

KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

2009 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

For the Kansas Forest Service, fiscal year 2009 was a year of planning, partnering, and promotion. The year began with direction for a Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Resource Strategy by the USDA – Forest Service. The assessment and strategy are key components of the USDA's Forestry Title of the 2008 Farm Bill. State forestry agencies are to identify, describe, and spatially define forest landscape areas where forestry programs will be emphasized. Establishment of priority areas is intended to: 1) Enable the efficient, strategic, and focused use of limited program resources; 2) address current state and national resource management priorities; and 3) produce the most benefits in terms of critical forest resource values and public benefits.

Paralleling the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Resource Strategy activities was the Assessment of Needs component of the USDA – Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. Fortunately these two assessments blend well as the purpose of the Forest Legacy Program is to identify and protect environmentally important private forestlands threatened by conversion to nonforest uses. Ecological aspects of interest to the Forest Legacy Program include scenic, cultural, fish, wildlife, recreational resources, riparian areas, and timber. The Forest Legacy Program provides fiscal resources to protect priority environmental values through donated and purchased lands as well as conservation easements from willing donors and sellers. Former Governor Kathleen Sebelius, designated the Kansas Forest Service as the state's lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program in November 2008.

Complementing these planning activities were significant partnership improvements and enhancements through fiscal resource sharing and collaborative grant proposal writing. For the former, creative financing provided the Kansas Forest Service with sufficient funds to re-establish the watershed forester position under a three-year term agreement. With increasing interest and regards for water quality values, this position is central to the agency's relationship to the Kansas Water Office, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, and the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Redesign Program.

The Kansas Forest Service teamed up with the Kansas Departments of Commerce and Energy, the Small Business Development Center, the USDA – Rural Development and the Nebraska Forest Service to prepare a grant proposal for the purpose of advancing woody bio-based businesses. Similarly, the Kansas Forest Service teamed with the Nebraska Forest Service to prepare a Community Tree Assessment grant proposal. Feedback late in the fiscal year reported that we were selected for fiscal awards for both of these programs thus we envision a "Wood Energy/Biobased Products/Community Tree Assessment Specialist" to join the staff during the forthcoming fiscal year.

Lastly, through the leadership of Stuart Warren, Head, Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, the Kansas Forest Service welcomed Kansas State University President Kirk Schulz and leaders from the University's College of Agriculture to the state office in early winter 2009. All of these leaders encouraged greater visibility for the Kansas Forest Service and provided examples of groups to network with and procedures for effective networking.

Larry Biles
State Forester

KANSAS FOREST SERVICE POWERS AND DUTIES

- a. Supervise, generally, all forest management and all forestation and reforestation work conducted by the state;
- b. promote practical forestry;
- c. encourage the development and use of forest resources;
- d. compile and publish information relating to forestry and reforestation;
- e. provide assistance in forestry and reforestation to owners and operators of forest lands;
- f. provide assistance for the protection of the state's forest resources, both public and private, from insects and diseases;
- g. provide assistance for the prevention and suppression of forest, brush, or grassland fires in nonfederal unincorporated areas of the state;
- h. foster and promote the control of soil erosion on forest lands;
- i. carry on an assistance program with forest landowners and operators in the practice of forestry, including the growing, harvesting, and marketing of forest products and in the management of forests for other multiple benefits such as water quality, stream bank stabilization, erosion control, wildlife and recreation;
- j. carry on a processing and marketing assistance program with forest products processors;
- k. cooperate with other agencies and organizations in conducting forestry related programs, including riparian and wetland protection and nonpoint source pollution;
- l. produce, procure, and distribute forest tree seeds and plants for the purpose of establishing or reestablishing forest, windbreaks, shelter belts, living snow fences, farm woodlots, Christmas tree plantings; erosion control; water quality; wildlife habitat, and other conservation tree plantings;
- m. provide an assistance program to non-forest landowners and operators in establishing trees on public property;
- n. provide assistance to city governing bodies to plant, maintain, treat, and remove trees on public property;
- o. provide information and education to city governing bodies, tree care professionals, and the public in urban and community tree planting and care; and
- p. cooperate with and assist K-State Research and Extension and other appropriate agencies in conducting educational programs and demonstrations in forest management, forestation, reforestation and other forestry related programs.



