Kansas Forest Service
2002 Annual Report

Care of Natural Resources and Service to People Through Forestry

The Kansas Forest Service is charged through State Statute K.A. 76-425 with the responsibility of overseeing the state's forest resources. As a state agency within the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources at Kansas State University, the Kansas Forest Service's job is to improve, enhance, conserve and protect the 2.2 million acres of natural forest land and approximately 1 million acres of urban and community forests.

The Forest Service employs 24 full-time employees — 16 professional positions and 8 support staff. Following are descriptions of major programs and 2002 highlights.

Forest Stewardship

This program provides professional forestry assistance to help private landowners manage their forest lands through the preparation of long-term management plans for existing forest land, forestry practice plans, tree planting plans and follow-up consultations. Management plans address landowner's goals of managing for timber, water quality, fish, wildlife, soil erosion, recreation and aesthetic resources.

Kansas Forest Service administers a federally funded forestry cost-share program, to assist landowners in establishing forestry practices on their lands.

Forest Products

Loggers and sawmill operators receive assistance in harvesting techniques, processing logs, and use and marketing of wood products. There are 38 active stationary sawmills and numerous portable sawmills that process Kansas-grown timber into wood products.

Conservation Tree Planting

Tree and shrub planting provides important environmental benefits to people, wildlife and domestic livestock. The program offers low-cost tree and shrub seedlings for use in establishing multiple benefit conservation plantings such as windbreaks, woodlots, erosion control, clean water, wildlife habitat and Christmas trees.

Community Forestry

The Community Forestry Program offers assistance to communities in organizing community forestry programs for public trees by setting priorities of work; training city employees, tree boards and community residents in proper tree planting, management and maintenance practices; and special educational events.

Professional arborists are offered the latest information and training in tree care practices. Municipalities receive program support in Tree City USA and other educational programs and conservation practices designed for populated areas.

Rural Fire Protection

Kansas Forest Service provides assistance to volunteer rural fire departments and firefighters in protecting life and property on 46.4 million acres of nonfederal rural land. No-cost training is provided to firefighters on the most up-to-date wildland fire fighting techniques, plus assistance in fire prevention education, primarily using the Smokey Bear program for both children and adults.

Kansas Forest Service acquires federal excess military equipment, usually vehicles, for fire protection use and loans it to rural fire departments at no cost. Assistance is available for truck design and maintenance, including access to low-cost repair parts. Also, cost-share funding is available to rural fire departments to purchase fire fighting equipment on a matching basis.

Kansas Forest Service is working to address the growing concerns of wildland/urban interface that is rapidly expanding around metropolitan centers. Countywide fire planning to improve fire department capabilities in preventing and suppressing wildland fire is also provided.

For more information about the Kansas Forest Service, see our Web site at: www.kansasforests.org

Troy Bratton, SW District Forester, talking to students about the importance of trees.

Forest Pest Management

Foresters monitor insect and disease activities on forest land, in communities and conservation tree plantings, and recommend appropriate control measures. Kansas Forest Service works cooperatively with Kansas State University Departments of Entomology and Pathology in diagnosis and control.

Conservation Education

Kansas Forest Service is the state cosponsor of Project Learning Tree (PLT), an international award winning environmental education program and contracts with the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education for program delivery. Assistance is provided to the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts and County Conservation Districts in conducting the state Envirothon, a national natural resource competition for high school students.

Kansas Forest Service also sponsors the annual National Arbor Day Foundation Arbor Day Statewide Poster contest.

Forestry Program Highlights

2001 Forest Inventory Data Arrives

According to the 2001 Forest Inventory, the area of forest land in Kansas has increased from 1.5 to 2.2 million acres. The Kansas Forest Service works cooperatively with the USDA Forest Service to annually inventory the size and condition of Kansas forest land. Following is a summary of statewide inventories.

