

KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Fiscal year 2008 was a milestone for the Kansas Forest Service. After 20 years as the State Forester, Ray Aslin began a well-deserved retirement. His legacy includes renaming the agency from the State and Extension Forestry, to the Kansas Forest Service and shifting the work from education to service. Under his leadership, the Kansas Forest Service entered into many satellite work agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

I am honored to be selected as Ray's successor and will do my best to sustain the national reputation of the Kansas Forest Service. The Kansas Forest Service experienced budget challenges during 2008 because of the downturn in the economy and the subtle shift of federal fiscal resources from formula to competitive processes.

I am pleased to note that the Kansas Forest Service is the state's forestry agency. The agency is housed within the Department of Horticulture, Forestry, and Recreation Resources, College of Agriculture, Kansas State University. The agency's mission is "Care of Natural Resources and Service to People through Forestry." Our vision is "Kansas Forests will be healthy, working forests that provide societal benefits, ecosystem services, and products, both traditional and new."

The Kansas Forest Service serves the citizens, communities, and forest and arbo-riculture industries of the state through four program areas: community forestry, conservation tree sales and distribution, fire management, and rural forestry. The agency's legislated powers and duties are encapsulated in the duties listed on the following page.

Handling all of these responsibilities is challenging. The agency lost two professional positions in 2008, dropping to 23 full-time employees. Sixteen of the 23 are professionally trained in forestry, horticulture, or natural resources. The other seven are dedicated and skillful clerical persons, accountants, automotive mechanics, and plant science technicians. The agency also hires students and temporary employees to grow and distribute tree and shrub seedlings and to police the grounds at the state office.

Although challenged by a host of new administrative processes and fiscal shortcomings the agency remained vibrant throughout 2008. We have an energetic, innovative, and strategically located cadre of employees. This report highlights their annual accomplishment on behalf of the state, its citizens, and its indigenous natural resources.

Larry Biles
State Forester

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

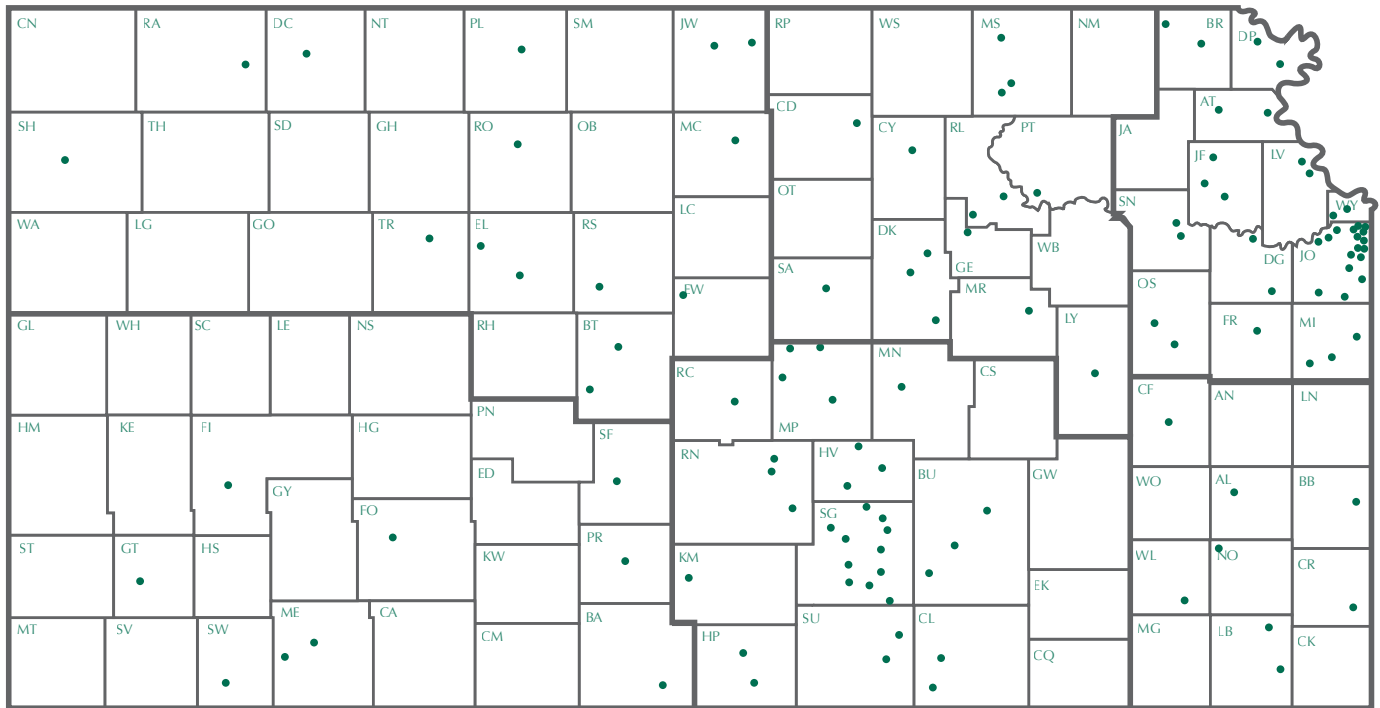
- An organized approach to public tree management results in a healthier, more diverse community tree population.
- A more attractive community draws potential residents and shoppers, resulting in positive economic impacts.
- Trees increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs, sequester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

