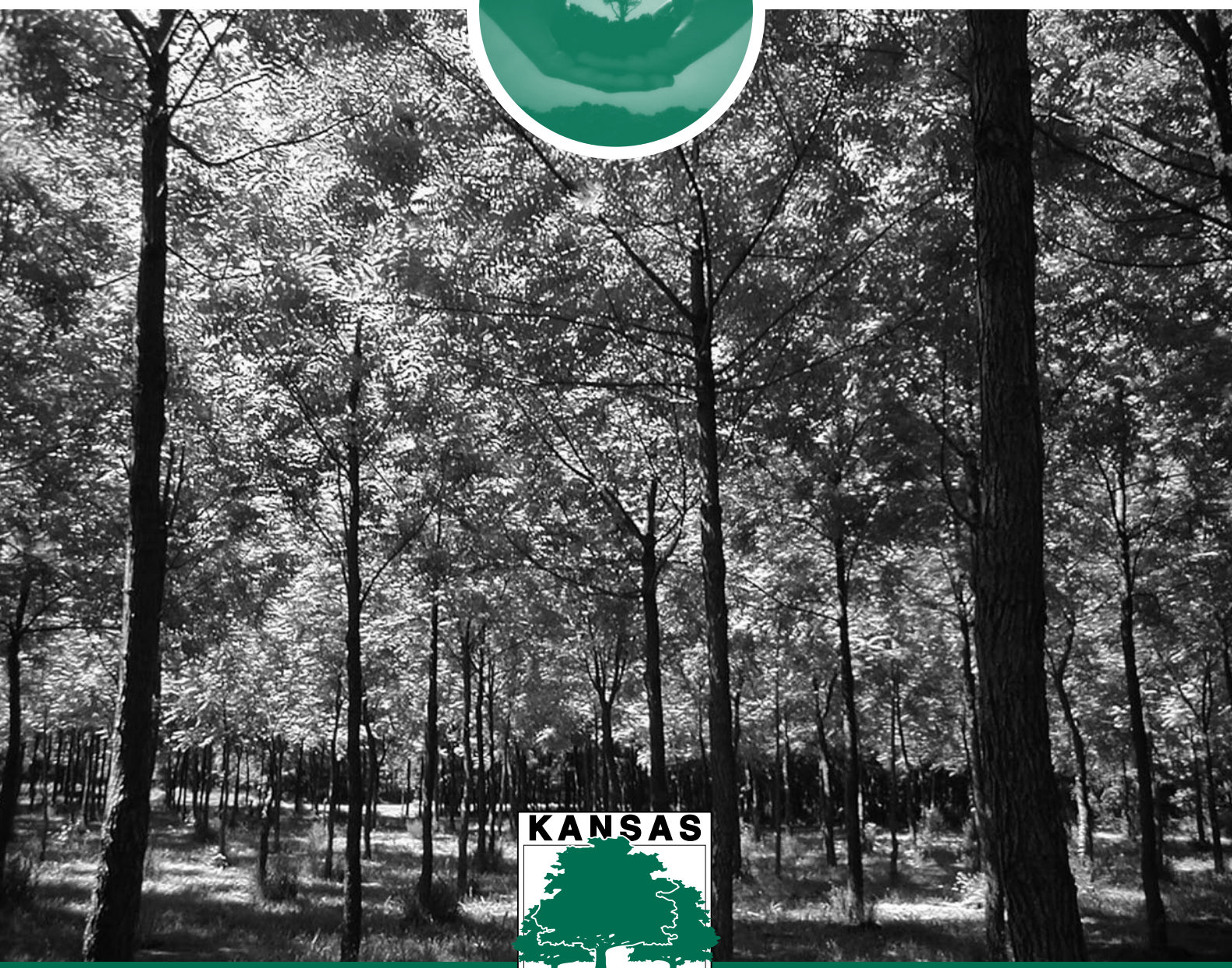
KANSAS FOREST SERVICE

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

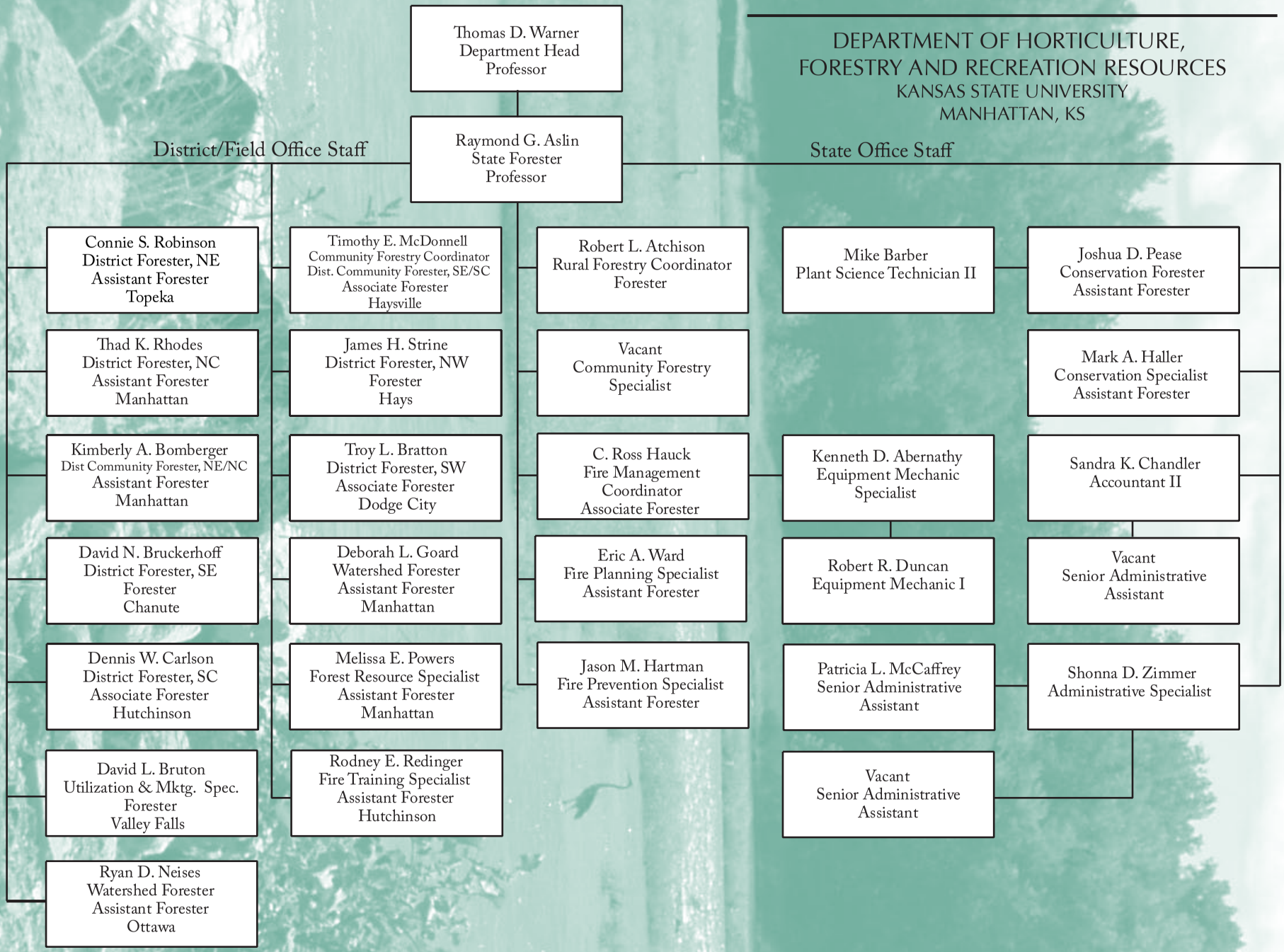


KANSAS FOREST SERVICE
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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 statue, K.S.A. 76-425, changing the name to the Kansas Forest Service and more clearly defining the 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 27-full time positions, 20 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, Dodge City, and Hays.

This annual report lists the services provided through our major programs, the benefits to Kansans, and a summary of the 2006 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 are offered to cities and towns.

