

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi

Moving Forward

Annual Report — Fiscal Year 2006

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is a public service agency responsible for all facets of forest protection, management, and information for the state of Mississippi. This year the Forestry Commission implemented fundamental changes by restructuring internal management at all levels and consolidating services. Streamlining and reorganization led to increased operational efficiency and improved delivery of programs and services to the public.

This year, plans were also made to consolidate the agency with the Mississippi Institute for Forest Inventory (MIFI), which provides important forest resource analysis used to promote economic development to forest-based industries.

*"Forestry has an
annual \$13.4 billion
economic impact
in our state."*

— CHARLIE MORGAN
STATE FORESTER

The implementation of the agency-wide reorganization officially began in FY 06. A few highlights of the reorganization include:

- Downsizing agency by 17.6%
- Reducing 75 office management areas to 13
- Streamlining Program Areas and restructuring State Office
- Implementing a new Program Area/ Cost Accounting System
- Using monthly balance sheet with comparative data
- Tracking detailed cost by cost centers
- Implementing a centralized "State Dispatch" that will allow MFC radio communications to span across all state government communication networks

Strategic Plan includes:

- Rationalize Operations:
 - Aviation Program
 - Nursery/Seed Orchard
 - Equipment Maintenance
 - Grants Process
 - Buildings/Facilities/Land
- Balanced Scorecard used for measuring success





Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts

The Forestry Commission received \$11.8 million in supplemental federal funding for:

- Enhancing wildfire protection and mitigation projects
- Providing Urban and Community Recovery Grants
- Conducting re-inventory of 16th Section forestlands damaged by Katrina
- Providing Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants and local community Fire Prevention Plans
- Keeping the public informed of Forest Health issues concerning insects, diseases, and the spread of invasive species

Protection

The Forestry Commission's professional staff protects Mississippi's forested and uncultivable land from wildfires. Wildfires are detected primarily by airplane surveillance, but also by emergency alerts from the public. Once a fire is reported, the Commission's local fire suppression crews are dispatched to the scene.

Fire Protection Highlights

- Each two-man fire crew provides wildfire protection for 135,000 forested acres.
- Through public auction, sold \$250,000 of used equipment.
- The Forestry Commission is well recognized for its use of the Incident Command System, working closely with MEMA, particularly during challenging emergency situations, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Ivan.
- Serving as First Responders during natural disasters, MFC crews help local civil defense authorities open up access routes.

FY 06 Wildfire Activity

403 Fires	7,122 Acres Lost
956 Fires	19,003 Acres Lost
1,066 Fires	12,556 Acres Lost
1,711 Fires	23,630 Acres Lost
1,841 Fires	62,522 Acres Lost

Totals:
5,977 Wildfires
124,833 Acres Lost



*We are the state's firefighting agency,
protecting nearly 19 million acres of
Mississippi's forestland (two-thirds of the state).*

Information

The Forestry Commission maintains an active Public Outreach program designed to heighten public awareness about the agency's mission and services, stressing the importance of our state's forests as a vital resource. Local public outreach activities are carried out to reach individuals at the community level.

FY 06 Outreach Activities

- 1,263 School and Youth programs
- 810 adult presentations
- 512 Conservation/Education exhibits and displays
- Urban tree care assistance to 5,132 homeowners, cities, and communities
- 36 urban grants awarded, totaling \$283,942
- 29 Mississippi cities participating in the Tree City USA program



Management

Working closely with private landowners, Forestry Commission foresters responded to requests for management assistance and advice in all counties across the state, providing:

- Forest Management plans, covering 85,091 acres and assisting 18,338 landowners
- Watershed protection, wildlife habitat improvement, and other natural resource improvements made on 66,707 acres
- Average timber sale revenue of over \$21 million returned to local school districts (non-federal, 16th Section School Trust Lands)
- Monitoring the implementation of Best Management Practices for water quality protection

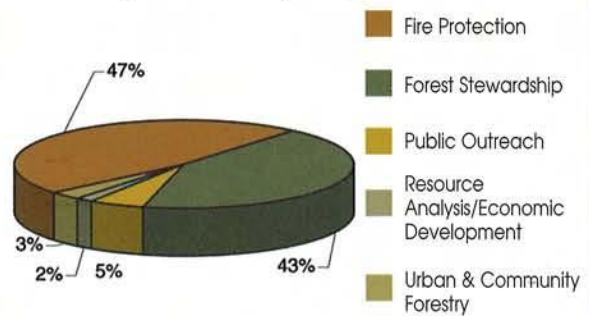
Improvements to Operations

- Discontinued hardwood nursery
- Continued development of Resource Analysis/GIS program, monitoring changes in forest cover and land use
- Developed Assessment of Need for the Forest Legacy Program

MFC Budget Summary for FY 06

CATEGORY	FY 06 AUTHORITY	FY 06 EXPENSES
Salaries	\$19,264,415	\$18,126,351
Travel	\$90,000	\$78,992
Contractual	\$2,849,829	\$2,332,322
Commodities	\$2,463,852	\$2,216,047
Other Than Equip	\$136,000	\$16,310
Equipment	\$1,160,000	\$955,182
SLG	\$3,140,000	\$2,632,282
TOTALS	\$29,104,096	\$26,357,486

Expenditures by Program Area



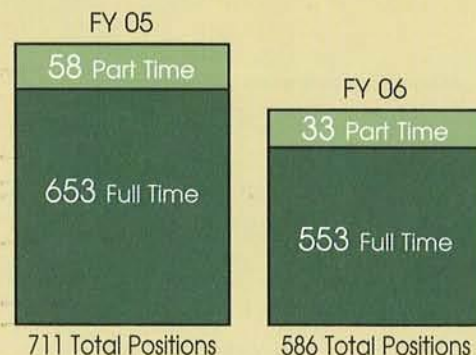
People Development

A key element in "moving forward" is providing training opportunities that enhance job skills and foster personal development and growth. In addition, recognizing employees' successes and achievements is vital to team building and promoting positive employee morale.

Safety is top priority throughout the Forestry Commission, as all employees strive to create and maintain an accident-free workplace.

Authorized Positions

From FY 05 to FY 06 the Mississippi Forestry Commission workforce was downsized by 125 positions.



FY 06 MFC COMMISSIONERS

Robert E. "Bob" Cox
Maben, MS

Art Waymire
Byhalia, MS

Al Alexander
Wiggins, MS

Donald C. Simmons
Crawford, MS

Allen Jones, Jr.
Lorman, MS

Brad Stevens
Smithville, MS

Richard Thoms
Newton, MS

Dr. George Hopper
Mississippi State, MS

James W. Pittman
Waynesboro, MS

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is proud of its service to the public and protection of the state's valuable forest resource. Committed to delivering quality services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners, the Forestry Commission looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees and forests.

Northeast District

P.O. Box 703
Tupelo, MS 38802
(662) 842-5312

South Central District

P.O. Box 348
Bay Springs, MS 39422
(601) 764-2711

Southeast District

1528 South Azalea Drive
Wiggins, MS 39577
(601) 928-5261

Southwest District

P.O. Box 749
Brookhaven, MS 39601
(601) 833-6621



Northwest District

P.O. Box 668
Elliott, MS 38926
(662) 226-3321

Mississippi Forestry Commission
301 North Lamar St., Suite 300
Jackson, MS 39201
(601) 359-1386
www.mfc.state.ms.us

The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal opportunity and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, creed, national origin, or political affiliation.