

# KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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## Kansas Forest Service: 125 Years in Review

On March 10, 2012 the Kansas Forest Service celebrated its 125th anniversary. The past 125 years reveal Kansans' interest in forest and trees for their wood products and ecosystem service values with the latter focus being water and wind damage control. Forestry legislation in the state predated the Commissioner of Forestry office by 22 years. Legislation in 1865 provided a 50-cent bounty for planting and cultivating 5 acres for wood crops and water and wind damage control. The bounty was to be paid for 25 years.



In 1868 the bounty was raised to \$2 per acre and provided \$2 for each ½ mile of trees planted not more than a rod apart along public highways. This served as a forerunner to today's living snow fence program. Rally speeches and papers between 1865 and 1887 urged the need for tree plantings with emphasis on the value trees provide for wind and water damage control, modifying the climate, and as a source of timber for railroads and settlement.



This interest in forests and trees led to the Commissioner of Forestry office in 1887. The initial charge to the commissioner, following appointment, was to develop public interest in forestry by encouraging the planting and growing of forest trees. A first duty was to "... procure donation of two suitable tracts of land of not less than 160 acres each, at points not to exceed 3 miles from a station on the Union Pacific railway, Kansas division, and on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway, respectively." Subsequently, the commissioner was to establish an experimental forest on each tract to promote the science of forestry including the planting of seeds and cuttings of various kinds of forest trees as were likely to survive on that portion of the plains and offer products from the seeds and cuttings, free of charge, to any resident of the state who applied.



Milestone events in the evolution of the state's forestry agency since inception include:

1888 – 1889: Experimental forests established at Dodge City and Ogallah

1907: Commissioner of Forestry Office split into two offices, one for each of the experiment stations

1909: Administration of Commissioner of Forestry Office transferred to Kansas State University for purposes of assisting towns, counties, corporations, and individuals in the planting, protection, and management of timber tracts

1937: First Kansas Forest Inventory completed

1957: Conservation Trees Program began (source of seedlings — nurseries outside Kansas)

1961: Commissioner of Forestry title changed to Kansas State Forester, agency became Department of State and Extension Forestry. Second state forest inventory completed

1963: Cooperative Fire Management Program began

1968: Harold G. Gallaher State Forestry Office Building constructed

1970: Fire equipment garage constructed

1974: Conservation Seedlings Greenhouse constructed

1981: Third state forest inventory completed

1995: Fourth state forest inventory completed

1997: Agency renamed Kansas Forest Service  
2005: Fifth state forest inventory completed  
2009: Jackman State Forest established – Kansas' first state forest  
2012: 125th Anniversary — yearlong celebration of milestone event.

Today the Kansas Forest Service consists of a staff of 26. Twenty of the 26 are trained in a broad array of biological sciences (forestry, horticulture, fire sciences, ecology, environmental sciences, wildlife habitat and or range management). The remaining six possess valuable clerical, accounting, diesel mechanic, and greenhouse management skills. As a result of these skill levels the agency proudly boasts of annual achievements valued at \$27 million dollars. Achievement examples include:

- forestry training to more than 1,000 forest and windbreak landowners, and timber harvesters;
- assisting more than 300 forest landowners who professionally manage an excess of 5,000 acres of timber including the protection and reforestation of stream corridors to slow sediment deposition in water supply reservoirs, and improving water quality and quantity;
- assisting interested forest and ranchland landowners who qualified for more than \$500,000 of forestry and windbreak financial assistance through USDA conservation programs;
- promoting the harvesting, marketing and utilization of wood products to Kansas landowners, timber harvesters and locally owned sawmills and other wood processing plants;
- distributing more than 350,000 tree seedlings to 2,400 property owners interested in timber products, stream bank erosion control, wind erosion control, wildlife habitat, livestock protection and improved livestock feed efficiency, and farmstead energy savings;
- assisting more than 150 communities, home to 85 percent of the state's population, professionally manage their public tree resources through the local allocation of more than \$16 million for tree planting, tree care, and hazard tree removals;
- creating jobs and improving the professional care of the state's community forest by training 40 persons with sufficient credentials to become certified arborists;
- assisting more than 500 rural fire districts to train volunteers and acquire excess military equipment leading to wildfire protection services to more than 500 small communities, 46 million acres of land, and qualifying 40 percent of the state's population to save \$5 million in hazard insurance premiums;
- assisting the Kansas Department of Agriculture survey and monitoring of forest insects and diseases and establishing forest protection quarantines where necessary; and
- measuring and monitoring, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, the size, condition, and health of the state's forests through a statewide forest inventory and analysis.

