

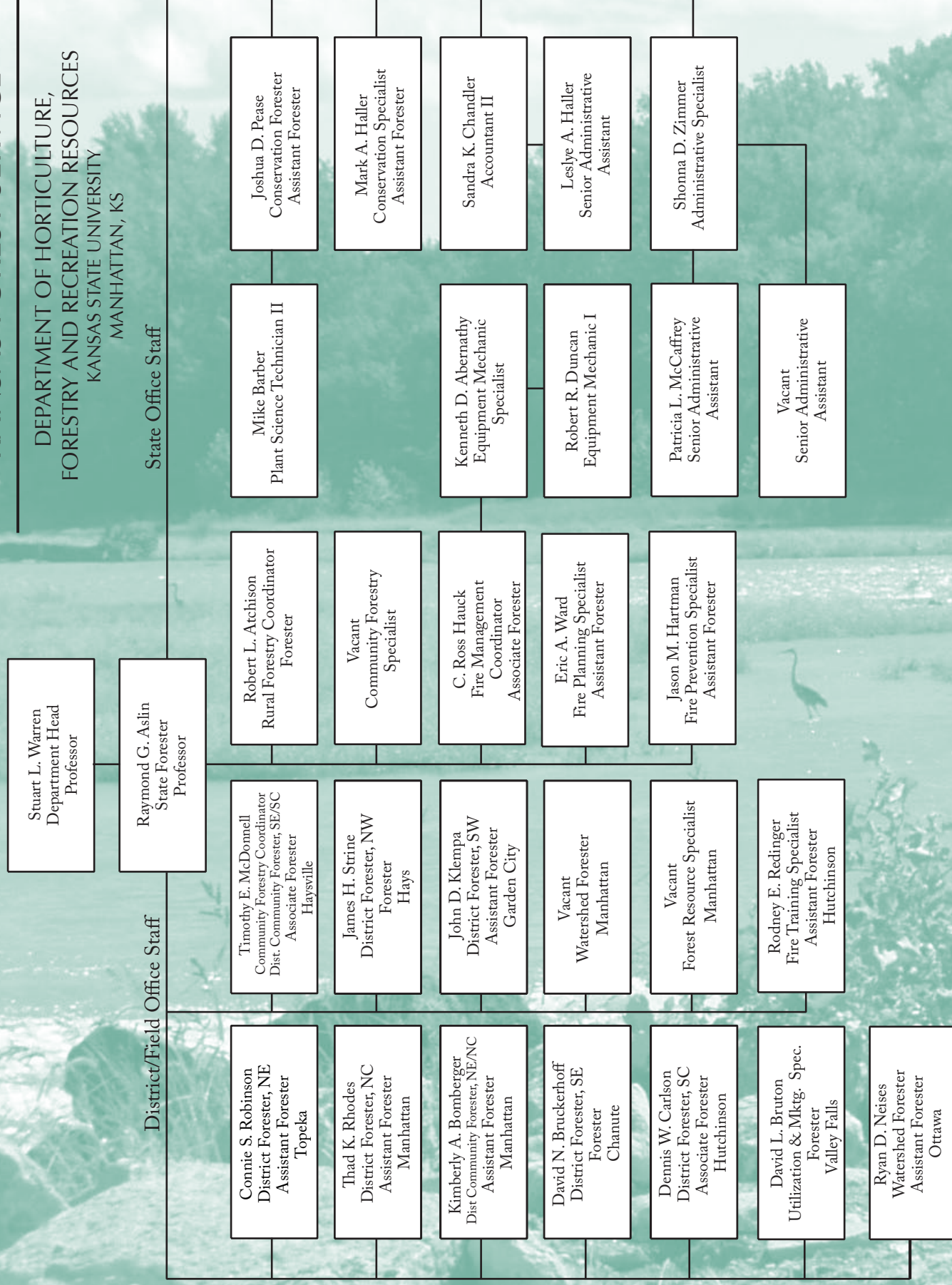
KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

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



INTRODUCTION

The roots of the Kansas Forest Service date back to 1887 when the Kansas Legislature established the Office of Commissioner of Forestry “to encourage the planting and growing of forest trees in the state of Kansas.” In 1909, a new state forestry law created the position of State Forester at Kansas State University to promote practical forestry and provide technical forestry assistance to landowners. Over the years, the name and scope of responsibilities have changed to reflect the programs offered to the people of the state. In 1997, the Kansas Legislature amended the state forestry statute, K.S.A. 76-425, changing the name to the Kansas Forest Service and more clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of the agency.