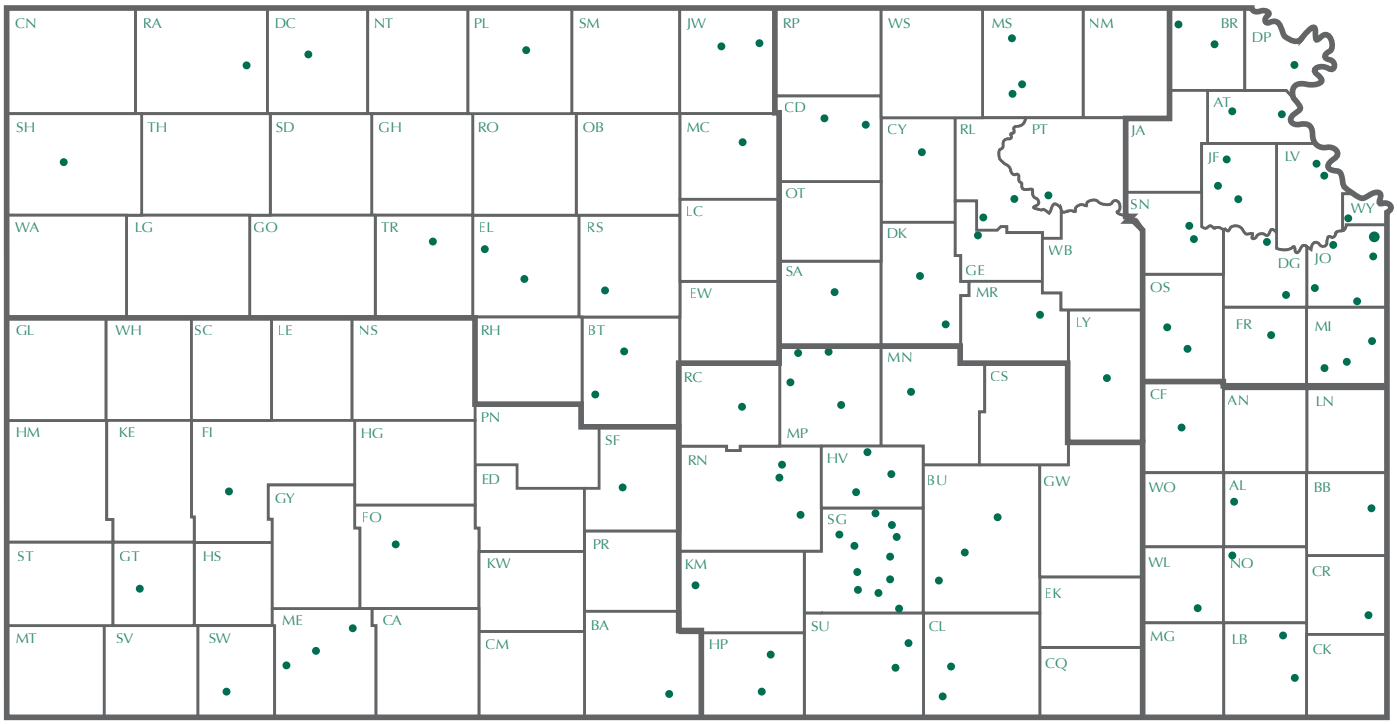
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- 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 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided 293 technical forestry assists to 183 communities.
- Assisted 171 communities with active community forestry management plans representing 88 percent of the state's population.
- Completed 13 community tree assessments and four public tree inventories in 17 communities.
- Prepared four new community forestry management plans.
- Assisted 18 communities with tree planting projects.
- Provided 44 training sessions for 1,160 participants representing 382 communities and an additional 41 outreach events with 1,413 participants.
- State and national recognition for 115 cities and towns as Tree City USA's; one public utility company received Tree Line USA recognition.

115 CERTIFIED TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES IN 2006



● Certified Tree City USA Community

Tree City USA communities must meet national standards for managing public trees. Through the efforts of 640 tree board members and 37 departments and 1,427 volunteers, these communities collectively spent $12.1 million to plant 15,668 trees, prune 80,844 trees and remove 10,399 dead and dying trees. Western Energy earned certification as a Tree Line USA Utility Company.

