

KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



KANSAS SESQUICENTENNIAL AND INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FOREST: A YEAR IN REVIEW



The assembly at the 2000 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development adopted 2011 as the International Year of Forests. This assembly recognized that forests and sustainable forest management can significantly contribute to long-term economic, environmental, and social development and chose to amplify these values in a year-long celebration. Their objective was to promote a broader understanding of the importance of forests and to bolster global efforts to promote sustainable forest management and conservation.



The timing and subsequent celebration of the International Year of the Forests was especially significant to Kansas as it coincided with the state's sesquicentennial celebration. In preparation for these events, the Kansas Forest Service engaged in many far-reaching activities. The first was completion of the Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy. This document was accepted as the agency's five-year (2011 – 2015) strategic plan by the USDA Forest Service in December of 2010. Central to this document was the identification of forest resources of great promise and great risk and a strategy on how best to use fiscal and human resources to produce the highest ecological, social, and economic benefits for and from this portion of the state's landscape.



Secondly, the Kansas Forest Service engaged in a cost-benefit analysis of its programs. The agency knew that forest and trees benefit the state's economy, but could only generalize the extent of those benefits. The cost-benefit analysis, which looked at all aspects of the Kansas Forest Service, determined that the agency provided an economic impact of slightly less than \$27,000,000. We found this analysis to be quite telling as it represents a 93 fold increase in the state's general revenue investment of \$290,000.

Thirdly, and in direct response to the sesquicentennial and International Year of Forest, the Kansas Forest Service engaged in several promotions. The first was a framed cottonwood poster wall hanging presentation to Governor Brownback on Arbor Day. During this presentation,

and a subsequent presentation to Kansas State University's College of Agriculture Dean Gary Pierzynski, it was referenced that the state's forest and tree industries provide more than 10,000 jobs and more than \$1 billion in products and service values to the state. Moreover, it was recognized that the Kansas Association for Conservation Education and Environment (KACEE) is the front door for K-12 environmental education with emphasis on Project Learning Tree, Project Wet and Project Wild. Annually, KACEE connects to more than 6,000 public and private school teachers and 36,000 students.

Sesquicentennial and International Year of Forest promotions concluded with multi-agency commentary and a tree planting ceremony at the 2011 Kansas State Fair. This event included representatives from the Kansas Forest Service, the State Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kansas Forestry Association, and the Kansas State Fair. The forest and tree product and services values were reiterated at this event. In addition it was noted that Kansas residents have long enjoyed and worked to establish and protect forest and tree resources. Cases in point are the Timber Culture Act of 1873 and the Shelterbelt Project, later named Prairie States Forestry Project of 1934. Through these and other project the state has nearly one-half as many acres of planted forest and trees as native.

Although they only make up a small percentage of the Kansas landscape; forests and trees are important to Kansas. Amplifying on the importance of forests and trees was the agency's charge for the 2011 International Year of Forests and the Sesquicentennial. We believe we succeeded but know that additional work remains for 2012 and beyond.

Larry Biles
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, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus USA recognition programs offered to cities and towns.
- Coordinated Kansas Arborists Association course, providing training for 40 arborists to become certified.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