Located in the College of Agriculture, in the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources, the Kansas Forest Service is responsible for technical service and information and educational programs. The mission of the Kansas Forest Service is: “Care of Natural Resources and Service to People through Forestry.” It serves the citizens and forest industry of the state through its four major program areas: Community Forestry, Conservation Tree Planting, Fire Management, and Rural Forestry.

The Kansas Forest Service has 25-full time employees, 18 professional and seven support positions, and hires students and temporary employees to grow and distribute tree and shrub seedlings. The service is headquartered in Manhattan and has field offices in Valley Falls, Topeka, Ottawa, Chanute, Manhattan, Hutchinson, Haysville, Garden City, and Hays.

This annual report lists the services provided through our major programs, the benefits to Kansans, and a summary of the 2007 program accomplishments.

Ray Aslin, State Forester



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.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

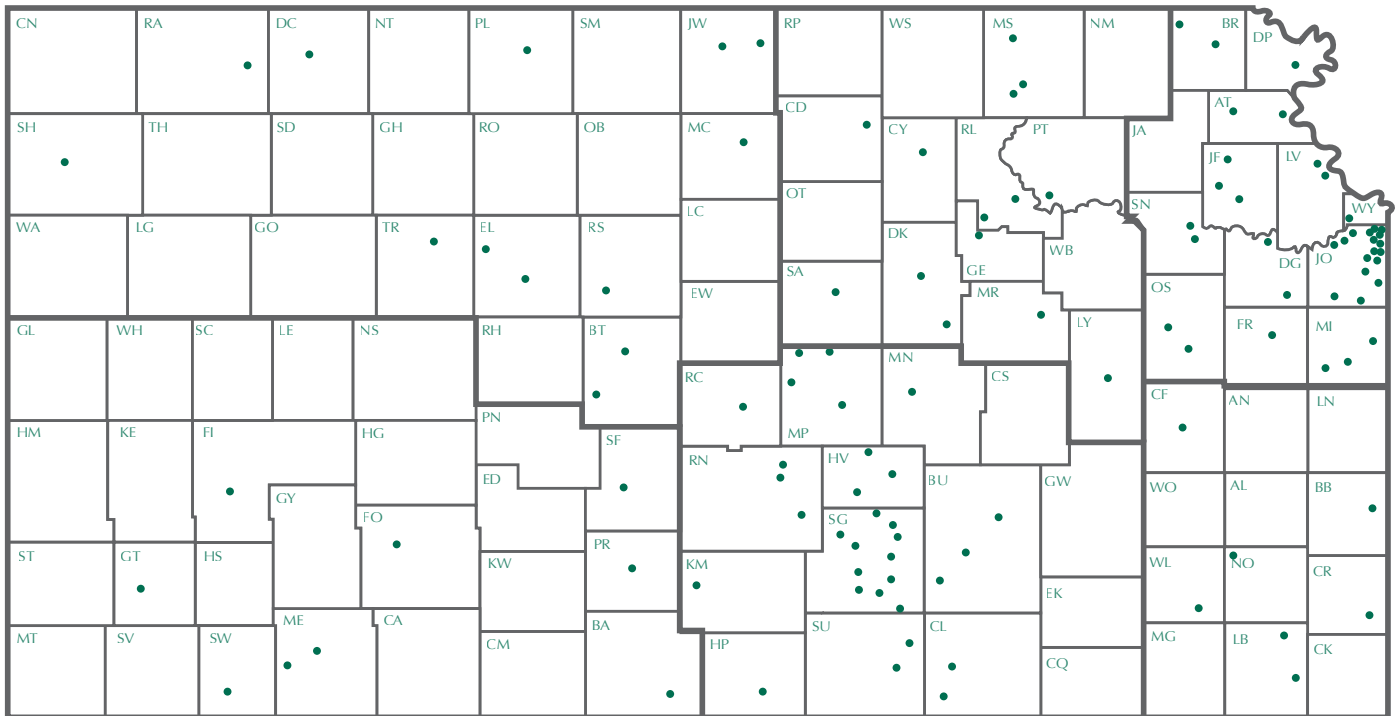
- An organized approach to public tree management results in a healthier, more diverse community tree population.
- A more attractive community draws potential residents and shoppers, resulting in positive economic impacts.
- Trees increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs, sequester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

SUMMARY OF 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided 236 technical forestry assists to 135 communities.
- Assisted 177 communities with active community forestry management plans representing 87 percent of the state's population.
- Completed 8 community tree assessments and six public tree inventories in 14 communities.
- Prepared six new community forestry management plans.
- Assisted 13 communities with tree planting projects.
- Provided 31 training sessions for 1,294 participants representing 313 communities and an additional 32 outreach events with 886 participants.
- State and national recognition for 113 cities and towns as Tree City USA's; one public utility company received Tree Line USA recognition.