COMMUNITY FORESTRY

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Technical assistance to communities in organizing public tree programs.
- Public tree assessments, inventories, and long-range management plans for communities with recommendations to improve the health of the public forest.
- Training sessions on timely tree care and management topics for professional arborists, municipal employees, and private citizens.
- Tree City USA, Tree City USA Growth, and Tree Line USA recognition programs offered to cities and towns.
- Coordinated Kansas Arborists Association course, providing training for 40 arborists to become certified.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- An organized approach to public tree management results in a healthier, more diverse community tree population.
- A more attractive community draws potential residents and shoppers, resulting in positive economic impacts.
- Trees increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs, sequester carbon, and improve the living environment.

SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided 242 technical forestry assists to 134 communities.
- Assisted 187 communities with active community forestry management plans representing 86 percent of the state's population.
- Assisted 11 communities with tree planting projects.
- Provided 32 training sessions for 1,292 participants representing 353 communities and an additional 25 outreach events with 811 participants.
- State and national recognition for 111 cities and towns as Tree City USAs; one public utility company received Tree Line USA recognition; and 16 communities received Growth Awards.
- Tree Board Members and other volunteers contributed 29,704 hours of service to their communities' tree resources.
- In 2009 Kansas TCUSA communities planted 13,071 trees, pruned 67,173 trees and removed 15,976 dead and dying trees.
- Kansas Tree City USA communities spent more than \$18.1 million managing their tree resource.



Tree City USA communities must meet national standards for managing public trees. Through the efforts of 633 tree board members, 169 departments and 1,599 volunteers, these communities collectively spent \$18.1 million to plant 13,071 trees, prune 67,173 trees and remove 15,976 dead and dying trees. Westar earned certification as a Tree Line USA Utility Company for the 11th year.

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CONSERVATION TREE PLANTING

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Technical assistance in designing successful conservation tree and shrub plantings, meeting landowner's objectives.
- Spring and fall distribution of low-cost trees and shrubs for conservation planting including farmstead, livestock, and field windbreaks; living snow fences; timber production; riparian forest buffers; wildlife habitat; and Christmas tree production.
- Offer weed barrier fabric squares, root protective slurry, marking flags, and rabbit protective tubes to improve planting success.
- Tree planting and weed barrier installation machines are available on loan for large plantings.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

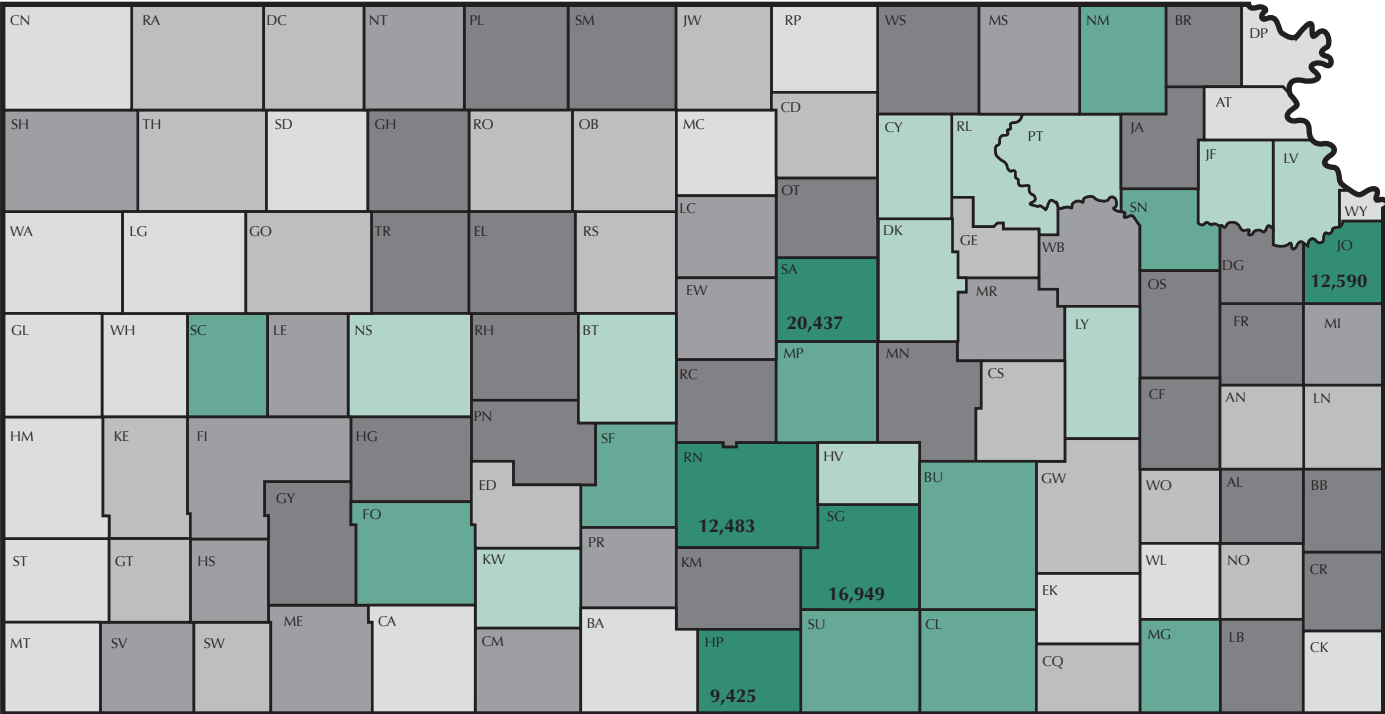
- Windbreak plantings reduce home energy costs; protect livestock during severe weather, reducing feed intake; and reduce cropland soil loss while increasing crop yields.
- Living snow fences keep roadways open during severe winter storms, reducing cost of snow removal.
- Quality wildlife habitat improves hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities, increasing revenue to rural areas of the state.
- Riparian forest buffers reduce nonpoint pollution and improve water quality, resulting in a reduction in municipal water treatment costs.
- A source of affordable, adaptable tree and shrub seedlings available to all landowners for conservation planting statewide.



SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 53rd year by filling 2,500 orders in 105 counties with 396,180 seedlings.
- Landowners planted 569 acres of windbreaks, 38 acres of riparian planting, 28 acres of woodlots, and 227 acres of wildlife habitat, totaling 862 acres.
- Sold 11,800 marking flags, 13,475 rabbit protective tubes, 243 units of root protective slurry, and 6,150 weed barrier fabric squares.
- Loaned eight tree planting machines to landowners that were in use 92 days.

2009 COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS



Distribution of Seedlings

1 - 1,000
1,001 - 2,000

2,001 - 3,000
3,001 - 5,000

5,001 - 6,000
6,001 - 9,000

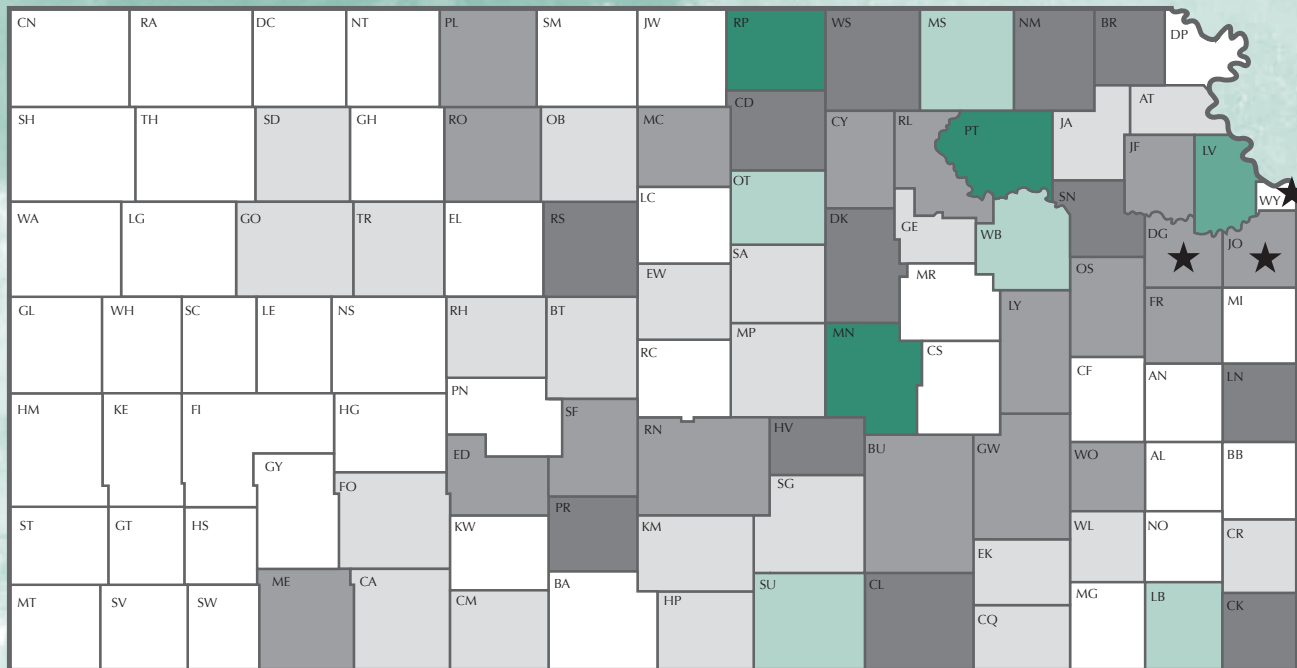
9,001 - 20,500
(actual amounts are noted)