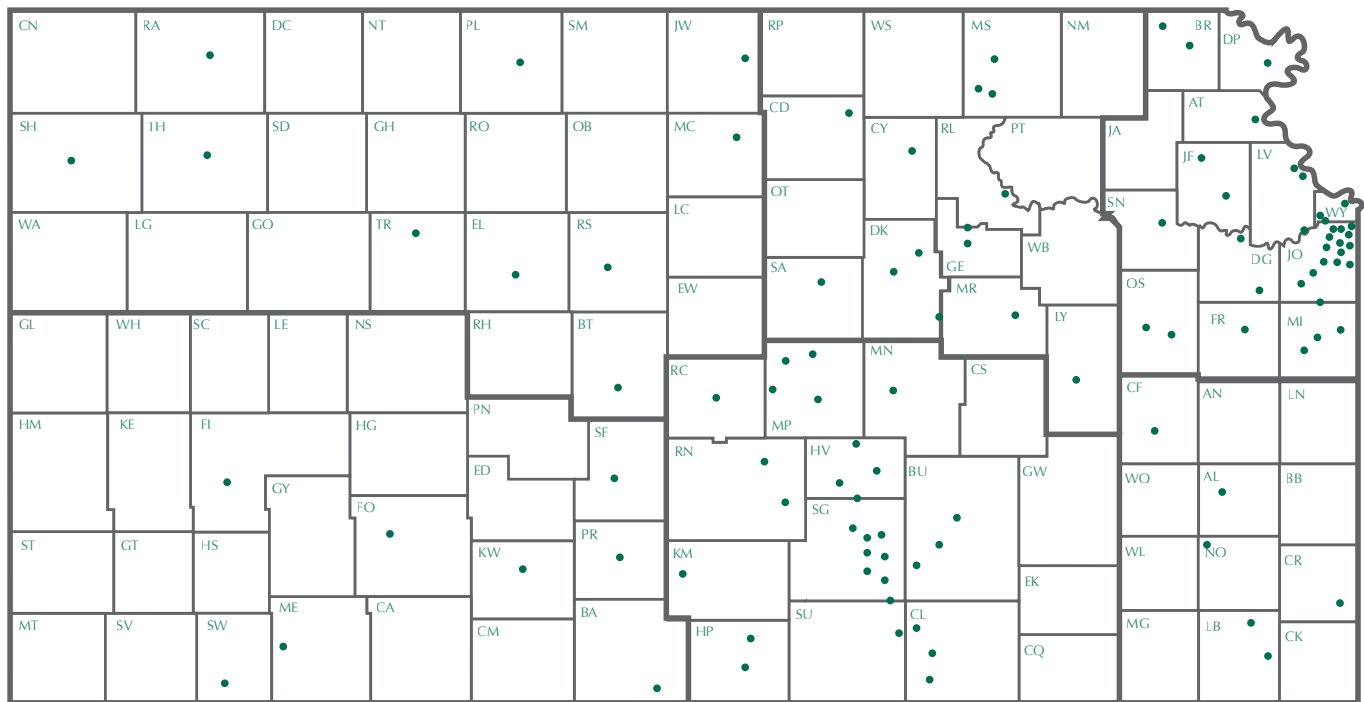
- An organized approach to public tree management results in a healthier, more diverse community tree population.
- A more attractive community draws potential residents and shoppers, resulting in positive economic impacts.
- Trees increase property values, reduce heating and cooling costs, sequester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

SUMMARY OF 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided 216 technical forestry assists directly to communities.
- Assisted 151 communities with active community forestry management plans representing 86.5 percent of the state's population.
- Assisted 12 communities with tree planting projects.
- Provided 29 training sessions for 974 participants representing 375 communities and an additional 21 outreach events with 613 participants.
- State and national recognition for 104 cities and towns as Tree City USAs; one public utility company received Tree Line USA recognition; and 14 communities received Growth Awards.
- 1,875 Tree Board members and other volunteers contributed 30,499 hours of service to their communities' tree resources.
- In 2010 Kansas Tree City USA communities planted 12,058 trees, pruned 45,661 trees and removed 12, 809 dead and dying trees.
- Kansas Tree City USA communities spent more than \$16.5 million managing their tree resource.



104 CERTIFIED TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES IN 2011



● Certified Tree City USA Community

Tree City USA communities must meet national standards for managing public trees. Through the efforts of 541 tree board members, 102 departments and 541 volunteers, these communities collectively spent \$16.4 million to plant 11,834 trees, prune 45,489 trees and remove 12,786 dead and dying trees. Westar earned certification as a Tree Line USA Utility Company for the 12th year. Baker University earned certification as a Tree Campus USA for the first time.