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided 220 technical forestry assists to 122 communities.
- Assisted 181 communities with active community forestry management plans representing 87 percent of the state's population.
- Completed 16 community tree assessments and three public tree inventories in 19 communities.
- Prepared three new community forestry management plans.
- Assisted 16 communities with tree planting projects.
- Provided 29 training sessions for 1,228 participants representing 352 communities and an additional 48 outreach events with 1,275 participants.
- State and national recognition for 117 cities and towns as Tree City USAs; one public utility company received Tree Line USA recognition; and 12 communities received Growth Awards.



117 CERTIFIED TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES IN 2008



● Certified Tree City USA Community

Tree City USA communities must meet national standards for managing public trees. Through the efforts of 599 tree board members, 169 departments and 1,354 volunteers, these communities collectively spent \$18.8 million to plant 19,386 trees, prune 90,959 trees and remove 14,616 dead and dying trees. Westar earned certification as a Tree Line USA Utility Company for the 10th year.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Anthony	24
Arkansas City	15
Augusta	4
Bel Aire	13
Belle Plaine	4
Cunningham	16
Derby	16
*El Dorado	16
Halstead	31
Harper	12
Haven	29
Haysville	9
Hesston	24
Hillsboro	14
*Hutchinson	15
Lindsborg	24
Lyons	4
Maize	11
Marquette	14
McConnell AFB	15
*McPherson	31
Mount Hope	4
*Mulvane	18
Newton	33
Oxford	10
Park City	10

Rose Hill

Sedgwick	11
South Hutchinson	8
Valley Center	15
Wichita	23
Windom	16
Winfield	28

SOUTHEAST

*Burlington	16
Chanute	30
Fort Scott	14
Iola	5
Oswego	19
Parsons	20
Pittsburg	4

NORTHWEST

Atwood	13
Beloit	32
Ellis	9
Formoso	24
Goodland	30
Great Bend	26
Hays	30
Mankato	28
Phillipsburg	22

Russell

Stockton	5
WaKeeney	20
Wilson	1

NORTHEAST

Atchison	27
Baldwin City	6
Bonner Springs	23
De Soto	7
Effingham	15
Fairway	24
Forbes Field ANG	12
Gardner	6
Hiawatha	9
Highland	1
Kansas City	1
Lake Quivira	14
Lansing	9
*Lawrence	31
Leavenworth	15
Leawood	13
Lenexa	21
Louisburg	12
Lyndon	8
Merriam	24
Mission	7

