South Carolina Forestry Commission Annual Report

FY 2014-2015

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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STATE COMMISSION OF FORESTRY

Members of the Commission

Dr. Walter McPhail, Maudlin, Chair

James B. Thompson, Greenwood, Vice Chair

Dr. A.G. "Skeet" Burris, Varnville

Sam R. Coker, Gilbert

H. Stro Morrison III, Estill

G. Edward Muckenfuss, Summerville

Jesse Neville, Walhalla

Mitchell S. Scott, Allendale

Dr. George Askew, representative for Dr. James P. Clements, Clemson University

Administration

Henry E. (Gene) Kodama, State Forester

Tom Patton, Deputy State Forester

MISSION

The mission of the Forestry Commission is to protect, promote, enhance, and nurture the forest lands of South Carolina in a manner consistent with achieving the greatest good for its citizens.

Responsibilities extend to all forest lands, both rural and urban, and to all associated forest values and amenities including, but not limited to, timber, wildlife, water quality, air quality, soil protection, recreation, and aesthetics.

The Forestry Commission shall have general and specific responsibilities for the promulgation and enforcement of laws and regulations related to protection of the forest and its associated values.

The Commission shall be responsible for promoting and developing the appropriate technologies to accomplish its objectives, and for the development and promulgation of Best Management Practice Guidelines for South Carolina's forest land.

FOREST PROTECTION

This section encompasses Fire Management, Law Enforcement, Forest Health, and Equipment programs.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is responsible for protecting 13,657,033 acres of forestland in South Carolina from wildfire. This total area protected is based on the 2001 Forest Inventory Analysis data with 10% added to cover adjacent non-forest land. This figure includes 101,320 acres of federal land protected under special contract, which includes such lands as the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge and the Corps of Engineers land around such lakes as Lake Thurmond, Hartwell, and Russell. Also included is forestland protected by Mutual Aid, which is approximately 824,801 acres of additional federal land that includes lands such as the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, National Park lands, and lands owned by US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Wildfire Summary

Agency firefighters recorded 1,427 wildfires that burned 6,637 acres of forestland and grassland during the fiscal year. The number of fires and acres burned were lower than the five-year average.

In fiscal year 2014-2015 wildfires destroyed 10 homes and damaged 14 others. In addition, 34 other buildings were destroyed and 35 buildings were damaged. Agency firefighters saved 521 homes and an additional 213 structures that were directly threatened by wildfires.

Fire Protection Cooperatives

The Forestry Commission has cooperative arrangements with 12 fire and emergency management entities. Activities for each cooperative agreement during FY 2014 are as follows:

Southeastern States Forest Fire Compact Commission: Formed in 1954, the Compact allows member states to provide and receive mutual aid in fighting wildland fires. Member states of the Southeastern States Forest Fire Compact include: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. During this fiscal year, no SCFC resources were mobilized under the Compact.

SC Emergency Management Division: SC Forestry Commission personnel, including incident management teams, participated in several emergency response training sessions involving hurricanes, earthquakes, weapons of mass destruction, dam failures, and nuclear disasters. This year a wildfire response seminar was held with SCEMD, and agency response and contingency plans were evaluated and updated.

SC Army National Guard: Under an agreement with the National Guard, helicopter firefighting support is available when requested by SCFC. Requests from SCFC are channeled through EMD and the Governor's Office to activate the Guard. The Guard's primary firefighting mission is providing helibucket service to SCFC Incident Commanders using SCFC's 780-gallon Bambi buckets. Guard helicopters are also available to transport firefighters into rough or inaccessible terrain. Joint training and coordination meetings between the SC National Guard and the SC Forestry Commission are held annually to ensure mission readiness.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Program: Pass through funds from the National Fire Plan, Volunteer Fire Assistance funds through the USDA Forest Service were distributed as follows:

- National Fire Plan grant funds are for firefighting needs: 127 Fire Departments requested $385,697 worth of firefighting equipment of which 60 fire departments were funded for $182,195.

Federal Excess Personal Property program (FEPP) and the Firefighters Program (FFP): The amount of equipment available for screening is limited but with the SCFC enrolled in both programs, we continue to screen items that fire departments have requested. The total value of inventoried federal excess property (including both FEPP and FFP) now stands at over $20 million for 958 items, most of which are on loan to Volunteer Fire Departments. In an effort to improve the program and bring all departments into compliance, SCFC field personnel and the FEPP program manager encouraged fire departments to turn in any equipment that was not being properly maintained or actively in operation. Field visits were also conducted to help with the inventory verification and reiteration of the program's intent, and the US Forest Service conducted an inventory and review of the federal excess property programs this year.

National Weather Service: NWS provides daily fire weather forecasts and atmospheric dispersion information. During the year, SCFC and NWS work to improve content of daily weather forecasts. The SCFC did not request any spot weather forecasts from the NWS during this fiscal year.

USDA Forest Service: A mutual aid agreement between the US Forest Service and SCFC allows both parties to provide initial attack firefighting within one-quarter mile of National Forest boundaries. SCFC provided initial attack on a number of fires on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests during the fire season, and SCFC investigators assisted with wildfire investigation.

DOD Corps of Engineers: Beginning in 1997, SCFC has provided all fire suppression services on 55,320 acres of Corps of Engineers land. Under the terms of the agreement, actual fire suppression costs are reimbursed to the SCFC. This year the SCFC responded to one fire on lands owned by the Corps of Engineers.

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service: Under the terms of a 1992 land acquisition agreement, SCFC provides initial attack fire suppression on the 46,000 acre Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge. The agreement terminates in 2042. SCFC maintains mutual aid firefighting agreements with the following National Wildlife Refuges: Ace Basin, Cape Romain, Savannah, Pinckney Island, and Santee.

USDI National Park Service: Agreements were maintained to provide initial attack wildfire suppression on National Park Service lands; no reportable activity occurred during this fiscal year.

Wildland Fire Protection Partnership: Organized in 1991, the Partnership seeks solutions to wildfire management problems in the wildland-urban interface. Membership includes the SC Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, SC Firemen's Association, Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Division of Emergency Preparedness, SC Fire Marshal, SC Fire Academy, and SC Forestry Association (ex officio).

Prescribed Fire Council: Organized in 2003, the goal of the Prescribed Fire Council is to increase the amount of prescribed burning in SC. The Council is working on increasing the capacity to get burning done in SC and in educating the public on the benefits of burning. The SCFC is a charter member and active participant in the council.

Homeland Security: Through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the SCFC continued to train incident management teams (IMT) to improve the effectiveness of response to large incidents. Forestry Commission IMTs were staffed, training was conducted for individual team members and teams, and team members participated in training assignments to complete task books to validate their training. Grant funds continued to support an Incident Management Team (IMT) Coordinator position to facilitate the development of nationally-qualified IMTs from within the Forestry Commission and to ensure consistency among four multi-disciplinary (non-SCFC) Type 3 IMTs located in each region of the State. The IMT cooperated with the US Army for an exercise of the National Disaster Medical Stockpile and worked with the Lowcountry All Hazard IMT to manage the Fire Rescue Conference at Myrtle Beach.

Fire Weather

Weather Stations: The Forestry Commission, USDA Forest Service, USDI National Park Service, Department of Defense (Ft. Jackson), and USDI Fish and Wildlife Service share a network of 17 Automated Weather Stations across the state. Data from these stations is used in daily calculations for the National Fire Danger Rating System. A new weather SCFC weather station was installed in Horry County during this fiscal year. Weather readings from these stations are available 24 hours a day for wildfire and prescribed fire management purposes.

Inches Precipitation: FY 2015*

Month	Precipitation
July, 2014	4.62
August	4.32
September	5.47
October	1.81
November	4.44
December	3.94
January, 2015	3.56
February	4.05
March	3.18
April	4.47
May	1.60
June	4.07
Total	45.53

*Source: National Climate Data Center

Precipitation Last 5 Years*

Fiscal Year	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal**
2010-11	39.15	-7.81
2011-12	39.98	-7.13
2012-13	51.26	4.52
2013-14	50.83	4.10
2014-15	45.53	-1.14

*Source: National Climate Data Center

**Statewide normal, based on previous 30 years

Readiness Plan: The daily readiness level of Forestry Commission firefighters is based on fire danger data, available number of firefighters, and status of firefighting equipment. Average readiness levels for each of the three regions for FY 2015 are as follows:

Region	Coastal	Pee Dee	Piedmont
Readiness 1 (No wildfire danger)	0 days	0 days	0 days
Readiness 2 (Low wildfire danger)	302 days	131 days	271 days
Readiness 3 (Moderate wildfire danger)	60 days	231 days	91 days
Readiness 4 (High wildfire danger)	3 days	3 days	3 days
Readiness 5 (Extreme wildfire danger)	0 days	0 days	0 days

Burning Ban and Red Flag Fire Alert: A Red Flag was in effect from February 13-16, 2015 due to high winds and low relative humidity over the President's Day weekend.

Dispatch and Air Operations

Dispatch: Forestry Commission dispatch is by closest available resource, regardless of political or administrative boundaries. Dispatching was handled by regional dispatch centers located in Walterboro, Florence, and Newberry.

Aviation – During the year, SCFC pilots flew 11 different Federal Excess Property aircraft for a total of 375 missions for 862 hours. Reduced aviation budgets have curtailed aerial detection flights and have limited flights to moderate to high fire danger days when aircraft are needed for wildfire suppression assistance.

During the year, SCFC pilots flew a total of 862 hours (Coastal- 231 hours, Pee Dee-163 hours, Piedmont- 373 hours, Columbia- 96 hours).

Prescribed Fire

Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program: Five Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Programs were conducted during the year with 142 participants. This course focuses of planning prescribed burns to comply with mandated air quality standards.

Prescribed Burning for Forestry, Wildlife, and Agriculture FY15

	Forest Understory		Forestry Site Prep		Wildlife		Agriculture	
REGION	**Number**	**Acres**	**Number**	**Acres**	**Number**	**Acres**	**Number**	**Acres**
Coastal	1,561	139,437	1,737	15,329	814	73,669	1,362	23,130
Pee Dee	885	41,608	1,135	6,498	440	27,413	1,276	22,104
Piedmont	554	54,999	1,253	3,809	84	3,779	429	4,536
State Total	**3,000**	**236,034**	**4,125**	**25,636**	**1,338**	**104,861**	**3,067**	**49,770**

Total Forestry, Wildlife & Agriculture Burns: 11,530 for 416,301 acres

Fire Prevention Information

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): Work continued on assessing wildland-urban interface communities' risks to wildfire throughout the state. Primary areas of concern involve communities in Horry, Georgetown and Charleston Counties with increased interest in Oconee, Spartanburg, York and Chester Counties. The communities within the Keowee Fire District of Oconee County continue to thrive with Keowee Key leading the way. The goal of the Firewise program is to increase the awareness of homeowners to their responsibility in helping to reduce the risk of their homes from burning in a wildland fire. This is accomplished by conducting Firewise workshops such as 'How *to Have a Firewise Home.'* This year, 23 Firewise presentations, community and homeowner workshops with 2448 in attendance were made at various venues, including community events, fire department open houses, safety expos and the SC Firefighters Association annual meeting. Presentations included information about Firewise and the Ready, Set, Go! Program. Efforts have primarily been concentrated in Oconee County, Charleston County and in Horry/Georgetown Counties where interest has been greatest. The Firewise mobile exhibit (and the Firewise Table Top exhibit) was used 6 times by SCFC and USF&WS personnel during the year to reach over 4,475 people at such places as fire department open houses, safety days, community festivals and events, and community chipping days demonstrating how homeowners can mitigate those risks to wildfire. Fuels mitigation plans, workdays and assessments were conducted throughout the state. The SCFC has conducted a total of 1198 community assessments to date with 1,141 of those rating at moderate to extreme in regards to wildfire risk. 408 new assessments were completed covering 408 communities. Community Wildfire Protection Plans were written for 15 communities with a few at the fire department's request to address their entire coverage area. To date 200 Community Wildfire Protection Plans have been written in which 639 communities have benefitted.

Cooperative Firewise efforts are also occurring within communities around the Sumter and Francis Marion National Forests with Forest Service personnel. Community Wildfire Protection Plans are in progress for communities around USF&WS Refuges in Jasper County with US Fish and Wildlife personnel. The Nature Conservancy has also participated in the CWPP development.

National Fire Plan grant funds were awarded to 15 communities in the amount of $155,267 for various projects including installation of a leaf disposal site, underbrushing of undeveloped lots and common areas such as entrance roads, and assistance with community chipping days to reduce the fuel buildups within their communities. Additional funds were used for fuels reduction and mitigation projects involving prescribed burning, underbrushing and fuelbreak installation on 12 tracts (492 acres) for $77,987.

Wildfire Prevention: A statewide wildfire prevention awareness effort was made across the state prior to the spring 2015 wildfire season to promote safe debris burning; the number one cause of wildfires in the state. Field personnel utilized trap lines in counties known to have high numbers of escaped debris burns, the number one cause of wildfires in the state. Also, these types of wildfires are also commonly found near communities putting them at risk (i.e. wildland urban interface). In cooperation with local fire departments and some Clemson Extension Agents, SCFC field personnel throughout the state distributed "Think Before You Burn" (TBYB) promotional materials to schools, businesses and public buildings. The distribution of materials included TBYB brochures, various other items, i.e. cups, koozies, slap bracelets, pencils and magnets with the county 1-800 burn numbers. Burning notification magnets were placed on the store counters for customers to pick up so they would have the appropriate county outdoor burning notification phone number handy.

Interviews were conducted with local media to increase public awareness.

Fires by Cause

Cause	Fires	Acres Burned	Average Acres per Fire	Percent of Total Fires FY15
Lightning	51	569.8	11.2	3.57%
Campfire	16	29.8	1.9	1.12%
Smoking	34	91.4	2.7	2.38%
Debris Burning	659	2,804.8	4.3	46.18%
Incendiary	216	1,407.6	6.5	15.14%
Equipment Use	108	529.0	4.9	7.57%
Railroad	22	49.5	2.3	1.54%
Children	50	107.3	2.1	3.50%
Miscellaneous	159	809.9	5.1	11.14%
Fireworks	15	35.4	2.4	1.05%
Powerline	62	125.3	2.0	4.34%
Structure	35	77.5	2.2	2.45%
Totals	1,427	6,637.3	4.7	100.00%

Five-Year Summary: All Fires

Fiscal Year	Acres Protected	# Fires	Acres Burned	Avg. Acres/Fire	% Area Burned
2010-11	13,657,033	3,100	22,770.6	7.3	0.17%
2011-12	13,657,033	2,192	16,960.1	7.7	0.12%
2012-13	13,657,033	1,799	10,223.4	5.7	0.07%
2013-14	13,657,033	1,823	9,425.00	5.2	0.07%
2014-15	13,657,033	1,427	6,637.3	4.7	0.05%
Five Year Averages		2,068	13,203.3	6.1	0.10%

Total Burning Notifications by County -- Fiscal Year 2015			
	Acres	Smoke Mgt.	Other
County	**Protected**	**Notifications**	**Notifications**
Abbeville County	248,551	88	2,741
Aiken County	524,743	575	18,337
Allendale County	199,005	425	721
Anderson County	216,023	219	13,344
Bamberg County	202,862	389	1,694
Barnwell County	266,959	468	3,568
Beaufort County	130,448	270	8,205
Berkeley County	595,291	392	15,956
Calhoun County	151,294	213	3,287
Charleston County	318,526	203	6,589
Cherokee County	168,077	43	3,396
Chester County	315,565	74	2,786
Chesterfield County	416,239	327	6,826
Clarendon County	238,952	337	5,013
Colleton County	560,896	650	11,646
Darlington County	176,333	228	10,433
Dillon County	163,935	137	3,016
Dorchester County	272,524	179	8,952
Edgefield County	279,433	195	2,695
Fairfield County	408,433	117	2,129
Florence County	308,707	335	11,120
Georgetown County	400,136	370	8,772
Greenville County	296,082	105	11,981
Greenwood County	205,593	69	3,311
Hampton County	303,663	587	2,851
Horry County	493,012	319	19,211
Jasper County	341,036	479	3,031
Kershaw County	376,376	196	13,724
Lancaster County	291,845	199	4,413
Laurens County	337,499	130	5,421
Lee County	121,735	180	1,494
Lexington County	256,939	353	30,140
Marion County	226,896	107	6,096
Marlboro County	226,676	73	3,738
McCormick County	223,394	103	804
Newberry County	334,566	127	3,426
Oconee County	292,590	69	11,003
Orangeburg County	446,887	644	13,071
Pickens County	236,029	85	11,024
Richland County	352,904	195	7,006
Saluda County	196,376	121	1,537
Spartanburg County	286,496	92	8,350
Sumter County	268,338	310	11,812
Union County	277,640	44	381
Williamsburg County	407,761	618	7,573
York County	293,768	91	10,046
Total	**13,657,033**	**11,530**	**342,670**
Total Smoke Mgt. & Other Notifications			**354,200**