FIRE MANAGEMENT

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Train volunteer firefighters in fire behavior, proper fire fighting techniques and safety, and assist local fire departments with large wildland fires.
- Provide opportunities for Kansas firefighters to participate in Federal All-Risk deployments.
- Loan Federal Excess Property to fire departments serving communities of less than 10,000 population for wildland fire suppression as well as low-cost repair parts and technical assistance to keep them operational.
- Refurbish and distribute used fire equipment, donated from public and private sources, to rural fire departments through the Equipment Donation Program.
- Long-range planning for rural fire departments including recommendations for improvements in suppression techniques and equipment, prevention education, and lowering fire insurance premiums for commercial and residential property.
- Promote fire prevention through the Smokey Bear Program with costumes and wildland fire prevention material to fire departments, schools, and civic organizations.
- Prevention materials for homeowners to reduce the threat of wildland fire in rural and high-risk urban interface areas through Kansas Firewise Program.
- Cost-share funds to rural fire departments to purchase needed fire-fighting equipment.

DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL COST-SHARE FUNDS TO FIRE DEPTS



Distribution of Federal cost-share funds to rural fire departments by county
Total distribution for 2009: \$296,140 to 120 departments

\$1,000 - 3,000
 \$3,001 - 5,000
 \$5,001 - 7,000
 \$7,001 - 9,000
 \$9,001 - 11,000
 \$11,001 - 14,500
 ★ \$100,000 Fuel Reduction Grant (Total)

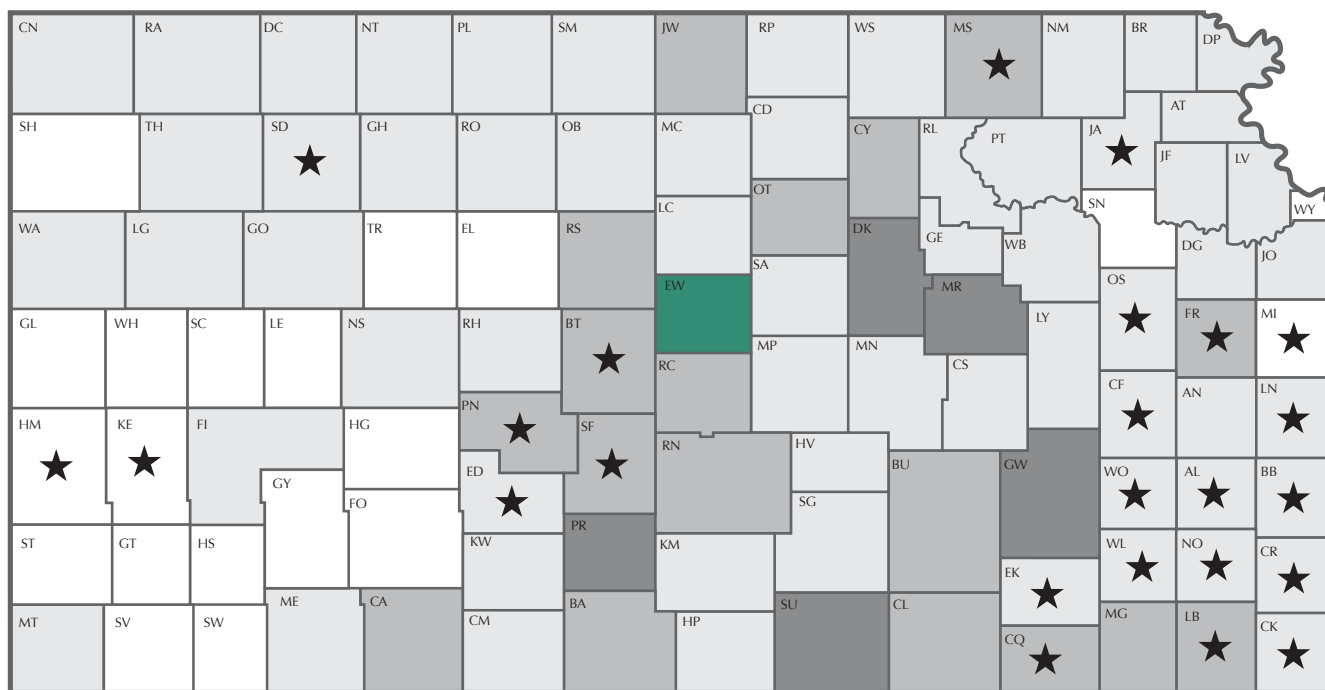
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- Reduction in loss of life and property.
- Increased capability of rural fire departments in reducing wildland fire risk and suppressing fire.
- Savings to local taxpayers in acquiring vehicles and equipment.
- Educating communities about the value of fire prevention and proactive community involvement.
- Networking with state and federal agencies to improve the outcome of large natural and man-made disasters.
- Working proactively with other stakeholders to develop viable smoke management plans.
- Informing independent land managers about new and safe techniques to conduct prescribed burns.

SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Smokey Bear costumes appeared at 17 events; fire departments, schools, and civic organizations received 10,300 pieces of fire prevention materials; and displayed the Firewise Mobile Education trailer at seven events.
- Conducted 10 wildland fire training classes for 202 firefighters from 31 departments.
- Provided 703 pieces of equipment to 52 departments through the Equipment Donation Program with a replacement value of \$298,000.
- Prepared county-wide fire plans for Brown, Ellsworth, and Montgomery counties.
- Facilitated one Fuel Reduction Project that provided training and employment for 25 wildland firefighter students. This project reduced fuel on 35 acres of K-State property, an additional 5,370 acres were treated in which Kansas Forest Service staff assisted our federal, state, local, and private partners.

VALUE OF FEDERAL EXCESS VEHICLES ON LOAN TO FIRE DEPTS



Acquisition value of Federal Excess vehicles in service at rural fire departments for wildland fire suppression

452 pieces of equipment in 92 counties with acquisition value of \$13.7 million

\$1 - 200,000

\$200,001 - 400,000

\$400,001 - 600,000

\$600,001 - 800,000

\$800,001 - 1,100,000

★ Counties with Master Fire Plan

RURAL FORESTRY

SERVICES PROVIDED

- On-site assessment of condition of forest and agroforestry resources.
- Long-term planning to protect and improve the health and productivity of forest and agroforestry resources with a focus on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, soil conservation, recreation, and timber products.
- Short-term planning to implement forest stand improvement practices and tree plantings for field, farmstead, and livestock windbreaks, living snow fences, wildlife habitat, woodlots, and riparian forest buffers.
- Diagnosis and control of insect, disease and other threats to forestlands and tree plantings.
- Educational workshops, publications, and web resources on all aspects of forestry including financial incentives for implementing forestry practices.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

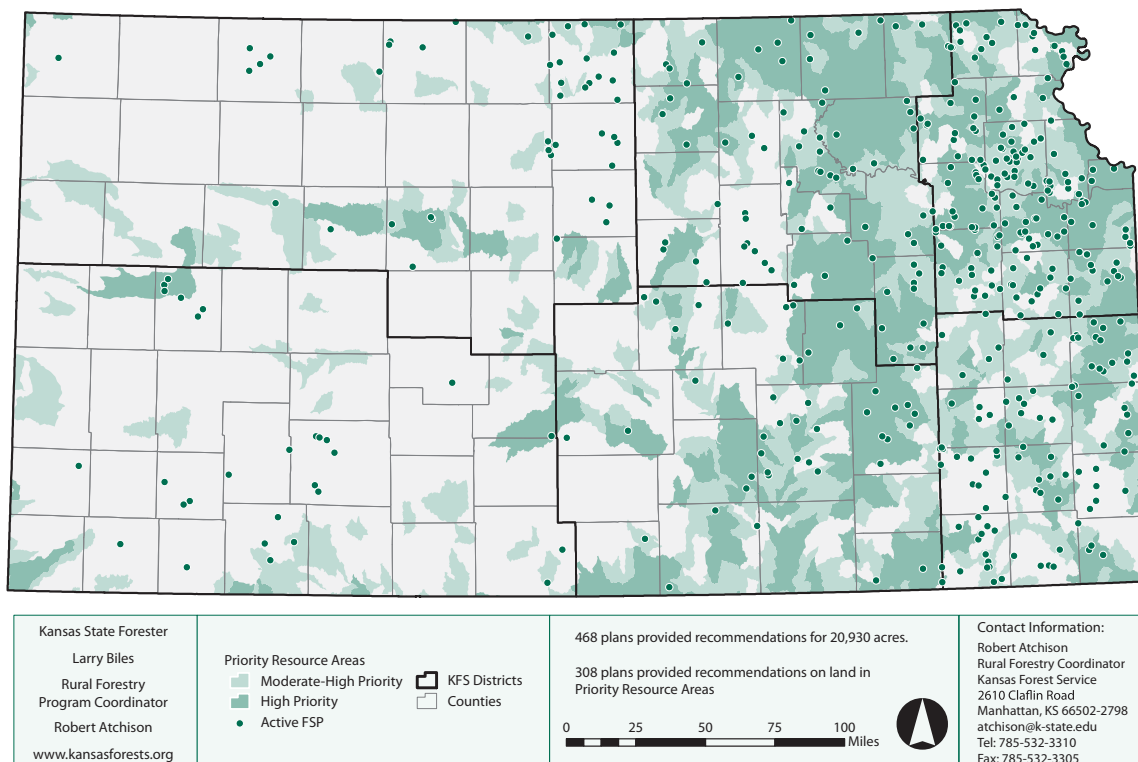
- Improved health and productivity of forestlands providing improved water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, soil erosion control, streambank stabilization, carbon sequestration, and timber products.
- A total of 289,577 acres of windbreaks that stretch 43,436 miles and protect 1.2 million acres of land.
- Windbreaks that offer \$31 million dollars in improved crop yields and \$26 million in annual energy savings.
- Riparian forests that reduce soil sedimentation rates into lakes and reservoirs prolonging public water supplies and improving water quality.
- Forestland that provides habitat for 19 rare wildlife species identified in the Kansas Wildlife Action Plan that are in need of conservation and protection.



SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided technical assistance to 339 private landowners.
- Prepared 38 comprehensive Forest Stewardship Management plans on 2,024 acres.
- Prepared 27 basic forest management plans for 460 acres.
- Prepared 134 practice plans, including timber stand improvement and tree planting on 717 acres.
- Implemented 475 acres of stand improvement and tree planting practices.
- Provided forestry technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to forest landowners preparing 145 plans.
- Participated in or hosted 35 forestry workshops and educational sessions for 3,542 people.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLANS IN IMPORTANT FOREST RESOURCE AREAS 1999 - 2009



FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Forest Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort between the Kansas Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service that targets high-priority private forestlands and encourages their management and protection through the preparation of long-term Forest Stewardship Management plans. The goals of the program are 1) to sustain forestlands in productive, healthy condition; 2) increase the economic, environmental, and social benefits; and 3) enhance and protect timber, wildlife, soil, water, recreation, and aesthetics values.

- Nearly 21 million acres (42 percent) are considered “important forest resource areas” with high potential for forest stewardship.
- Within the last 10 years, 468 Forest Stewardship Management plans have provided recommendations for 20,930 acres (66 percent) in important forest resource areas.
- Kansas Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy is available at <http://www.kansasforests.org/assessment.shtml>

FOREST UTILIZATION AND MARKETING

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provide list of active timber buyers, sawmill operators, and secondary processors for public and industry use.
- Training for forest industry personnel in harvesting techniques, processing logs, lumber grading, and chain saw safety.
- Assist in utilization of low-valued timber species as bio-fuels for energy conservation.
- Develop local markets for locally produced timber products.
- Loggers and sawmill operators receive training and information in harvesting techniques, processing logs and the use and marketing of wood products.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