Mission Hills

Morrill	4
*Olathe	26
Osage City	18
Osawatomie	4
Oskaloosa	14
*Ottawa	10
*Overland Park	30
Ozawkie	3
*Paola	5
Prairie Village	12
*Roeland Park	16
Shawnee	12
Spring Hill	13
Topeka	23
Troy	12
Valley Falls	14
Westwood	21
Westwood Hills	12

NORTH CENTRAL

Abilene	17
Blue Rapids	27
Chapman	1
Clay Center	33
Clyde	7
Council Grove	13

*Emporia

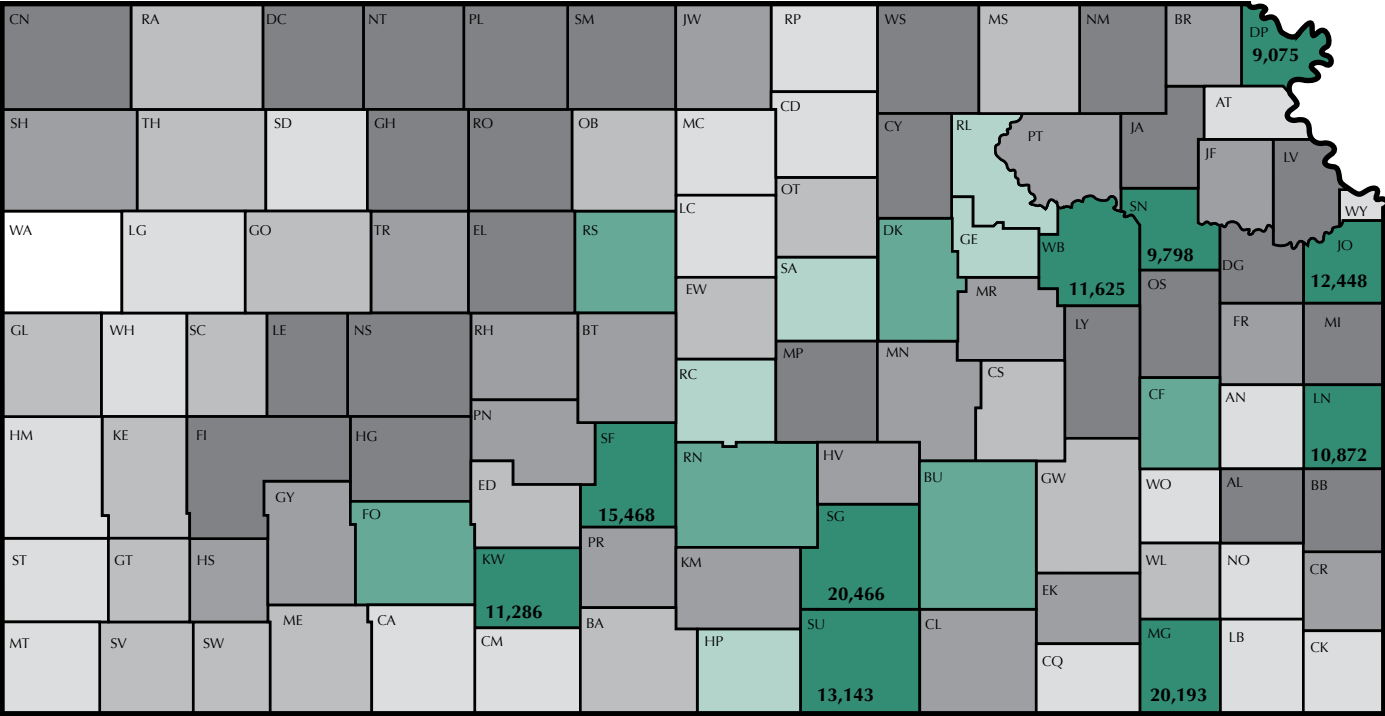
Ft. Riley	22
Herington	20
Junction City	33
Manhattan	32
*Marysville	29
Salina	19
Wamego	21
Waterville	32

SOUTHWEST

Dodge City	33
Garden City	31
Kiowa	13
Liberal	26
Meade	6
Plains	6
Pratt	13
St. John	13
Ulysses	30

Numbers denote years as a Tree City USA.
*Denotes Growth Award Recipient.