Total All Land Fires by County & Cause -- Fiscal Year 2015

	LIGHTNING		CAMPFIRE		SMOKING		DEBRIS BURNING		INCENDIARY		EQUIPMENT		RAILROAD		CHILDREN		MISC		FIREWORKS		POWER LINE		STRUCTURE		Total	Total
County	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Abbeville	1	0.3					4	3.0									1	8.6	1	1.5	3	5.2			10	18.6
Aiken	5	12.3	3	4.8	2	4.0	45	260.9	32	327.8	14	129.4			5	7.5	7	23.6			4	8.2	3	5.0	120	783.5
Allendale	1	0.5					8	26.2	2	18.0	5	42.5			1	0.1									17	87.3
Anderson	1	0.1			1	1.0	3	5.0	2	3.5	1	3.0			1	1.5	2	8.0	1	0.2	4	6.2			16	28.5
Bamberg	2	10.1			1	0.1	9	81.0	2	2.0	2	1.1											1	0.5	17	94.8
Barnwell							10	29.7	4	8.3	3	5.0									2	1.5	1	2.0	20	46.5
Beaufort							5	58.8	4	8.5	1	0.1							1	3.0	1	0.2			12	70.6
Berkeley	3	105.0			4	6.6	17	63.8	13	125.3	1	40.0	2	0.4	2	25.3	7	22.2	1	3.0			2	3.0	52	394.6
Calhoun	1	2.0			1	20.0	16	26.1	1	1.0	5	5.1			2	0.3	5	39.3			2	1.2			33	95.0
Charleston							4	326.3	2	14.0			1	1.5	1	0.1	1	2.0							9	343.9
Cherokee	1	2.0	1	1.0	1	4.0	8	22.5	2	3.1	2	4.5			3	2.6	1	0.5					1	0.1	20	40.3
Chester			1	4.0			8	21.3			3	5.4	7	21.3			2	1.5			1	5.0	1	2.0	23	60.5
Chesterfield	5	13.0			1	1.0	27	182.2	11	231.4	3	14.5			1	3.0	6	44.7	4	6.1			4	21.5	62	517.4
Clarendon	1	8.0	1	0.5	1	0.6	30	257.7	9	70.5	3	13.3	1	4.0	1	0.1	4	2.6			3	6.1			54	363.4
Colleton					1	2.5	27	95.3	15	54.0	1	0.5			1	1.0	2	3.5			2	2.0	1	2.0	50	160.8
Darlington	1	8.0			3	2.1	33	62.9	1	2.0	2	6.0			2	6.5	14	121.6			1	1.0	1	0.2	58	210.3
Dillon							2	65.0	4	7.2	4	33.1					6	25.0	1	0.5			1	0.1	18	130.9
Dorchester							14	22.4	6	41.5	2	0.6			2	4.0			1	8.0	1	0.1	1	0.5	27	77.1
Edgefield					1	1.0	4	35.5	2	17.0	2	26.0			1	3.0	1	0.6							11	83.1
Fairfield	2	74.0			1	0.2	8	8.9			2	9.5	1	2.0			2	9.5			4	29.5			20	133.6
Florence	3	54.1	2	4.5	1	6.0	15	42.5	20	66.3	9	12.0			3	1.3	10	80.8	1	0.1	2	2.5	3	4.5	69	274.6
Georgetown	1	68.0					23	70.1	13	38.7	2	4.1	1	5.0	3	8.3	1	0.2			2	0.2	1	0.5	47	195.1
Greenville							14	40.2	1	15.0					1	10.0	2	3.5			2	6.0			20	74.7
Greenwood							3	6.5	2	6.0							1	2.0							6	14.5
Hampton							14	46.6	4	6.0	4	33.5	1	1.0			1	8.0							24	95.1
Horry	1	3.0			1	2.0	11	29.7	4	8.2							5	11.3							22	54.2
Jasper	1	0.1			2	2.1	25	174.8	3	3.7	2	4.3					5	8.3					1	0.1	39	193.4
Kershaw					2	4.5	35	96.3	2	0.4	5	9.3	1	5.0	4	4.9	4	7.6			1	0.5	2	2.1	56	130.6
Lancaster	1	4.0	1	2.5			11	15.9	3	0.9			1	1.0			4	5.7			1	0.1			22	30.1
Laurens	1	8.0			1	1.0	3	11.1	2	17.0	1	0.3			1	1.0	3	10.7			2	3.7	1	0.5	15	53.3
Lee	1	0.5					26	110.6	1	1.5	3	3.3					3	6.5			3	1.3	2	0.8	39	124.5
Lexington	2	18.8	1	1.5			19	93.8	8	11.8			1	3.0	2	1.0	13	43.5			3	4.2	1	0.5	50	178.1
Marion							4	9.0	1	4.0	1	1.5													6	14.5
Marlboro							14	41.5	3	8.5	2	5.5					9	13.9							28	69.4
McCormick	1	34.7	1	3.0			3	11.8	2	20.0			1	2.0			1	24.0							9	95.5
Newberry							3	8.8			1	0.1					2	4.1			1	1.5	1	23.5	8	38.0
Oconee	1	0.5	1	2.5			9	10.3							1	0.5	3	3.7	1	3.5	4	9.2			20	30.2
Orangeburg	4	47.0	1	2.0	6	30.4	36	105.5	5	119.2	6	49.1	2	2.5	2	1.0	10	115.0	1	5.0			1	3.0	74	479.7
Pickens					1	0.8	6	8.4	1	6.0	2	3.5			3	7.0	1	12.0	1	2.0	4	6.5			19	46.2
Richland			2	2.5			5	8.9			1	4.0			1	5.0	6	76.2							15	96.6
Saluda	3	7.0					6	9.7	4	34.1	4	4.0					2	0.4	1	2.5					20	57.7
Spartanburg							9	23.2	1	0.5							4	17.0			1	3.0			15	43.7
Sumter	3	26.0			1	1.0	34	78.4	7	13.6	2	9.9			3	5.8	5	10.3			3	6.5	1	0.5	59	152.0
Union					1	0.5	8	8.5			2	20.0			1	0.5	2	22.0			2	2.2	2	3.5	18	57.2
Williamsburg	3	60.8					38	81.2	17	91.1	2	17.0	2	0.8	1	2.0					3	11.7	1	0.1	67	264.7
York	1	2.0	1	1.0			3	7.0			3	8.0			1	4.0	1	10.0					1	1.0	11	33.0
State Total	51	569.8	16	29.8	34	91.4	659	2,804.8	216	1,407.6	108	529.0	22	49.5	50	107.3	159	809.9	15	35.4	62	125.3	35	77.5	1,427	6,637.3

Total All Land Fires by County & Month -- Fiscal Year 2015

	July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May		June		Total	Total
County	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres
Abbeville	2	3.4											2	3.3	2	1.5	1	1.0			3	9.4			10	18.6
Aiken	10	139.1	12	15.1	3	33.1	9	13.0	6	55.0	7	48.2	12	53.9	14	30.7	11	249.4	9	25.2	16	112.8	11	8.0	120	783.5
Allendale			1	2.0			2	40.0			2	1.6	4	12.2	1	3.5	2	1.5			1	20.0	4	6.5	17	87.3
Anderson	1	0.2									1	0.5	1	1.5	8	15.2	1	2.0	2	8.0	1	1.0	1	0.1	16	28.5
Bamberg			1	40.0	1	5.0	1	1.0	1	11.0	1	8.0	4	2.6	3	13.0					2	4.0	3	10.2	17	94.8
Barnwell	1	1.0	2	2.6			1	3.5	1	5.0			3	3.3	4	12.0	5	16.0	1	0.1	1	1.0	1	2.0	20	46.5
Beaufort	1	0.1			1	0.3					1	4.0	1	3.0	3	56.0	2	1.0	3	6.2					12	70.6
Berkeley	5	93.2	1	0.1			1	0.1	3	2.3			4	7.3	12	135.0	12	38.6	7	54.7	3	3.3	4	60.0	52	394.6
Calhoun			1	0.3			2	6.0	2	0.4	3	22.0	6	15.1	9	38.3	3	3.0	3	1.8	3	6.1	1	2.0	33	95.0
Charleston															2	3.5	3	319.3	3	14.1			1	7.0	9	343.9
Cherokee	1	0.5	1	0.1					4	1.7	2	2.5	1	2.0	2	7.0	3	4.0	2	17.0	1	1.0	3	4.5	20	40.3
Chester	2	2.3	1	2.0			1	0.3	1	0.5			4	13.0	4	12.5	2	1.1	3	21.0	3	5.8	2	2.0	23	60.5
Chesterfield	4	16.8	2	13.0	3	3.0	1	0.5	6	11.3	3	6.0	7	113.8	10	34.2	6	162.0	12	110.1	6	37.7	2	9.0	62	517.4
Clarendon	5	67.0	2	12.1	1	1.0	3	15.9	5	5.7	1	1.0	6	152.4	6	28.5	8	14.6	3	28.3	4	9.1	10	27.8	54	363.4
Colleton	5	5.4	1	2.0			2	1.3	8	60.5	5	4.0	3	3.0	5	5.5	11	59.1	5	8.5	3	7.5	2	4.0	50	160.8
Darlington			2	3.5	1	0.5	4	4.6	4	26.2	1	0.2	2	4.0	11	20.3	7	85.9	8	27.5	9	17.2	9	20.4	58	210.3
Dillon	3	21.5					1	0.1			3	4.3	1	3.0	2	5.5			2	11.0	4	65.3	2	20.2	18	130.9
Dorchester	4	26.2	5	3.9	1	2.0	2	0.6			3	8.1	3	2.8	2	4.0	2	3.5	2	8.5	1	10.0	2	7.5	27	77.1
Edgefield			1	3.0			1	2.0	1	15.0	1	1.0					4	20.6			2	16.5	1	25.0	11	83.1
Fairfield	1	9.0	1	3.5	1	1.2			1	0.5							6	24.1	3	10.5	5	40.8	2	44.0	20	133.6
Florence	9	4.1			2	4.5	3	4.2	8	21.9	6	84.0	3	3.0	8	12.0	8	53.5	7	14.3	4	5.7	11	67.4	69	274.6
Georgetown	4	68.9	1	0.1			1	0.3	3	3.6	4	4.7	2	4.0	10	33.0	9	30.6	7	39.6	2	8.0	4	2.3	47	195.1
Greenville	1	0.2					1	2.5	1	2.0	2	6.5	2	6.0	5	15.0	6	27.0	2	15.5					20	74.7
Greenwood	2	6.0									1	2.0			1	3.5			1	1.0	1	2.0			6	14.5
Hampton			1	1.0					2	1.3	4	11.6	1	1.0	6	30.7	8	41.5	1	5.0	1	3.0			24	95.1
Horry	2	1.1							2	2.3	3	3.5			3	8.0	1	0.3	6	21.5			5	17.5	22	54.2
Jasper	5	58.4	1	0.2	2	0.3	1	0.2	4	3.0	2	6.0	5	15.2	7	64.1	7	24.8	2	19.0	1	2.0	2	0.2	39	193.4
Kershaw	5	3.4	3	1.4			1	0.1	3	4.5	4	8.7	8	21.5	10	56.7	12	11.2	5	8.8	3	7.3	2	7.0	56	130.6
Lancaster	2	4.1	2	0.6					1	4.0	1	0.5			4	12.0	3	1.8	3	2.2	2	2.7	4	2.2	22	30.1
Laurens	2	11.0	1	0.3			1	0.2	1	0.5			1	1.0	4	20.5	3	11.6	1	0.2	1	8.0			15	53.3
Lee	1	0.1	2	5.8	2	4.0	1	5.0	2	6.2	2	3.3			3	6.3	3	8.0	2	7.5	5	13.5	16	64.8	39	124.5
Lexington	3	4.8	3	4.1	2	5.8			1	0.5	5	19.6	4	4.6	12	71.8	6	21.8	1	0.5	6	20.6	7	24.0	50	178.1
Marion															1	1.5	4	12.0			1	1.0			6	14.5
Marlboro	4	3.8	1	0.1			1	4.0	4	6.1			2	5.0	7	12.7	6	35.3	2	0.4	1	2.0			28	69.4
McCormick	3	44.7	1	2.0											2	20.0			2	4.8	1	24.0			9	95.5
Newberry	1	23.5	1	0.1	1	6.5	1	3.3	1	2.0					1	1.5							2	1.1	8	38.0
Oconee					1	0.1					1	2.3	4	8.5	5	9.2	4	5.0	4	4.1	1	1.0			20	30.2
Orangeburg	5	17.7	7	7.3	3	4.1	4	9.7	2	1.2	3	5.3	4	17.0	16	53.2	8	213.5	8	45.1	2	2.0	12	103.6	74	479.7
Pickens	1	2.0							1	5.0	1	0.1	2	3.0	8	25.8	3	2.2	2	6.1	1	2.0			19	46.2
Richland	2	6.0	2	4.0	1	0.2	1	0.2							1	8.0	3	39.7			3	32.0	2	6.5	15	96.6
Saluda	5	38.5	1	0.2			1	0.1	1	2.5	1	0.1	3	4.0	2	0.7	1	4.0	2	3.0			3	4.6	20	57.7
Spartanburg	2	5.2			1	0.5			2	3.0	2	1.5			5	21.0	3	12.5							15	43.7
Sumter	3	9.5	4	15.0	3	11.2	4	2.9	5	10.8	5	14.7			12	27.0	7	13.7	6	21.9	5	4.8	5	20.5	59	152.0
Union							3	1.7	1	0.5	1	1.1	2	8.0	4	7.1	1	15.0	1	0.5	1	0.5	4	22.8	18	57.2
Williamsburg	6	76.3	5	2.9			4	29.3	7	7.8	9	29.3	1	4.0	11	32.2	8	19.4	8	34.8	2	5.0	6	23.7	67	264.7
York	1	3.5	1	0.5					2	2.0					2	11.0	2	9.0			1	1.0	2	6.0	11	33.0
State Total	114	778.5	71	148.8	30	83.3	59	152.6	97	285.8	91	316.2	108	502.0	250	990.7	205	1,620.1	141	608.3	113	516.6	148	634.4	1,427	6,637.3

FOREST HEALTH

The Forest Health Program, in cooperation with the state Department of Plant Industry, and the U.S. Forest Service, maintains a program to detect, evaluate, and suppress forest pests. Through cooperative agreements, these agencies make their technical assistance and advice available to the Forestry Commission.

The current forest pest detection and reporting system involves the reporting by field foresters of forest pests that are causing abnormal losses, that require control action, or which may present new problems. Aerial surveys are made periodically for specific pests to determine occurrence and the need for suppression action.

Major Insect Problems

Southern Pine Beetle and Bark Beetles

In fiscal year 2015, losses due to the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) were minimal. During that time, aerial surveyors detected no signs of death attributable to SPB.

During the spring of 2015, pheromone traps were deployed in 32 counties to predict southern pine beetle population trends. No counties trapped enough beetles to predict a severe outbreak. In fact, populations of SBP in 2015 were the lowest on record! Aerial surveys were in progress at the end of the fiscal year and little beetle activity has been found statewide. Surveys will continue as needed.