113 CERTIFIED TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES IN 2007

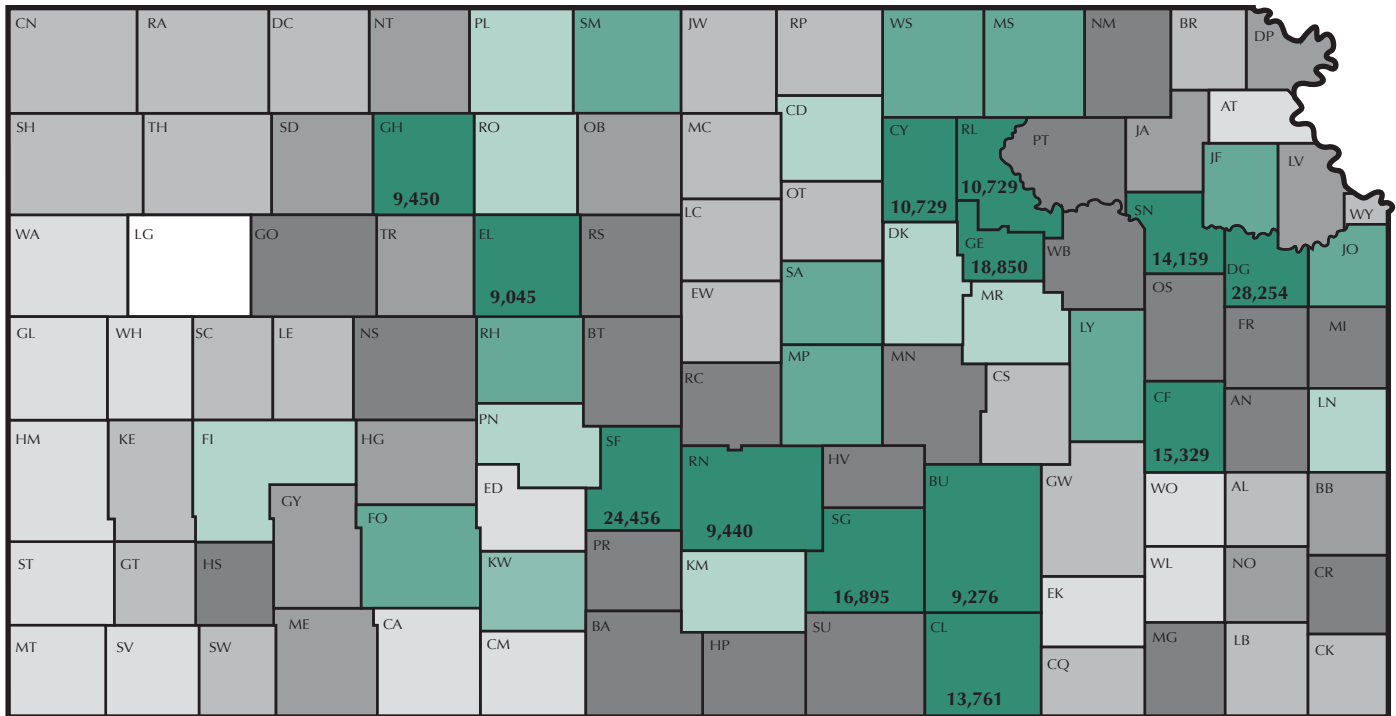


● Certified Tree City USA Community

Tree City USA communities must meet national standards for managing public trees. Through the efforts of 635 tree board members, 48 departments and 1,484 volunteers, these communities collectively spent \$12.1 million to plant 13,059 trees, prune 78,499 trees and remove 8,868 dead and dying trees. Westar earned certification as a Tree Line USA Utility Company for the 9th year.