2008 COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS



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 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 52nd year by filling 2,300 orders in 104 counties with 431,500 seedlings.
- Landowners planted 780 acres of windbreaks, 15 acres of riparian planting, 22 acres of woodlots, and 227 acres of wildlife habitat, totaling 1,044 acres.
- Sold 14,500 marking flags, 19,700 rabbit protective tubes, 227 units of root protective slurry, and 9,800 weed barrier fabric squares.
- Loaned eight tree planting machines to landowners that were in use 55 days.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

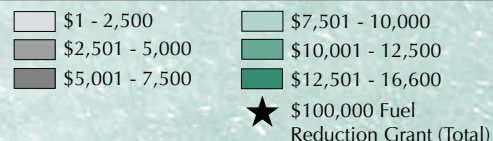
SERVICES PROVIDED

- Train volunteer firefighters in fire behavior, proper fire fighting techniques and safety, and assist local fire departments with large wild-land 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 2008: \$278,140 to 102 departments



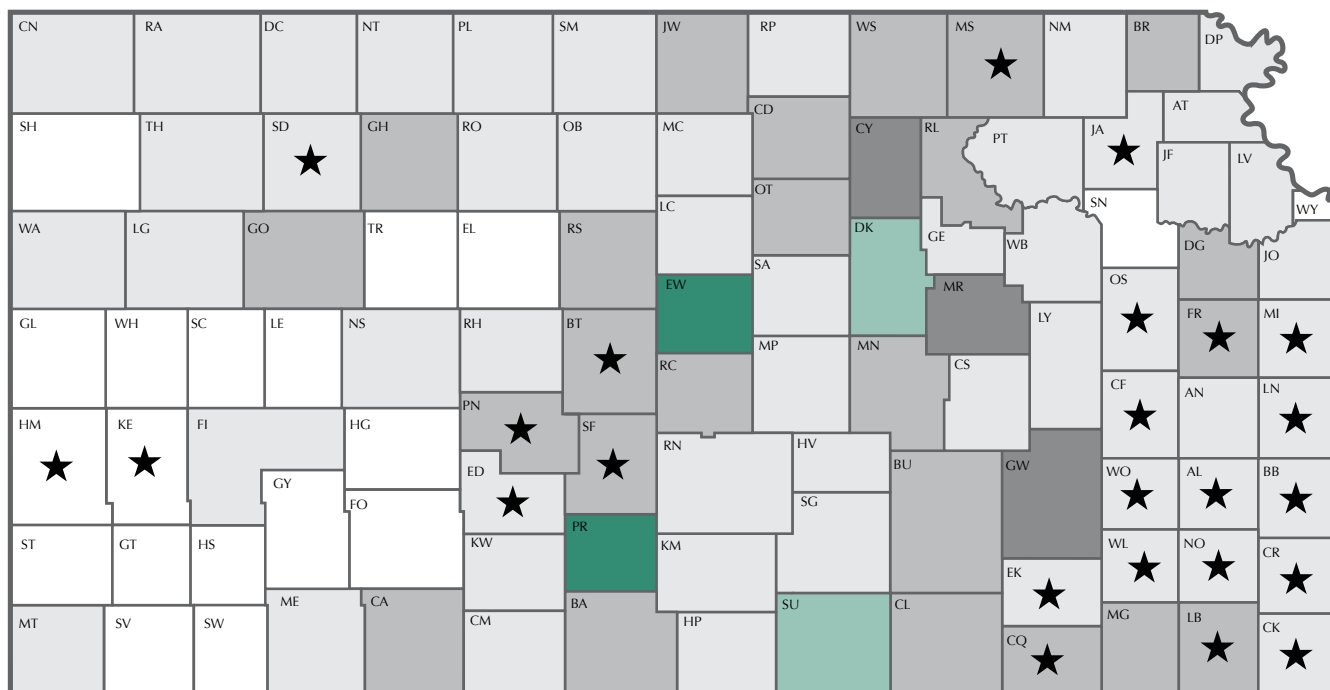
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- 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.