SOUTH CENTRAL		NORTHEAST	
Anthony	25	Oskaloosa	15
Arkansas City	16	Ottawa	11
Augusta	5	*Overland Park	31
Bel Aire	14	*Paola	6
Cunningham	17	Prairie Village	13
Derby	17	*Roeland Park	17
*El Dorado	17	*Shawnee	13
Halstead	32	Spring Hill	14
Harper	13	Topeka	24
Haven	30	Troy	13
Haysville	10	Valley Falls	15
Hesston	25	Westwood	22
Hillsboro	15	Westwood Hills	13
*Hutchinson	16	NORTH CENTRAL	
*Lindsborg	25	Abilene	18
Lyons	5	Blue Rapids	28
Maize	12	Chapman	2
Marquette	15	Clay Center	34
McConnell AFB	16	Clyde	8
*McPherson	32	Council Grove	14
*Mulvane	19	Emporia	24
Newton	34	Ft. Riley	23
Oxford	11	Herington	21
Park City	11	Junction City	34
Sedgwick	13	Manhattan	33
SOUTHEAST		SOUTHWEST	
*Burlington	17	Dodge City	34
Chanute	31	Garden City	33
Iola	6	Greensburg	2
Oswego	20	Kiowa	14
Parsons	21	Liberal	27
Pittsburg	5	Plains	7
NORTHWEST		Pratt	14
Atwood	14	St. John	14
Beloit	33	Numbers denote years as a Tree City USA. *Denotes Growth Award Recipient.	
