

## Fire Management

Rural fire departments receive assistance to protect life and property on 46.4 million acres of nonfederal rural land. Training is offered to firefighters on the most up-to-date wildland fire fighting techniques. Courses are conducted at local fire departments, including the Basic Wildland Fire (8 hr) course and National Wildland Coordinating Group Red Card training and certification.



Federal excess military equipment (usually vehicles) is loaned to rural fire departments for fire suppression. To keep the vehicles in operation, low-cost repair parts are available.

Public and private entities donate used fire equipment without the threat of liability. Kansas Forest Service acts as a clearinghouse to collect, repair, and redistribute equipment to departments in need.

Rural fire departments receive assistance in long-range planning. Recommendations focus on improving fire prevention and suppression capabilities and lowering fire insurance premiums for commercial and residential property.

The Smokey Bear program promotes fire prevention. Smokey Bear costumes and wildland fire prevention materials are available to rural

fire departments and schools. Additionally, fire prevention educational materials are available to homeowners to reduce the threat of fire in rural and high-risk areas around metropolitan areas.

Kansas Forest Service administers federal cost-share programs and awards money to be matched by rural fire departments for the purchase of firefighting equipment. For many years, these programs have had a significant positive influence on the firefighting capabilities of rural departments.

## Forest Health

Foresters monitor insect and disease activities on forestland, in communities, and conservation tree planting, and recommend appropriate control measures. They work cooperatively with K-State entomologists and pathologists and the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

The Great Plains Tree and Forest Invasives Initiative is a four-state regional effort to slow the spread of exotic invasives, such as the emerald ash borer, that threaten forestlands. The initiative has conducted a variety of activities including inventory of rural and community forests to estimate and target ash populations at risk.



**Care of Natural Resources  
and Service  
to People Through Forestry**

## Forest Inventory

In cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, foresters gather data from forest plots to determine the condition of our forestlands. Plot data includes tree species, condition, volume of wood by species, number of trees by size classes, and understory plants. The information is a useful tool for the forest industry in knowing what forest resources are available and to state government in focusing personnel and funding to address important management issues.

A sawmill survey is conducted every 5 years. It provides long-term trends on the amount of wood, by species, being harvested from forestlands and processed by sawmills in the state. The data is useful in providing management recommendations to landowners and long-range planning for the forest industry. An urban forest inventory system is forthcoming.

To request services of a forester, contact your local K-State Research and Extension agent, County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service offices or

Kansas Forest Service  
2610 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-2798  
(785) 532-3300  
[www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org)

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# Kansas Forest Service

*Serving Your Needs*

Kansas has more than 2.1 million acres of natural and planted forestland. Although forestland makes up only 4 percent of the state's total land area, it is a vital natural resource. Healthy forests provide many benefits, including clean water, soil erosion control, critical wildlife habitat, wood products, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty. Private individuals own 95 percent of all forestland, while only 5 percent is publicly owned.

Kansas' communities support more than 1 million acres of additional forestland, a majority of which is planted. While providing a better quality of life for residents, this "planted" forest needs constant care and protection.

The Kansas Forest Service delivers the following programs designed to improve the management and protection of the Kansas' forestland and related resources. More information can be found on the Kansas Forest Service Web site [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org).

### Rural Forestry

Forestry assistance is provided to help private landowners improve the health and productivity of their forestlands. Long-term management plans for existing forestland are prepared and forestry practice plans, tree planting plans, and follow-up consultations are provided. Management plans address landowner's goals for timber, water quality, fish, wildlife, soil conservation, recreation, and scenic beauty. The Kansas Forest Stewardship Program and the American Tree Farm System recognize well-managed forestlands.

Loggers and sawmill operators receive training in harvesting techniques, processing logs, and the use and marketing of wood products. Lists of active timber buyers and sawmill operators are maintained and available to the public.

The Kansas Forest Service works closely with the Kansas Forest Products Association to offer educational events to industry personnel, private landowners, and interested public.

The Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) identifies the most important forest resource areas in Kansas by prioritizing 15 natural resource GIS data layers that consider forests, wildlife, watersheds, soils, cropland, development, wildlife, and forest



health risks and opportunities. SAP helps focus efforts to protect and manage this valuable resource.

### Community Forestry

Communities receive assistance in organizing public tree programs. Guidance is offered in setting work priorities and training city employees and tree boards in proper tree planting and management practices. Public tree assessments are made, inventories conducted, and long-range plans prepared with recommendations to improve the health of the public forest.

Each year a variety of training sessions cover current topics of interest. Professional arborists, municipal employees, and private citizens receive hands-on training and valuable information to improve the community forest.



The Kansas Forest Service and National Arbor Day Foundation deliver the Tree City USA, Tree City USA Growth Awards, Tree Line USA, and Campus Tree programs. These programs recognize outstanding community, campus, and public and private utility accomplishments in managing and protecting trees.

### Conservation Tree Planting

Annually, more than 400,000 low-cost tree and shrub seedlings are provided to landowners for conservation planting. Seedlings are planted for farmstead, livestock, and field windbreaks; to grow timber and other forest products; along streams and rivers to improve water quality through erosion control and stream bank stabilization; to develop or enhance wildlife habitat; and for Christmas trees. Technical assistance is available in designing a conservation planting that meets landowner's objectives.

Order forms for a variety of trees and shrubs are available from K-State Research and Extension, County Conservation District, and Natural Resources Conservation Service county offices. Electronic orders are taken on the Kansas Forest Service Web site [www.kansasforests.org](http://www.kansasforests.org). Two planting seasons are honored, fall and spring. Orders can be placed beginning in September for the fall season and in December through early May for the spring season. Seedlings are available for planting from September through October for the fall season and from March through early May for the spring season.

Weed barrier fabric squares, root protective slurry, marking flags, and rabbit protective tubes are available to improve planting success. Tree planting and weed barrier installation machines are available on loan for large plantings.