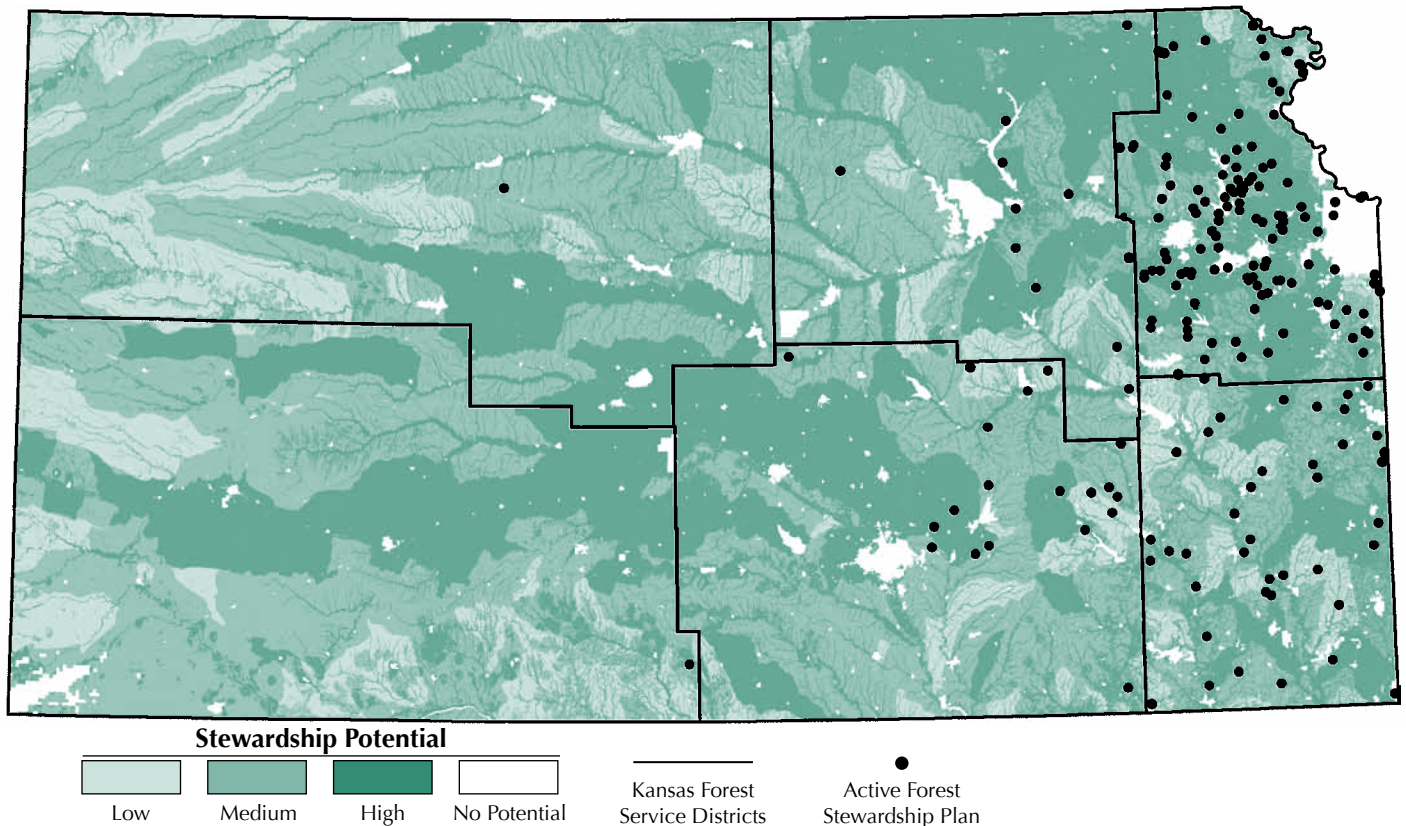
SUMMARY OF 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Smokey Bear costumes appeared at 34 events; fire departments, schools, and civic organizations received 19,842 pieces of fire prevention materials; and displayed the Firewise Mobile Education trailer at seven events.
- Conducted 19 wildland fire training classes for 293 firefighters from 38 departments.
- Was awarded a \$100,000 grant for fuel reduction work on public lands in the urban interface.
- Provided 184 pieces of equipment to 39 departments through the Equipment Donation Program with a replacement value of \$109,863.
- Prepared county-wide fire plans for Marshall, Neosho, Woodson, and Cherokee counties.
- Facilitated one Fuel Reduction Project that provided training and employment for 38 wildland firefighter students. This project reduced fuel on 200 acres of Army Corps of Engineers land, an additional 2,000 acres were treated by Kansas Forest Service Staff.