Colby	7		
Formoso	25		
Goodland	31		
Great Bend	27		
Hays	31		
Phillipsburg	23		
Russell	24		
WaKeeney	21		

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.



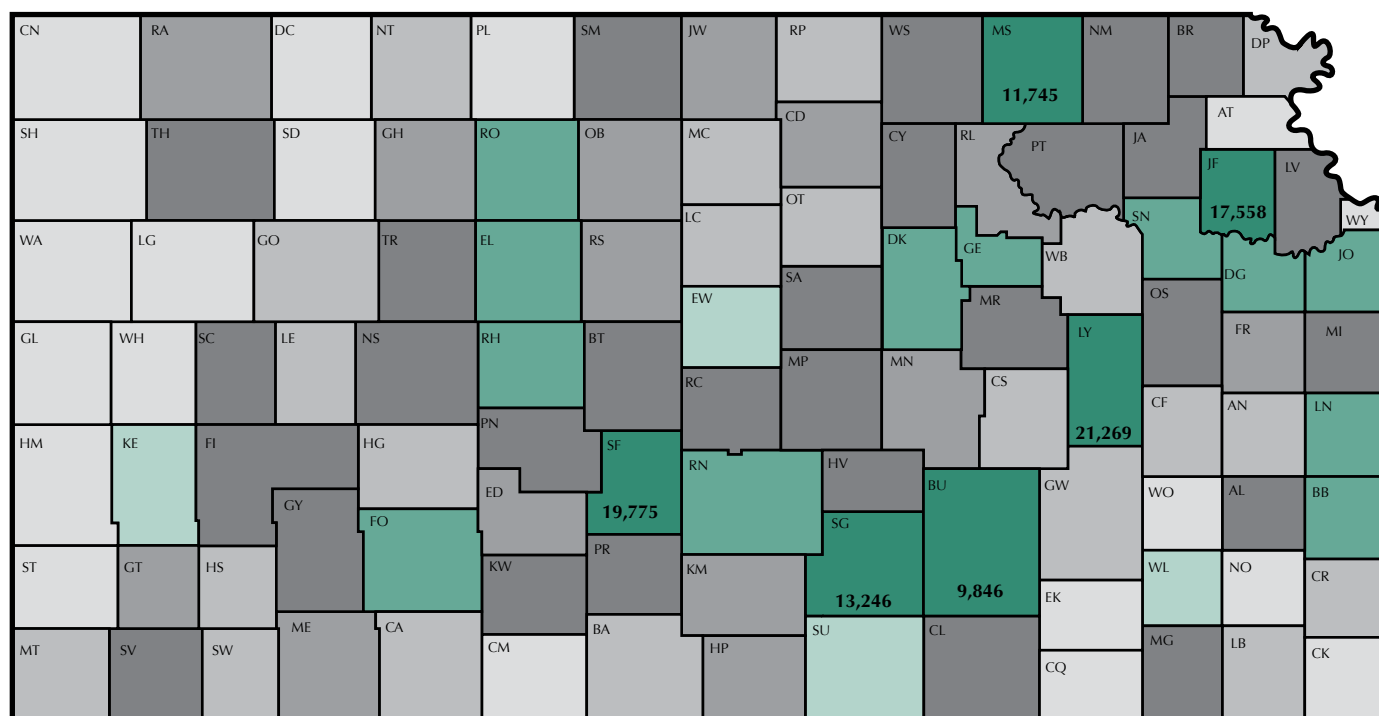
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- 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 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 55th year by filling 2,616 orders in 105 counties with 378,722 seedlings.
- Landowners planted 614 acres of windbreaks, 34 acres of riparian planting, 17 acres of woodlots, and 197 acres of wildlife habitat, totaling 862 acres.
- Sold 10,300 marking flags, 16,275 rabbit protective tubes, 196 units of root protective slurry, and 5,800 weed barrier fabric squares.
- Loaned four tree planting machines to landowners that were in use 125 days.
- Loaned three weed barrier machines to landowners for 19 days.
- Loaned one root plow to landowners for one day.

