility across the state, both in and out of the classroom. Regional coordinators organized numerous school programs that reached over 3,500 children grades K – 8. Other collaborations and outreach efforts offered the same message to adult audiences throughout the state, enhancing fire prevention knowledge of attendees.

Additionally, another successful partnership continued between the Alabama Forestry Commission, the US Forest Service, and Alabama A&M University. The student wildland wildfire hand crew known as the 'FireDawgs' provided much needed support during the height of the fall 2016 wildfire outbreaks while the AFC's response efforts were crippled due to low personnel staffing. These students continue to serve in many roles to assist the agency in emergency response efforts while also serving as wildfire prevention ambassadors. The collaboration has proven as a win–win for all parties involved.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) section has continued to develop applications to maximize agency efficiency through programs such as an upgraded budget and purchasing system. Another IT project was the restructuring of networks at county offices to accommodate internet services through cellular channels. This upgrade would increase bandwidth at counties that were struggling with slow internet speeds.

IT has also been working with the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) to develop a system to be prepared in the event of a natural disaster. The system would manage resource flow and inventory during the disaster.

Through a partnership with the state Office of Information Technology and the SANS Institute, everyone at the Alabama Forestry Commission has been trained in computer and information safety to better protect themselves and the agency when it comes to data security.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The AFC has created an 'ArcGIS Online for Organizations' account to serve as a central hub for all Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information and operations at the agency. This Esri platform hosts a web map apps and operational dashboard for forestry matters such as forest land management, forest fires, forest health (insects and diseases), etc. Additionally, the site ***(http://alforestry.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html)*** provides AFC employees with powerful mapping capabilities. The web map apps enable agency pilots and foresters to accomplish GIS data collection and development on a near real-time basis. Equipping forestry managers and decision makers with current geospatial information provides them with the necessary tools to make good forest management decisions.

The AFC continues to explore, study and implement newest technology in GIS to ensure forest resources in Alabama are better sustained and more abundant for future use.

Personnel

Fiscal year 2017 was very challenging for the AFC Personnel Office, beginning with 243 employees. Through retirements and resignations, the year ended with 223 employees. A total of 14 retirements resulted in the loss of several senior level employees. Due to budgetary constraints, most of the vacated positions were not filled. Many employees were needed to fill in gaps and stretch themselves further to continue the mission of the Commission. The drought and resulting wildfires in the fall of 2017 led to a surge in the accumulation of compensatory time hours, while challenging a depleted workforce.

Also during the fiscal year, the Personnel Office worked closely with the Leadership Team in developing a reorganization plan to be implemented in fiscal year 2018.

Training

Consistency is the goal of the Commission's readiness and training program, preparing employees to perform to the highest level possible to meet the agency's mission. Fiscal year 2017 was a challenging year with more budget reductions. All training and readiness programs were prioritized, then adjusted based on these priorities. The AFC participated in the 2017 Hurricane (SOSA*) exercise with Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), and conducted Basic Wildland Firefighter training for volunteer fire departments.

**SOSA – State Operational Staging Area at Maxwell Air Force Base.*

Employee Training October 2016 to September 2017	
Training	Hours
BMPs	1,095
FIA	1,296
Annual Fire Safety Review	1,389
Incident Command System (ICS) (First Aid & CPR)	658
Prescribed Burn Manager	535
Fire Equipment	427
Urban & Community Forestry (U&CF)	360
Human Resource Development	232
Basic Wildland Firefighter	155
FIF 100 (online Basic Firefighter)	89
Total Employee Training Hours	6,236
Partner Training October 2016 to September 2017	
Training	Hours
Basic Wildland Firefighter (VFDs)	853
AEMA Hurricane Exercise 2017	482

Alabama Forestry Commission
FY 2017 Income/Expense Statement
Year Ending 9/30/2017

Revenue Description	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
Severance Tax	5,531,284.00	6,032,155.14
Forest Products	35,620.00	38,812.49
Fishing Permits	3,913.00	4,425.74
Fire Suppression	1,510.00	3,016.88
Oil and Gas Rights Lease	571.00	1,053.05
Insurance Recoveries	13,978.00	56,782.13
Reimbursements Not Otherwise Classified	15,000.00	21,687.31
Prior Year Refunds - Co-Op Capital Credits	25,439.00	25,231.41
Contract Services	776,097.00	1,045,381.86
Salvage Equipment/Property	100,000.00	214,588.28
Timber Sales	326,905.00	318,012.28
Building Rents	41,538.00	60,558.08
General Fund Transfers In	8,491,924.00	8,096,658.00
Federal Operating Grants	4,600,000.00	5,888,721.45
County Forestry Collections (Assessments)	1,764,430.00	1,782,220.19
TOTAL REVENUES	**21,728,209.00**	**23,589,304.29**
Expenditure Description	**2017 Budget**	**2017 Actual**
Personnel Costs	11,163,285.00	11,070,295.07
Employee Benefits	4,927,811.00	4,586,141.42
In-State Travel	198,195.00	118,424.11
Out-of-State Travel	10,000.00	8,473.73
Repairs and Maintenance	178,832.00	154,995.42
Rentals and Leases	47,432.00	27,359.06
Utilities and Communication	618,861.00	653,849.56
Professional Services	779,894.00	614,414.19
Operating Supplies and Materials	718,752.00	663,970.24
Transportation Equipment Operations	1,901,327.00	1,184,129.77
Grants and Benefits	1,253,852.00	1,328,538.37
Capital Outlay	2,500.00	-
Transportation Equipment	25,000.00	17,038.91
Other Equipment	**94,675.00**	**63,645.92**
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**21,920,416.00**	**20,491,275.77**

BY THE NUMBERS

ALABAMA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Est. 1924

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