The SCFC continued in a SPB Prevention and Restoration Program funded by the U.S. Forest Service. This program's objective is to prevent or reduce the potential damage by southern pine beetle. SCFC personnel make forest management recommendations known to minimize future beetle damage. These include thinning, prescribed burning, planting at low density, matching planted species to site, and other mitigation measures. This program is managed by a coordinator whose salary is funded by the program. In 2014, approximately 387 acres of susceptible forest were pre-commercially thinned to lower the risk of southern pine beetle infestation on private lands in South Carolina. Additionally, 334 acres of longleaf and 2,326 acres of loblolly pine planting at a reduced tree density was completed.

Emerald Ash Borer
Although this exotic beetle has not yet been detected in South Carolina, it is likely soon to be. Recently (Sept. 10, 2015) it was found to be so widespread in North Carolina that quarantine has been imposed on wood from that state. Emerald ash borer is found in Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Quebec, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Georgia. The US Forest Service employed a private contractor to monitor for emerald ash borer throughout SC, and the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has placed traps as well. So far, emerald ash borer has not been detected. We continue to monitor stressed, dying, or dead ash trees in South Carolina brought to our attention by the public.

Walnut Twig Borer/Thousand Canker Disease
Currently this beetle and the fungus it vectors has not been detected in South Carolina as of September 1, 2015. On the east coast, they have been found in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Clemson's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) has placed early detection traps in 12 counties and have not detected the walnut twig beetle. This year SCFC did not participate in walnut twig beetle detection efforts due to a vacancy in the Insect and Disease Lab at the SCFC.

European (*Sirex noctilio*) Woodwasp
This woodwasp is currently found in several counties in New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Connecticut, Ohio and Vermont. The spread of the European woodwasp has been slow in these regions, but movement of firewood and other solid wood could bring this insect to the southeast sooner than expected. In 2008 and 2009, the SCFC Insect and Disease section and several other southeastern state forest agencies cooperated in a region-wide early detection trapping of the European woodwasp. This invasive species has not been found outside the above mentioned states.

Redbay Ambrosia Beetle/ Laurel Wilt Disease
In November 2004, an exotic ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus* Eichoff, was discovered in a dead redbay tree on Hilton Head Island. The beetle attacks redbay trees and introduces a fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) into the tree. Since the discovery of *X. glabratus* in 2004, the beetle and its associated fungus have been found in sixteen (16) South Carolina counties: Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Charleston, Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, Dorchester, Orangeburg, Horry, Georgetown, Berkeley, Lexington, Aiken and Sumter. Laurel wilt continues to expand into new counties and this year it was detected in Williamsburg County. The beetle and fungus have also been found in Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Unfortunately, in the areas where the beetle has been found, there is a large loss of redbay (up to 90% in some locations). There is a concern that once the fungus has become established, native ambrosia beetles in the genus *Xyleborus* may transmit it to other hosts. However, so far it has only had an impact on redbay populations; sassafras and other potential hosts in the Lauraceae appear to be resistant or tolerant.

Major Disease Problems

Oak Wilt
Oak wilt disease has been identified in Aiken, Barnwell, Chesterfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, Richland, and Darlington counties. This disease appears to be static and causing losses only to low value oaks. Since there is potential for loss of valuable trees, including urban trees, surveys and on-call evaluations are made to evaluate the spread.

Dutch Elm Disease
Dutch Elm disease has been confirmed in Aiken, Anderson, Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Edgefield, Fairfield, Greenville, Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Marlboro, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, and York counties. It is expected to gradually spread through the state because the primary agent of spread is the smaller European elm bark beetle that occurs statewide.

Dogwood Anthracnose
In 1988 a new anthracnose disease of dogwood was noted for the first time in South Carolina. This disease is caused by the fungus, *Discula destructiva*. Symptoms include foliage blighting, canker formation, and progressive deterioration. The fungus usually kills infected trees in two to three years. At this time infected trees have been found in Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg counties. Dogwoods in those counties will be monitored periodically to determine the rate of spread of this potentially devastating disease.

Sudden Oak Death (caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*)
Sudden oak death is a disease caused by an oomycete in the genus *Phytophthora*. It is presently known to occur only on the West Coast in the United States. This disease kills oaks and causes leaf spots on many other plant species. Testing of eastern species of oaks in California has shown that they could be susceptible to this disease if the disease were to occur in the eastern United States. Unfortunately, several nursery plants infected with *Phytophthora ramorum* were shipped to South Carolina from the area of know infestation. No local spread of the disease was detected and the infected nursery stock was destroyed.
As part of a Southeastern project, we are cooperating with Clemson University in a stream baiting survey to determine if the disease occurs in South Carolina. Stream baiting survey to detect the fungus that causes SOD continued in the spring of 2014, but was not conducted in 2015 due to a vacancy in the Insect and Disease Lab.

Cogongrass
Cogongrass, a non-native federally regulated noxious weed, has been detected in 13 South Carolina counties: Anderson, Pickens, Greenville, York, Aiken, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, Colleton, Dorchester, Charleston, Williamsburg and, in 2014, Florence. Most infestations are small, comprising a total of less than 2 acres, and all acres have been treated by Clemson University Department of Plant Industry. Seven (7) counties (York, Charleston, Allendale, Hampton, Beaufort, Williamsburg, and Florence) have active cogongrass sites while the sites in the remaining six counties are considered inactive. All sites (both active and inactive) will continue to be monitored to detect re-sprouting in the future.

Miscellaneous Insect and Disease Checks
Commission foresters and Insect and Disease staff made approximately 40 field checks of insect and disease problems and made recommendations for prevention and control. Other inquiries were handled by telephone, mail, and personal contact.

Insect and Disease Laboratory
During Fiscal Year 2015, the Insect and Disease Laboratory processed 9 samples submitted by SCFC employees and private individuals. Recommendations for control of various pests identified were given where needed. In addition to these samples, 90 southern pine beetles and 7536 clerids were counted in the lab.

Forest Health Surveys
The SCFC entered into agreement with the USFS to evaluate permanent Forest Health plots throughout South Carolina. This was done by the Resource Development Section and reported there. As another part of this program, the Forestry Commission also received additional funding for off-plot activity to survey for and report on other forest insects and diseases.

In conjunction with the spring 20% beetle survey, the entire state was surveyed for defoliation, beaver damage, fire, and annosus root rot damage.

Damage attributable to forest tent caterpillars (defoliators) was found across 35,667 acres, mostly where the Great Pee Dee, Waccamaw, and Black Rivers join. Beaver damages were estimated at 3,053 acres (acreage is based on 20% survey); fire-caused mortality was observed on 773 acres of forestland (acreage is based on 20% survey); annosus root rot was identified on 4,095 acres.

EQUIPMENT

FY15 EQUIPMENT PURCHASES

	Unit	Total
Eleven (11) Dozers w/ Winch	$151,496	$1,666,456.00
Seven (7) Dozers w/ Lift Plows	$148,954	$1,042,678.00
Eighteen (17) Freightliner Transports (Auto)	$91,209	$1,550,553.00
One (1) Freightliner Transport (Manual)	$87,267	$87,267.00
Eighteen (18) Truck Bodies	$18,985	$341,730.00
Ten (10) Pull Type Plows	$15,875	$158,750.00
One (1) Communications Van	$20,914	$20,914.00
One (1) F-450 Service Truck	$52,196.60	$52,196.60
TOTAL		**$4,920,544.60**
Auction Budget		
One (1) Chevrolet 1500 4x4 BMP	$26,562.00	$16,562.00 ($10,000 paid by BMP)

The Forestry Commission prepared and organized equipment for auction. The auction process now takes place exclusively online at www.govdeals.com. The sale of equipment netted the Forestry Commission approximately $386,655.75.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

During FY 2015 the Forestry Commission had 38 sworn officers statewide. Three of these were investigators that focused primarily on complex timber theft, timber fraud, and woods arson cases.

Officers prosecuted 119 fire cases, 7 litter and environmental cases, 11 violations of state forest regulations, 3 pine straw theft cases, 10 miscellaneous cases and 13 game and fish cases. Total fines collected were $17,760.50. Fines collected from these cases are retained in the county where the offense occurred.

South Carolina Forestry Commission Law Enforcement Investigators investigated 109 timber theft / fraud cases which represented a loss of $436,447.00 to the victims. Investigators collected and returned 48% or $210,759.00 to the affected landowners. Forestry Commission officers arrested one individual for woods arson who was responsible for one fire. During the year, there were 409 fire investigations conducted with 149of them escaped debris burns.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

There are 13.0 million acres of commercial forestland in South Carolina. According to 2013 National Woodlands Owner data (http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/nwos/) , 88% of South Carolina's forests are privately owned, 51% of private forests are family-owned, and 82% of these owners live on the land. Forest industry has sold much of their forestland during the last several years and now owns only 238,100 acres (1.8%), which is down 89% since 2000. Public agencies (municipal, county, and federal) control 12% of South Carolina's forests.

The Forest Management Section assists South Carolina citizens with management and development of the forest resources of the state. Programs include woodland management assistance, reforestation assistance, forestry services, forest products utilization and marketing assistance, resource conservation and development, and urban & community forestry. These programs assist owners in growing more timber, aid industries in more efficient utilization of the timber resource, and foster conservation and multiple use of the forest resource. The urban & community forestry program strives to help local government, educational institutions and non-profit organizations develop and enhance the benefits provided by trees and greenspace where we live and work.

In addition to programs designed to assist private landowners and local communities, the Forest Management Section also coordinates development and management of over 90,000 acres of forestland included in the state forest system. These lands are owned by the Forestry Commission and provide forest-based recreation opportunities and serve as examples of the benefits of active forest management. The State Lands Coordinator also assists other state agencies in the management of their forest resources.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

Professional foresters from the SC Forestry Commission provide forest management advice and assistance to landowners. The land is examined and a written forest management plan is prepared. Recommendations for management may include such silvicultural practices as forest protection, reforestation, harvesting, prescribed burning, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation.

This year, SCFC foresters prepared 1,562 management plans for a total of 105,387 acres. Beginning in July of 1999, customer satisfaction surveys were sent to every landowner that received a forestry management plan. In FY15, 97% of the landowners that responded to the survey indicated that they were satisfied with the management plan they received. Of these landowners, 96% also indicated that they intended to complete most or all of the recommendations in their plan. Where practical, the landowner is referred to consulting or industrial foresters for assistance in carrying out management recommendations. This year 115 cases were referred to consulting foresters and 20 were referred to industrial foresters.

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Forest Renewal Program (FRP) - State

In 1982 the program was funded for the first time by a $100,000 state appropriation. This permitted an assessment of $400,000 from forest industry, and created a $500,000 Forest Renewal Fund. The state funding was doubled on July 1, 1996. This increase permitted an assessment of $800,000 which increased the program to $1,000,000. Beginning in 2001, the objectives of the Forest Renewal Program were expanded to include providing funds to help match federal grants that provide financial support for the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - Federal

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) began with crop year 1986 and was renewed with the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill. This program provides technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. CRP reduces soil erosion, protects the nation's ability to produce food and fiber, reduces sedimentation in streams and lakes, improves water quality, establishes wildlife habitat, and enhances forest and wetland resources. It encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover such as native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filter strips, or riparian buffers. CRP is administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, with the SC Forestry Commission providing technical assistance for forestry practices.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Federal

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was created by the 1996 Farm Bill. EQIP provides financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and help improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. An additional purpose of EQIP is to help landowners meet federal, state, tribal and local environmental regulations.

Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) – Federal

The SPB Prevention and Restoration Cost-Share Program (SPB Program) was created in 2006 for non-industrial private forest landowners. It seeks to mitigate future loss from SPB by managing pine density through prevention and restoration practices. These practices ensure that a pine stand will be of merchantable size before the stress of being overly dense develops. Receiving income and maintaining vigorous growth are usually enough incentives for landowners to thin merchantable sized pine stands and, in return, reduce the potential loss from SPB.

Statewide Accomplishments for All Cost-Share Programs
2014-2015
Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement

Program	Number of Landowners	Acres Planted	Prescribed Burning	TSI Acres	Commercial Thinning	Precommercial Thinning	Cost Share Payments
FRP	278	9,175	0	358	0	0	$760,094
SPB	55	2,660	0	0	0	217	$263,074
CRP	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Totals	**333**	**11,835**	**0**	**358**	**0**	**217**	**$1,023,168**

*data not available at time of publication

The SC Forestry Commission surveys landowners who receive FRP or SPB cost-share assistance both at the beginning of the process and at the end. FY15 surveys indicated that 87% of customers were satisfied with the assistance they received initially and follow-up surveys indicated that 91% were satisfied with the assistance received at the end of the process.

SEEDLING SURVIVAL

Survival checks were made on 10 percent of plantings using a row count or tenth acre plot method for determining survival. An average of all survival checks was used to determine the statewide survival of 82% for loblolly pine plantings. Survival rates for longleaf pine plantings were tabulated separately. Plantings with longleaf seedlings had a survival rate of 68% when containerized stock was used. Due to a decline in the use of bare root longleaf stock, no bare root longleaf plantings were sampled during FY15.

Forest Management Assistance 2014-2015						
	Non Cost-Share		Cost-Share		Forest Stewardship	
County	**Exams**	**Acres**	**Exams**	**Acres**	**Plans**	**Acres**
Abbeville	3	107	21	1212	3	303
Aiken	4	189	40	3706	0	0
Allendale	0	0	29	2356	0	0
Anderson	7	339	11	294	4	614
Bamberg	1	60	58	2428	3	1673
Barnwell	0	0	51	3448	0	0
Beaufort	3	279	2	165	3	411
Berkeley	7	910	69	5159	1	21
Calhoun	1	11	16	817	0	0
Charleston	13	1231	11	682	1	162
Cherokee	2	1593	6	182	8	1929
Chester	2	278	17	886	2	364
Chesterfield	4	199	84	3510	4	1267
Clarendon	0	0	54	2354	0	0
Colleton	3	298	66	3943	2	3063
Darlington	0	0	25	1114	3	239
Dillon	10	1338	7	538	1	171
Dorchester	2	380	41	2223	2	351
Edgefield	11	1105	13	2145	4	544
Fairfield	6	447	17	1006	2	1267
Florence	13	1101	39	2087	1	98
Georgetown	2	800	8	360	0	0
Greenville	7	247	7	347	2	527
Greenwood	4	91	29	1735	1	52
Hampton	10	954	24	1098	0	0
Horry	4	165	33	793	3	319
Jasper	6	141	21	1122	1	127
Kershaw	2	110	17	823	4	521
Lancaster	0	0	15	773	3	157
Laurens	11	646	23	1328	5	2054
Lee	0	0	12	758	1	30
Lexington	11	218	20	727	0	0
Marion	8	754	14	543	0	0
Marlboro	1	200	24	985	0	0
McCormick	7	789	15	715	3	709
Newberry	8	943	19	1334	5	901
Oconee	4	79	6	201	1	50
Orangeburg	0	0	110	4446	1	794
Pickens	5	141	2	49	2	51
Richland	17	569	12	534	7	484
Saluda	10	522	22	768	3	551
Spartanburg	32	850	14	474	3	162
Sumter	1	87	17	908	0	0
Union	4	284	7	816	3	1296
Williamsburg	10	500	49	2093	0	0
York	3	175	12	698	2	312
State Totals:	**259**	**19,130**	**1,209**	**64,683**	**94**	**21,574**

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The Forest Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort among the USDA Forest Service, Forestry Commission, other natural resource agencies and organizations, forest industry, and private forestry consultants in South Carolina to encourage the long-term stewardship of non-industrial private forest lands. Landowners are provided technical assistance by having a multiple resource management plan developed for their property addressing their management objectives.

During the past year, 104 Stewardship plans were written in South Carolina on 27,286 acres. South Carolina Forestry Commission foresters authored 94 plans covering 21,574 acres. Private forestry consultants authored 10 plans covering 5,712 acres. Three landowners (comprising 209 acres) were recognized as Forest Stewards for FY15.