A humble beginning followed by visionary and diverse programmatic growth describes the agency. Sustaining the agency's legacy in the face of increasingly diverse request for services and increasing public sector fiscal shortfalls is the challenge. May the Kansas Forest Service's 2012 and succeeding years work allow a successor state forester to justifiably announce a 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2037.



# 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, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus USA recognition programs offered to cities, towns, and campuses.
- 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, and safer 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 2012 Accomplishments

- Provided 177 technical forestry assists directly to communities.
- Assisted 149 communities with active community forestry management plans representing 86 percent of the state's population.
- Assisted 15 communities with tree planting projects.
- Provided 51 training and outreach sessions for 2,477 participants representing 324 communities.
- State and national recognition for 102 cities and towns as Tree City USAs; one public utility company received Tree Line USA recognition; and 11 communities received Growth Awards.
- 1,855 volunteers and Tree Board members contributed 33,389 hours of service to their communities' tree resources.
- In 2012 Kansas Tree City USA communities planted 10,652 trees, pruned 55,651 trees and removed 10,341 dead and dying trees.
- Kansas' Tree City USA communities spent more than \$17.6 million managing their tree resource.

## 102 Certified Tree City USA Communities in 2012

|                      |    |                  |    |                  |    |                      |    |
|----------------------|----|------------------|----|------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| <b>South Central</b> |    |                  |    | <b>Northeast</b> |    |                      |    |
| Anthony              | 25 | Valley Center    | 17 | Oskaloosa        | 15 | Marysville           | 30 |
| Arkansas City        | 16 | Wichita          | 24 | *Atchison        | 28 | Salina               | 20 |
| Augusta              | 5  | Windom           | 17 | Baldwin City     | 7  | *Overland Park       | 31 |
| Bel Aire             | 14 | Winfield         | 29 | *Bonner Springs  | 24 | Paola                | 6  |
| Cunningham           | 17 |                  |    | Burlingame       | 1  | Prairie Village      | 13 |
| Derby                | 17 | <b>Southeast</b> |    | De Soto          | 8  | *Roeland Park        | 17 |
| *El Dorado           | 17 | *Burlington      | 17 | Effingham        | 17 | *Shawnee             | 13 |
| Halstead             | 32 | Chanute          | 31 | Fairway          | 25 | Spring Hill          | 14 |
| Harper               | 13 | Oswego           | 20 | Gardner          | 7  | Topeka               | 24 |
| Haven                | 30 | Parsons          | 21 | Hiawatha         | 10 | Troy                 | 13 |
| Haysville            | 10 | Pittsburg        | 5  | Kansas City      | 2  | Valley Falls         | 15 |
| Hesston              | 25 |                  |    | Lake Quivira     | 15 | Westwood             | 22 |
| *Hutchinson          | 16 | <b>Northwest</b> |    | Lansing          | 10 | Westwood Hills       | 13 |
| Lindsborg            | 25 | Atwood           | 14 | *Lawrence        | 32 |                      |    |
| Lyons                | 5  | Beloit           | 33 | Leavenworth      | 16 | <b>North Central</b> |    |
| Marquette            | 15 | Colby            | 7  | Leawood          | 14 | Abilene              | 18 |
| McConnell AFB        | 16 | Formoso          | 25 | Lenexa           | 22 | Blue Rapids          | 28 |
| *McPherson           | 32 | Goodland         | 31 | Louisburg        | 13 | Chapman              | 2  |
| Mt. Hope             | 6  | Great Bend       | 27 | Lyndon           | 9  | Clay Center          | 34 |
| *Mulvane             | 19 | Hays             | 31 | Merriam          | 25 | Clyde                | 8  |
| Newton               | 34 | Phillipsburg     | 23 | Mission          | 8  | Council Grove        | 14 |
| Park City            | 11 | Russell          | 24 | Mission Hills    | 18 | Emporia              | 24 |
| Sedgwick             | 13 | WaKeeney         | 21 | Morrill          | 5  | Ft. Riley            | 23 |
| Udall                | 1  |                  |    | *Olathe          | 27 | Herington            | 21 |
| Rose Hill            | 6  |                  |    | Osage City       | 19 | Junction City        | 34 |
|                      |    |                  |    | Osawatomie       | 5  | Manhattan            | 33 |