SOUTH CENTRAL

Anthony	22
Arkansas City	13
Augusta	2
Bel Aire	11
Belle Plaine	2
Cunningham	11
Derby	14
El Dorado	14
Halstead	29
Harper	11
Haven	27
Haysville	7
Hesston	22
Hillsboro	12
Hutchinson	13
Lindsborg	22
Lyons	25
Maize	8
Marquette	12
McConnell AFB	13
McPherson	29
Mount Hope	2
Mulvane	16
Newton	31
Oxford	8
Park City	8
Rose Hill	3
Sedgwick	9
South Hutchinson	6
Valley Center	13
Wichita	21
Windom	14
Winfield	26

SOUTHEAST

Burlington	14
Chanute	28
Ft. Scott	12
Iola	5
Neodesha	10
Oswego	17
Parsons	18
Pittsburg	2

NORTHWEST

Atwood	11
Beloit	30
Ellis	7
Formoso	22
Goodland	28
Great Bend	24
Hays	28
Hoisington	24
Mankato	26
Oberlin	21
Phillipsburg	20
Russell	21
Wakeeney	18

NORTHEAST

Atchison	25
Baldwin City	4
Bonner Springs	21
De Soto	5
Effingham	13
Fairway	22
Forbes Field ANG	10
Gardner	4
Hiawatha	7
Lake Quivira	12
Lansing	7
Lawrence	29
Leavenworth	13
Leawood	11
Lenexa	19
Louisburg	10
Lyndon	6
Merriam	22
Mission	5
Mission Hills	15
Morrill	2
Olathe	24
Osage City	16
Osawatomie	2
Oskaloosa	12
Ottawa	8
Overland Park	28
Ozawkie	1
Paola	3
Prairie Village	10
Roeland Park	14
Shawnee	10
Spring Hill	11
Topeka	12
Troy	10
Valley Falls	12
Westwood	19
Westwood Hills	10

NORTH CENTRAL

Abilene	15
Blue Rapids	25
Clay Center	31
Clyde	5
Concordia	14
Council Grove	11
Emporia	21
Ft. Riley	20
Herington	18
Junction City	31
Manhattan	30
Marysville	27
Salina	17
Wamego	19
Waterville	30

SOUTHWEST

Dodge City	31
Fowler	3
Garden City	29
Kiowa	11
Liberal	24
Meade	4
Plains	4
St. John	11
Ulysses	28

Numbers denote years as a Tree City USA.

2006 COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF SEEDLINGS

Distribution of Seedlings

1 - 1,000	2,001 - 3,000	5,001 - 6,000	9,001 - 31,000 (actual amounts are noted)
1,001 - 2,000	3,001 - 5,000	6,001 - 9,000	

CONSERVATION TREE PLANTING

SERVICES PROVIDED

- Technical assistance in designing successful conservation tree and shrub plantings, meeting landowner's objectives.
- Distribute 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, thus 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 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