2011 COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS



Distribution of Seedlings

1 - 1,000
1,001 - 2,000

2,001 - 3,000
3,001 - 5,000

5,001 - 6,000
6,001 - 9,000

9,001 - 21,500
(actual amounts are noted)

FIRE MANAGEMENT

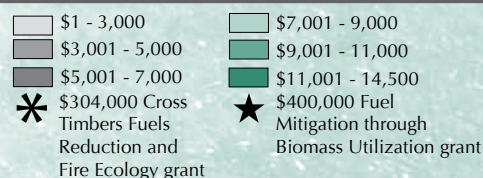
SERVICES PROVIDED

- 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 2011: \$295,000 to 111 departments in 54 counties



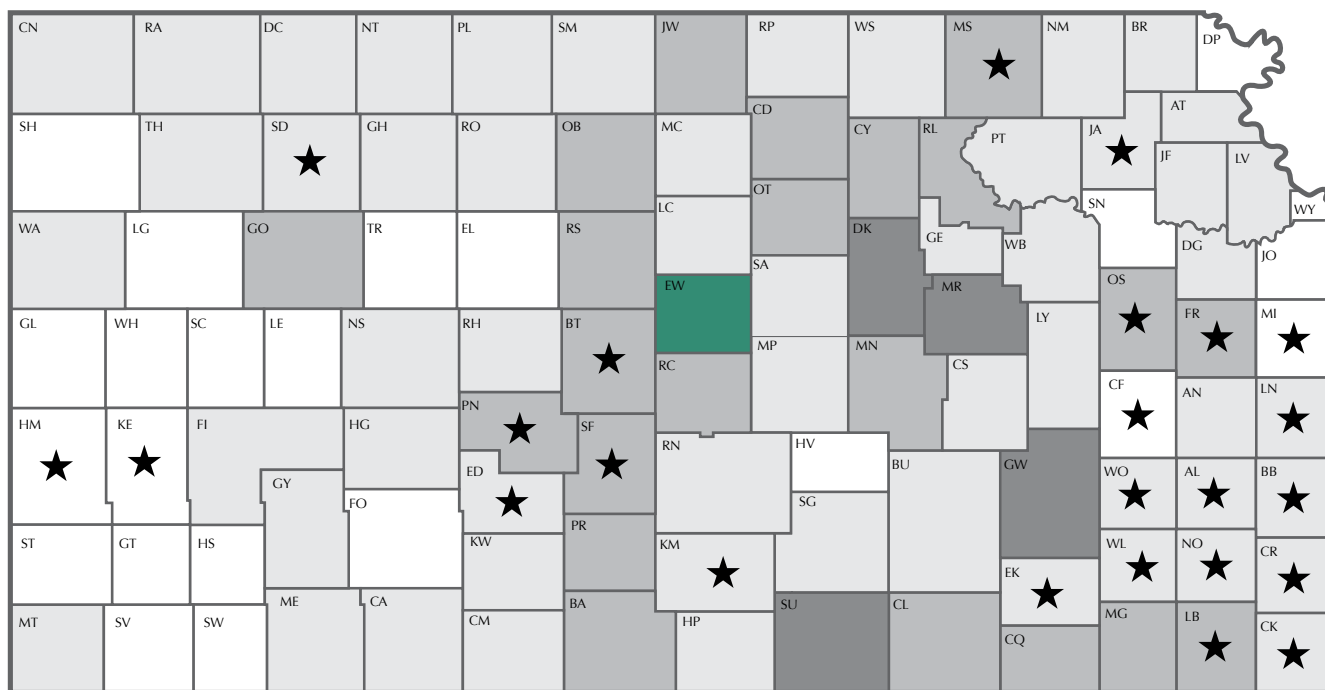
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- 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.
- 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 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Smokey Bear costumes appeared at 39 events; 30 fire departments, schools, and civic organizations received 19,000 pieces of fire prevention materials; and displayed the Firewise Mobile Education trailer at three events.
- Conducted 22 wildland fire training classes for 518 firefighters from 49 departments from 19 counties.
- Provided 460 pieces of equipment through the Equipment Donation Program with a replacement value of \$206,500.
- Facilitated one Fuel Reduction Project that provided training and employment for 32 wildland firefighter students. This project reduced fuel on 653 acres of U.S. Fish and Wildlife and K-State property, an additional 5,317 acres were treated in which Kansas Forest Service staff assisted our federal, state, local, and private partners.

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

519 pieces of equipment in 82 counties with acquisition value of \$16.7 million

\$1 - 200,000

\$200,001 - 400,000

\$400,001 - 600,000

\$600,001 - 800,000

\$800,001 - 1,600,000

★ Counties with Master Fire Plan

RURAL FORESTRY

SERVICES PROVIDED

- The Kansas Forest Action plan identifies threats to Kansas forests and guides the Rural Forestry Program. www.kansasforests.org/assessment.shtml
- 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*.