Important Facts About the Kansas Inventory

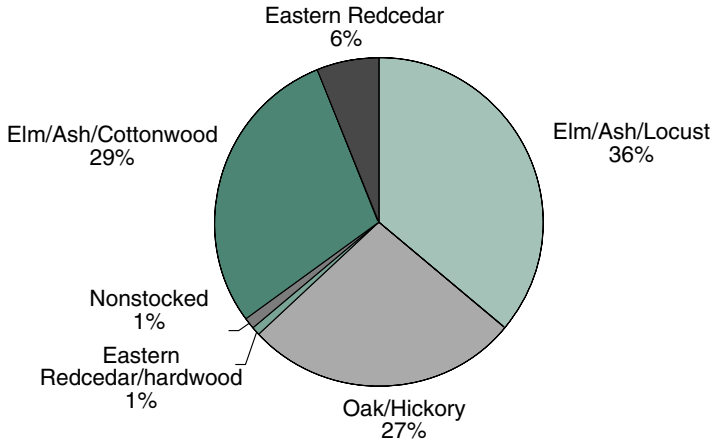
- Forest land must be a minimum of 1 acre, 120 feet wide and at least 10 percent stocked with trees.
- Each year 20 percent of the state is inventoried. By 2005 the first annual inventory cycle will be complete. Though the 2001 data is considered "statistically sound information," data will change each year providing the most accurate information at the end of the cycle.
- 99 percent of the forest land is privately owned with 61 percent of the ownerships in tracts less than 50 acres.
- Most forest land is of natural origin (39,000 acres have been planted).
- Almost half of our forest land is made up of "sawlog-sized" trees (11 inches in diameter or larger).
- Only 33 percent of the wood volume grown each year on Kansas forest land is harvested annually.

It is likely that the increase in forest land area is associated with the expansion of woodlands into abandoned pasture and changes in classification of forest land since 1994.

Walk in the Woods

Kansas Forest Service worked cooperatively with John Riggs, owner of the historic Riggs Arboretum in Kingman, on a 2-day event called *Walk in the Woods*. Other partners for the event included the Sunflower

Kansas Forest Types by Area



Kansas Forest Land Area				
Years Between Inventory	Inventory Year	Forest Land Acres	Increase in Acres Between Inventories	Percent Land Area
N/A	N/A	4,480,000*	N/A	8.5
N/A	1937	1,238,000	N/A	2.4
28	1965	1,349,800	111,800	2.6
16	1981	1,358,700	8,900	2.6
13	1994	1,546,100	187,400	3
7	2001	2,216,300	670,200	4.2

**estimate prior to Euro settlement*

RC&D, Kingman County NRCS, Kingman County Extension Office, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Great Plains Society of American Foresters. Two hundred and eighty-five (285) fifth grade students participated in the event to learn more about the history and importance of the arboretum, forests, tree growth, forest products and stream behavior.

Fall Field Day

Educating forest landowners and natural resource professionals is an important component of forest stewardship. A Fall Field Day provided a variety of training to 155 landowners on subjects ranging from proper management of black walnut to enhancing woodlands for wildlife. In addition, Kansas Forest Service participated in 25 forestry educational workshops for youth and adults that provided 256 hours of training to 2,571 people. Nationally recognized experts also offered training opportunities to 43 natural resource professionals on establishing hardwood tree plantations, crop tree management, crown competition factor and herbicides for timber stand improvement.

Improving Sawmill Efficiency

To use our timber resource to its fullest potential, it is essential to have sawmills capable of producing quality and uniform products with as little waste as possible. To help in this effort, a Sawmill Study was conducted at Hardwood Products in Southeast Kansas, the largest sawmill in the state. The USDA Forest Service Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin provided assistance. The study reported on the sawmill's current efficiency and made recommendations for future improvements.

Phytosanitation Education

The pallet industry in Kansas is very strong. However, new international standards requiring the heat treatment of wood packing materials such as pallets, crating and blocks may have a big impact on this industry. The new "phytosanitation" regulations were established to prevent the spread of exotic pests imported into countries. While the standards are voluntary for each country, indications are that these standards will be enforced on a wide scale. To help educate our industry on the new standards and potential impacts on their business, the Kansas Forest Service coordinated a training session, bringing in out-of-state experts to thoroughly discuss the issue.