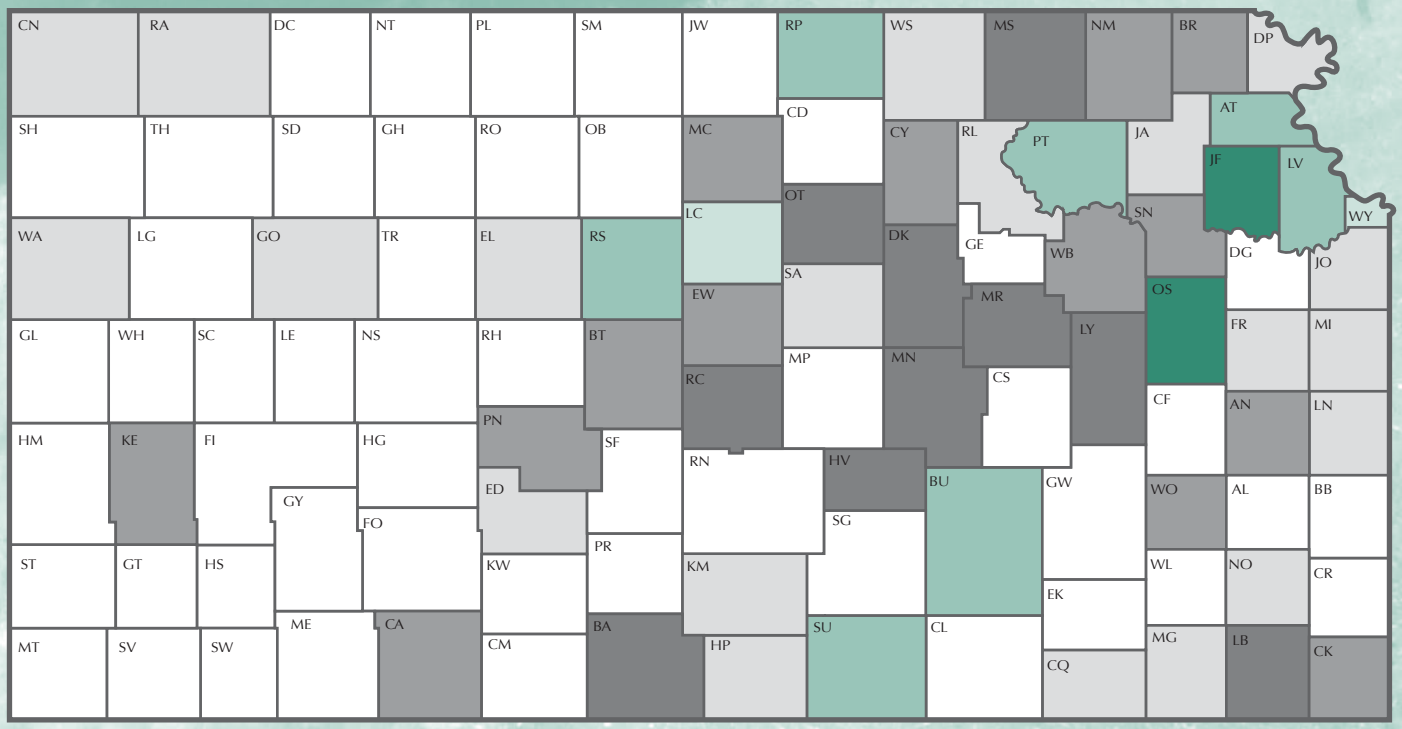
- Completed 50th year by filling 2,839 orders in 104 counties with 495,800 seedlings.
- Landowners planted 900 acres of windbreaks, 20 acres of riparian planting, 29 acres of woodlots, and 179 acres of wildlife habitat, totaling 1,128 acres.
- Sold 19,300 marking flags, 19,600 rabbit protective tubes, 349 units of root protective slurry, and 6,675 weed barrier fabric squares.
- Loaned nine tree planting machines to landowners that were in use 46 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 2006: $257,967 to 131 departments