Numbers denote years as a Tree City USA.

\*Denotes Growth Award Recipient.

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## Conservation Tree Planting

### Services Provided

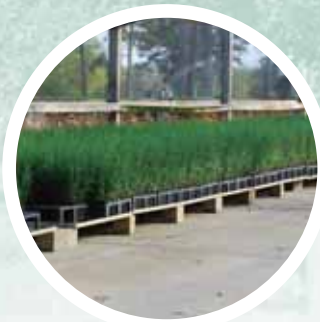
- ## Services Provided
- Technical assistance in designing successful conservation tree and shrub plantings, meeting landowner's objectives.
  - Spring and fall distribution of low-cost trees and shrubs for conservation planting including farmstead, livestock, and field windbreaks; living snow fences; 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

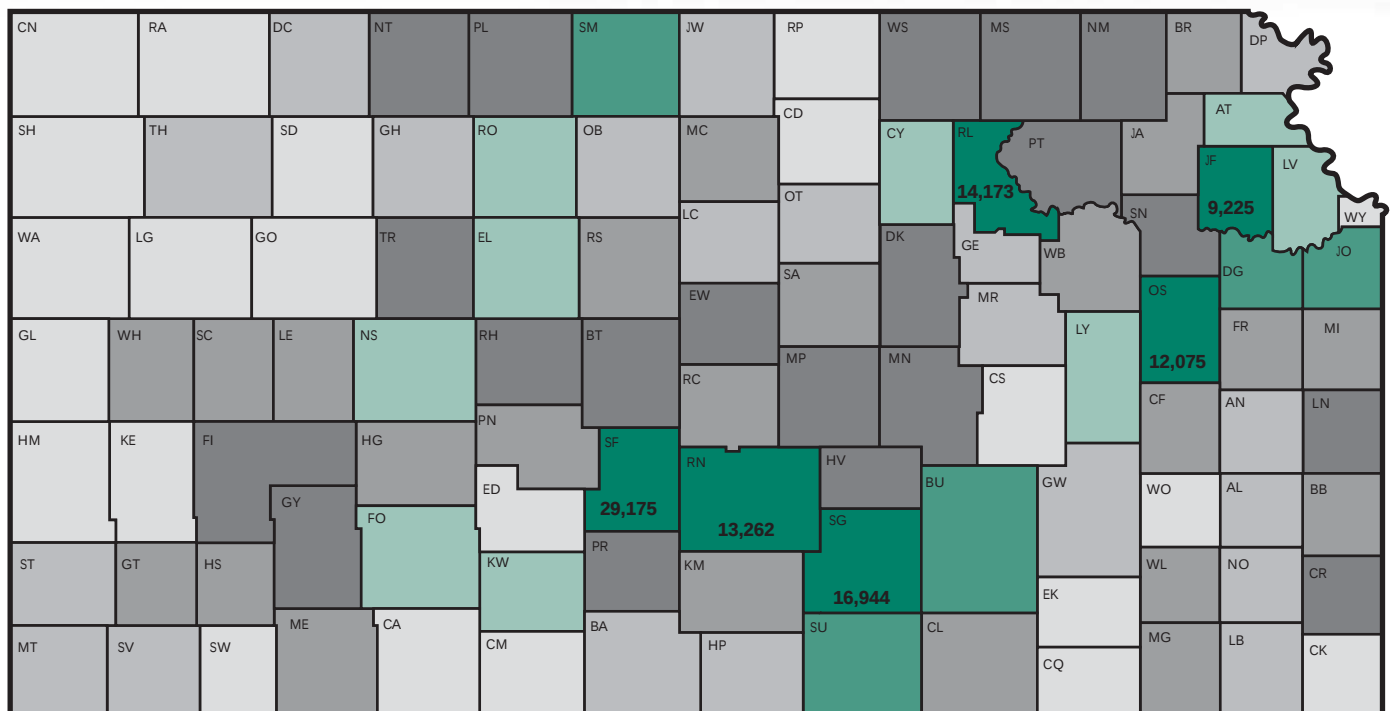
- # Benefits to Kansans
- Windbreak plantings reduce home energy costs; protect livestock during severe weather, reducing feed intake; and reduce cropland soil loss while increasing crop yields.
  - Living snow fences keep roadways open during severe winter storms, reducing cost of snow removal.
  - 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 2012 Accomplishments