VALUE OF FEDERAL EXCESS VEHICLES ON LOAN TO FIRE DEPTS



FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLANS IN IMPORTANT FOREST RESOURCE AREAS 2004 - 2008



FOREST STEWARDSHIP SPATIAL ANALYSIS PROGRAM

The purpose of the Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Program (SAP) is to identify the most important forest resource areas in Kansas for the purpose of focusing efforts to protect and manage this valuable resource. This was accomplished by prioritizing 15 natural resource GIS data layers that consider forests, wildlife, watersheds, wetlands, soils, cropland, development, wildfire, and forest health risks and opportunities. Forest stewardship management plans provide long-term comprehensive descriptions and recommendations to private landowners who are ultimately responsible for the health of forestlands in Kansas.

- Nearly 21 million acres (42 percent) are considered “important forest resource areas” with high potential for forest stewardship.
- Within the last 5 years, 196 Forest Stewardship plans have provided recommendations for 10,635 acres (93 percent) in important forest resource areas.
- Kansas SAP reports are available upon request and additional information at www.fs.fed.us/na/sap/.

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.
- Riparian forests reduce soil sedimentation rates into lakes and reservoirs, prolonging public water supplies and improving water quality.

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided technical assistance to 294 private landowners.
- Prepared 43 comprehensive forest management plans on 2,938 acres.
- Prepared 29 basic forest management plans for 1,155 acres.
- Prepared 73 practice plans, including timber stand improvement and tree planting on 415 acres.
- Implemented 585 acres of stand improvement and tree planting practices.
- Provided forestry technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to forest landowners preparing 138 plans totaling \$48,905.
- Participated in or hosted 17 forestry workshops and educational sessions for 2,803 people.