In addition, Forest Stewardship staff completed FSP Implementation Monitoring, conducting on the ground inspections on 33 Forest Stewardship plans encompassing 7,741 acres. During FY15 it is estimated that 88.2% of all Forest Stewardship plans are being implemented. In addition to adhering to the standard implementation monitoring protocol for FY15, the SCFC included additional evaluation of specific management outcomes that have resulted from the implementation of Forest Stewardship plans. Results indicate that Forest Stewardship plans are having a positive impact on specific management outcomes of interest in South Carolina.

Forest Stewardship Monitoring Evaluation Results 2014-2015

Management Outcome	Percent Implemented as Result of Plan
Timber Harvest	64
Tree Planting	39
Prescribed Burning	27
Wildfire Prevention Activity	55
Invasive Species Control	27
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	61
Utilized Cost Share Assistance	27
Used Stewardship Plan to Qualify for Farm Bill Program	27
Used Forest Stewardship Plan to Qualify for Third Party Certification (Tree Farm, etc.)	6

Of the landowners who returned customer surveys during FY15, 90% of them indicated they were satisfied with the Forest Stewardship management plan they received and 100% of them indicated that they intended to complete most or all of the recommendations in their plan.

FORESTRY SERVICES

Through this program the SC Forestry Commission provides assistance to landowners and other state agency lands with afforestation, reforestation, and maximization of production from their woodlands. The landowner is charged the cost of all services performed.

These services were available to landowners during FY15:

Firebreak Plowing - performed by Forestry Commission employees using agency equipment for $140 for the 1st hour and $85 for each additional hour. In FY06, separate rates were established for firebreaks constructed with a heavy tractor. For FY15, these rates were $160 for the 1st hour and $100 for each additional hour.

Prescribed Burning - performed by Forestry Commission employees using agency equipment for $21 per acre for understory burns and $30 per acre for site preparation burns and for understory burns in mountainous terrain. Firebreak plowing costs are not included. The minimum charge for this service was $500 during FY15.

Prescribed Burning Standby - an agency tractor and employee on standby at burning site for $80 for the 1st hour and $30

for each additional hour while the landowner performs burning under an approved plan. The minimum charge for this service was $110.

Equipment Rental Program – agency-owned tree planters and drum choppers made available to private landowners at rates of $5 and $20 per acre respectively. The minimum charges were $25 and $100.

Timber Marking - performed by Forestry Commission employees at the rate of $10 per thousand board feet and $5 per cord.

Service	Number of Tracts	Units of Measure	Receipts FY 14
Firebreak Plowing	313	809 miles	$123,518.00
Prescribed Burning	111	9,050 acres	$199,551.00
Prescribed Burning Standby	31	3,719 acres	$9,745.00
Equipment Rental	8	174 acres	$905.00
Water Bar Construction	4	86 bars	$2,910.00
Timber Marking	0	-	$0.00
Totals	**206**	**-**	**$336,629.00**

The SC Forestry Commission sends customer surveys to all landowners who receive forestry services. In FY15, 82% of our customers reported they were satisfied with our forestry services and 99% of those responding indicated they plan to use our services again.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The Urban and Community Forestry program exists to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to municipal and county governments and others for the purpose of creating, maintaining, and enhancing community forest conservation and management within their jurisdictions; to provide for, coordinate and/or conduct information, education and training regarding community forestry, wildland-urban interface issues, and arboricultural best management practices; and to provide grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions of higher learning to create, enhance and support long-term local and regional community forestry programs. This assistance is accomplished through a variety of ways: direct contact, diverse and cooperative partnerships, and the financial assistance grant program.

Expected results include, but are not limited to: improved air quality; energy conservation through reduced heat island effect in downtown areas; local government recognition and management of the community tree resource; sustained financial support on the local level for community tree management; more professional public tree managers to provide safe walkways, streets and parks; and more public trees planted and maintained to beautify, cool, and clean South Carolina communities. These results occur when a community or county government works toward accomplishing a natural resource inventory and management plan, employs professional urban forest staffing, adopts and implements natural resource policy, and works in partnership with local advocacy organizations.

Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program
The Community Forestry Financial Assistance and Partnership Program is a state program funded with federal-level monies appropriated each year by Congress. When available, these funds are funneled through the US Forest Service to the SC Forestry Commission to administer. SC received $64,550 in federal funding this year to develop a Green Infrastructure Practitioner's Guide to assist counties with the development of Green Infrastructure plans and to conduct workshops for the 10 Councils of Government in South Carolina. The Urban and Community Forestry program also received $20,000 in pass-through funds which were awarded to Trees SC (urban and community forestry council) to assist with urban forestry and arboricultural training and continuing education for public tree managers and other professionals.

Tree City/Tree Line USA/Tree Campus
Sponsored on the national level by the Arbor Day Foundation and others, the Tree City USA program is administered in South Carolina by the SC Forestry Commission. This program seeks to stimulate and promote the management of community trees by recognizing towns and cities which meet the following criteria: (1) establishment of a municipal tree care ordinance, (2) expenditure of at least two dollars per capita on their community forestry program, (3) establishment of a legally constituted tree board or permanent staff to address tree issues, and (4) observance of Arbor Day by a mayoral proclamation and official ceremony. The SC Forestry Commission recognized and awarded 39 municipalities, 1 county, and 2 military bases under the Tree City USA program during FY15.

The Tree Line USA program, also sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, seeks to stimulate and promote proper utility line clearing and safety techniques by private and public utility companies. In order to qualify as a Tree Line USA, a utility must meet three criteria: (1) perform quality tree care regarding pruning, trenching and tunneling methods; (2) provide opportunities for annual utility line worker training; and (3) sponsor an ongoing community tree planting program to include an Arbor Day celebration and at least one educational mailing to customers. The Forestry Commission recognized the Gaffney Board of Public Works as South Carolina's only Tree Line USA utility for the 15th consecutive year.

The Tree Campus USA program, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, encourages institutions of higher learning to promote proper management of campus trees. South Carolina maintained 7 Tree Campus USA institutions in FY15.

Technical Assistance and Educational Program
Continued funding for a part-time Regional Urban Forester increases our program exposure and assistance to customers across the state of South Carolina. Through the direct technical assistance of the community forestry staff to municipalities, schools and partner organizations, the urban and community forestry program accomplished the following in FY15:

Types of Technical Assistance	Program Accomplishments Community Forestry Staff	
Program Development/Expansion	**# of Entities**	**# of Assists**
Municipal Government	40	64
Non-profit/trade organizations	16	18
Educational Institutions	14	17
County Government	24	35
State Government	4	4
Others	21	21
TOTAL	119	159

Tree City USA	39
Tree Campus USA	7
Tree Line USA	1

Public Information/Education	**Adults**	**Youth**	**Total**
# Programs	14	1	15
# People	762	60	822
#Seat Hours	3444	360	3804

STATE FOREST / STATE LANDS

HARBISON STATE FOREST

Harbison State Forest, located approximately 9 miles from downtown Columbia, encompasses 2,176 acres. The Forest was purchased in 1945 and became the site of the agency headquarters in 1963. Following the adoption of a Master Plan in 1981, the Forest began to be developed as an Educational State Forest. Recreational use grew dramatically in the early 90's with Harbison soon gaining the reputation as a mountain biking mecca for the area.

Receipts for Operating Budget – FY15

Activity	Receipts
Timber Sales	$0.00
Conference Room Rentals	$2,647.50
Trail Permits	$62,800.95
Campsite Rentals	$1,090.00
Trail Donations	$618.03
Other	3,015.00
Total	**$70,171.48**

Note: 25% of all receipts are paid to the Richland County School System. This amounted to $15,700 for the fiscal year. (Donations and rental income are not included when calculating the total to be dispersed to the school system.)

Silvicultural Practices
Due to abnormally wet conditions, no prescribed burns were conducted on Harbison State Forest during FY15. No timber sales took place.

Forest Protection
No wildfires occurred on Harbison State Forest during this fiscal year. Trees that were considered hazardous to forest visitors and/or to buildings were felled.

Recreation/Education
Several events were held on the trails at Harbison during the 2014-2015 fiscal year. The Friends of Harbison State Forest held their ninth annual "Take a Kid Mountain Biking" day. This event helped raise awareness of the sport to a younger generation and increased awareness of the state forest. . Harbison was also the site for seven races a one 5k, two 10k, one 12k, one 50k, two half marathon foot races and two mountain biking races. In addition to these events, several trail work days were conducted during FY15. These events included improving the trails by pruning of overhanging branches and brush and the rehabilitation of wet areas and closed trails. Friends of the Forest members have taken on more responsibility in the care of the trail system with reduced SCFC staffing.

The Friends of Harbison State Forest (FoHSF) continue to meet on a monthly basis to plan events and promote the Forest. The mission of the Friends group is to "preserve and promote the recreational and educational aspects of this urban forest resource." Current membership of this group is estimated at 75 individuals.

Boy Scouts continue to provide assistance to Harbison through Eagle Scout projects and Cub Scout activities. One Eagle Scout project was completed this fiscal year which consisted of constructing a stone fire ring and rebuilding the firewood shelter at the Bobcat campsite.

Scouts and other organized groups continue to use the four primitive camping facilities at Harbison. Harbison's camping facilities were used by 39 groups this fiscal year for a total of 886 users.

The canoe landing at Harbison State Forest provides access to the Broad River. During the 2014-2015 fiscal year, 80 groups used this facility for a total of 202 paddlers.

Wildlife Management
Five wildlife viewing areas totaling 2 ½ acres are maintained each year.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Management
No threatened or endangered species have currently been found on Harbison State Forest.

Research
A graduate student at Clemson University in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology is collecting high frequency audio data from bats.

MANCHESTER STATE FOREST

Manchester State Forest, located in Sumter County and Clarendon County, encompasses 29,088 acres. From 1939 to 1955, Manchester was leased by the State of South Carolina from the federal government and managed by the South Carolina Forestry Commission; The State received title to the property on June 28, 1955.

Receipts for Operating Budget – FY15

Activity	Receipts
Timber Sales	$282,551
Pine Straw Sales	$88,427
Land Lease Payments	$38,167
Wildlife Management Area	$101,739
Trail and Special Use Permits	$35,535
Total	**$546,419**

Note: 25% of all forest receipts are paid to Sumter and Clarendon County Schools for a total of $136,372.

Silvicultural Practices
Due to staffing limitations and weather constraints, only 238 acres were prescribed burned during the fiscal year for wildlife habitat improvement, hazard reduction, hardwood control, aesthetics, and site preparation purposes.

No final harvests took place on Manchester this fiscal year, but 228 acres were sold for improvement cuts (thinnings). Timber sales were concentrated on thinnings in overstocked stands and conversion of older slash pine stands to longleaf plantations according to the harvest planning model.

Nine hundred fifty-six acres were sold for pine straw raking.

The following species and number of seedlings were planted during FY15:

	Acres	Seedlings
Containerized longleaf pine	69	42,918
Bareroot loblolly pine	0	0

Forest Protection
On April 10, 2015, Manchester was the host site for a joint wildfire training exercise between the SC Forestry Commission and the SC National Guard. Manchester personnel also assisted regional personnel as well as local fire departments with several wildfires which were adjacent to the Forest and filled roles during in-state and out-of-state assignments.

Recreation/Education
Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, motorcycle/ATV riding, mountain biking, and use of the rifle/pistol range continue to be favorite activities. Manchester personnel also participated in two out of three sessions of the Wood Magic Fair. Twelve special use permits were issued which generated $7,650 in revenue during the year for organized events which featured bicycle, equestrian, motorcycle and rifle pistol range use. Approximately 3,519 paid participants were served which generated $28,345 in revenue.

As the popularity of the rifle and pistol range continues to grow, temporary employees were hired on a rotating basis to provide a safe environment for the shooting public. All of the temporary employees and a number of the permanent employees at Manchester are qualified as NRA (National Rifle Association) Range Safety Officers.

Recreational Permits Sold			
Activities	**Daily**	**Annual**	**Total**
Rifle/Pistol Range	2273	251	**2,524**
Mountain Biking	32	16	**48**
Horseback Riding	90	164	**254**
Motorcycle/ATV	563	113	**676**
Special Use	13	0	**13**
Total	**2971**	**544**	**3,515**

Wildlife Management
Twenty-eight thousand six hundred twenty-two acres of Manchester State Forest are included in the Wildlife Management Area Program. This is a cooperative agreement between the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the SC Forestry Commission. Staff maintained 262 acres of dove fields and 620 acres of wildlife openings and food plots. Manchester State Forest staff hosts a number of youth deer hunts and a youth dove hunt throughout the year.
During the year, DNR also provided technical assistance with deer herd dynamics. They also assisted in tracking various game and non-game species including quail, turkey, and fox squirrels as well as pond management. DNR also assisted in law enforcement on the forest through interagency cooperation.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Management
Manchester currently maintains six clusters of red-cockaded woodpeckers. Colony sites continue to be monitored along with scouting for new cavity and start trees in cooperation with biologists from the neighboring Poinsett Gunnery Range (US Air Force). Several artificial cavities were installed to make up for an area that was damaged by a wildfire a couple years ago.

Research/Education
Manchester continues to cooperate with the SCFC Nursery Section by providing eight sites for clone banks, seed orchards, and progeny tests. A new test site was established at the Creech Seed Orchard using various planting densities, clones and SCFC Best Family trees for the purpose of biomass research.

Central Carolina Technical College students and other college students utilize Manchester for forestry-related class assignments. Manchester State Forest was also the host site for the Future Farmers of America statewide forestry competition.

Infrastructure
Maintenance continued on approximately 100 miles of unimproved dirt roads on Manchester including grading and mowing.

WEE TEE STATE FOREST

Wee Tee State Forest, located on the Santee River in lower Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties, was acquired by the South Carolina Forestry Commission in November of 2003 through the partnership of eight participants. These partners included the South Carolina Forestry Commission, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, The Conservation Fund, USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Anheuser-Bush. Wee Tee contains 12,403 acres of which 770 acres is comprised of planted loblolly pine plantations and upland pine-hardwood types and the remaining 11,633 acres is comprised of bottomland hardwood types with the associated oxbow lakes and creeks. Being in the Santee River Focus Area of Ducks Unlimited's Lowcountry Initiative, it is a very significant, un-fragmented bottomland hardwood forest. Its significance lies in its watershed and water supply protection, habitat for wildlife and a number of threatened and endangered species, and the opportunities it provides for recreation, forest practices demonstration, and education.

Receipts for Operating Budget – FY15
During the past fiscal year $54,238 was collected on Wee Tee State Forest as payment for SC DNR's WMA program. Note: 25% of this income was paid to Williamsburg and Georgetown County Schools for a total of $13,559.

Recreation/Education
Fishing in the Wee Tee Lakes was opened in April, 2004 on Wednesdays and Saturdays from sunup to sundown.

A hunting season was planned with SCDNR and was implemented starting in September 2004. Harvest data was not collected, nor required; however, hunters indicate successful seasons during FY15 for both deer and turkey.

Plans have been initiated in cooperation with the Palmetto Conservation Foundation to allow canoeing and kayaking in the Wee Tee Lakes in conjunction with the Berkeley County Blueways with an information center being opened in nearby St. Stephens.

Forest Protection
Gates have been constructed and placed on all known entrances into Wee Tee to control access for the protection of the property and infrastructure.

Wildlife Management
An agreement was reached in FY05 with SCDNR to place Wee Tee under the WMA program according to a pre-closing cooperative arrangement. Hunting and fishing schedules were agreed upon and implemented.

In FY13, a new agreement was made with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to allow the South Carolina Forestry Commission to set the fishing regulations. The fishing public can now enjoy Wee Tee Wednesday through Saturday with Fridays being designated as youth days.

Infrastructure
Manchester State Forest personnel made improvements to approximately 45 miles of roads on Wee Tee during FY15. Improvements included grading, mowing and drainage improvements due to existing beaver dams, culvert replacements, and bridge replacements.
Wee Tee State Forest has one permanent employee whose primary responsibility is maintenance of roads, buildings, and other infrastructure at Wee Tee.