- Completed 56th year by filling 2,564 orders in 105 counties with 396,643 seedlings.
- Landowners planted 595 acres of windbreaks, 32 acres of riparian planting, 47 acres of woodlots, and 205 acres of wildlife habitat, totaling 879 acres.
- Sold 8,400 marking flags, 15,650 rabbit protective tubes, 222 units of root protective slurry, 6,850 weed barrier fabric squares, and 1,970 tree protective tubes.
- Loaned four tree planting machines to landowners that were in use for 91 days.
- Loaned two weed barrier machines to landowners for 49 days.
- Loaned one root plow to landowners for 30 days.
- Received \$30,000 from Trans-Canada Corporation for greenhouse upgrade.
- Received \$60,000 from Kansas Pipeline Association for greenhouse upgrade.



## 2012 County Distribution of Seedlings



### Distribution of Seedlings



# Fire Management

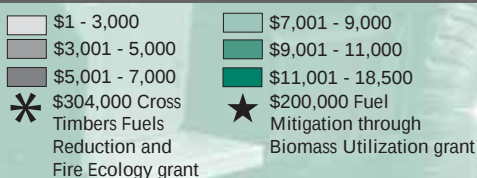
## Services Provided

- 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 fewer than 10,000 people 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 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 Departments



Distribution of Federal cost-share funds to rural fire departments by county  
**Total distribution for 2012: \$245,375 to 105 departments in 56 counties**



## 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 through excess government programs.
- 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 2012 Accomplishments

- Smokey Bear costumes appeared at 27 events; 27 fire departments, schools, and civic organizations received 10,170 pieces of fire prevention materials; and displayed the Firewise Mobile Education trailer at seven events.
- Conducted 18 wildland fire training classes for 385 firefighters from 30 departments from 12 counties.
- Provided 414 pieces of equipment through the Equipment Donation Program with a replacement value of \$288,306.
- Facilitated one Fuel Reduction Project that provided training and employment for 36 wildland firefighter students. In 2012, 2,643 acres were treated in which Kansas Forest Service staff assisted federal, state, local, and private partners.
- Hired eight temporary firefighters, deploying them on federal assignments. Helped one department deploy an engine with crew.

## Value of Federal Excess Vehicles on Loan to Fire Departments



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

**381 pieces of equipment in 78 counties with acquisition value of \$15,160,769.**

\$1 - 200,000

\$200,001 - 400,000

\$400,001 - 600,000

\$600,001 - 800,000

\$800,001 - 2,120,000

★ Counties with Master Fire Plan

# Rural Forestry

## Services Provided

- On-site assessment of condition of forest and agroforestry resources.
- Long-term planning to improve the health and productivity of forest and agroforestry resources focusing on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, soil conservation, recreation, and timber products.
- Short-term planning for 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 forest insects, disease, and other threats.
- Forestry educational workshops, publications, and web resources including financial incentives for implementing forestry practices.

