



From the State Forester

2022 marked the 135th anniversary for the Kansas Forest Service. This year brought a return to some normal activities and saw improvements and adaptations in a changing world.

With the significant number of wildland fires affecting the state, it is apparent that we need to accept the idea of a fire year rather than a fire season.

In May, our agency hosted state and federal forestry staff from across the country for the first Council of Western State Foresters gathering in more than two years. While in Kansas, attendees observed the Demonstration Arboretum and Honor Grove, the Geyer Forestry Research Station, areas affected by recent wildfires, the K-State campus, and Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks property.

The first-ever statewide urban canopy assessment was completed by our geographic information systems staff. This assessment has been shared with all incorporated Kansas communities as a baseline for future planning.

Our rural district foresters conducted two statewide field days and wrote planting plans for 1,723 acres for Kansas landowners.

The Urban Forestry Accomplishment Award was renamed the Jim Strine Award in honor of our former northwest district forester. Robert Atchison, retired Rural Forestry Program coordinator, was selected as the Kansas Conservation Champion of the Year at the Kansas Natural Resources Conference.

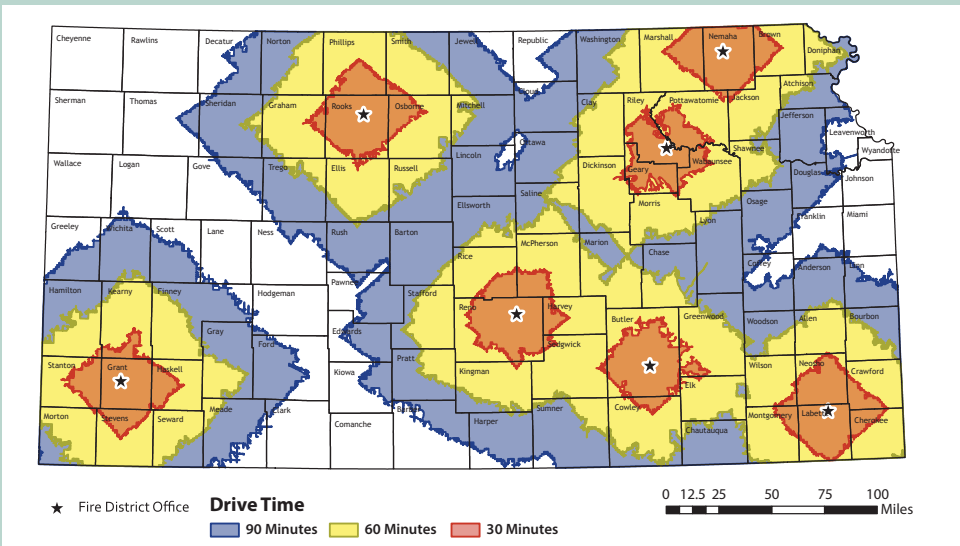
In 2023, we will be planning for and implementing the opportunities brought to us by the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act and the recommendations of the Governor's Wildfire Mitigation Task Force.

As always, your support is critical to our continuing success.