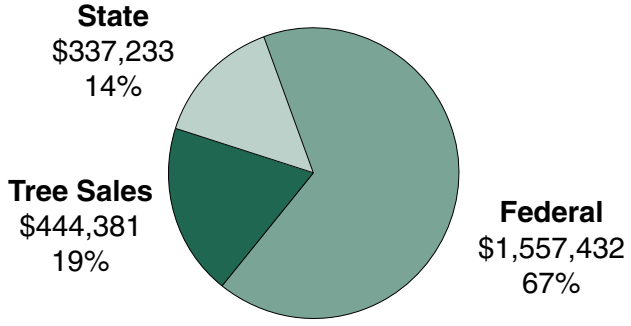
Kansas Interagency Living Snow Fence Program

Blowing and drifting snow can create hazardous driving conditions and it's removal can prove costly. A properly designed living snow fence will cause snow to accumulate within and adjacent to the snow fence and not on the road. By doing this, travel conditions are improved and snow removal costs are dramatically reduced.

The purpose of the Kansas Interagency Living Snow Fence Program is to encourage the planting of living snow fences in order to protect federal, state and county roads throughout the state from blowing snow and snow accumulation. By combining the resources of several agencies, living snow fences have been established on private lands at little or no cost to the landowner. Cooperating agencies include the Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Kansas Department of Corrections, Natural Resources Conservation Service and several county conservation districts. To date, 54,809 trees and shrubs have been planted to establish 58 living snow fences, which protect 15½ miles of highway.

Funding Sources

Kansas Forest Service receives funding from three primary sources. Federal financial assistance comes from cooperative agreements with the USDA Forest Service to support primarily the delivery of our Forest Stewardship, Forest Products, Community Forestry, Rural Fire Protection, Forest Pest Management and Conservation Education programs. State general funds are used to support these programs and to help match the federal funds. Our Conservation Tree Planting Program operates exclusively on tree sale receipts.



Conservation Tree Planting

More than 741,000 trees and shrubs were sold to 3,295 landowners statewide. Following is a breakdown of how the plants were used.

Field Windbreaks	427 acres
Home Windbreaks	678 acres
Livestock Windbreaks	236 acres
Woodlots	84 acres
Riparian Plantings	37 acres
Wildlife	376 acres
Christmas Trees	16 acres

Wildfire Training

Kansas Forest Service presented seven wildland fire training courses to 211 firefighters. The course, Kansas Wildfire Training, is an 8-hour course covering safety, fire behavior and proper fire fighting techniques. In addition, Kansas Forest Service personnel presented instruction to 87 students during National Wildfire Coordinating Group wildland fire certification courses. A total of 180 hours of training was provided in 2002.

Cost Share Funds Available

Kansas Forest Service awarded cost-share grants through two federal assistance programs this year. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program provided $181,022 to 93 rural fire departments. This year, 187 equipment and project requests were submitted totaling $1.2 million. Rural Fire Assistance provided $16,505 to cost share with eligible departments. Just two of the eight fire departments meeting federal eligibility requirements applied for funding. Each received 50 percent of the funding, which was used to purchase personal protective gear and other fire fighting equipment.