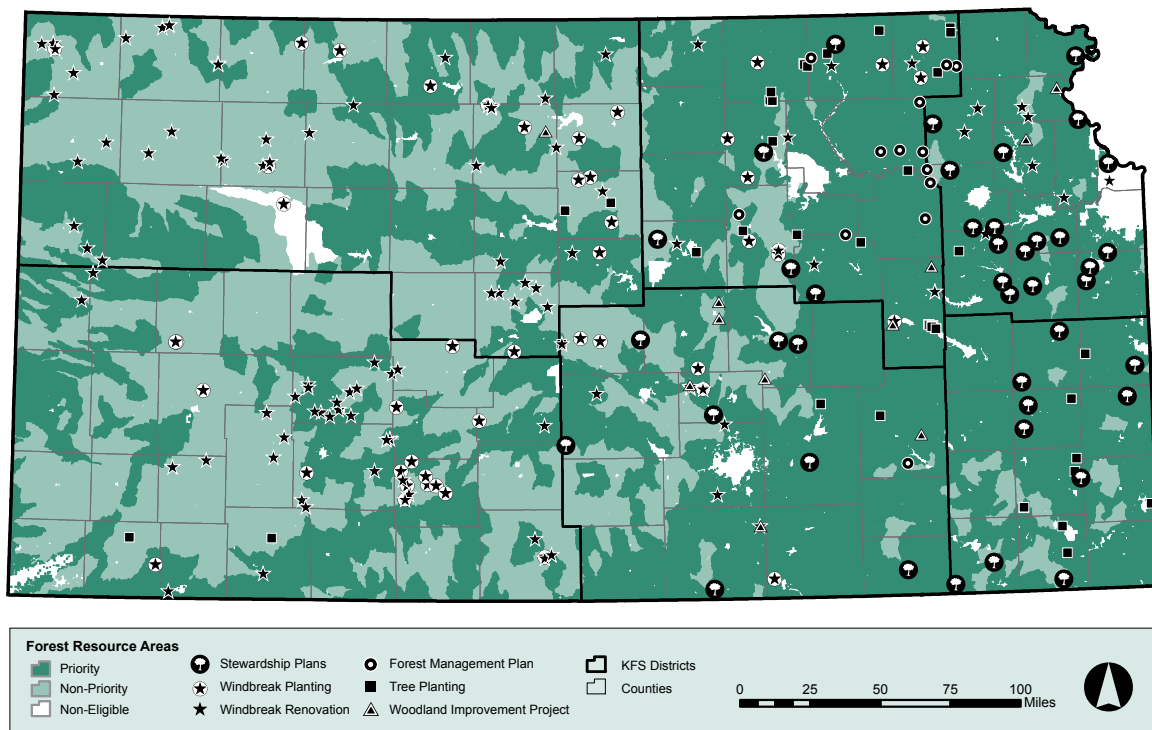


FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Forest Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort between the Kansas Forest Service and the USDA Forest Service that targets high priority private forestlands and encourages their management and protection through the preparation of long-term Forest Stewardship Management plans. The goals of the program are 1) to sustain forestlands in productive, healthy condition; 2) increase the economic, environmental and social benefits; and 3) enhance and protect timber, wildlife, soil, water, recreation, and aesthetics values.

- Nearly 30 million acres (57%) are considered “important forest resource areas” with high potential for forest stewardship.
- Within the last 10 years 338 Forest Stewardship Management plans have provided recommendations for 23,240 acres in important forest resource areas.

RURAL FORESTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN PRIORITY AREAS BASED ON THE KANSAS FOREST ACTION PLAN



SUMMARY OF 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided technical assistance to 388 private landowners.
- Prepared 41 comprehensive Forest Stewardship Management plans on 1,948 acres.
- Prepared 14 basic forest management plans for 305 acres.
- Prepared 269 forestry project plans to implement windbreak renovation, windbreak tree planting, forest stand improvement, riparian forest buffers and general tree planting on 767 acres. Many of the project plans were included financial support for landowners through EQIP for Forestland Health.
- Windbreak establishment and renovation plans made recommendations to landowners to plant 30 linear miles of tree rows.
- Riparian forest buffer plans provide recommendations to plant trees along nearly 5 miles of streambank.
- Marked 35 forest stand improvement projects on 279 acres.
- Participated in or hosted 15 forestry workshops and educational sessions for 859 adults and 21 for 3,315 youth.

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.