Thank you,

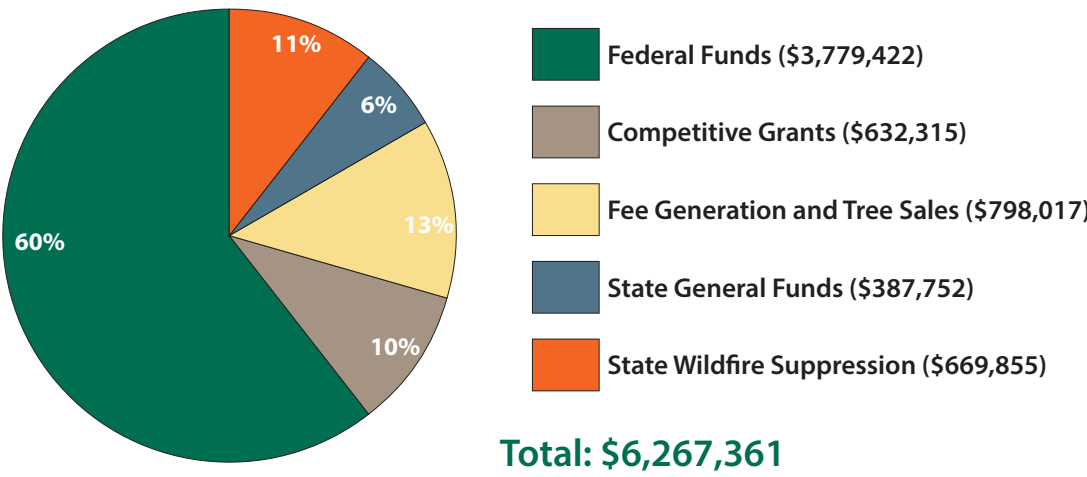
Jason Hartman, State Forester

Fire Management Offices and Drive Time



Seven full-time district Kansas Forest Service fire staff serve Kansas firefighters and communities in wildland fire efforts. This map illustrates the anticipated response time for these staff to reach Kansas communities when requested by local resources.

Kansas Forest Service Fiscal Year 2022 Budget



Kansas Forest Service Partners



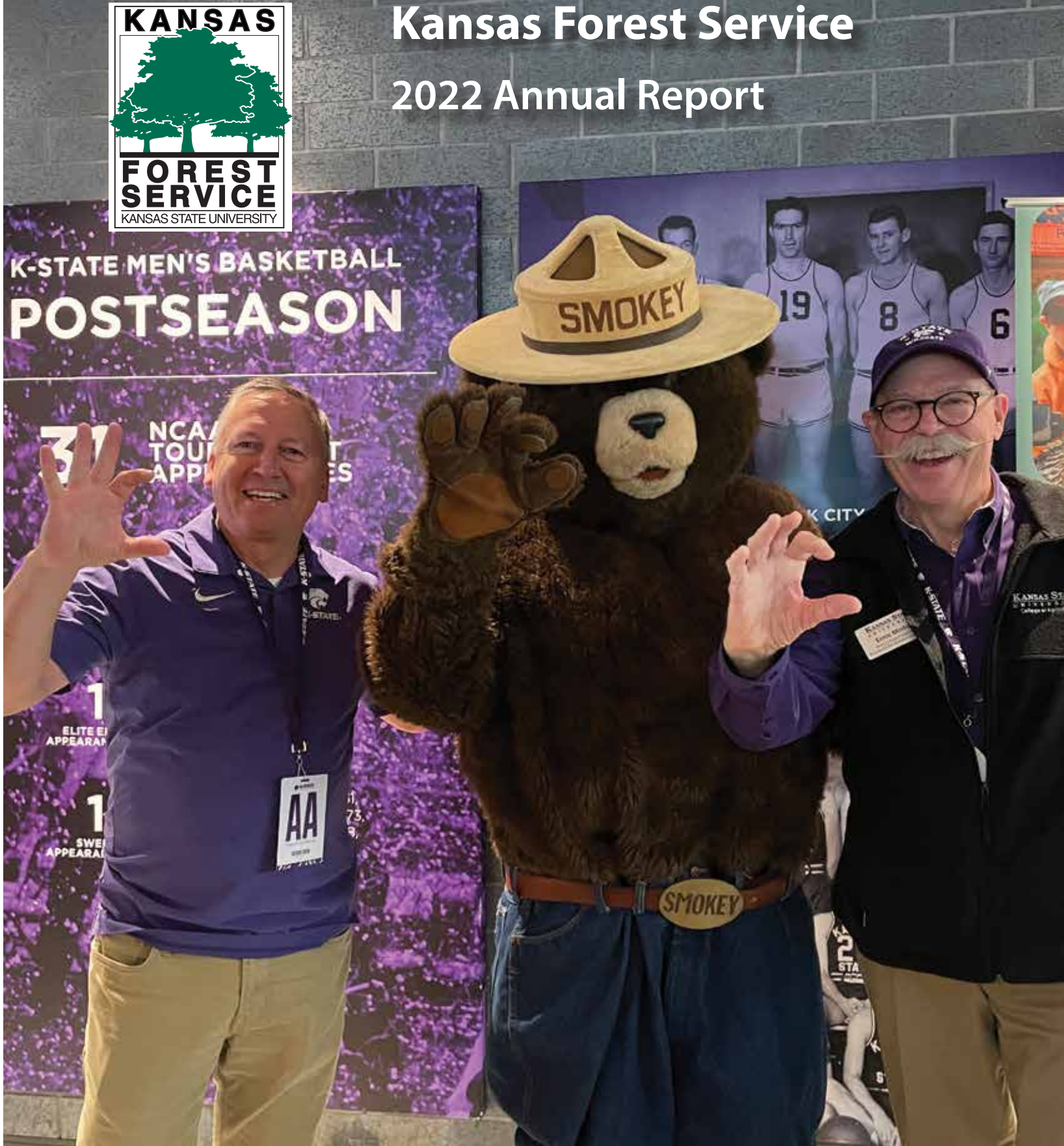
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Kansas Forest Service 2022 Annual Report