Silviculture
No timber sales occurred on Wee Tee during FY15. No prescribed burns were conducted during the past year.

SAND HILLS STATE FOREST

Sand Hills State Forest (SHSF) covers 46,838 acres with 45,338 acres in Chesterfield County; 1,000 acres in Darlington County; and 500 acres in Kershaw County. The Forest was operated under a use agreement with the federal government from 1939 until 1991. In July of 1991, title to Sand Hills State Forest was transferred to the South Carolina Forestry Commission.

RECEIPTS FOR SAND HILLS OPERATING BUDGET

Activity	FY 15
Timber & Stump Sales	$ 184,634.50
Pinestraw Sales	$859,889.43
WMA Payment	$40,716.28
Rent State Owned Property	$3,668.50
Rent Farmland (CRP)	$390.00
User Fees	$4,622.75
Prior Year Refund	$1,298.44
Donation	$36.00
Total	**$ 1,095,255.90**

Note: 25% of receipts were paid to Chesterfield, Darlington and Kershaw County School Systems. Donations, prior year refunds, and rental income categories are not included when calculating the total to be dispersed to the school systems.

COUNTY PAYMENTS	
County	**FY 15**
Chesterfield	$263,203.54
Darlington	$ 6,821.20
Kershaw	$2,688.50
Total	**$272,713.24**

Silvicultural Practices
No seedlings were planted on Sand Hills during FY15. A total of 383 acres were prescribed burned for wildlife habitat enhancement, hardwood control, and fuel reduction.

Forest Protection
Sand Hills State Forest had no wildfires in FY15.

Pinestraw and Timber
In 1999 Sand Hills started a pinestraw enhancement program. Under this program, an individual from the public can enter into a multi-year contract with the Forestry Commission to rid longleaf pine stands of scrub oaks for pinestraw production. The individual agrees to eradicate 90% of all hardwoods on a tract of land using herbicides. In exchange, they may harvest all the pinestraw that falls during the contract period. When the contract expires, the acreage becomes part of SHSF's quality straw production program. The straw from these areas is offered for sale on a lump sum, sealed bid basis.

In FY15 Sand Hills issued 21 enhancement contracts which consisted of 136 pine stands for a total of 1,658 acres. At the end of FY15 there were a total of 36 active enhancement contracts which consisted of 136 pine stands that totaled 6,490 acres.

Sand Hills State Forest sells pinestraw through bid sales and negotiated sales. In FY 15 there were 2,978 acres sold on bid sales for $475,700 and 2421 acres sold on negotiated sales for $334,269.

As a result of increased pine straw activity on Sand Hills State Forest, a vehicle registration system was implemented to ensure that licensed, insured vehicles were operating on the Forest. The registration stickers provide a visible means to those patrolling the Forest that the participant has complied with the program. Pinestraw registration stickers are used for a 30 day or 90 day pinestraw sales. The green registration stickers are used for state forest users that want to access the "authorized vehicles only" truck trails. The majority of the green registration stickers are issued to hunters. In FY 2015 Sand Hills State Forest issued 221 green stickers and 273 pinestraw stickers.

Recreation
Recreational use of the Forest continues to be fairly heavy. Hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and camping continue to be favorite activities. Equestrian use on SHSF remains low due to the free riding that is offered at H. Cooper Black Recreational Area under the management of SCPRT.

Sugarloaf Mountain provides seven primitive camping sites for family camping and eight primitive equestrian campsites. Sand Hills personnel booked 116 reservations for these sites this year. An estimated 2,254 visitors used the campsites and trails. Campsites rental rates are $15 per site for sites with shelters and $10 per site for those without shelters. Sand Hills received $4,021 in revenue from camping in FY15.

Trail use permits for horseback riding decreased to 156 permits in FY15. Forty annual/daily permits were sold online. One hundred sixteen permits were purchased through the drop box outside the SHSF office. There were 5 All State Forest permits sold this year. Revenue from trail use permits totaled $5,026. The permit holders came from South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia.

Number of visitors does not include day users nor does it include any visitors from any other user group (i.e. hunters, fishermen, birdwatchers, pinestraw workers, etc.).

Free-use permits are issued for any activity at Sand Hills State Forest that does not have a fee. SHSF personnel issued 23 free-use permits this year. Four of the permits were for raking pinestraw for personal use, and 19 for gathering firewood.

Three special- use permits were issued for organized events.

1. Sand Hills Stampede Endurance Ride on October 18, 2014: 66 riders, volunteers and received $330 in fees.
2. Rally Racing Clinic on March 5, 2015: 24 participants and received $150 in fees.

3. Sand Blast Rally on March 7 2015: 138 competitors' entries with 46 cars, 46 motorcycles and received $960 in fees.
4. Spring Fling Endurance Ride on April 10 & 11 2015: 105 Riders, volunteers and received $525 in fees

These events bring many visitors to Sand Hills State Forest and surrounding areas and have a positive economic impact on the area. The local involvement and sponsorship have increased each year that these events are held.

Education
SHSF personnel visited and presented programs to the Darlington County Institute for Technology (9^{th}-12^{th} Grade) for a total of 50 students. In addition to visiting classrooms, SHSF personnel also spoke to several civic clubs and participated in the Wood Magic Forest Fair.

Wildlife Management
Approximately 47,174 acres of the Forest is included in the Wildlife Management Area Program. This is a cooperative agreement between the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the SC Forestry Commission. SHSF has two public dove fields. The Wilkes Chapel field is 57 acres and planted in corn, sunflowers, and bicolor. The Davis Field is 40 acres and is planted in corn, sunflowers, and bicolor.

Sixty acres (50 plots) were planted as wildlife food plots. These plots were planted in wheat, corn, sunflower, spring game mix, dove mix, dove proso, wild turkey mix, quail mix, and sorghum. All plantings were fertilized at the recommended rates. All manageable bicolor patches in Compartments 11, 12, 13 & 14 were bush hogged and fertilized.

SHSF continues to conduct surveys for DNR. Ducks, turkey and quail were surveyed to track population trends.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Management
Population Trends: There are currently 98 managed red-cockaded woodpecker clusters on SHSF. During this year, 80 clusters were active, 10 were inactive, and 8 were considered relic. Of the 80 active groups, 73 can be considered potential breeding groups and 6 were solitary males. Seventy-one nesting attempts were made by 66 groups; 62 of those nests fledged offspring; 66 were first attempts; 5 were re-nests. Eight new cavity trees were found and 14 artificial cavities were installed.

Law Enforcement
Officers issued two citations for various crimes on the state forest with the common infraction being Rules & Regulations of Commission violations.

Research
A longleaf pine natural regeneration research project in conjunction with the US Forest Service is still ongoing and has been in effect for over 25 years.

Infrastructure
Sand Hills staff maintains approximately 98 miles of unimproved dirt roads.

POE CREEK STATE FOREST

Poe Creek State Forest is composed of two tracts of land totaling 2,511 acres. The Poe Creek tract is located in Pickens County adjacent to SC Highway 11 and contains 1,806 acres. The property was purchased from Crescent Resources, Inc. on April 6, 1999. Approximately 800 acres is under forest management with 610 acres of planted pine and 190 acres have been clearcut and allowed to regenerate naturally to native hardwood species. The remaining 1,006 acres are in natural upland hardwood type and a mixture of white pine and hardwoods. The steep terrain in this area limits the forest management activities that can be implemented. The Piedmont Forestry Center tract, located 5 miles north of Salem in Oconee County, encompasses 705 acres. It includes a conference center, picnic shelter, and two houses that are available for rental groups. The timber on this property is managed along with that on Poe Creek.

Receipts for Operating Budget – FY15

Revenue Sources

Timber Sales	$0
WMA Payment	$17,873.16
Rentals	$5,625.00
Total	**$23,498.16**

Note: 25% of all forest receipts were paid to Pickens and Oconee County Schools for a total of $4,468.

Silvicultural Practices
No timber sales occurred on Poe Creek State Forest during FY15 and no prescribed burns were conducted. White pine and Virginia pine cones were collected from the orchards for SC Forestry Commission and NC Forest Service nurseries. Twenty-eight acres were planted in shortleaf pine on Poe Creek.

Recreational/Education
Use of the Piedmont Forestry Center during FY15 was heavy, with numerous individuals and groups taking advantage of this beautiful facility.

Use	Days	# of People
Gatehouse Rental	19	43
Cabin Rental	80	224
Conference Room	2	20
Scouts	4	179
Wood Magic Forest Fair	4	500
Dove Shoots	6	110
Other	9	204
TOTALS	**124**	**1,280**

Forest Protection
No wildfires occurred on Poe Creek State Forest this fiscal year.

Wildlife Management
The SC Forestry Commission and the Department of Natural Resources cooperate on the planting and management of a 40-acre dove field at the Piedmont Forestry Center. The Piedmont Forestry Center and Poe Creek State Forest are both in DNR's Wildlife Management Area program and are open to public hunting. DNR fisheries also stocks one mile of Cheohee Valley Creek that runs through the Piedmont Forestry Center property.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Management
Poe Creek State Forest continues to provide habitat for several populations of federally endangered plants.

Research
Dr. Patrick McMillan, professor at Clemson University, continues to conduct research on Poe Creek.

NIEDERHOF FORESTRY CENTER

Niederhof Forestry Center is located just north of the town of Tillman and approximately 9 miles northwest of Ridgeland in Jasper County and encompasses 1,594 acres. The SCFC Nurseries Section manages some of the property for tree improvement and as a production seed orchard. The remaining acreage is managed as multiple use demonstration forest along with outreach activities that include specialized hunts.

Receipts
No revenue was generated on Niederhof Forestry Center this year.

Silvicultural Practices
Due to an unusually wet burning season, no prescribed burning was conducted on Niederhof during FY15.

Forest Protection
Controlled burning in prior years has improved the health of the young longleaf pine, stimulating height growth and reducing the incidence of brown spot needle disease. No wildfires occurred on Niederhof this fiscal year.

Wildlife Management
Approximately 10 acres of wildlife food plots were maintained with funding provided by Quality Deer Management Association (QDMA), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), and Lowcountry RC&D.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Management
No rare, threatened, or endangered species are known to occur on Niederhof Forestry Center.

Infrastructure
Road access was maintained at the Niederhof Forestry Center through mowing.

Outreach

Niederhof Hunts FY 2014-15

	Number of Hunt Participants	Others Attending	SCFC	Total
Deer Hunts (2 hunts)				
December Rack Pack	10	21	9	40
November QDMA Mil	11	18	11	40
Total	**21**	**39**	**20**	**80**
Turkey Hunts (2 hunts)				
WITO April	6	3	9	18
March Mil NWTF	8	7	8	23
Total	**14**	**10**	**17**	**41**

Total: 4 Hunts 121 people

STATE FOREST REVENUE

State Forest General Accounting Summary						
	FY 07	**FY 08**	**FY 09**	**FY 10**	**FY 11**	**FY 12**
Revenue		$2,700,045	$3,542,463	$4,077,269	$3,126,490	$3,072,999
Total Operating Expenses		$2,017,499	$1,984,055	$2,053,605	$1,905,164	$1,813,109
25% to schools		$668,182	$877,430	$980,462	$750,485	$747,630
Back to SCFC		$0	$409,493	$0	$837,065	$0
Annual Carry Over	**$219,227**	**$14,365**	**$271,485**	**$1,043,203**	**-$366,224**	**$512,260**

	FY 13	**FY 14**	**FY 15**	**Avg**	**Total Current Carry Over**
Revenue	$2,146,257	$2,363,876	$1,979,540	$2,876,117	
Total Operating Expenses	$1,296,900	$2,084,033	$1,848,539	$1,875,363	
25% to schools	$699,817	$581,427	$477,609	$722,880	
Back to SCFC	$0	$53,385	$0	$162,493	
Annual Carry Over	**$149,540**	**-$354,970**	**-$346,608**	**$115,381**	**$1,694,315**

STATE LANDS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The State Lands Forest Management Program was created to provide professional forest management assistance to South Carolina state agencies that own timberlands. This assistance consisted of cruising, marking, management assistance, and administering timber sales. The agencies and facilities assisted were as follows:

	Acres	**Total tons**
DNR Timber Sales Webb, Palachucola WMA, Yawkey Wildlife Center, Cliff Pitts WMA	2,387	142,717
PRT Timber Management Assistance	**Acres**	
Aiken State Park	450	
Hampton Plantation State Park	100	
Other State Lands Timber Management Assistance	**Acres**	
Abbeville County	100	
Richland County	100	

Other Activities
In addition, the five state forests (Manchester, Sand Hills, Wee Tee, Harbison, and Poe Creek) maintained dual certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the American Forest Foundation (AFF) standards of sustainability.

The State Lands Coordinator:

- Serves as primary contact and coordinator for all state forest certification activities
- Adheres to applicable reporting and data management requirements
- Serves as the primary contact and coordinator for State Forest harvest scheduling, modeling, mapping, and inventory collection
- Serves as lead instructor for Teachers Tour maintaining adjunct professor status with SACS accredited college
- Attends meetings with the National Enduro planning committee for Manchester State Forest
- Serves on the State Trails Committee
- Serves on the SFI State Implementation Committee (S.I.C.)
- Facilitates timber marking with regions where possible

COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC INFORMATION

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

The Division of Communication and Public Information [formerly known as Information & Education (I&E)] plans and implements communication strategies and long-range public information, marketing, and educational programs for the South Carolina Forestry Commission. These activities are designed to enhance the agency's and forestry's image while promoting the agency's mission and goals. I&E staff coordinate media interest in and public relations for the agency; prepare appropriate responses to media requests; coordinate FOIA requests/responses; prepare news releases, articles, scripts, speeches, letters and reports; support agency departments, programs and personnel with forestry-related promotional items and information; and design original publications, fact sheets and other collateral material for agency personnel, programs and departments

Communication & Public Information Highlights

- The Department of Communication and Public Information created its own YouTube channel to post videos by and about the agency, including any media coverage, advertisements in which the Forestry Commission is featured and training guides.
- The ForestLife.org domain name was acquired for use in future programs/promotional campaigns.
- Upgraded select Wood Magic collateral materials, including the Wood Magic Report, which is available for viewing/downloading on agency website.
- Sent promotional media kits (containing forest products and their derivatives) to Midlands-area print and broadcast media to entice them to cover the Wood Magic Forest Fair at Harbison State Forest.
- Designed and produced the SC Project Learning Tree annual report for distribution among steering committee members.
- Upgraded select South Carolina Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Tour materials, including educational handouts, forestry fact sheets and certificates.
- Developed forestry-related messaging for a forestry exhibit being planned at Bee City tourist attraction in Cottageville.
- Developed two different full-page ads about Taylor Nursery for publication in SCFA's bi-monthly journal.
- Produced several new agency publications, fact sheets and collateral materials:
  - Wildfire Facts, Education programs, Act 271, Agency By The Numbers, SC Forests By The Numbers, Cost-share, Stewardship, Economic impact, Forestry Facts, Getting The Most For Your Timber, Ice Storm Damage Report, USFS Forest Action Plan, Forest Product Exports Reports and Newsletters, BMP Monitoring Report, Seedling Price Guide, Agency Services, Careers
- Developed e-mail marketing campaign in partnership with Resource Development Division to communicate with forest industry and government leaders about the forest resource and forest product exports/marketing information. This effort involved producing web and print versions of a new resource development periodical and tracking click and open rates of recipients.
- Developed e-mail marketing campaign to promote the 20x15 Summit in August. This effort involved setting up an online registration page, messaging to the invitees, tracking sign-ups and performing follow-up communications.
- Generated widespread positive press coverage of forestry's economic impact in SC by promoting the SCFC/SCFA 20x15 Summit. This coverage included full-length video stories by several TV stations around the state, AP wire pickup coverage in almost every newspaper in SC, in dozens of other news outlets regionally and nationally, and through all local, regional and national forestry partners' websites, newsletters and other communication vehicles.
- Designed the first of several standardized PowerPoint templates for which agency personnel will be encouraged to use for their presentations in an effort to promote consistent branding.
- Wrote and distributed 23 press releases on a wide range of topics, including Red Flag Fire Alerts, Wood Magic Forest Fair, State Forests Checkoff Fund, BMP compliance, Firewise program, agency personnel (accomplishments and awards), payments to county school systems, law enforcement arrests, prescribed burning, Governor's proclamations, seedling sales and promotion, stewardship recognition, training exercises, VFA grants and Tree Farm activity.
- Worked with Forest Protection Division to design web/mobile ads and graphics for SGSF's "VisitMyForest.org" initiative.
- Established and met a new target of one social media message/post daily on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, promoting agency, forestry and industry news, events and people.
- Conducted a website feedback survey for all employees.
- Utilized the SCFC website to address the agency's Red Flag Fire Alert issued in February, creating a section to provide more information about the alert, the precautions to take and relevant contacts for making notification.