$1 - 2,725
$2,726 - 5,475
$5,476 - 8,200
$8,201 - 10,950
$10,951 - 13,683

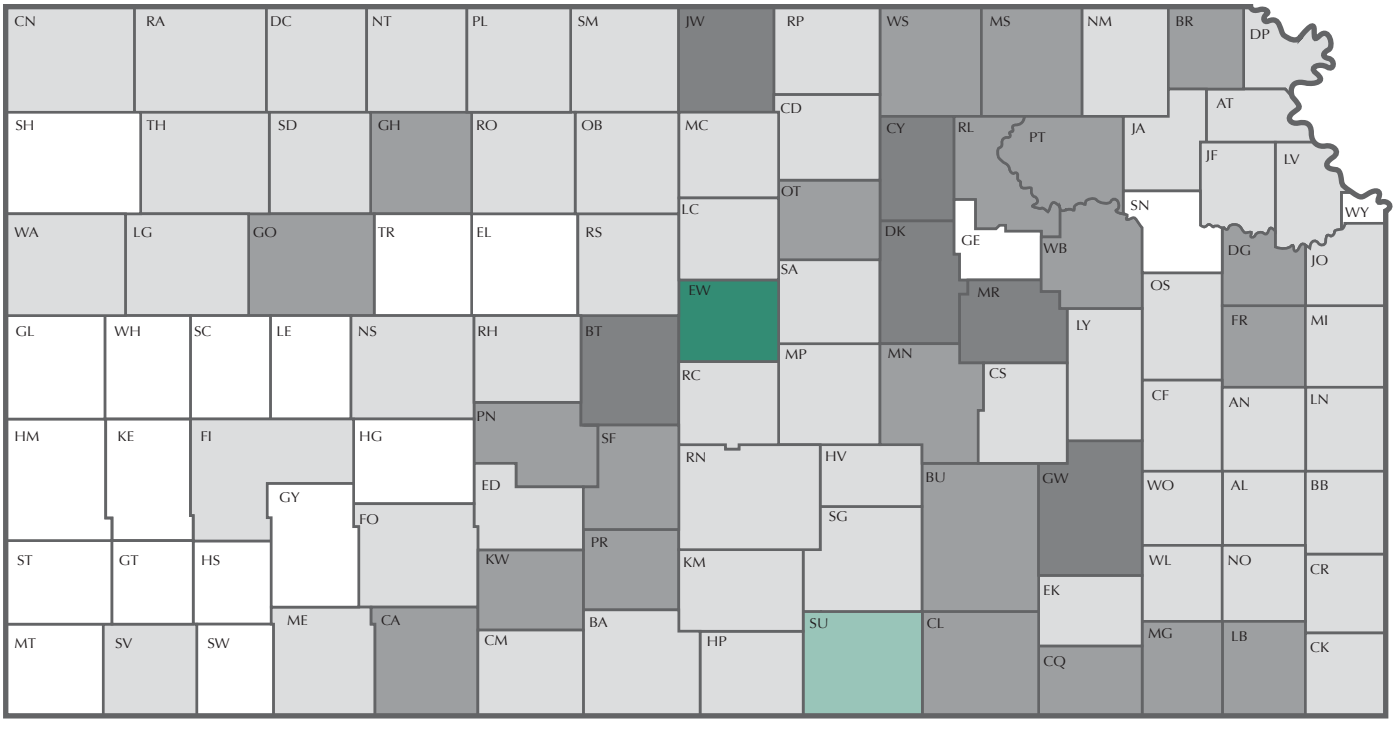
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- 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 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted 29 wildland fire training classes for 440 firefighters and assisted local fire departments on five large wildland fires.
- Provided 347 pieces of equipment to 35 departments through the Equipment Donation Program with an estimated savings of $150,000.
- Prepared county-wide fire plans for Bourbon, Crawford, Edwards, and Linn counties.
- Smokey Bear costumes appeared at 34 events, and 16,850 pieces of Smokey Bear fire prevention materials were supplied to rural fire departments and schools.
- Established the first Firewise Community in the state and the Firewise mobile education trailer appeared at eight events.