## Benefits to Kansans

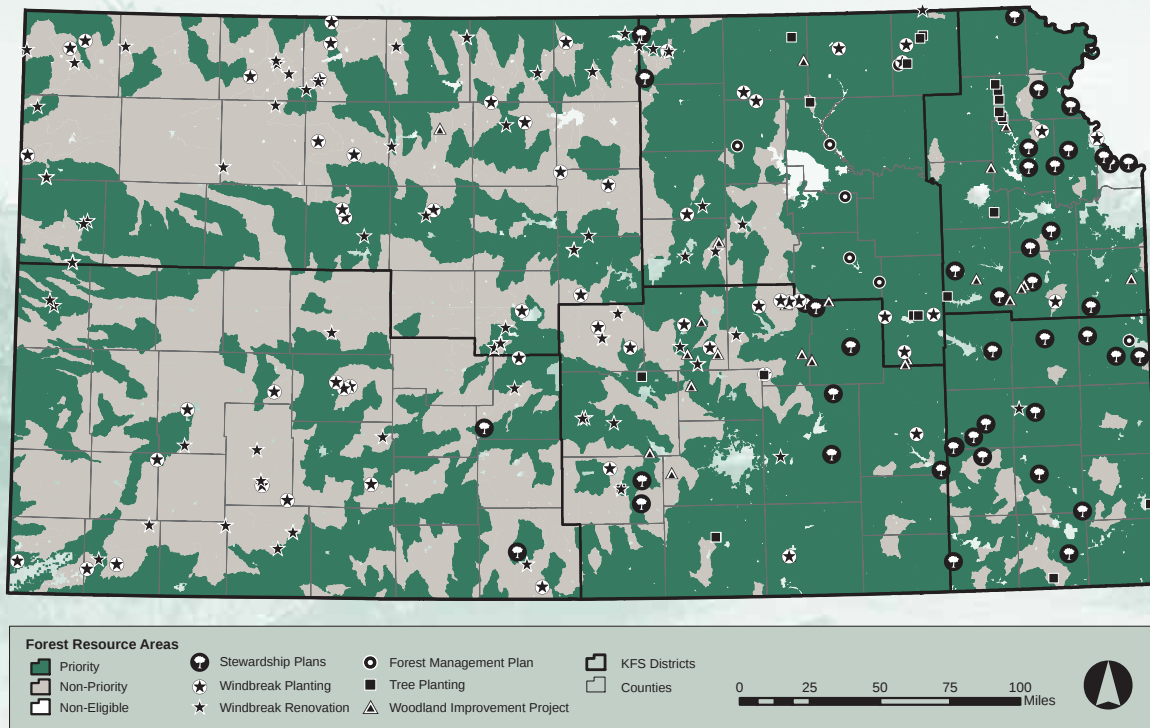
- Improved health and productivity of forestlands providing improved water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, soil erosion control, stream-bank stabilization, carbon sequestration, and timber products.
- 289,577 acres of windbreaks stretching 43,436 miles and protecting 1.2 million acres.
- Windbreaks annually offering \$31 million in improved crop yields and \$26 million in annual energy savings.
- Riparian forests reducing soil sedimentation rates into lakes and reservoirs prolonging public water supplies and improving water quality and potentially saving \$42 million in dredging costs.
- Forestland that provides habitat for 19 rare wildlife species identified in *A Future for Kansas Wildlife*.

## Summary of 2012 Accomplishments

- Provided technical assistance to 498 private landowners.
- Prepared 43 comprehensive Forest Stewardship Management plans on 2,934 acres.
- Prepared 166 forestry project plans to implement windbreak renovation, windbreak tree planting, forest stand improvement, riparian forest buffers and general tree planting on 1,683 acres. Many of the project plans included financial support for landowners through EQIP for Forestland Health.
- 14 miles of windbreaks were renovated and/or established protecting 679 acres. If the trees planted in these projects were placed in a single row it would stretch for 32 miles.
- Kansas Forest Service foresters provided recommendations to plant 14.5 miles of trees to stabilize streambanks to improve water quality.
- Marked 632 acres for forest and improvement projects on 48 tracts.
- Participated in or hosted 18 forestry workshops and educational sessions for 1,245 adults and 20 for 3,180 youth.
- Within the last 10 years, 416 Forest Stewardship Management plans have provided recommendations for 24,868 acres in important forest resource areas.