Kansas Forest Service and NRCS personnel installing a dry hydrant

2002 Volunteer Fire Assistance Recipients

Protective Clothing	
Anderson Co. Fire Dist. 1 (AN)	$4,000
Bourbon Co. Fire Dist. 3 (BB)	$2,000
Morrill Vol. Fire Dept. (BR)	$1,530
Albert Fire Department (BT)	$1,458
Claflin Fire Department (BT)	$2,000
Whitewater River C.F.D. (BU)	$594
Butler Co. Fire Dist. 7 (BU)	$2,000
Butler Co. Fire Dist. 10 (BU)	$2,000
Mulberry Fire Dept. (CR)	$1,170
Arcadia Vol. Fire Dept. (CR)	$2,000
Wakefield Rural Fire Dist. 1 (CY)	$1,894
Lecompton Fire Rescue (DG)	$2,000
Hesston Fire Dept. (HV)	$2,000
Jefferson Co. Fire Dist. 10 (JF)	$2,000
Tonganoxie Twp. Fire Dept. (LV)	$1,967
Reading Benefit Fire Dist. 1 (LY)	$2,000
Miller/Lyon Co. Fire Dist. 3 (LY)	$2,000
Montgomery Co. Fire Dist. 1 (MG)	$2,392
Marion Co. 4th Fire Dist. (MN)	$2,000
Dunlap Fire Dist. 9 (MR)	$ 711
Morris Co. Fire Dist. 13 (MR)	$1,520
Marysville Fire Dept. (MS)	$1,984
Blue Rapids Fire Dist. 7 (MS)	$2,000
Almena Fire Department (NT)	$2,000
Burlingame Fire Dist. 6 (OS)	$2,000
Osage Co. Fire Dist. 1 (OS)	$2,000
Osage Co. Fire Dist. 5 (OS)	$2,000
Belvue Fire Department (PT)	$2,000
Onaga Fire Department (PT)	$1,958
Seven Twp. Fire Dept. (PT)	$2,000
Rush Co. Fire Dist. 2 (RH)	$2,000
LaCrosse-Brookdale RFD 4 (RH)	$2,000
Scandia Fire Dist. 10 (RP)	$2,000
Talmo-Wayne Fire Dist. 6 (RP)	$1,265
Lincoln Twp. Fire Dept. (RS)	$2,000
Mount Hope Fire Dept. (SG)	$2,000
Athol City/Rural Fire Dept. (SM)	$1,032
Sumner Co. Fire Dist. 12 (SU)	$2,000
Wabaunsee Co. Fire Dist. 3 (WB)	$2,000
Washington Co. Fire Dist. 3 (WS)	$2,000
Washington Co. Fire Dist. 6 (WS)	$870
Washington Co. Fire Dist. 8 (WS)	$2,000

Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)	
West Mineral Vol. Fire Dept. (CK)	$2,000
Cowley Co. Fire Dist. 3 (CL)	$2,000
Cowley Co. Fire Dist. 8 (CL)	$2,000
Wakarusa Twp. Fire Dept. (DG)	$2,000
Solomon Fire Dept. (DK)	$2,000
Grant Twp. Fire Dist. 1 (DK)	$2,000
Geary Co. Fire Dept. (GE)	$2,577
Greenwood Co. Fire Dist. 1 (GW)	$1,950
Sedgwick Vol. Fire Dept. (HV)	$2,000
Glen Elder Fire Dept. (MC)	$2,000
Nemaha Co. Fire Dist. 5 (NM)	$2,000
Larned Fire Department (PN)	$2,000
Dorrance Fire Dist. 4 (RS)	$1,840
Gorham Fire Dist. 1 (RS)	$2,000
Saline Co. Fire Dist. 6 (SA)	$1,050
Saline Co. Fire Dist. 3 (SA)	$1,908
Stanton Co. Fire/Rescue (ST)	$4,000
Fredonia Fire Dept. (WL)	$1,000

SCBA and Protective Clothing	
Barber Co. Fire Dist. 1 (BA)	$4,000
Hiawatha Fire Department (BR)	$2,000
Ford Co. Fire & EMS (FO)	$4,000

Communications Equipment (Radios and Pagers)	
Ellis Co. Rural Fire Dept. (EL)	$3,630
Wilson Fire Dept. (EW)	$2,000
Ohio Twp. Fire Dept.(FR)	$1,550
Gray Co. Rural Fire (GY)	$5,000
Hamilton Co. Fire Dist. 1 (HM)	$1,755
Anthony Fire Dept. (HP)	$1,960
Tipton Rural Fire Dept. 2 (MC)	$912
McPherson Co. Fire Dist. 9 (MP)	$2,000

Forty fire departments received excess equipment in 2002. (Photo courtesy of Mulvane Emergency Services)

Other Engine and Station Equipment	
Clay Center Fire Dept. (CY)	$2,000
Ellsworth Fire Dept. (EW)	$1,300
Grainfield Fire Dept. (GO)	$1,544
Harper Fire Dept. (HP)	$2,000
Hoyt Fire Dist. 3 (JA)	$760
Rock Creek Twp. Fire Dist. 5 (JF)	$1,516
Oswego Fire Dept. (LB)	$2,000
Chetopa Rural Fire Dist. (LB)	$2,000
Neosho Twp. Fire Dept. (LB)	$2,000
Mitchell-Cloud-Ottawa RFD 1 (MC)	$2,000
McPherson Co. Fire Dist. 3 (MP)	$2,000
Downs Fire Department (OB)	$2,000
Osage Co. Fire Dist. 4 (OS)	$2,000
Phillips Co. Fire Dist. 3A (PL)	$1,000
Rawlins Co. Fire Dist. 2 (RA)	$1,830
Conway Springs VFD (SU)	$2,000
Toronto Twp. Fire Dept. (WO)	$2,000
Washington Co. Fire Dist. 2 (WS)	$2,000