**Sustaining and Enhancing Natural Resources and Communities
through Forestry and Wildland Fire Management**

The Kansas Forest Service serves rural fire districts, forest and arboriculture industries, communities, private landowners, and youth of the state through

- conservation tree and shrub planting,
- fire management,
- community forestry,
- rural forestry,
- marketing and utilization, and
- forest health programs.

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Water

Did you know ... healthy forests lead to healthy streams? That's why the Kansas Forest Service is in the business of conserving and restoring the state's streamside forests. New streamside forest plantings, or buffers, act like a shock absorber against the pulses of polluted and erosive water following heavy rains. Where streamside forests have been degraded, streams suffer. Where streamside forests are healthy, streams are less polluted and have improved water quality and calmer currents.

What We're Doing

- Foresters assisted landowners with protecting, stabilizing, and restoring the important riparian forests along streams and rivers that limit erosion, keep water clean, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife.
- In these critical riparian forests, the Forest Health program is working with landowners to eradicate invasive plants and tree killing pests and pathogens.

Results

- 40,995 tons (2,928 dump truck loads) of sediment and contaminants annually were kept from entering Tuttle Creek reservoir by nine streambank stabilization projects protecting 11,316 feet of riverbank.
- Planted 6,527 trees, pruned 53,352, and removed 13,061 dead or dying trees in Kansas communities.
- Provided mist blowers at 14 locations to landowners throughout the state. This tool can be used to control invasive plants like bush honeysuckle on riparian areas. 70 acres of mixed forest-type areas have been treated for invasive plants with these tools.



Quality of Life

Did you know ... trees benefit Kansans' quality of life? The positive effect of gardens, parks, and other green spaces on public wellbeing and health are well-documented. Trees cool city streets, clean the air, reduce crime, and increase property values and business traffic. Windbreaks, shelterbelts, and riparian plantings benefit the quality of life for Kansans by improving home energy savings, increasing crop yields, and slowing erosion and sedimentation of reservoirs.

What We're Doing

- The Community Forestry Program provides resources for the long-term management and sustainability of the public tree resource by assisting communities, city staff, tree boards volunteers and arborists.
- Community foresters complete assessments, inventories, and management plans (municipal, commercial and utility) to support community canopies.
- Helping landowners control invasive plants, pathogens, and pests improves wildlife habitat, strengthens local ecosystems and improves the recreational use of natural spaces.

Results

- 93 certified Tree Cities.
- Eight Tree Campus USA projects.
- Hosted two workshops for counties with new detections of emerald ash borer (Osage and Brown counties) to assist with community planning for the pest.
- 300 arborists and professional resources managers attended a seminar on tree health issues in conifers.