- Worked with SCFC Protection Chief and SC Prescribed Fire Council to promote March as Prescribed Fire Awareness Month by distributing a press release to media and coordinating media visits to prescribed fire sites in their areas.
- Created first aid kits, magnetic clips, ponchos, cutlery sets for "Don't Move Firewood" campaign.
- Developed new exhibit materials and messages for agency's display to be used at conferences, trade shows, etc., designed new agency pocket folders and notecard/envelope combinations, and a series of promotional pop-up banners highlighting several different divisions of the agency, including Urban & Community Forestry, Firewise, Careers and General Services.

EDUCATION

Environmental Education Coordinator Highlights

- The I&E staff added a full-time Environmental Education Coordinator Assistant position in 2015.
- Facilitated 17 Project Learning Tree workshops or presentations
- Coordinated 3 Wood Magic Forest Fair events
- Conducted 11 education programs, reaching over 480 people (not including the Wood Magic Forest Fair events).
- Co-Coordinated and taught South Carolina Sustainable Forestry Teachers Tour for educators
- Created and held a forestry skills competition for the SC FFA program

Project Learning Tree

In FY 2014, 17 workshops reached 279 educators. A total of 314 copies of the PLT modules were distributed at these workshops.

FY 2014 PLT Workshops

Type of Workshop	Number of Workshops	Percent of Workshops	Number of Participants	Percent of Participants
Early Childhood	1	6%	18	6%
PreK-8	3	18%	62	22%
Secondary	3	18%	46	17%
Pre-service EC	1	6%	6	2%
Pre-service PreK-8	9	52%	147	53%
TOTAL	17	N/A	279	N/A

Teacher's Tour

The 2014 South Carolina Teacher's Tour was held for 7 days in June with 35 participants. Many more applications were received than the Tour could accommodate. SCFC employees helped make the tour possible by being speakers, handling logistics, and conducting demonstrations.

Wood Magic Forest Fair

The 2014 Wood Magic Forest Fair was held at three locations: Piedmont Forestry Center in Tamassee, Harbison State Forest in Columbia and Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown. More than 1,700 students, teachers and chaperones attended the events. Thirty-seven SCFC employees volunteered at the three events.

FY 2014 Wood Magic School Participation

Location	#Application Received	#Classes Applied	#Classes Attended	#Children Attended	#Teachers & Other Adults	Total # Participants
Piedmont	7	27	20	482	51	533
Harbison	28	73	34	602	113	715
Hobcaw	12	32	26	413	75	488
TOTAL	47	132	80	1,497	239	1,736

Educational Activities at Harbison State Forest

	Date	School/Organization	Grade Level/Age	# of Children	# of Adults
1	9/15/2014	Forestry Queens	3 to 18	10	12
2	10/22/2014	Midlands Tech	college		20
3	10/23/2014	Midlands Tech	college		18
4	10/29/2014	Midlands Tech	college		15
5	11/7/2014	Batesburg-Leesville HS	high school	15	2
6	3/18/2015	Midlands Tech	college		15
7	3/19/2015	Midlands Tech	college		16
8	3/25/2015	Midlands Tech	college		14
		TOTALS		**25**	**112**

Total Participating (Adults +children) = 137

Educational Activities Outside of Harbison State Forest

	Date	School/Organization	Grade Level/Age	# of Children	# of Adults
1	11/4/2014	Batesburg-Leesville HS	high school	15	1
2	11/10/2014	St. Joseph Catholic	3	40	2
3	2/13/2015	Central Carolina Tech	college		13
4	5/15/2015	Richland Co Recycles Day	4th and 5th	250	25
		TOTALS		**305**	**41**

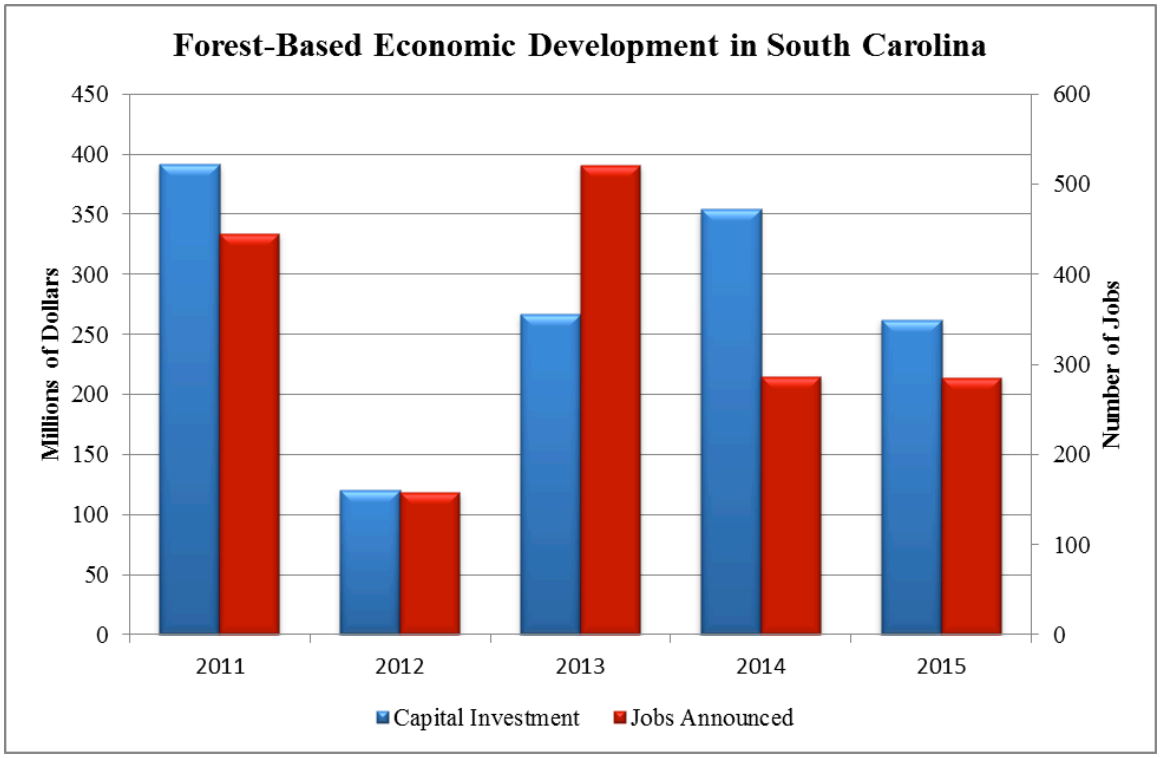
Total Participating (Adults +children) = 346

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Interest in forestry-related economic development was steady throughout the year and the announced capital investment for FY '15 was slightly lower than the average for the past four years. A total of 15 different forestry-related projects were active during FY '15. Nine of the 15 projects were biomass energy related, either involving the production and export of wood pellets or the domestic production of steam or electricity from biomass. The remaining projects involved the manufacture of traditional products such as MDF, sanitary tissue products, soil conditioners and posts.

Seven forestry projects were announced during FY '15. Portucel, a European pulp and paper company, held the groundbreaking for Colombo Energy in Greenwood County. Colombo Energy will cost $110 million to construct and bring 70 full-time jobs to the area. Orchids Paper Products announced their plans to establish an operation in Barnwell County manufacturing bulk consumer tissue products. The plant will cost $110 million to construct and bring 134 jobs to the area. Other announcements included the expansion of MDF production by Arauco in Marlboro County and upgrades to multiple facilities by Cox Industries.



During FY 2015, the SCFC Resource Development Division represented the agency and the forestry community through 38 statewide and regional economic development organizations. A team of Forestry Commission and South Carolina economic development partners attended the International Woodworking Fair 2014 in Atlanta and the LIGNA 2015 show in Hannover, Germany. We participated with Clemson's new Wood Utilization + Design (WU+D) Institute through start-up meetings. We joined SOFAC at NC State through the SGSF's and attended their annual meeting. Other meetings attended included the Economic Development Review 2015 in Hilton Head and the Southern Forest Economic Contribution Summit in Little Rock, Arkansas. During FY 2015, 167 individual business assists were made to address single-issue requests.

A Forest Products Marketing Specialist was hired in Spring, 2015. We visited neighboring states to review their marketing programs and began putting together the key elements of a marketing program here in South Carolina. A forest products marketing newsletter was initiated to improve communication with our primary and secondary industries. An export fact sheet and related PowerPoint presentation were updated. We attended the Mid-Atlantic Wood Export Coalition meeting in Norfolk, Virginia in Fall 2014. The next export conference will be held in South Carolina in 2016.

The Timber Products Output Survey for 2013 was completed by December 2014. Primary and secondary mill directories were updated throughout the year. We began the process of updating our future wood supply predictions through the Subregional Timber Supply Model (SRTS) to account for the 2014 ice storm damage. We also began the process of updating the economic impact data for forestry in South Carolina.

Forestry's 20/15 Initiative continued making progress toward meeting program goals during FY '15. Major accomplishments included: (1) the establishment of a marketing program for forest products, (2) attending two forest industry trade shows with economic development partners, (3) beginning the process of updating key economic and wood supply data for forest products, and (4) providing leadership for a national forest markets committee.

FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is a cooperative program with the US Forest Service – Southern Research Station (SRS) to collect forest inventory and forest health monitoring data from a network of permanent sample plots. Funding for the program is provided through a 75% federal grant and a 25% state match of the federal grant funds. There are 3,452 total forest inventory plots located in South Carolina. Plots are sampled in 20% increments of the total, referred to as panels. Plots are measured for growth projections, mortality and harvest assessments, and land-use classification. In addition, FIA provides information about South Carolina's forest resources including forest acreage, timber quality, timber volume, timber growth, forage, water, and recreation. This network of plot data collection is referred to as the Phase 2 portion of FIA field data collection. The information provided by FIA Phase 2 allows the evaluation of both quantity and quality of these important resources. The US Forest Service furnishes data analysis and reporting for this program.

Each year, during the summer growing season, a subset of the standard FIA plot grid is selected to collect forest health attributes. This part of the program is referred to as Phase 2+. Phase 2+ plots were set at one-sixteenth intensity for the summer of 2014 and at one-eighth intensity for the summer of 2015 of the standard FIA plot grid. Phase 2+ plots include additional measurements that are collected to provide data on forest vegetative structure, down woody material, and tree crowns.

Currently, three full-time inventory crews, consisting of two employees each, are stationed throughout the state with field offices in Newberry, Florence, and Walterboro. The program coordinator is stationed in Columbia. All crewmembers are required to exceed a minimal accuracy average of 87% for all inventory plots. US Forest Service personnel conduct quality assurance and quality control checks to insure the accuracy of the data collected by Forestry Commission field crews. During FY 2014-2015, the average accuracy for all crewmembers was 92.67% with each crewmember exceeding the 87% yearly average required by SRS.

During fiscal year 2014-2015, field crews completed one panel of plots that began in fiscal year 2013-2014 and began the next subsequent panel. For the fiscal year, a total of 669 Phase 2 sample plots were completed by Forestry Commission crews with 39 Phase 2+ plots being a subset of these plots. SRS completed 85 plots, consisting of 55 nonforest plots and 30 plots classified as census water, identified in the office and not sent to the SCFC field crews. The FIA program completed data collection on the third panel in the Cycle 11 inventory and has completed 55% of the fourth panel of the Cycle 11 inventory of data collection. The FIA program completed 7 product utilization studies on active logging operations across the state to develop factors for logging residues, logging damage, and utilization of the unmerchantable portion of harvested trees. In addition to the standard FIA plot grid, 39 FIA plots were installed on the Sumter and Francis Marion National Forests as intensification plots.

The Forestry Commission FIA program is 71% complete with the 11th inventory of the state through fiscal year 2015. Of the 13 southern states, South Carolina was the first state to complete the 8th inventory (2001), the 9th inventory (2006), and the 10th inventory (2011). Subsequently, South Carolina is the first state in the nation to initiate the 11th inventory. However, one other state has begun the 11th inventory as well. The SCFC FIA program is on schedule to complete the 11th inventory measurements in five years, with December 2016 as a target date for completion. Data for the 10th inventory are available online and the published report is expected to be released by SRS in 2015.

NURSERY AND TREE IMPROVEMENT

The South Carolina Forestry Commission operates two Nursery and Tree Improvement (N&TI) facilities: Taylor Nursery in Edgefield County and Niederhof Forestry Center in Jasper County. The goal of the N&TI Program is to provide landowners with the highest-quality seed and seedlings available for timber production, wildlife habitat improvement, Christmas tree production, and restoration of valuable forested ecosystems.

TAYLOR NURSERY

Taylor Nursery, located one mile east of Trenton, SC in Edgefield County, produces bare-root and containerized seedlings for South Carolina landowners. Originally named Ridge Nursery when built in 1958, the facility was renamed Taylor Nursery in 1981 when the main office complex was rebuilt following a fire. The new name was in honor of A. Brandon Taylor Jr., an Upstate industrial leader in wood treatment, who served as a Commissioner from 1961-1982 and Commission Chairman from 1975-1981. The nursery property, including office complex, roads, & irrigation pond, consists of 345 acres. 106 acres are under irrigation and used for seedling production.

The SCFC conducts a nursery survey annually to determine the number of seedlings planted in South Carolina. During FY 2014-2015, 64,286,837 pines and 295,650 hardwood and other seedlings were planted in South Carolina for a total of 64,582,487 seedlings from all nursery sources. This number is 17.5% higher than the 54.97 million seedlings reported planted in FY 2013-2014. However, the number of seedlings planted in South Carolina remains about 60% the number of seedlings planted in FY 1999-2000 due to fewer acres of final harvest, lower timber stumpage prices and a slowdown in government cost-share funding.

Taylor Nursery distributed 1,508,945 pines and 80,751 hardwood and other seedlings in FY 2014-2015 for a total of 1,589,696 seedlings. Of this total, 116,138 seedlings were sold out of state. The total amount distributed represents 72% of the total number of bareroot and containerized seedlings grown at Taylor Nursery. The SCFC sold 2.3% of the seedlings distributed in South Carolina this year from all public and private sources. Taylor Nursery is one of the primary producers of hardwood and longleaf pine seedlings in the state. The nursery has the capacity to grow over 2 million containerized longleaf seedlings, depending on germination rates.

In past years, the SCFC has surveyed at least a 10% sample of seedling customers to determine general satisfaction with our seedlings and to target areas for improvement. This year the survey was e-mailed to all customers who supplied us with an e-mail address. Of the 363 surveys e-mailed out, 179 (49%) customers responded. The 2015 survey indicated that 91% of our customers were satisfied with our seedling quality and service. Of the customers who had a problem with their seedling order, 85% of the customers were satisfied with our response. Of the customer comments on returned survey forms, 75% of the comments were very complimentary of the nursery program.

Taylor Nursery keeps up-to-date with technology through association with the Auburn University Forest Nursery Management Cooperative, the Southern Forest Nursery Association and the Longleaf Alliance. In order to help restore the native ground cover plants of the longleaf pine ecosystem, a seed production area was established at the nursery in cooperation with the US Forest Service. As the plants become established the seed will be harvested and grown as container plugs or sold to interested land owners. Seedlings planted include Coreopsis, Helianthus, and Liatris.