BENEFITS TO KANSANS

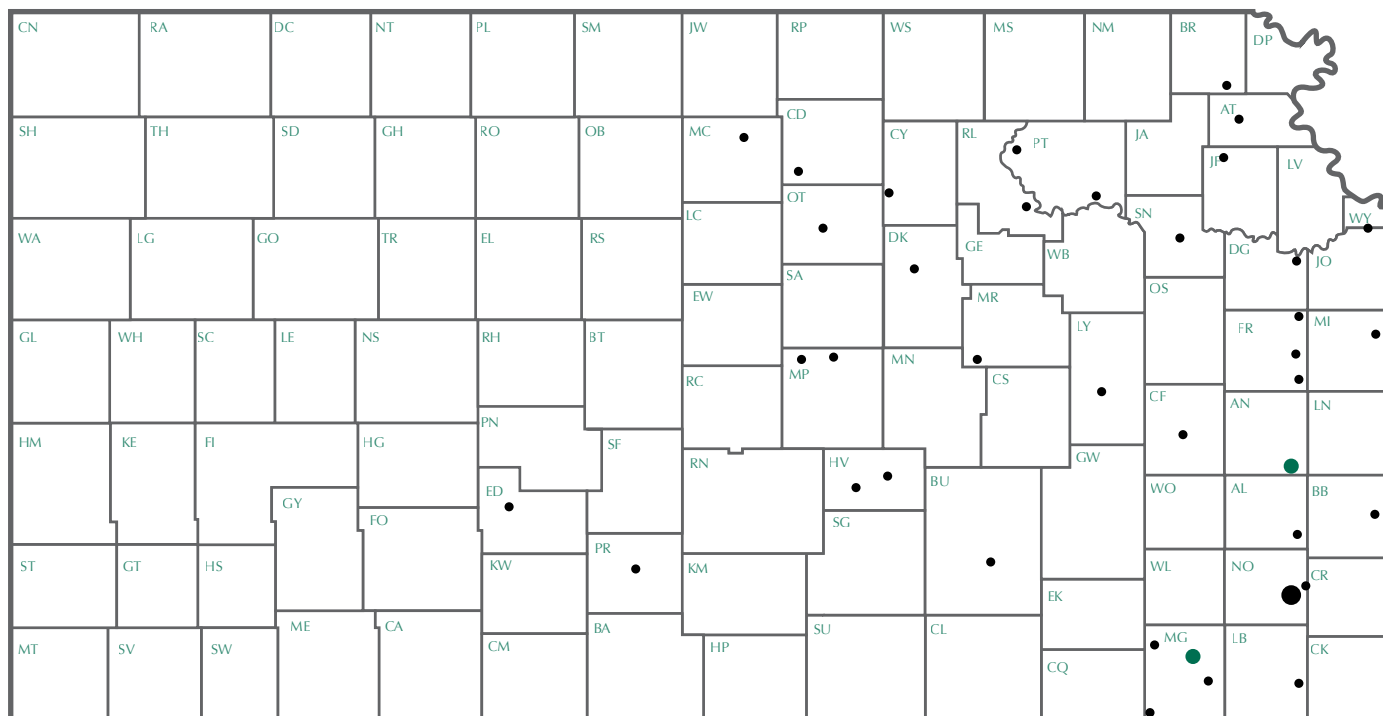
- The Kansas forest products industry contributes an estimated \$1.3 billion annually to the Kansas economy including 6,700 jobs with a payroll of \$329 million, \$63 million in federal income taxes, and \$39 million in other state taxes.
- Improved local economies through use of timber products by local 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 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Sponsored a review of Montana's *Fuel for Schools* program for Winfield's schools, Southwestern College's Green Team, Quail Wood Enterprises, and Chairman, Kansas Resource and Development Committee.
- Formed a wood energy *community of interest* (university, government, private industry, and associations).
- Conducted wood energy feasibility assessments for four public school systems and one private school system.
- Conducted wood energy feasibility assessments for one hospital system, two courthouse and jail systems, a correctional facility, and an ethanol plant.
- Explored outreach opportunities with three Kansas energy hardware businesses (boilers and burners).
- Made wood energy presentations to the Kansas Association of School Administrators, Kansas Health Care Engineers Association, and Kansas Municipal Utilities.
- Served as a panelist at the Kansas Department of Energy's Annual Energy Conference.
- Made wood energy presentation to Kansas House of Representative's Energy and Utilities Committee.



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 2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 147 field plots across the state and 11 plots designed to measure presence of ozone.
- Continue to promote findings from Kansas Forests 2005 report and annual 2010 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.
- Jobs, ecological restoration of forest and rangelands, and increased application of silviculture.