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

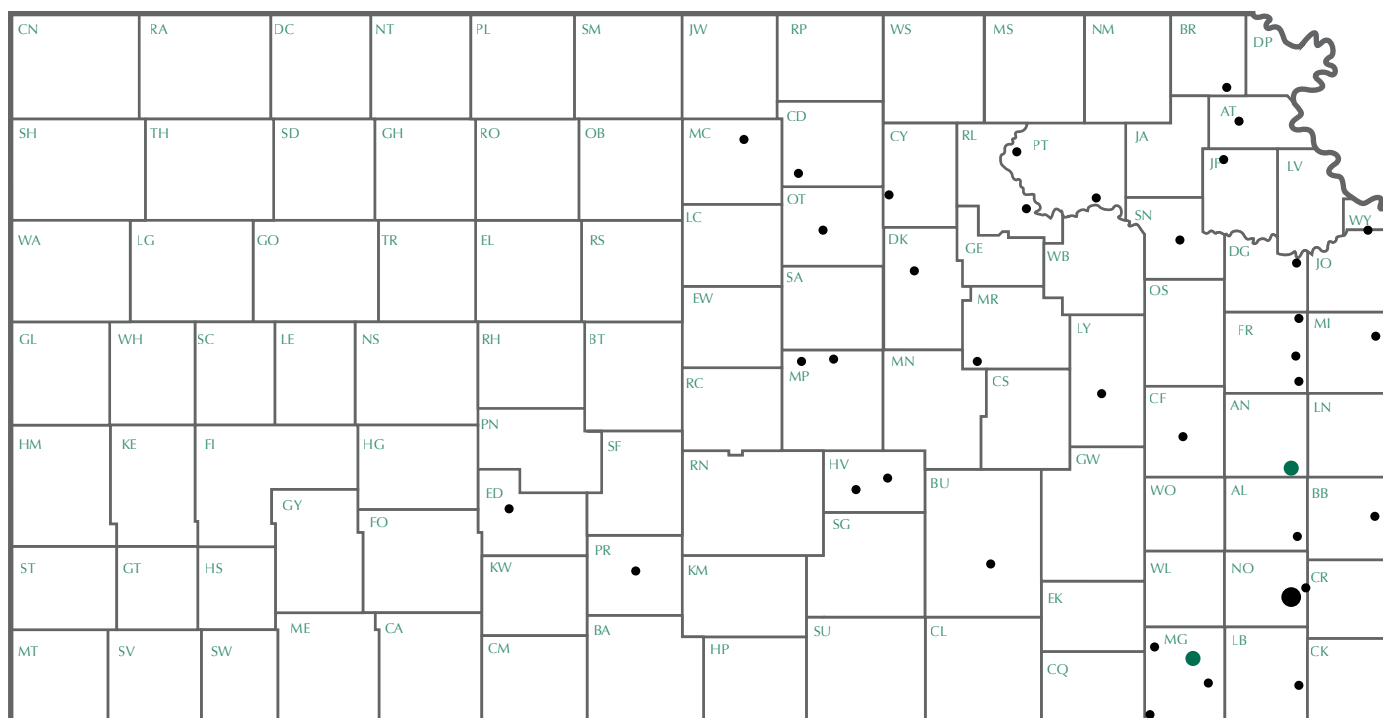
- Improved local economies through use of timber products by local sawmills and manufacturers.
- Access to loggers and sawmills for harvesting and processing timber products.
- Energy conservation through the use of wood as an alternative fuel.
- More efficient use of timber produced on private forestlands.

SUMMARY OF 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Helped the Kansas Forest Products Association coordinate a tour of forest related industries in northeast Kansas.
- 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 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 169 field plots across the state and 10 plots designed to measure presence of ozone.
- Continue to promote findings from Kansas Forests 2005 report and annual 2008 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.