# Rural Forestry Accomplishments in Priority Areas Based on the Kansas Forest Action Plan



## 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 2012 Accomplishments

- Completed inventory of Kansas forest data for 5-year cycle (2006 – 2010).
- Continued to promote findings from *Kansas Forests 2005* report.
- Coauthored, reviewed, and published 5-year report, *Kansas Forests 2010*.



# Forest Health

## Services Provided

- Statewide technical assistance on diagnosing tree or forest health problems and identifying invasive species for public and private landowners to help restore or enhance their woodlands.
- Training sessions that highlight pest and disease diagnosis to the public, municipalities, and arborists.
- Assist in statewide pest surveys.
- Management and control options for pest or disease diagnoses.
- Guide communities or landowners through assessment of their tree resources.

## Benefits to Kansans

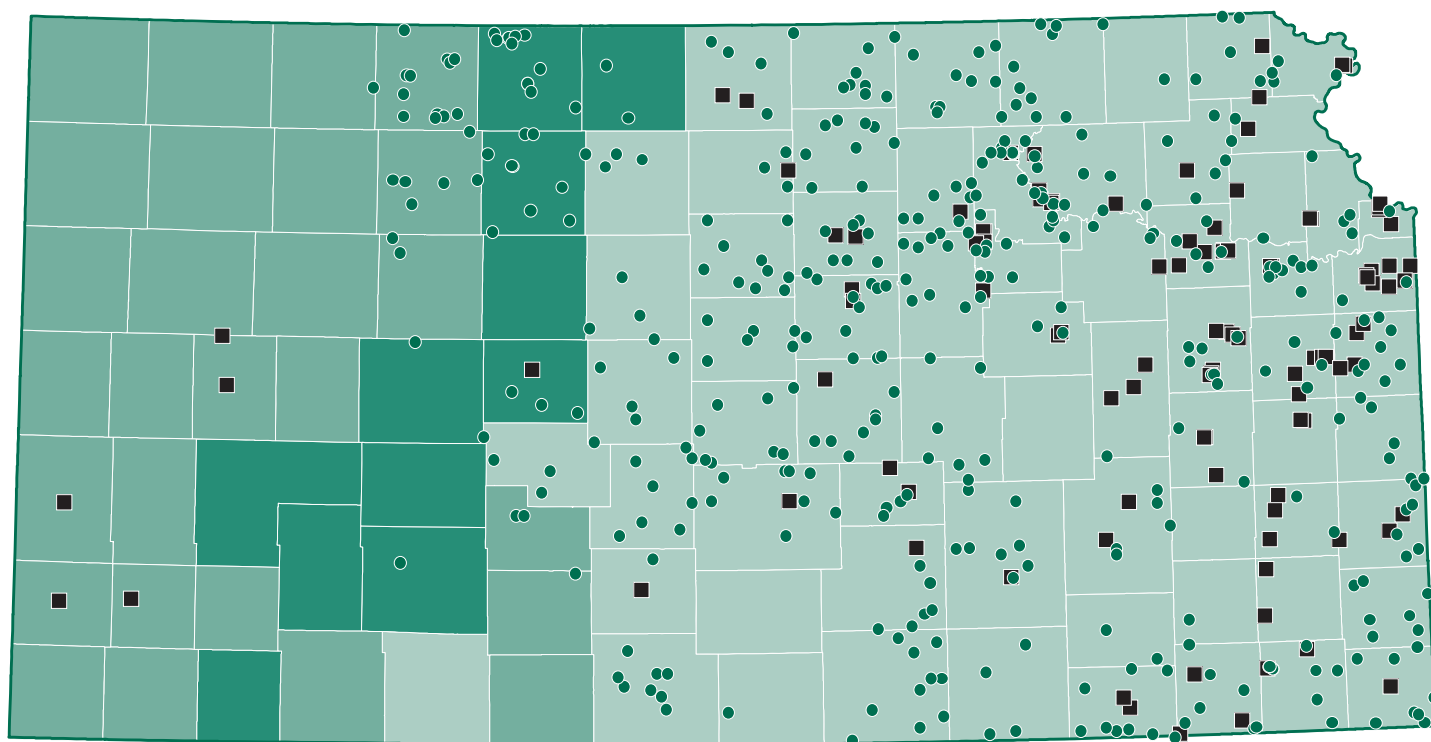
- Healthier and more productive forestland.
- Provide scientific guidance toward various tree health scenarios.
- Increase knowledge level of citizens, arborists, and municipal foresters and parks personnel.
- Assist in teaching species detection and rapid-response methods for invasive species.
- Improved management strategies for tree and forest pests or diseases.