2002 Rural Fire Assistance Recipients	
Stafford County Fire Dist. 1 (SF) Protective clothing, wildfire tools	$8,252
Phillips County Fire Dist. 3B (PL) Protective clothing, wildfire tools	$8,252

Other Funding Assistance	
Galena Fire Department (CK) Engine equipment for unprotected area – National Fire Plan Funding	$16,000
Ashland Rural Fire & Rescue (CA) To establish a tanker fill site	$2,250
Stafford County Fire Dist. 1 (SF) Replace pump lost in fire in Seward Station	$3,775
Raymond Larson (RL) Dry hydrant in rural Riley County	$570
Steven Hoostal (DG) Dry hydrant in rural Douglas County	$854
Total Funding Assistance, 2002	**$220,975**

$220,975 of cost-share funds were used to improve rural firefighting.

Master Fire Planning

The Master Fire Plan Program continues to gain strength with the hiring of a new Fire Protection Specialist in August 2002. With assistance from the Kansas Forest Service, 12 counties are actively working on a plan, and 11 more have expressed interest. The program is a cost effective means for a county to get an assessment of all fire districts within the county, and includes a review of ISO ratings, equipment, district boundaries, county infrastructure and fire personnel. Long-range goals are reviewed after 3 to 5 years to evaluate the effectiveness of actions taken in areas where improvement was recommended. Counties with large rural areas and volunteer fire departments may see the most benefit, but the service is available to all counties of the state at no cost.

Fire Prevention

The fire prevention activities continue to grow. In 2002, Smokey Bear made 35 appearances at community celebrations and events. During that same time, approximately 8,000 pieces of fire prevention materials were sent to fire districts across the state, at no cost, to be distributed to children and adults. As wildland/urban interface becomes more important to fire prevention and home risk management in a state becoming increasingly more urbanized, Kansas Forest Service is nearing completion of a mobile Urban Interface Education Center for exhibits at public events. The exhibit will provide information and education to homeowners on how they can reduce wildfire risk near their home.

Community Forestry

During the past year more than 240 direct technical assists were provided to 130 of the 626 incorporated Kansas communities to help improve their community forest. One hundred fifty-six (156) assists involved on-the-ground projects including: (a) 14 tree planting projects planting over 556 trees; (b) 2 hazard tree mitigation, removal and pruning projects; (c) 7 community forestry assessments; (d) 8 community street tree inventories; and (e) 13 community forestry management plans.

In addition, Kansas Forest Service, working with other local and state organizations, provided 52 total community forestry related training and outreach events across the state reaching 3,033 individuals. Eleven of these activities were U&CF topic-specific, day-long training events, 19 were in support of conservation and education efforts to K-12 grade students, and 22 were engagements and presentations to local and state civic organizations across the state.

Arborist Training and Certification

The Kansas Arborist Association, in cooperation with the Kansas Forest Service, co-sponsored the Annual Arborist Training Course. This was the 28th year of the school. The goal of the weeklong training course is to teach tree care professionals proper management and maintenance techniques to improve the quality of tree care across the state.

This year, 40 tree care professionals participated in the hands-on training course. Since it began in 1975, more than 1,260 groundskeepers and public, private and municipal arborists have completed the training.

Tree City USA

Kansas communities celebrated another successful year with the Tree City USA Program. Kansas began with 11 Tree City USA communities in 1976 and has grown to 97 communities in 2002 representing more than 60 percent of the state's population. Tree City USA is an awards and recognition program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the Kansas Forest Service. To qualify, communities must have : (1) an established tree board or other responsible group or department designated by the city with responsibility for public trees; (2) an approved city tree ordinance; (3) an Arbor Day ceremony; and (4) spend $2 per capita on public tree resources.