NIEDERHOF FORESTRY CENTER

Niederhof Forestry Center (NFC) is located on a 1,593-acre tract of land that the SCFC purchased on December 1, 1983. Originally part of the Hoover Plantation, a 3,950-acre plantation north of Tillman, SC, Niederhof was acquired to establish second-generation seed orchards and to provide areas for future advanced-generation orchards. NFC was located in an area of the state that is well known for good seed production and minimal frost and ice damage. The facility was named for Cam Niederhof, a Westvaco executive, who served as a SCFC Commissioner for 24 years.

NFC is staffed by a full-time Seed Orchard Manager with assistance as needed by Coastal Region staff. A Warden Technician I is assigned to NFC as part of his work duties when scheduled on-call on normal workdays. Additional personnel from the Edisto Unit assist as needed with seed orchard establishment and management. NFC attempts to operate solely based upon revenues generated through cone/seed sales and funding from research agreements.

Second-generation loblolly pine orchards were established from 1985-1989, totaling 322 acres; 30 acres of 1.5-generation longleaf pine were established from 1988-1992. NFC's loblolly orchards came into production in 1993 with some 4,542 bushels collected from both Coastal and Piedmont province orchards and the longleaf orchard has been in production since 2008. To date, some 64,787+ bushels have been collected. In 2004, as a result of budget cuts, a strategic change in goals for NFC resulted in the reduction of 2nd-generation orchards to 115.2 acres. It is worthy to note that during the years 1993-2005, NFC orchards consistently produced 25% of all second generation seed within the cooperative.

Third-cycle orchard establishment occurred between 2005-2011. These new orchards represent the culmination of over 40 years' breeding and testing work by our agency as part of the NCSU Cooperative Tree Improvement Program (NCSUCTIP) and will provide landowners in South Carolina with very high-quality genetically-improved seedlings that are specifically

adapted to our state. There are 17.6 acres of coastal 3rd cycle loblolly pine orchard and 12.4 acres of piedmont 3rd cycle loblolly pine orchard.

Cone collection for 2014 yielded 322 bushels 2nd-generation loblolly pine, 38 bushels 3rd -cycle loblolly pine, and 1,340 bushels 1.5 generation longleaf pine. No cones were collected from the Commission's Virginia pine orchard at Piedmont Forestry Center. Seed processing generated 297.5 pounds 2nd-generation loblolly seed, 36.9 pounds of 3rd-cycle loblolly seed, and 939.05 pounds of longleaf seed.

NFC's annual sale of seed and pine cones generated $37,197.50 in revenue: to date, Niederhof's 2nd-generation orchards have created additional revenue in the amount of $1,902,173.10 from cone and seed sales. The value of seed and pine cones sales is in addition to the value of seed delivered to Taylor Nursery for internal seedling production.

NFC staff established demonstration blocks consisting of seedlings produced from controlled crosses among the top three 3rd-cycle piedmont loblolly pine selections and crosses between the Commission's top 2nd generation coastal loblolly pine selection mated to these three piedmont selections. Demonstration blocks were established at Taylor Nursery and Niederhof Forestry Center in the Spring of 2015, with a common checklot comprised of 1st generation piedmont loblolly seed orchard mix. Taylor Nursery will be growing additional quantities of these crosses in 2015, along with controlled cross seedlots from our 3rd-cycle coastal loblolly pine orchard. These crosses represent the maximum genetic gain available, at present, from our 3rd-cycle loblolly pine seed orchards.

A block of elite 3rd-cycle piedmont loblolly pine selections was established in the spring of 2014. This orchard block is comprised of the top three selections plus a superior 3rd-cycle coastal loblolly selection for pollination. The elite block is established on a 45' x 30' spacing, to minimize self-pollination and to provide the flexibility of producing superior wind-pollinated seed, while lending itself to the employment of controlled mass pollination, if so desired. Due to poor outplanting, survival realized from drought conditions experienced in 2014, seedlings from our top 2nd generation coastal loblolly selection were planted over the winter to provide stock for grafting in 2016.

Tree Seedlings Planted by Landowner Classification 2014-2015

Land Ownership	Pines Planted	Hardwoods & Others Planted	Total Number of Trees Planted	Percent of Total
Non-Industrial Private Landowners	46,581,681	194,465	46,776,146	72.4%
Forest Industry	10,717,834	3,200	10,721,034	16.6%
Corporate	6,324,011	13,070	6,337,081	9.8%
Government	663,311	84,915	748,226	1.2%
Total	**64,286,837**	**295,650**	**64,582,487**	

Source of Seedlings Distributed in South Carolina

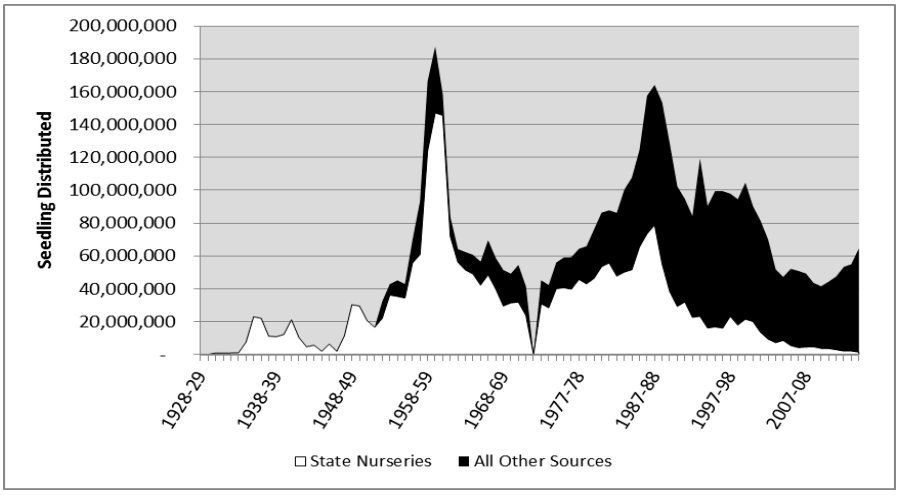
Nurseries in South Carolina	Pines Distributed	Hardwoods & Others Distributed	Total Number of Trees Distributed	Percent of Grand Total
ArborGen (Bleinheim, SC)	31,393,763	151,925	31,545,688	48.8%
Weyerhaeuser	19,314,869	1,500	19,316,369	29.9%
South Carolina Forestry Commission	1,421,573	51,985	1,473,558	2.3%
Total	**52,130,205**	**205,410**	**52,335,615**	81.0%
Nurseries Outside of South Carolina				
Plum Creek	8,900,000	0	8,900,000	13.8%
Bodenhamer Farms & Nursery	1,234,335	0	1,234,335	1.9%
International Forest Company	661,497	0	661,497	1.0%
Georgia Forestry Commission	634,000	15,440	649,440	1.0%
K&L Forest Nursery	425,000	0	425,000	0.7%
North Carolina Forest Service	301,800	4,800	306,600	0.5%
Florida Forest Service	0	70,000	70,000	0.1%
Total	**12,156,632**	**90,240**	**12,246,872**	19.0%
Grand Total	**64,286,837**	**295,650**	**64,582,487**	100%

State Nursery Seedling Production & Sales for FY 2014-2015

Species	Seedlings Produced	Seedlings Sold	% Sold
Ash, Green	220	220	100%
Baldcypress	12,590	12,590	100%
Carolina Sapphire CTR	486	486	100%
Cedar, Eastern Red	6,290	6,290	100%
Clemson Greenspire CTR	486	486	100%
Crabapple, Southern	1,000	1,000	100%
Dogwood	4,020	4,020	100%
Leyland Cypress CTR	14,868	14,454	97%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal 3rd gen	214,110	214,110	100%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal 3rd gen CTR	2,000	2,000	100%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Best Family	174,770	174,770	100%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont 3rd gen.	230,820	230,820	100%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont 3rd gen. CTR	6,750	6,750	100%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Best Family	79,135	79,135	100%
Longleaf Pine	178,900	178,900	100%
Longleaf Pine Improved CTR	1,220,652	607,750	50%
Oak, Cherrybark	610	610	100%
Oak, Gobbler	6,140	6,140	100%
Oak, Live	3,620	3,620	100%
Oak, Northern Red	2,970	2,970	100%
Oak, Sawtooth	6,295	6,295	100%
Oak, Swamp Chestnut	4,470	4,470	100%
Oak, White	1,320	1,320	100%
Oak, Willow	5,040	5,040	100%
Persimmon	2,910	2,910	100%
Plum, Chickasaw	1,200	1,200	100%
Shortleaf Pine	710	710	100%
Sycamore	1,190	1,190	100%
Virginia Pine Christmas Tree Stock	4,880	4,880	100%
White Pine	20,000	9,120	46%
Wire Grass CTR	2,500	2,500	100%
Yellow Poplar	2,940	2,940	100%
	2,213,892	**1,589,696**	**72%**

Seedling Distribution 1928-2015

Year	Total State Nurseries	Total All Sources	Year	Total State Nurseries	Total All Sources
1928-29	142,000	142,000	1972-73	30,978,000	45,239,000
1929-30	148,000	148,000	1973-74	28,443,000	42,306,000
1030-31	986,000	986,000	1974-75	40,082,000	55,997,000
1931-32	976,000	976,000	1975-76	40,664,000	59,063,000
1932-33	996,000	996,000	1976-77	39,795,000	59,238,000
1933-34	1,031,000	1,031,000	1977-78	45,735,000	64,380,000
1934-35	7,529,000	7,529,000	1978-79	43,010,000	65,937,000
1935-36	23,000,000	23,000,000	1979-80	46,375,000	76,207,000
1936-37	22,000,000	22,000,000	1980-81	53,513,000	86,420,000
1937-38	11,192,000	11,192,000	1981-82	55,728,000	87,793,000
1938-39	10,854,000	10,854,000	1982-83	47,799,000	86,265,000
1939-40	12,244,000	12,244,000	1983-84	50,170,000	100,394,000
1940-41	21,165,000	21,165,000	1984-85	51,636,000	107,718,000
1941-42	10,275,000	10,275,000	1985-86	65,465,000	124,381,000
1942-43	4,742,000	4,742,000	1986-87	73,555,000	157,523,000
1943-44	5,663,000	5,663,000	1987-88	78,788,000	164,095,000
1944-45	1,963,000	1,963,000	1988-89	55,052,000	153,450,000
1945-46	6,402,000	6,402,000	1989-90	38,356,000	128,475,000
1946-47	1,963,000	1,963,000	1990-91	29,297,000	102,384,000
1947-48	11,357,000	11,357,000	1991-92	31,984,000	94,710,000
1948-49	30,389,000	30,339,000	1992-93	22,665,000	84,287,000
1949-50	29,502,000	29,502,000	1993-94	23,286,000	119,311,000
1950-51	20,615,000	20,615,000	1994-95	16,154,000	90,336,000
1951-52	16,619,000	16,619,000	1995-96	16,841,000	99,549,000
1952-53	22,036,000	32,246,000	1996-97	16,058,000	99,439,000
1953-54	36,210,000	42,852,000	1997-98	23,278,000	97,963,000
1954-55	35,373,000	45,182,000	1998-99	17,955,000	94,539,000
1955-56	34,414,000	42,932,000	1999-00	21,524,000	104,594,000
1956-57	55,754,000	69,659,000	2000-01	20,095,000	90,346,000
1957-58	60,846,000	93,369,000	2001-02	13,500,000	81,431,000
1958-59	123,985,000	166,351,000	2002-03	9,376,000	69,989,000
1959-60	147,146,000	187,516,000	2003-04	7,202,000	51,823,000
1060-61	145,609,000	158,331,000	2004-05	8,563,000	47,243,000
1961-62	71,892,000	83,844,000	2005-06	5,437,000	52,165,000
1962-63	56,191,000	64,202,000	2006-07	4,206,000	50,900,000
1963-64	51,446,000	62,424,000	2007-08	4,539,842	49,320,517
1964-65	49,010,000	60,683,000	2008-09	4,739,783	43,692,314
1965-66	42,311,000	56,529,000	2009-10	3,762,989	41,549,345
1966-67	48,575,000	69,598,000	2010-11	3,629,610	44,374,915
1967-68	39,970,000	58,812,000	2011-12	2,922,880	47,468,239
1968-69	29,529,000	51,453,000	2012-13	2,091,256	53,342,588
1969-70	31,415,000	49,203,000	2013-14	2,125,576	54,971,881
1970-71	31,940,000	54,541,000	2014-15	1,473,558	64,582,487
1971-72	23,678,000	41,357,000			



SCFC Active Seed Orchards

Orchard Type	Years Established	Acres
Creech Seed Orchard/Manchester State Forest		
Genetic Diversity Archives (Clone Banks)	1977-1983	25
Coastal Loblolly Pine 1.0 Rust Resistant	1971	5
Longleaf Pine 1.0	1971	12
Virginia Pine 1.0 (Creech)	1980	1
Virginia Pine 1.0 (Manchester)	1986	2
Sawtooth Oak 1.0 Seedling	1990	2
Total		**47**
Niederhof Seed Orchard		
Genetic Archives, 3rd Cycle	2008-2009	4.2
Coastal Loblolly Pine 2.0	1985-1988	68.3
Piedmont Loblolly Pine 2.0	1985-1988	63.1
Longleaf Pine 1.5	1988-1990	30
Longleaf Pine 1.5 Expansion	2010-2011	1.6
Loblolly Pine Breeding Orchard 3.0	1997-2003	7.2
Longleaf Pine Seedling Seed Orchard	1998	8
Coastal Loblolly Pine 3.0	2005-2011	17.6
Piedmont Loblolly Pine 3.0	2005-2011	12.4
Total		**212.4**
Coastal Seed Orchard		
Sycamore 2.0	1992-1995	4
Sweetgum 2.0	1992-1995	6
Willow Oak Seedling Seed Orchard	1992-1995	1
Swamp Chestnut Oak Seedling Seed Orchard	1992-1995	1
Green Ash Seedling Seed Orchard	1992-1995	3
Red Maple Seedling Seed Orchard	1992-1995	1
Southern Red Oak Seedling Seed Orchard	1992-1995	2
White Oak Seedling Seed Orchard	1992-1995	2
Total		**20**
Piedmont Seed Orchard		
White Pine 1.5	1991-1993	4
Virginia Pine 1.0	1993	3
Northern Red Oak Seedling Seed Orchard	1993-1995	2
Total		**17**
Grand Total		**296.4**

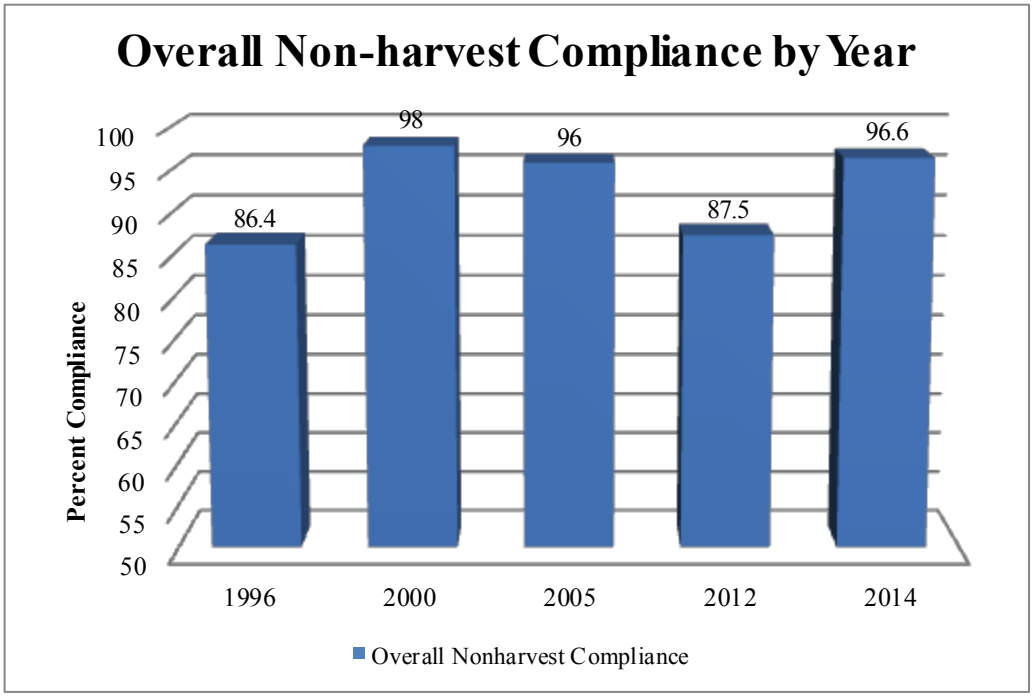
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The Environmental Management Section is responsible for the development and implementation of South Carolina Forestry Commission programs that are related to the environmental protection of forest and associated natural resources. Issues that are addressed include the protection of water quality, site productivity, endangered species, and unique ecosystems.