## Summary of 2012 Accomplishments

- Provided 72 technical assists to landowners or municipal staffs.
- Revised or wrote Kansas-specific publications on tree pests or diseases.
- Implemented an invasive species program to combat the encroachment of exotic Asian bush honeysuckle into our public woodlands.
- Outfitted municipalities that have a high percentages of ash trees with emerald ash borer tool kits.
- Cooperated with the Kansas Department of Agriculture in statewide thousand cankers disease visual surveys in northwest and southwest Kansas.
- Assisted federal, state, and local agencies in the early detection surveys for emerald ash borer in Wyandotte, Leavenworth, and Johnson counties.
- Assisted municipalities in how to inventory their ash resource and develop emerald ash borer management strategies for future infestations.

# Forest Health Issues



- Pine Wilt Present
- Pine Wilt Absent
- Pine Wilt Present, but limited to one or a few locations. Eradication ongoing.
- Twig Beetle Traps
- Emerald Ash Borer Sticky Traps



Photo credits (left to right):  
 Emerald ash borer by Eric R. Day  
 Walnut twig beetles by Whitney Cranshaw  
 Oval-shaped cankers by Whitney Cranshaw

# Forest Utilization and Marketing

## Services Provided

- Maintained directory of active timber buyers, sawmill operators, and secondary processors for public and industry use.
- Provided training for forest industry personnel in harvesting techniques, processing logs, lumber grading, and chain saw safety.
- Assisted in the utilization of low-valued timber species as bio-fuels for energy conservation.
- Promoted local markets for locally produced timber products.



## Benefits to Kansans

- The Kansas forest products industry contributes an estimated \$1.3 billion annually 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 2012 Accomplishments

- Explored other opportunities of using wood for energy or other biobased products. Special focus was for eastern redcedar oil and mulch production.
- Prepared and presented poster at the Kansas Natural Resource Conference as a part of outreach and awareness activities.
- Made wood energy presentation at a southeast Kansas energy conference.
- Wrote a grant proposal targeted to better quantifying woody biomass in Kansas.
- Strengthened relationship with small business development agencies by promising to assist entities exploring woody biomass options for their projects.
- Presented the *Riley County School's Wood Energy Pre-feasibility Report* to the Riley County School Board and informed them of potential wood pellet suppliers for the school should they use wood as their energy sources.
- Assisted the Abengoa corporation explore biomass boiler options for their ethanol plant in southeast Kansas.
- Assisted Riley County schools in writing a wood-energy design grant proposal for its schools. The grant was approved at \$90,000.
- Conducted a biochar study to find out what potential customers know about biochar and subsequently what local markets opportunities might the state anticipate.

# Information and Education

## Services Provided

- Website 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.
- Forest resource and program information through newspapers, radio, and television.