SOUTH CENTRAL				NORTHEAST			
Anthony	23	Sedgwick	10	Phillipsburg	21	Osage City	17
Arkansas City	14	South Hutchinson	7	Russell	22	Osawatomie	3
Augusta	3	Valley Center	14	WaKeeney	19	Oskaloosa	13
Bel Aire	12	Wichita	22			Ottawa	9
Belle Plaine	3	Windom	16			Overland Park	29
Cunningham	12	Winfield	27	Atchison	26	Ozawkie	2
Derby	15	SOUTHEAST		Baldwin City	5	Paola	4
El Dorado	15	Burlington	15	Bonner Springs	22	Prairie Village	11
Halstead	30	Chanute	29	De Soto	6	Roeland Park	15
Haven	28	Fort Scott	13	Effingham	14	Shawnee	11
Haysville	8	Fort Scott	13	Fairway	23	Spring Hill	12
Hesston	23	Neodesha	11	Forbes Field ANG	11	Topeka	13
Hillsboro	13	Oswego	18	Gardner	5	Troy	11
Hutchinson	14	Parsons	19	Hiawatha	8	Valley Falls	13
Lindsborg	23	Pittsburg	3	Lake Quivira	13	Westwood	20
Lyons	26	NORTHWEST		Lansing	8	Westwood Hills	11
Maize	9	Atwood	12	Lawrence	30	Numbers denote years as a Tree City USA.	
Marquette	13	Beloit	31	Leavenworth	14		
McConnell AFB	14	Ellis	8	Leawood	12		
McPherson	30	Formoso	23	Lenexa	20		
Mount Hope	3	Goodland	29	Louisburg	11		
Mulvane	17	Lyndon	7	Merriam	23		
Newton	32	Great Bend	25	Clyde	6		
Oxford	9	Hays	29	Council Grove	12		
Park City	9	Hoisington	25	Emporia	22		
Rose Hill	4	Mankato	27	Ft. Riley	21		
		Oberlin	22	Herington	19		
				Olathe	25	Junction City	32

Three colored squares arranged horizontally: a dark green square, a light gray square, and a dark gray square.



Distribution of Seedlings



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 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

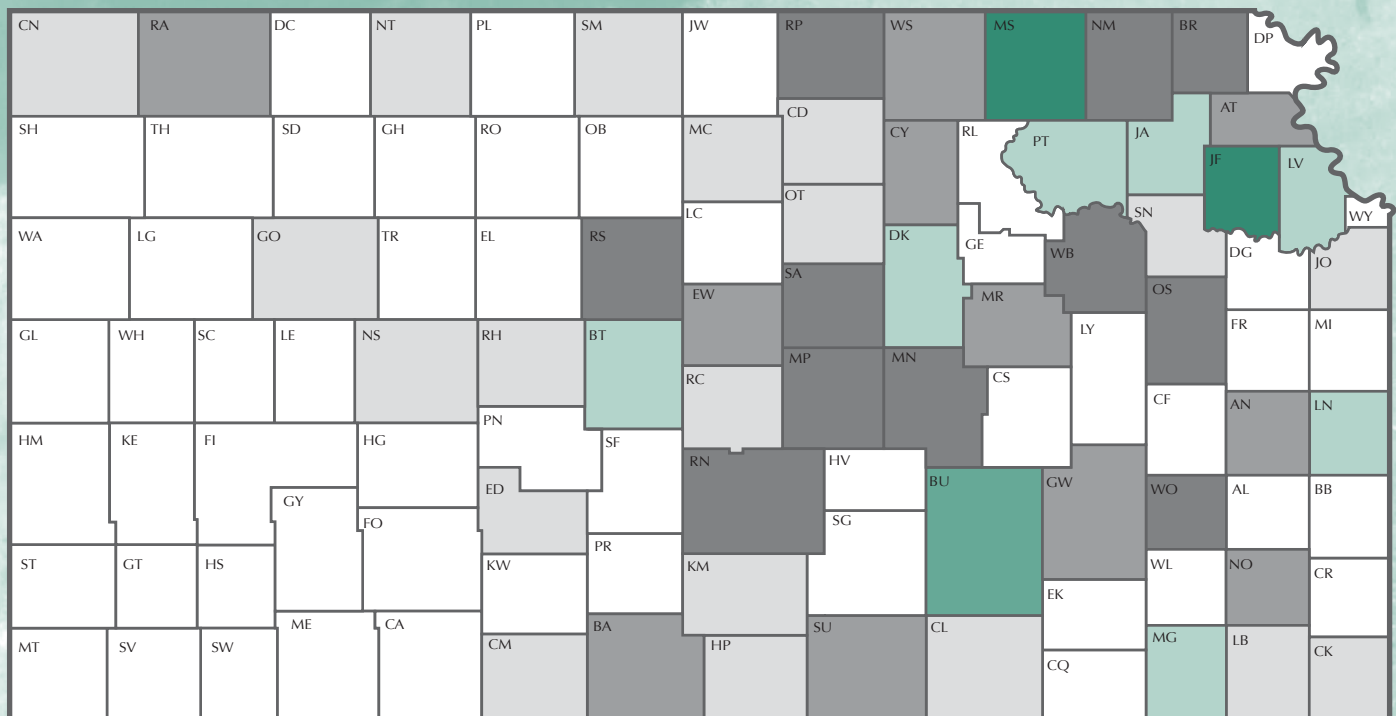
- Completed 51st year by filling 2,784 orders in 104 counties with 492,403 seedlings.
- Landowners planted 997 acres of windbreaks, 17 acres of riparian planting, 21 acres of woodlots, and 161 acres of wildlife habitat, totaling 1,196 acres.
- Sold 14,500 marking flags, 19,275 rabbit protective tubes, 344 units of root protective slurry, and 9,325 weed barrier fabric squares.
- Loaned 11 tree planting machines to landowners that were in use 67 days.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

