

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Annual Report 2007 - 2008

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STATE COMMISSION OF FORESTRY

Members of the Commission

Frank A. McLeod III, Columbia, Chair

Dr. Benton H. Box, Clemson, Vice Chair

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George W. Flanders, Lancaster

H. Stro Morrison III, Estill

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

Mitchell S. Scott, Allendale

James F. Barker, President, Clemson University

Boris Hurlbutt, Chairman Emeritus

Administration

Robert C. Schowalter, State Forester (retired Dec. 31, 2007)

Henry Eugene Kodama, State Forester (Jan. 1, 2008)

William Boykin, 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

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 3,678 fires that burned 21,945.7 acres of forestland and grassland during the fiscal year.

Wildfires destroyed 35 homes and damaged 48 others. In addition, 103 other buildings were destroyed and 41 buildings were damaged. There were 103 vehicles damaged.

Fire Protection Cooperatives

The Forestry Commission has cooperative arrangements with 12 fire and emergency management entities. Activities for each cooperative agreement during FY 200 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, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. During fiscal year 2007-2008 the Forestry Commission assisted Texas and North Carolina with firefighting resources under the compact agreement. These states had unusual fire activity due to drought.

SC Emergency Management Division: SC Forestry Commission personnel participated in several EMD emergency response training sessions involving hurricanes, earthquakes, weapons of mass destructions, and dam failures. Incident management teams participated in the Pee Dee Region full-scale exercise in Horry County and the state full-scale hurricane exercise in Winnsboro. Standard operating procedures for the Logistical Staging Area (LSA) and incident management teams (IMT) were revised as a result of these exercises.

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 between the SC National Guard and the SC Forestry Commission was held in March of 2008.

Volunteer Fire Assistance Program: Pass through funds from the National Fire Plan were distributed as follows: Title II Grants for structural and wildland firefighting needs: 73 Fire Departments requested \$388,332 worth of firefighting equipment of which 70 fire departments were funded for \$85,987. National Fire Plan Grants for wildland firefighting needs: 81 Fire Departments requested \$440,124 worth of firefighting equipment of which 75 fire departments were funded for \$113,027.

Federal Excess Property Program: SCFC acquired a total of twelve items of inventoried federal excess equipment with an acquisition value of \$331,242. These items were loaned to fire departments during the year. At present, 1,658 pieces of equipment with acquisition value of \$30.8 million are assigned to fire departments

statewide. Assignments and reassignments were done on 295 items with an acquisition value of \$4.8 million throughout the year as the inventory was being rectified. Resolutions to the findings of last years audit continue as we work with the Fire Departments in reacquiring unused equipment. In addition we have had two major sales disposing of over 200 items.

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.

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. Several SCFC personnel were also dispatched as firefighters and single resources to fire assignments in Idaho

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.

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. The SCFC dispatched a firefighter and crewboss to assist F&WS crew with a fire on Wassaw Island on the Savannah Wildlife Refuge.

USDI National Park Service: Agreement maintained; no reportable activity.

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 taskbooks 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 IMT's located in each region of the State. Teams participated in two full-scale exercises this year, including the State Hurricane Exercise and the Pee Dee Region full-scale exercise. IMTs organized the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting and water handling training to demonstrate performance of tasks. These teams are being developed to increase the capability of the state to manage wildfires, natural disasters, or other large incidents that may occur.

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 12 Automated Weather Stations across the state. Data from these stations is used in daily calculations for the National Fire Danger Rating System. Weather readings from these stations are available 24 hours a day for wildfire and prescribed fire management purposes.

Inches Precipitation: FY 2008*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Precipitation</i>
July 2007	4.04
August	3.11
September	2.43
October	2.92
November	0.65
December	5.18
January 2008	3.03
February	3.69
March	3.68
April	3.05
May	3.03
June	2.52
Total	37.33

*Source – National Climatic Data Center

Precipitation Last 5 Years*

Fiscal Year	Precipitation Inches	Departure from Normal**
2003-04	43.34	-4.86
2004-05	52.43	4.23
2005-06	44.63	-3.57
2006-07	43.11	-5.09
2007-08	37.33	-10.87

*Source – National Climatic Data Center

**statewide normal, based on previous 30 years is 48.20 inches

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 2008 are as follows:

<i>Region</i>	Coastal	Pee Dee	Piedmont
Readiness 1 (No wildfire danger)	13 days	3 days	0 days
Readiness 2 (Low wildfire danger)	157 days	193 days	120 days
Readiness 3 (Moderate wildfire danger)	188 days	156 days	220 days
Readiness 4 (High wildfire danger)	8 days	14 days	26 days
Readiness 5 (Extreme wildfire danger)	0 days	0 days	0 days

Burning Ban and Red Flag Fire Alert: There were no Burning Bans declared during fiscal year 2007-2008. There was one Red Flag Fire Alert during the year. The red flag alert was for:

December 4-10, 2007 a statewide Red Flag due to high wind and low humidity

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.

Air Operations: Forestry Commission pilots equipped with Federal Excess aircraft provide incident reconnaissance (suppression assistance) as well as wildfire detection service. The SCFC has 12 aircraft with 4 full time pilots and on average 13 temporary pilots which fly on as needed basis. Specially trained private aerial contractors provide basic wildfire detection services in the Piedmont Region.

During the year, SCFC pilots flew a total of 3,803.7 hours (Coastal— 1310 hours, Pee Dee-1785 hours, Piedmont-708.7 hours); contractors flew fire detection a total of 239 hours.

Prescribed Fire

Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program: Four Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Programs were conducted during the year with 141 participants. Participation in this program strengthened due to increasing statewide interest in prescribed burning. This course focuses on planning prescribed burns to comply with mandated air quality standards.