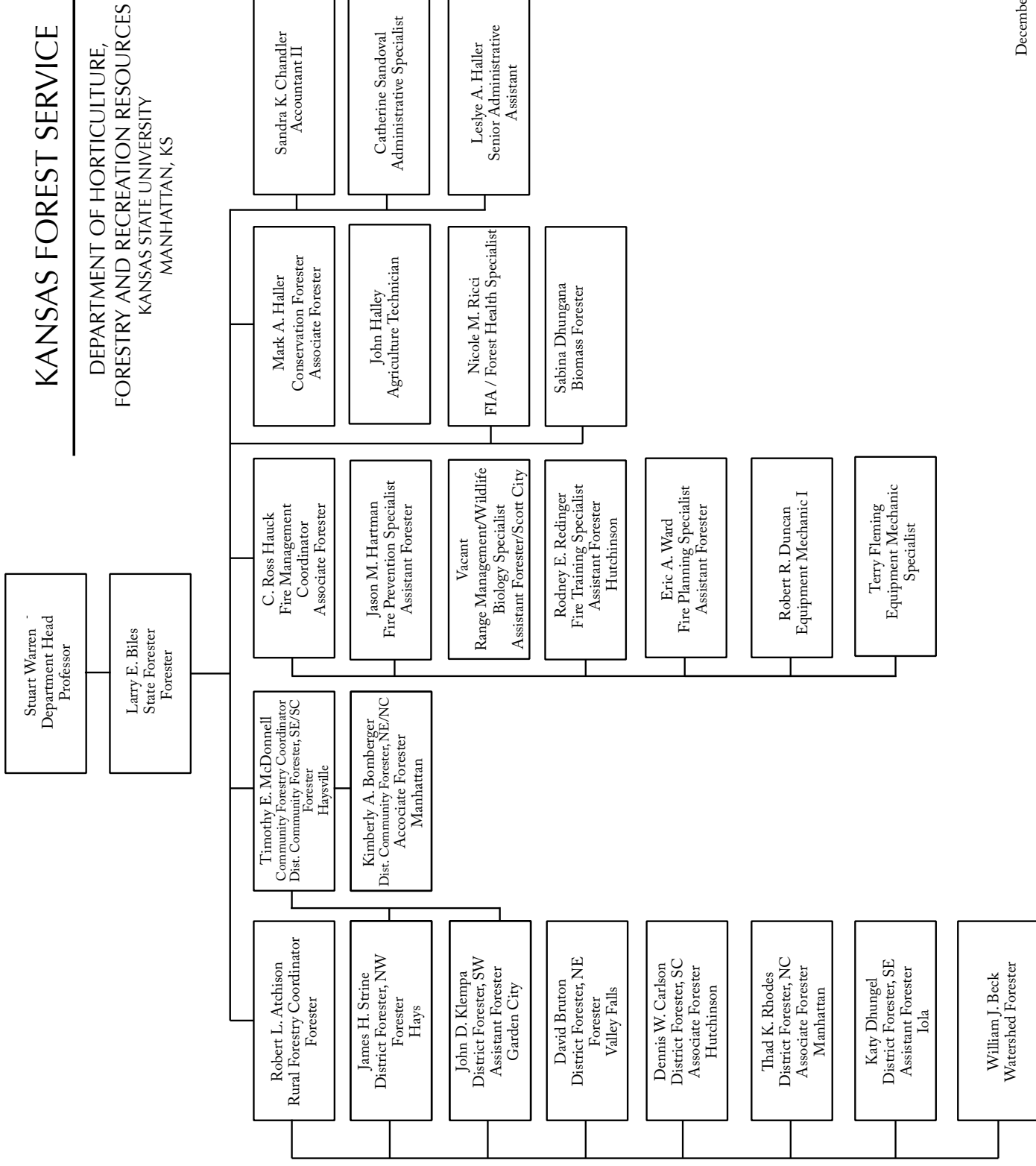
SUMMARY OF 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 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 1,200 fifth-grade students and 70 educators participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest with state and district winners recognized.
- 839 educators participated in 43 Project Learning Tree workshops reaching 20,975 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, Fall Forestry Field Day, and the Kansas Natural Resources Conference.



KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

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



K-STATE

Research and Extension

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