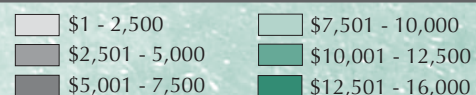
SERVICES PROVIDED

- Train rural volunteer fire department personnel in fire behavior, proper fire-fighting techniques and safety, and assist local fire departments with large wildland fires.
- Loan Federal Excess vehicles to rural fire departments for wildland fire suppression and provide low-cost repair parts to keep them in operation.
- Refurbish and distribute used fire equipment, donated from public and private sources, to rural fire departments through Equipment Donation Program.
- Long-range planning for rural fire departments including recommendations to improve fire prevention and suppression capabilities and lowering fire insurance premiums for commercial and residential property.
- Promote fire prevention through the Smokey Bear Program with costumes and wildland fire prevention materials to fire departments and schools.
- Prevention materials for homeowners to reduce the threat of wildland fire in rural and high-risk 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 2007: \$254,180 to 99 departments



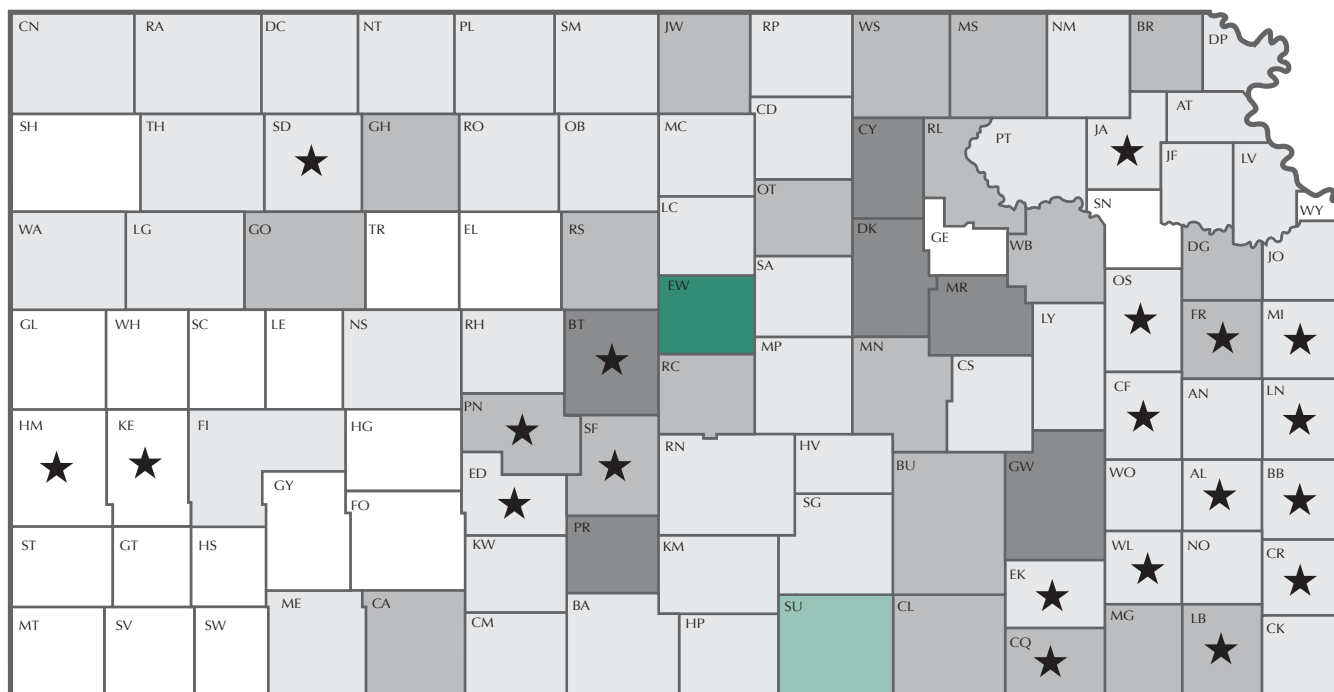
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- Reduction in loss of life and property.
- Increased capability of rural fire departments in reducing wildland fire risk and suppressing fires.
- Savings to local taxpayers in acquiring vehicles and equipment.