Accomplishments of the program during 2002 include:	
Number of Tree City USA's	97
Number of Tree Board Members	537
Trees Planted	20,387
Trees Pruned	87,881
Trees Removed	10,514
Total Dollars Spent by Communities	$14 million

State Forester Awards

Community Forestry Award:
Hazel Craig, Mulvane, KS

Conservation Tree Planting Award:
Neosho Valley Quail Unlimited
Morris County Chapter

Gary M. Long
Soil Conservation Technician,
Rooks County, NRCS

Arbor Day Poster Contest Award:
Shelby Koons
Hillsboro Elementary School
Hillsboro, KS

TREE CITY USA®

2002 Tree City USA Recipients	Years in Program
Abilene	11
Anthony	18
Arkansas City	9
Atchison	21
Attica	3
*Atwood	7
*Bel Aire	7
Beloit	26
Blue Rapids	21
Bonner Springs	17
Burlington	10
Chanute	24
Clay Center	27
*Clearwater	7
Concordia	10
Council Grove	6
Cunningham	10
*Derby	10
De Soto	1
Dodge City	27
Effingham	9
*El Dorado	10
Ellis	3
Emporia	17
Fairway	18
*Forbes Field ANG	6
Formoso	18
Ft. Riley	16
Garden City	25
Garnett	14
Goodland	24
Great Bend	20
Halstead	25

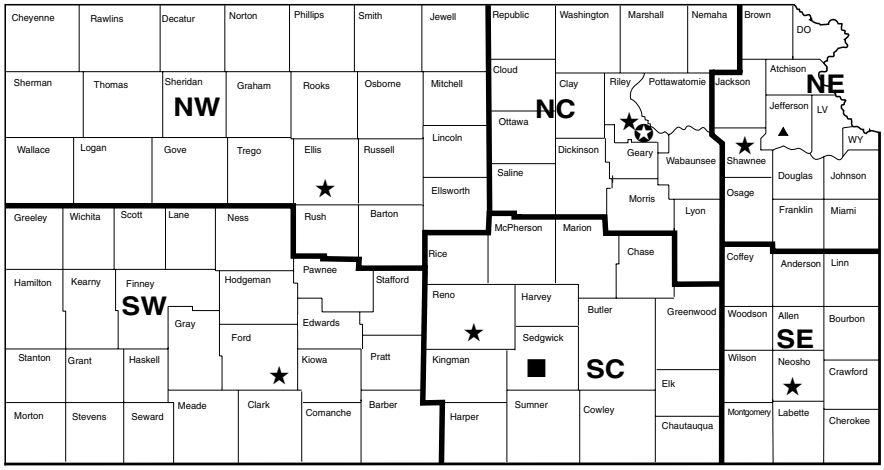
2002 Tree City USA Recipients	Years in Program
Harper	7
Haven	23
Hays	24
Haysville	3
Herington	14
Hesston	18
Hillsboro	8
Hoisington	20
*Hutchinson	9
Junction City	27
Kiowa	7
Lake Quivira	8
*Lawrence	25
Leavenworth	9
Leawood	7
Lenexa	15
Liberal	20
*Lindsborg	18
Louisburg	6
Lyndon	2
Manhattan	26
Mankato	22
Marquette	8
Marysville	23
McConnell AFB	9
McDonald	9
*McPherson	25
Merriam	18
Mission	1
Mission Hills	11
*Mulvane	12
Newton	27
Oberlin	17

2002 Tree City USA Recipients	Years in Program
*Olathe	20
*Osage City	12
Oskaloosa	8
Oswego	13
*Ottawa	4
*Overland Park	24
*Park City	4
Parsons	14
Phillipsburg	16
Prairie Village	6
Pratt	9
*Roeland Park	10
Russell	17
Salina	13
*Sedgwick	5
*Shawnee	6
South Hutchinson	2
Spring Hill	7
*St. John	7
Tonganoxie	4
Topeka	16
Troy	6
Ulysses	24
Wakeeney	14
Wamego	15
Waterville	26
Westwood	15
Westwood Hills	6
Wichita	17
Windom	10
*Winfield	22

** Growth Award Recipients*
Westar Energy Tree Line USA

For more information about Kansas Forest Service programs, visit our Web site at www.kansasforests.org

Kansas Forest Service State and District Offices



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Mark Haller - Conservation Specialist

K-STATE
Kansas State University