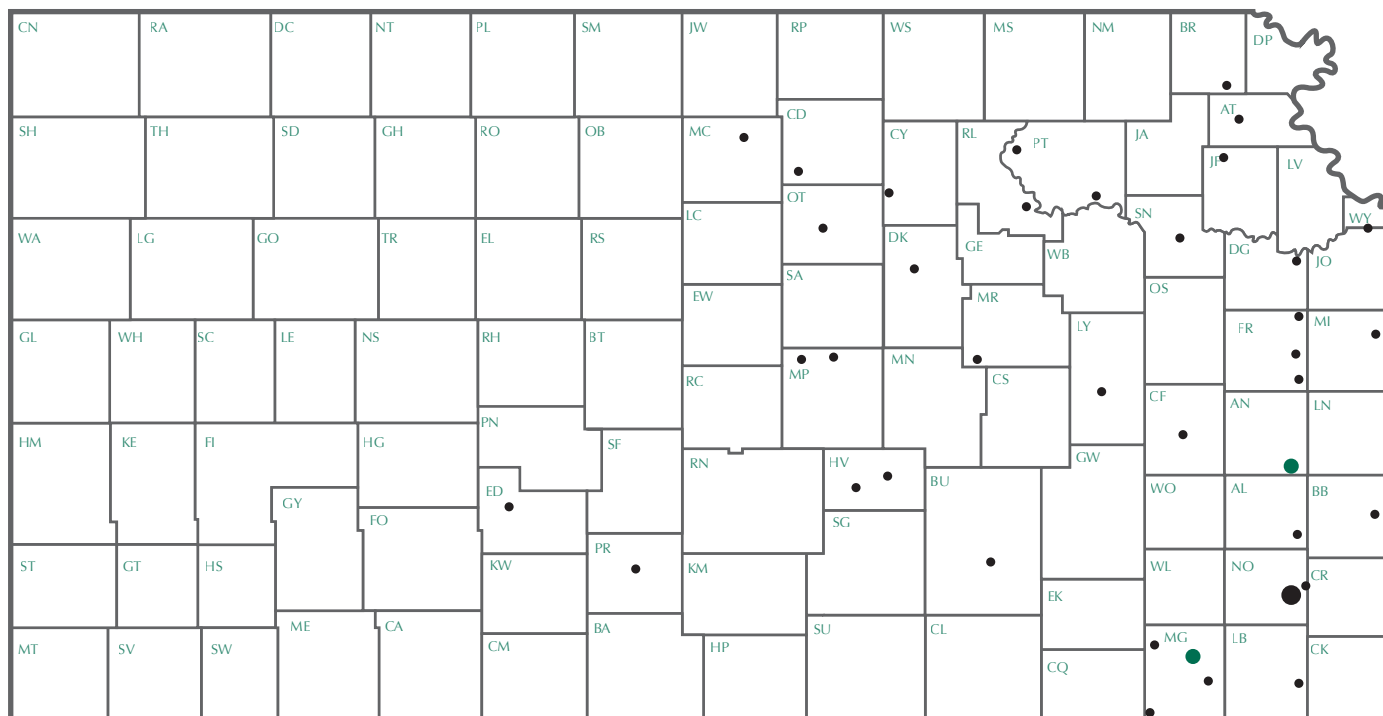
- This year, the Kansas forest products industry contributed \$1.3 billion to the Kansas economy including 6,700 jobs with a payroll of \$329 million, \$63 million in federal income taxes, and \$39 million in other state taxes.
- Improved local economies through use of timber products by local sawmills and manufacturers.
- Access to loggers and sawmills for harvesting and processing timber products.
- Energy conservation through the use of wood as an alternative fuel.
- More efficient use of timber produced on private forestlands.

SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained current listings of timber buyers, sawmills, and secondary wood processors that act as tools in promoting and marketing forest products and industry.
- Helped the Kansas Christmas Tree Growers Association coordinate delivery of the Governor's Christmas tree.
- Continued to explore opportunities related to utilizing and expanding markets for woody biomass.
- Conducted sawmill demonstrations to educate individuals and to promote the utilization of our native forest resources.



PRIMARY SAWMILL LOCATIONS



Annual Mill Receipts in MBF (thousand board feet)

- Less than 100 MBF/year
- 100 - 1,000 MBF/year
- More than 1,000 MBF/year

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Cooperate with the USDA Forest Service in conducting inventory of forestlands based on 5-year cycle with 20 percent of designated field plots completed annually.
- Provide information to forest industry, natural resource agencies and public on conditions of forestlands based on tree species, tree health, trees per acre, tree growth, and presence of non-native, invasive plants.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- Condition of forestlands is used by industry and natural resource agencies in long-range planning that affects potential jobs and management of programs.
- Public is informed of extent and benefits of forest resources.

SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 137 field plots across the state and 13 plots designed to measure presence of ozone.
- Continue to promote findings from Kansas Forests 2005 report and annual 2009 report.



INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Web site including personnel, programs, publications, technical information, and events.
- Quarterly newsletter published and distributed in paper and electronic form.
- Technical publications available in paper and electronic form.
- Educational workshops, conferences, and field days for the public.
- Environmental education workshops for teachers and resource professionals through partnership with Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE).
- Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest in cooperation with the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- Forest resource and program information through newspapers, radio, and television.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- Informed public understands the benefits of forest resources and makes wise decisions to improve and protect them for future generations.
- Private landowners, community employees, arborists, volunteers, and firefighters have readily available information to assist in meeting goals.