SUMMARY OF 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted 23 wildland fire training classes for 368 firefighters in 51 stations.
- Provided 500 pieces of equipment to 35 departments through the Equipment Donation Program with an estimated savings of \$175,000.
- Prepared county-wide fire plans for Elk, Crawford, Edwards, Wilson, Labette, and Chautauqua counties.
- Smokey Bear costumes appeared at 42 events, and 19,625 pieces of Smokey Bear fire prevention materials were supplied to rural fire departments and schools.
- Facilitated two Fuel Reduction Projects that provided training for 42 wildland firefighter students. One project reduced fuel on 130 acres of Army Corps of Engineers land, and one project assisted two communities with ice storm debris removal.

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

395 vehicles in 84 counties with acquisition value of \$15.6 million

☐ \$1 - 175,000

■ \$175,001 - 355,000

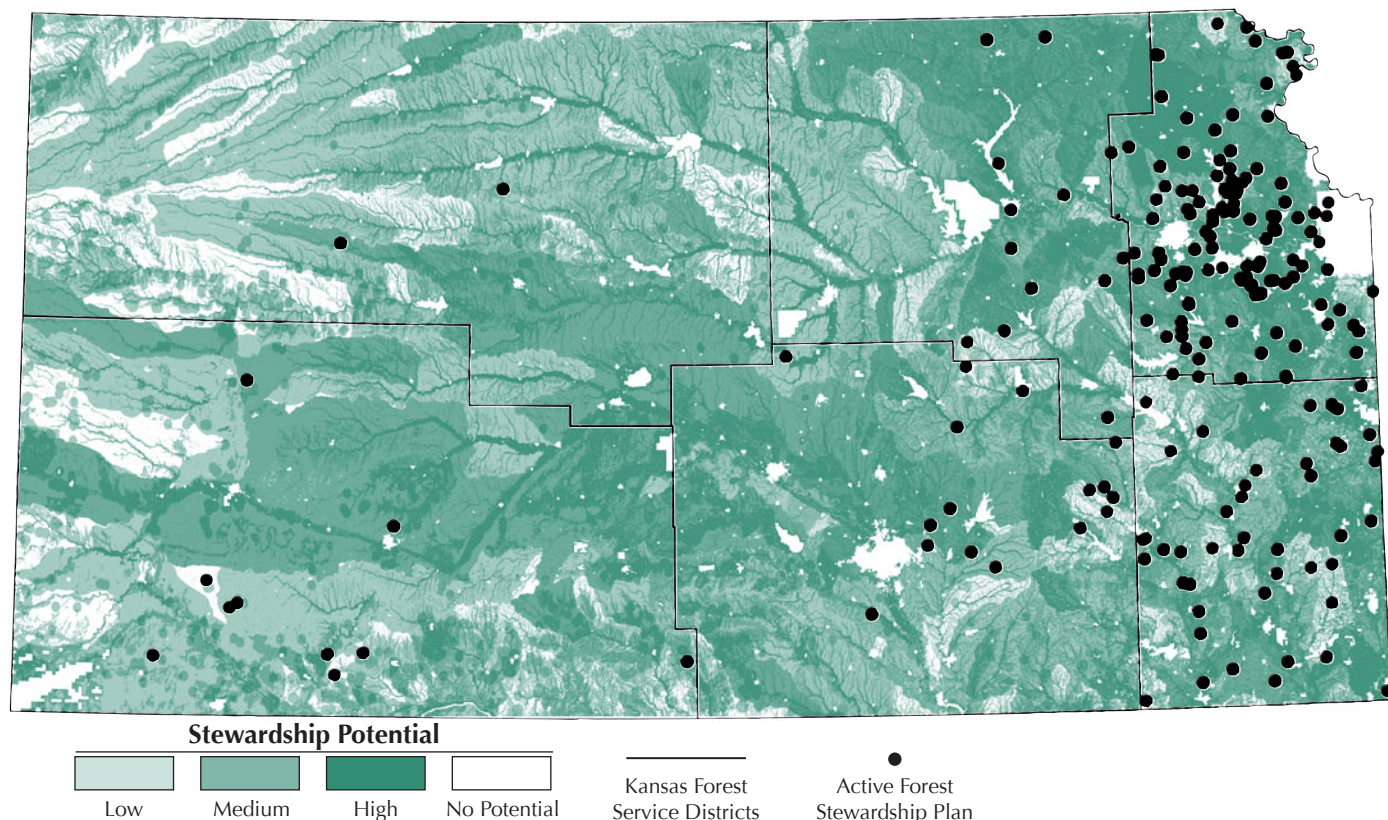
■ \$355,001 - 530,000

■ \$530,001 - 705,000

 \$705,001 - 886,564

★ Counties with Master Fire Plan

FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLANS IN IMPORTANT FOREST RESOURCE AREAS 2003 - 2007



FOREST STEWARDSHIP SPATIAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM

Forest Stewardship Management plans provide long-term comprehensive descriptions and recommendations to meet private forest landowners' objectives. The Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Program has identified important forest resource areas in Kansas based on a 15-layer GIS analysis of forests and related resources.

- 206 plans provided recommendations for 10,821 acres.
- 10,542 plan acres (97%) occurred on land in important resource areas.
- 14,380,012 acres are classified as important forest resource areas (high Forest Stewardship potential),

RURAL FORESTRY