VALUE OF FEDERAL EXCESS VEHICLES ON LOAN TO FIRE DEPTS

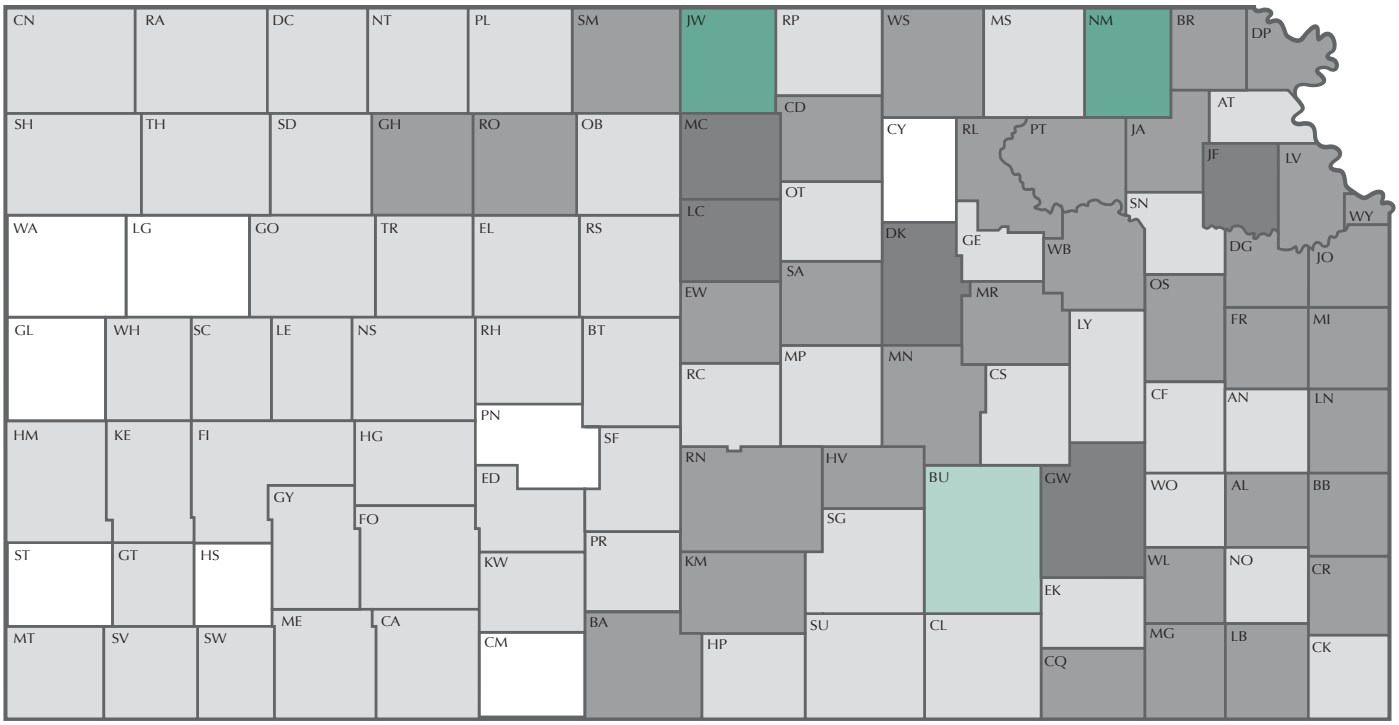


Acquisition value of Federal Excess vehicles in service at rural fire departments for wildland fire suppression

474 vehicles in 86 counties with acquisition value of $16.2 million

$1 - 175,000
$175,001 - 355,000
$355,001 - 530,000
$530,001 - 705,000
$705,001 - 886,567

FOREST STEWARDSHIP ACRES UNDER MANAGEMENT - 2006



Forest Stewardship Acres

1 - 500 | 501 - 2,000 | 2,001 - 3,500 | 3,501 - 5,000 | 5,001 - 6,592

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 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided technical forestry assistance to 467 private landowners.
- Prepared 62 comprehensive Forest Stewardship management plans on 3,605 acres and revised eight existing plans on 308 acres.
- Prepared 74 basic forest management plans for 1,881 acres.
- Prepared 215 forestry practice plans, including timber stand improvement and tree planting, on 1,590 acres.
- Implemented 471 acres of timber stand improvement and tree planting practices.
- Provided $47,504 in federal cost-share funds through the Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) to assist 86 landowners in completing planned forestry practices.
- Provided forestry technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to forest landowners in preparing management plans for 23 cost-share contracts on 1,031 acres totaling $112,070.

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.