Fire

Did you know ... the Kansas Forest Service Fire Management Program helps local fire departments through training, equipment, and financial assistance. The Kansas Forest Service also deploys personnel in support of national wildfire fighting efforts.

What We're Doing

- Provides aviation and incident management support to fire departments.
- Produces training in mitigation, prescribed fire, and suppression.
- Assists communities in completing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Coordinates Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants.
- Provides excess and donated equipment to fire departments.

Results

- Provide aviation assistance on 33 fires in 11 months.
- Fire personnel supported firefighting efforts for 1,231 days, on 35 fire incidents, in 15 states.
- Provided wildland fire training to 25 Armenian firefighters as a cooperative program between the Kansas National Guard and the country of Armenia in the capital, Yerevan.
- Submitted grant applications for Riley, Wabaunsee, and Reno counties to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Administered the Volunteer Fire Assistance cost-share program to rural fire departments, awarding \$400,000 to 108 fire departments in 48 counties.



Sustainability

Did you know ... the Kansas Forest Service supports and strengthens healthy prairie and woodland ecosystems? Through prescribed burning and forest management, the spread of invasive vegetation is halted, improving wildlife habitat as well as landowner benefit and satisfaction in their land. Restoring the ecosystem of Kansas is vital not only to wildlife and native trees and grasses, but also to the Kansas economy. Forest and prairie management practices remove undesirable species from the landscape, which generates the potential for valuable wood products and new energy sources.

What We're Doing

- Community foresters have increased the number and diversity (age and species) of trees planted within communities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Rural foresters assisted landowners with Forest Stand Improvement plans to create healthier, more resilient forestlands.
- Rural foresters produced detailed planting plans for landowners to guide tree-planting efforts for restoring wooded ecosystems.

Results

- 61 professionals attended the Managing Carbon through Healthy Forests and Forest Products conference in Wichita.
- 135 communities received urban/community forestry technical support.
- 26 plans covering 408 acres of hardwood forestland.
- 1,723 acres of tree and shrub planting plans written.



Developing Stewards

Did you know ... the Kansas Forest Service supports landowners, students, and communities in their conservation efforts? The annual Arbor Day Poster Contest, Smokey Bear events, field days, workshops, and sale of conservation trees, support the protection of Kansas natural resources and help individuals and communities meet the goals for their property.

What We're Doing

- The Community Forestry Program provided resources for the long-term management and sustainability of the public tree resource by assisting communities, city staff, volunteers on tree boards, and arborists with community forestry activities.
- Provided educational programming to city foresters, arborists, city governments, residents, and volunteers on proper tree care, maintenance, and hazardous tree issues.
- At events across the state, including the Agroforestry and Fall Forestry field days, foresters provided information and guidance about forest stewardship to landowners.

Results

- Through 48 workshops, community foresters worked with 54 tree boards and 3,134 attendees.
- 20,271 volunteer hours contributed to community forestry.
- Partnered with 93 locally employed forestry staff working in Kansas communities.
- Rural Foresters taught more than 340 adults and 705 children at 25 different events.

The Bottom Line



40,995 tons

Sediment kept from entering Tuttle Creek by nine streambank stabilization projects.



4,200 pounds

Native tree seed planted in riparian forest areas.



\$19.2 million

Dollars spent managing the forestry resources by Kansas Tree City USA communities.



111

Windbreaks established or renovated, protecting more than 40,000 acres.



11,000 hours

Fire training provided in fire suppression, mitigation, and prescribed burning.



\$1 million

Excess property and donated equipment issued to Kansas fire departments.



697

Fulfilled requests for technical assistance from Kansas landowners.



268,860

Seedlings distributed for conservation plantings in 2022.



30

Forest Stewardship plans to help landowners manage 22,709 woodland acres.



20,271

Number of volunteer hours Kansans invested in caring for community trees.