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Technical assistance to landowners in improving health and productivity of forestlands through long-range management planning with focus on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, soil conservation, recreation, and timber products.
- Planning assistance to landowners in conservation tree planting including field, farmstead and livestock windbreaks, living snow fences, wildlife habitat, woodlots, and riparian forest buffers.
- Technical assistance in planning and establishing living snow fences for federal, state, and county roads.
- Recommended control measures for insect and disease activities on forestlands and tree plantings.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- Management of forestlands to improve health and productivity, providing critical benefits of improved water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, soil erosion control, streambank stabilization, carbon sequestration, and timber products.
- Protection of croplands through establishment of windbreaks and other agroforestry practices.
- Healthy forestlands and successful tree plantings.

SUMMARY OF 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided technical forestry assistance to 358 private landowners.
- Prepared 60 comprehensive Forest Stewardship management plans on 3,710 acres and revised eight existing plans on 308 acres.
- Prepared 45 basic forest management plans for 1,546 acres.
- Prepared 136 forestry practice plans, including timber stand improvement and tree planting, on 1,706 acres.
- Implemented 571 acres of timber stand improvement and tree planting practices.
- Provided forestry technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to forest landowners in preparing management plans for 25 cost-share contracts on 957 acres totaling \$93,990.



FOREST UTILIZATION AND MARKETING

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Provide list of active timber buyers, sawmill operators, and secondary processors for public and industry use.
- Provide 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