BMP Compliance and Implementation Monitoring
BMP monitoring in South Carolina is conducted in accordance with the Southern Group of State Foresters Water Resource Committee's *Silviculture Best Management Practices Implementation Monitoring – A Framework for State Forestry Agencies* published in 1997 and revised in 2002. This ensures consistency among the thirteen states in the southeastern United States.

The latest monitoring survey was conducted in 2012 and showed a compliance rate of 93.4% with an implementation rate of applicable BMPs of 92.1% for harvesting. This survey was designed for each site surveyed to be visited again at one year post-harvest and two years post-harvest to study BMP effectiveness and BMP implementation during any non-harvest activities that may have occurred since the initial visit.

The last follow-up visits were completed during summer and fall of 2014 and the report published in February of 2015. Non-harvest BMP compliance was 96.6% with an implementation rate of 94.35% of applicable BMPs on 89 sites. Three sites were found to be out of compliance with applicable BMPs.



BMP Education/Training Program
BMP training and education are essential to the success of the Forestry Commission's non-regulatory BMP program. During this fiscal year, 26 training programs were held across the state reaching 732 loggers, landowners, contractors, and forest resource professionals. Included in these meetings were fourteen workshops for the Timber Operations Professional (TOP) logger training and education program.

Courtesy Exam Program
The S.C. Forestry Commission's BMP Foresters, located in each of the three operating regions of South Carolina, offer courtesy BMP exams to landowners, foresters, and timber buyers. The BMP Forester makes site-specific BMP recommendations to follow while conducting forestry activities. During this fiscal year, the BMP Foresters provided assistance during 1,338 visits to 613sites and completed 339 courtesy exams. BMP Foresters also conducted 40.4 hours of aerial observation for active forestry operations and responded to 49 complaints.

Environmental Issues and Ecosystem Services

The Environmental Management Section monitored issues related to endangered species, wetlands, ecosystem services, EPA's proposed waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule, and biomass harvesting. Comments stating the agency's position on the EPA's WOTUS rule were submitted during the comment period in November 2014.

BMP Foresters are available to provide information and assistance to SCFC personnel, forestry professionals, and landowners. This assistance may include site visits, cooperation with other agencies, and assistance on state lands. BMP Foresters also provide forestry expertise to organizations and agencies addressing policy and regulation related to these issues.

Cooperation with Other Agencies

Programs related to environmental protection of forest resources require close cooperation with other agencies. The S.C. Forestry Commission has a Memorandum of Understanding with S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) addressing cooperation on water quality issues. The Environmental Management Section serves as technical authority on silvicultural activities, and cooperates with DHEC on evaluation and remediation of possible impacts. In March 2010 SCFC entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the US Army Corps of Engineers to better serve forest landowners and jointly address silvicultural issues in jurisdictional wetlands. BMP Foresters often work with DHEC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when those agencies have regulatory authority over issues which may affect forestry operations, such as wetlands and navigable waterways. BMP Foresters also provide assistance with planning and implementation of Best Management Practices on public lands managed by other agencies.

TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

This Division comprises of the Information Technology Section, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section, Communications Section, and Dispatch Operations Section.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Section is responsible directly and indirectly for the maintenance, support, and security of the agency's local and wide area networks; eight (8) Windows servers; network storage devices; computers and laptops in use by over 190 employees; software applications; and implementation of various initiatives to support agency operations and programs.

Major accomplishments this fiscal year was the installation of optical fiber connections between the Headquarters building, the shop complex, and Harbison Environmental Center. This high speed connection allowed for the establishment of an off-site, hard disk, backup solution for disaster recovery.

The agency completed a major hardware "refresh" during the last two fiscal years as it migrated from end-of-support operating systems and hardware. The agency did purchased 4 desktops and 9 laptops in FY 2015 to support newly filled positions or to refresh older equipment.

In response to the hacking of the Department of Revenue computer system, thirteen (13) information security policies have been issued that all state agencies are required by Budget Proviso 101.32 to implement by July 1, 2016. Budget Proviso 117.132 required the agency to complete an information and security technology plan to the Division of State Technology by October 15, 2014. An additional survey on the agency's progress in implementing security policies and initiatives was required to be completed by November 14, 2014. A third survey on Disaster Recovery as required under Budget Proviso 117.131 was also completed by the Technology Division in December, 2014.

Each employee assigned or having access to an agency computer was tasked to complete a Privacy Impact Assessment by October 31, 2014 to help identify those individuals that handle, store or have access to sensitive or personally identifiable information (PII). All computers were to be scanned for PII data and if there was a business need to have that data. The data was then to be removed or inventoried and moved to a more secure location.

GIS

With assistant from the GIS Coordinating Council, the agency is receiving updated parcel and ownership data from a majority of counties in the state. The GIS Section merged individual county data into Unit administrative area layers in the agency's GIS Server and in formats to be utilized in other GIS applications. This information will save the agency time and money by allowing personnel to identify property ownership and boundary lines without having to visit individual county tax offices.

Leaf-off, color infrared aerial photography was acquired during the winter of 2015 for 6 counties in South Carolina. Imagery for Oconee and Fairfield counties were received in June, 2015 and delivery of imagery for Chesterfield, Dillon, Marion and Marlboro is expected in July, 2015.

A basic, one day, training course on ArcGIS 10.1 was developed for agency foresters on how to put together a map. A total of 7 classes were held around the state. Work is started on a course to cover more advance topics for next fiscal year.

A graduate level GIS internship program with the University of South Carolina was established in 2006. This program provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to state government activities and utilize GIS technology in a real world setting. During FY15, the intern position was entering stewardship plan data for the agency's geodatabase; updating layers for the agency's computer aided dispatch system; and GIS support of various forest and fire management programs. The intern also assisting in the development of training material associated with upgrading users to ESRI ArcGIS 10.1.

COMMUNICATIONS

The agency maintains approximately 555 mobile radios, 7 base stations, 29 repeaters, and 300 portable radios. The Communications Section also supports the 19 communications consoles and related systems in the 3 regional dispatch center and at Columbia Headquarters.

The input frequency for the Corbin Mountain Repeater was changed to eliminate interference issues from a new transmitter in Georgia. This was the "least expensive" option but required reprograming all the agency's radios to the new frequency. A

heavier duty UPS/power conditioner was also installed at Corbin Mountain and is being considered at other more remote repeater sites that experience a higher number of power outages which tend to "lock up" a repeater.

Batteries for the Kenwood portable radios were replaced this year. All "old" batteries before they were disposed of were tested to see if they could be reconditioned and used as spares.

A video on the operation and troubleshooting of the agency's mobile radios was produced and posted on the agency's YouTube channel. DVDs and a "cheat sheet" on programming the radio scan list were made available for field use during monthly meetings and other training sessions.

The agency maintains 46 Palmetto 800Mhz radios for Law Enforcement Officers; Hurricane Evacuation; and Incident Management Teams for better interoperability with other Federal, State, and local agencies. One mobile radio is being used as a base station that is incorporated with the agency's dispatch centers. Two 800Mhz radios are installed in agency aircraft that are utilized to monitor Hurricane Evacuation routes along the coast.

DISPATCH OPERATIONS

The Forestry Commission operates three (3) dispatch centers that handle 30-40,000 phone calls annually for burn notifications and reporting of wildfires. The agency's dispatch operations utilizes commercial, "off-the-shelf" dispatching software from Logistic Systems, Inc. This system incorporates many of the features and functionality of 9-1-1 dispatch systems. This system determines the closest available resource based on road mileage and travel speeds; automates the notification of personnel of wildfires; alerts dispatchers when certain dispatching timeframes are exceeded; and automates the compliance issues with smoke management regulations on forestry, wildlife and agricultural burn notifications.

As a performance measure in the Forestry Commission's Accountability Report, the average time from receiving the wildfire call and assigning a firefighter (i.e. Dispatching) has been cut almost in half compared to the old software average -- prior to FY 2006 (see table below). The processing of smoke management notifications has also decreased by 40% compared to the FY 2005 average. These time savings can be attributed to the new dispatch software's automation of dispatching and compliance with smoke management guidelines.

SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF DISPATCH TIMES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 through 2015

TIMES	Fiscal Year Average Dispatching Times (Minutes)											
	2004	2005	2006 *	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Dispatching	5.10	6.33	4.18	3.56	3.53	3.22	3.13	3.39	3.28	3.57	3.38	3.23

*New software implemented in FY 2006

SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF SMOKE MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATIONS PROCESSING TIMES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 through 2015

TIMES	Fiscal Year Average Notification Processing Times (Minutes)											
	2004	2005	2006 *	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Processing Time	4.16	4.61	3.49	2.81	3.00	3.13	3.21	2.97	2.94	2.99	2.70	2.98

*New software implemented in FY 2006

The computer aided dispatch system (CADS) also allows for real-time access to wildfire, prescribed fires, and resource activity by Fire Managers and Fire Information Officers for command and control functions and media requests. Current smoke management burn notifications and wildfires are available to the public on the agency's website in a web mapping application. This information is updated every 10 minutes.

The agency was asked to participated in a "CAD Carnival" that provided US Forest Service personnel tasked with developing an RFP for a National CAD system a virtual tour of systems used by Texas, Florida, California, Alaska and South Carolina.

A pilot of current automatic vehicle location (AVL) technology was implemented in CADS. Implementation costs have dropped by 80% since AVL technology was first looked at by the agency in 2005. During a typical day, most of our field personnel work alone. Analyzing dispatch data for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2014, 60% of all dispatches to various

incidents and 56% of dispatches to wildfires involved only a single agency employee being on scene. Incident locations are based on what the caller provides and could be a mile or more off from the actual employee's location. Should our employee become ill or injured, AVL technology can improve the ability to locate them when shrouded in smoke or especially at night.

ADMINISTRATION

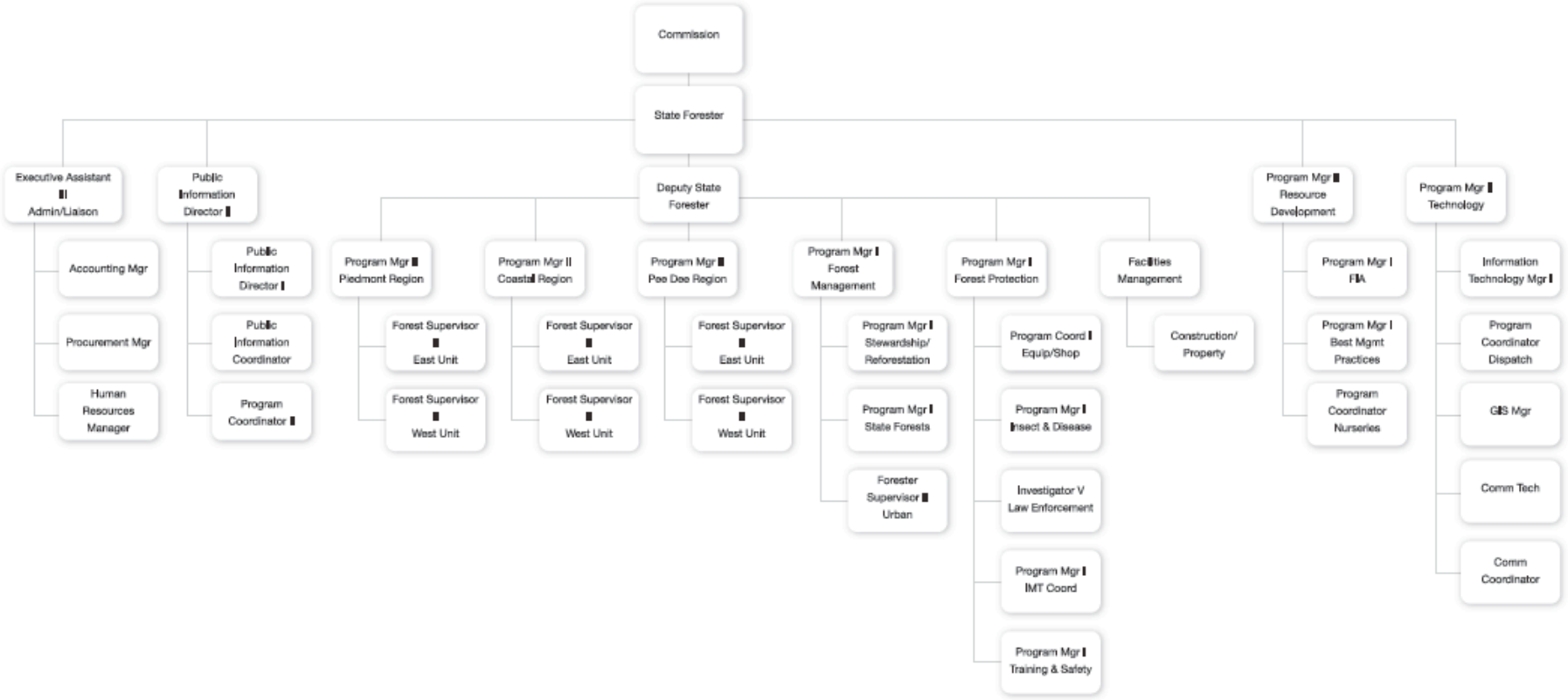
SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2014 - 2015

Carry Forward - July, 1 2014	**$**	**4,308,161**
REVENUES		
State Appropriations	**$**	**14,706,979**
Federal Grants	**$**	**3,928,202**
Earmarked Funds		
Hunting & Fishing License	$	214,566
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure		18,732
Burning Assistance Fee		211,039
Fire Lane Fee		130,322
Timber Marking Fee		-
Training Conference - Registration Fee		4,851
User Fee - State Park & Forest		102,959
Forest Product Assessment		1,057,576
Construction of Water Bar		2,910
Stand By for Prescribed Burning		6,250
Sale of Seedlings		298,510
Sale of Timber		1,555,101
Conviction Surcharge		17,204
Other Penalties, Cost & Settlements		535
Rent - Residence		11,550
Rent - Farm Land		53,230
Rent - State Owned Property		51,305
Rent - Equipment		2,499
Contributions & Donations		35,788
Insurance Claims		5,688
Sale of Services		8,615
Sale of Nursery and Farm Products		-
Sale of Recycling Material		559
Sale of Vehicles (Capitalized)		14,466
Sale of Machinery and Equipment (Capitalized)		272,555
Sale of Buildings (Non-Capitalized)		-
Sale of Land (Capitalized)		198,832
Sale of Other Assets		-
Insurance Premium Taxes - Firefighting Equipment		3,058,246
Capital Reserve Funds - Firefighting Equipment		2,000,000
Total Earmarked	$	**9,333,888**
Total Revenue	**$**	**27,969,069**
EXPENDITURES		
State	$	14,587,655
Federal	$	3,939,590
Other	$	4,361,341
Total Expenditures	**$**	**22,888,586**
Balance as of June 30, 2015	**$**	**9,388,644** (1)

(1) Firefighting equipment ordered during Fiscal Year 2015 was not received by the end of the fiscal year, therefore those expenditures will reflect in Fiscal Year 2016 increasing the year end balance for FY2015.

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Organizational Chart



Updated March 30, 2015