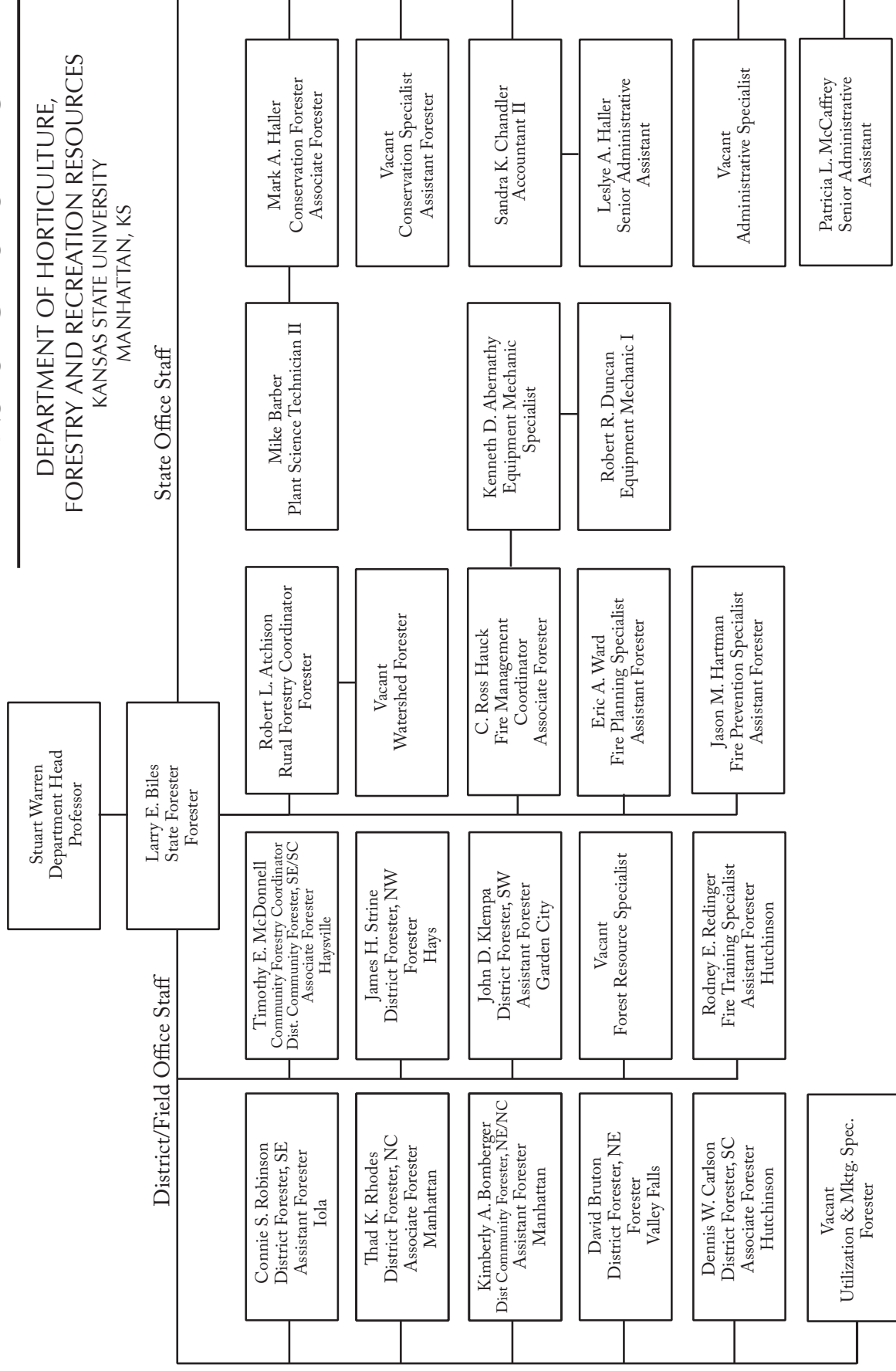
SUMMARY OF 2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Published quarterly newsletter, Kansas Canopy, and distributed to 2,700 people.
- Produced news releases, displays, and radio and television spots for the public on a variety of forestry topics.
- 1,200 fifth-grade students participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest with state and district winners recognized.
- 470 educators participated in 23 Project Learning Tree workshops reaching 14,100 Kansas children.
- Significant educational events included the Kansas Arborist Association Training Course, Kansas Forest Service Community Forestry Statewide Training sessions, Tree City USA Recognition Day, Agroforestry Field Day, Fall Forestry Field Day, and the Kansas Natural Resources Conference.



KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND RECREATION RESOURCES
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
MANHATTAN, KS



December 2009



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