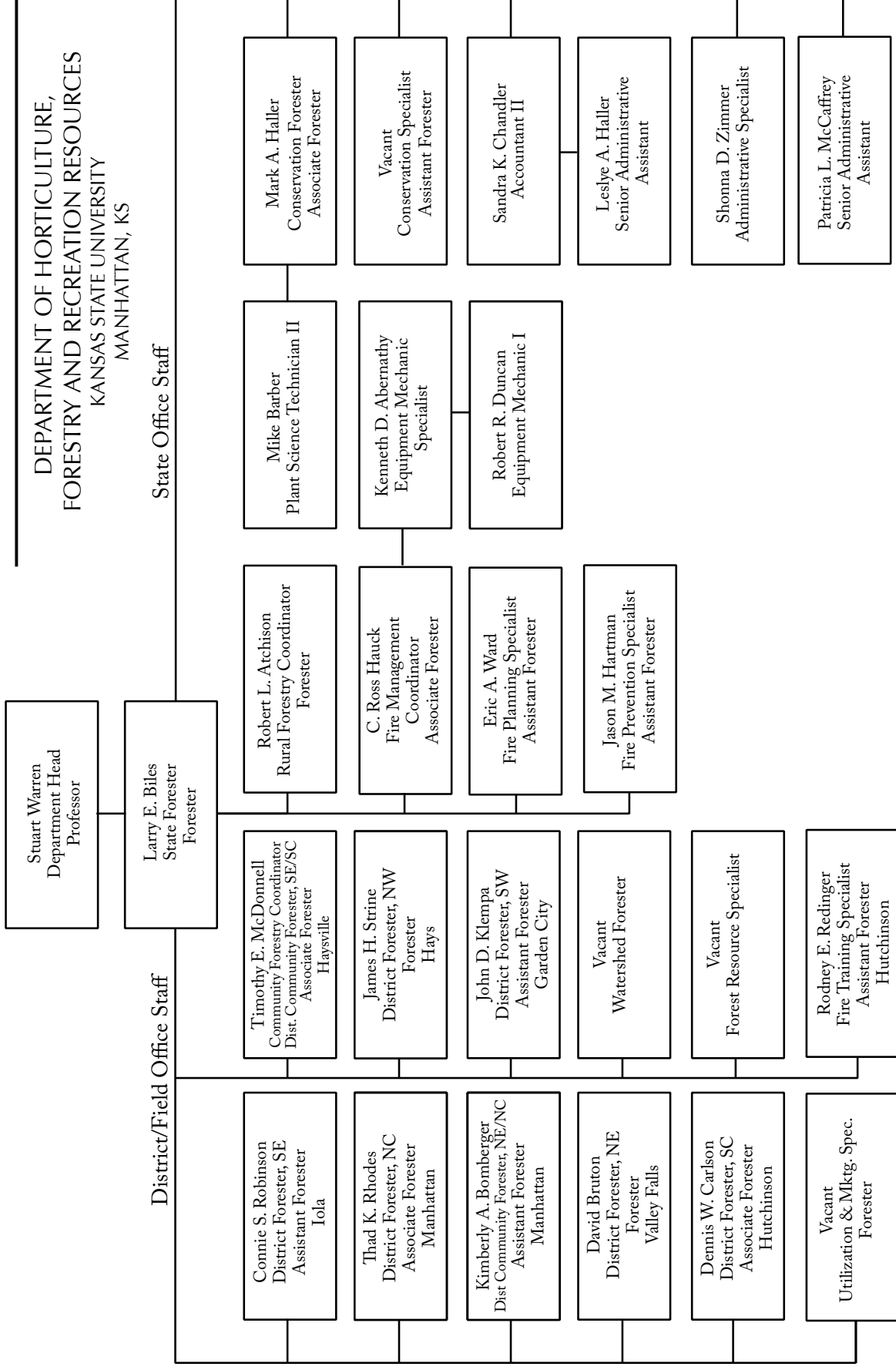
SUMMARY OF 2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Published quarterly newsletter, Kansas Canopy, and distributed to 3,320 people.
- Conducted and/or participated in 67 forestry educational events for 4,356 participants.
- Produced news releases, displays, and radio and television spots for the public on a variety of forestry topics.
- 1,300 fifth-grade students participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest with state and district winners recognized.
- 353 educators participated in 21 Project Learning Tree workshops reaching 10,590 Kansas children.
- Significant educational events included the Kansas Arborist Association training course, community forestry statewide training, Tree City USA Recognition Day, Agroforestry Field Day, Fall Forestry Field Day, North American Association for Environmental Education Conference, National Wild Turkey Federation's Managing Eastern Kansas Woodlands and Forests workshop, and the Kansas Natural Resources Conference.



KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND RECREATION RESOURCES
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
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