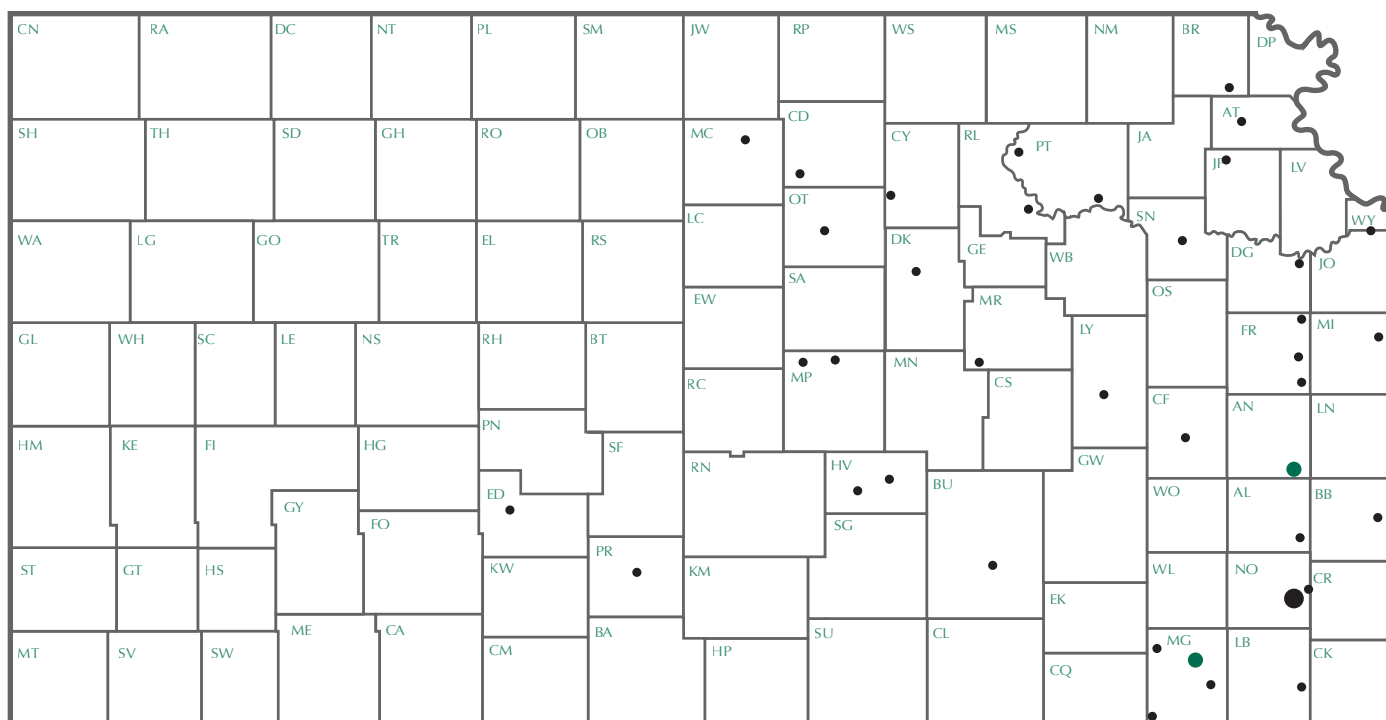
- Improved local economies through use of timber products by local sawmills and manufacturers.
- Access to loggers and sawmills for harvesting and processing timber products.
- Energy conservation through the use of wood as an alternative fuel.
- More efficient use of timber produced on private forestlands.

SUMMARY OF 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped coordinate and host the multi-state *Redcedar-Challenge or Opportunity* conference. The conference focused on the management, utilization, and marketing of the under-used Eastern redcedar resource.
- Multiple education events were held throughout the year related to timber harvesting, forest management, agro-forestry, windbreak renovation, forestry related equipment, and promotion of Kansas' forest products.
- Maintained current listings of active timber buyers and sawmill operators.
- Cosponsored a Timber Tax Seminar held in Emporia to educate landowners and tax preparers about the tax law as it pertains to forest products.
- Helped the Kansas Christmas Tree Growers Association coordinate delivery of the Governor's Christmas tree.



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 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 144 field plots across the state and 10 plots designed to measure presence of ozone.
- Completed Kansas' Forest Resources, 2005 Report of status of forestlands.
- Information from Kansas' Forest Resources, 2005 Report was used in news releases, newsletters, and radio and television spots.



RIPARIAN FOREST MANAGEMENT

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Technical assistance to private landowners in targeted watersheds identified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in using forestry practices to improve water quality.
- Represent forestry interests during the development and implementation of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy plans by local stakeholder groups.
- Technical assistance to communities in riparian management.
- Promote forestry practices including managing existing riparian forestlands and planting riparian forest buffers to reduce nonpoint source pollution in streams through media, workshops, and conferences.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- Improved water quality in streams and reservoirs.
- Reduced streambank erosion and siltation of reservoirs, providing optimum flood water storage.
- Quality habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Increased recreational opportunities.



SUMMARY OF 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prepared 27 forest management and riparian forest buffer planting plans on 911 acres.
- 301 acres marked for timber stand improvement; 140 acres completed. 40 acres of trees planted in riparian areas.
- Participated in the development and implementation of eight Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy plans.
- Conducted four workshops with 142 people and presented at 21 additional educational events for 1,344 youth and adults.
- Sent out press releases and participated in radio interviews to educate the public about riparian forest best management practices. Created a riparian forestry section for the Kansas Forest Service Web site.

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 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained Web site.
- Published quarterly newsletter, *Kansas Canopy* and distributed to 2,872 individuals each quarter as well as being available on our Web site.
- Conducted and/or participated in 114 forestry educational events for 5,700 participants.
- Produced news releases, displays, and radio and television spots for the public on a variety of forestry topics.
- 1,684 fifth-grade students participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest with a state and district winners recognized.
- 338 teachers participated in 18 Project Learning Tree workshops.





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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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