## Benefits to Kansans

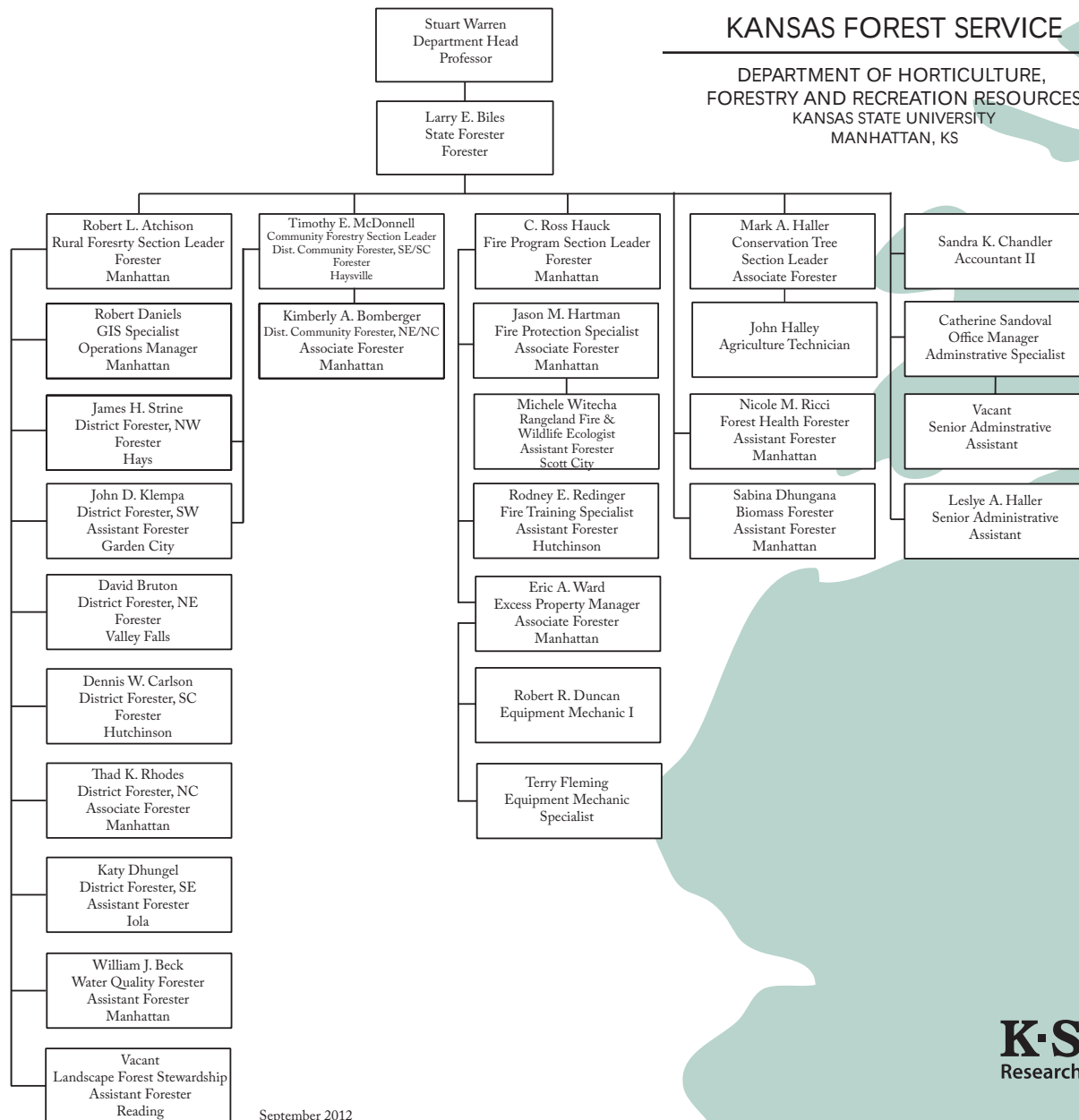
- Informed public understands the benefits of forest resources and makes wise decisions to improve and protect them for future generations.
- Private landowners, community employees, arborists, volunteers, and firefighters have readily available information to assist in meeting goals.
- Jobs, ecological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



## Summary of 2012 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.
- More than 1,165 fifth-grade students and 66 educators participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest with state and district winners recognized.
- 543 educators participated in 37 Project Learning Tree workshops reaching 13,575 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, Walnut Council Field Day, Fall Forestry Field Day, and the Kansas Natural Resources Conference.
- Partnered with Kansas Pipeline Association on *Call Before You Dig*, phone number 811.

# Organizational Chart



**K-STATE**  
Research and Extension

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