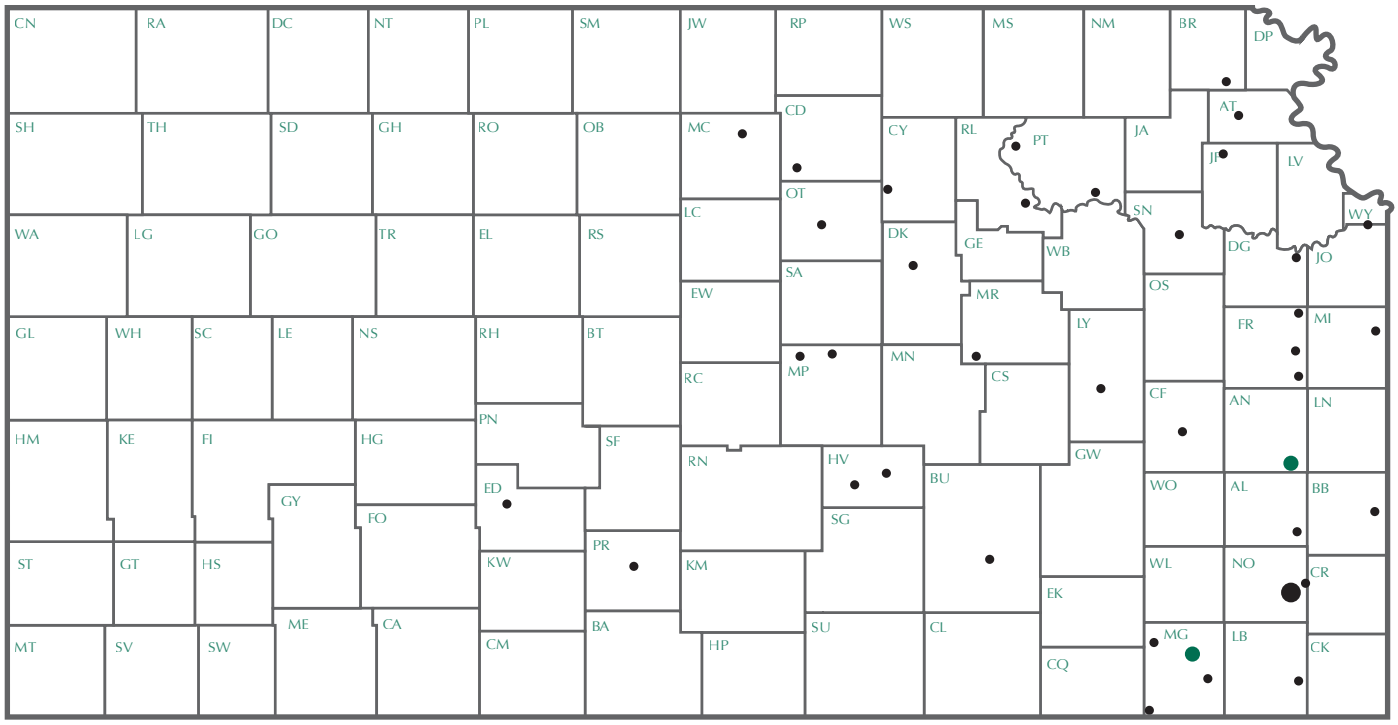
BENEFITS TO KANSANS

- 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 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Cosponsored hardwood lumber grading school, chain saw training classes, and forest industry day.
- Completed Timber Products Output survey of sawmills in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service.
- Supported establishment of two “whole-tree” grinding operations to increase market potential and opportunities for utilizing field grown Eastern redcedar and other under-utilized tree species.
- Provided support to a cooperator who received grant funds to purchase portable sawmill to utilize wood in trees removed in urban area.
- Maintained current list of active timber buyers, sawmill operators, and secondary processors.

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 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed 111 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 of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy plans by local working 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 for public use.
- Reduced streambank erosion and siltation of reservoirs, providing optimum flood water storage.
- Quality habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Increased recreational opportunities.

SUMMARY OF 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Prepared 41 forest management and riparian forest buffer planting plans on 1,619 acres.
- Twelve landowners installed 4.4 miles of riparian forest buffer plantings along streams in targeted watersheds.
- Participated in the development of nine Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy plans.
- Conducted five field workshops for 281 participants and presented at five additional educational events for 653 youth and adults.
- Prepared 10 brochures promoting benefits of riparian forests and providing technical information to implement forestry practices.

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.
- 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.

SUMMARY OF 2006 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained Web site.
- Published quarterly newsletter, *Kansas Canopy* and distributed to 2,800 individuals each quarter as well as being available on our Web site.
- Conducted and/or participated in 136 forestry educational events for 6,200 participants.
- Produced news releases, displays, and radio and television spots for the public on a variety of forestry topics.
- 1,198 fifth-grade students participated in the annual Arbor Day Poster Contest with a state and district winners recognized.
- 487 teachers participated in 26 Project Learning Tree workshops.

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