Prescribed Burning for Forestry, Wildlife, and Agriculture FY08

(Smoke Management Guidelines)

Region	Forest Understory		Forestry Site Prep.		Wildlife		Agriculture	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Coastal	2,015	194,699.5	2,577	8,641.8	791	80,475.9	2,540	43,902.8
Pee Dee	958	53,305.8	1,281	4,385.2	531	31,728.3	2,311	52,348.5
Piedmont	422	41,595.7	1,852	4,854.7	101	6,813.9	328	2,543.1
Totals	3,395	289,600.9	5,710	17,881.7	1,423	119,018.1	5,179	98,794.4

Total Forestry, Wildlife & Agriculture Burns: 15,707 fires for 525,295.1 acres

Fire Prevention Information

Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI): Work continued on assessing wildland-urban interface communities and their risks to wildfire. *How to Have a Firewise Home* workshops were conducted in several communities across the state. The Firewise mobile exhibit and a table top Firewise Home exhibit were used on 17 different occasions demonstrating the wildfire potential and associated risks to communities and homeowners as well as how homeowners can mitigate those risks. The exhibit was used in cooperation with the USFS, USFWS, and NPS.

Wildfire Prevention: A statewide wildfire prevention awareness effort was made across the state prior to the spring wildfire season of 2008 to promote safe debris burning. In cooperation with and assistance from local fire departments and other cooperators (i.e. state agencies such as DHEC), team members distributed "Think Before You Burn" promotional materials to over 1500 schools, businesses and public buildings. Spanish versions were also distributed in appropriate areas.

Demonstrations on how to burn yard debris carefully and properly were conducted for homeowners especially in communities at risk from wildfire or where debris burn escapes were a primary cause of wildfires in the area.

Interviews were conducted with local media, public service announcements were distributed and billboards placed in areas to increase public awareness. Think Before you Burn caution-like signs were installed near fire departments, recycling centers and other highly visible locations in targeted high risk communities. Team members conducted burn site inspections for homeowners who were conducting debris burns.

Comparing FY07 with FY08 fire data the percentage of wildland fires caused by debris burn escapes declined from 44% to 42% statewide.

Fires by Cause

Cause	Number	Acres Burned	Average Acres per Fire	Percent of Total Number FY 08
Lightning	253	2,540.0	10.0	6.88
Campfire	34	83.1	2.4	0.92
Smoking	82	334.2	4.1	2.23
Debris Burning	1,558	8,612.8	5.5	42.36
Incendiary	799	5,308.7	6.6	21.72
Equipment	373	2,152.8	5.8	10.14
Railroad	38	239.4	6.3	1.03
Children	186	443.7	2.4	5.06
Miscellaneous	355	2,231.0	6.3	9.65
TOTALS	3,678	21,945.7	6.0	100

Five-Year Summary: All Fires

Fiscal Yr.	Acres Protected	# Fires	Acres Burned	Avg. Acres/Fire	% Area Burned
2003-04	13,657,033	3,717	23,421.6	6.3	0.17
2004-05	13,657,033	2,283	13,477.2	5.9	0.10
2005-06	13,657,033	3,020	16,294.2	5.4	0.12
2006-07	13,657,033	2,972	16,677.1	5.6	0.12
2007-08	13,657,033	3,678	21,945.7	6.0	0.16
Five Year Averages		3,134	18,363.2	5.8	0.13

Acres Protected and Total Burning Notifications by County, FY 07-08

County	Acres Protected	Smoke Mgt. Notifications	Other Notifications
Abbeville	248,551	132	2,278
Aiken	524,743	716	14,002
Allendale	199,005	401	900
Anderson	216,023	168	12,262
Bamberg	202,862	483	1,924
Barnwell	266,959	464	3,378
Beaufort	130,448	278	7,873
Berkeley	595,291	811	16,141
Calhoun	151,294	337	3,045
Charleston	318,526	489	7,251
Cherokee	168,077	123	3,487
Chester	315,565	90	2,874
Chesterfield	416,239	382	6,044
Clarendon	238,952	465	5,002
Colleton	560,896	1,114	13,174
Darlington	176,333	266	6,663
Dillon	163,935	213	2,734
Dorchester	272,524	349	9,314
Edgefield	279,433	229	2,319
Fairfield	408,433	121	2,328
Florence	308,707	557	10,806
Georgetown	400,136	424	8,484
Greenville	296,082	89	11,825
Greenwood	205,593	99	2,816
Hampton	303,663	884	3,335
Horry	493,012	611	17,571
Jasper	341,036	555	3,465
Kershaw	376,376	236	14,474
Lancaster	291,845	105	3,932
Laurens	337,499	109	3,524
Lee	121,735	209	1,462
Lexington	256,939	253	27,370
Marion	226,896	218	6,033
Marlboro	226,676	101	3,967
McCormick	223,394	94	1,081
Newberry	334,566	141	2,537
Oconee	292,590	104	9,523
Orangeburg	446,887	1,042	11,616
Pickens	236,029	134	9,080
Richland	352,904	232	6,917
Saluda	196,376	155	1,460
Spartanburg	286,496	189	7,581
Sumter	268,338	359	11,020
Union	277,640	62	443
Williamsburg	407,761	935	6,579
York	293,768	179	9,488

Total	13,657,033	15,707	319,380
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Total Smoke Mgt. & Other Notifications 335,087

Total all Land Fires by County and Month – Fiscal Year 2008																											
COUNTY	2007												2008										Total Fires	Total Acres			
	July		August		September		October		November		December		January		February		March		April		May				June		
	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	4	1.9	9	23.2	7	6.5	2	5.8	12	13.7	11	31.3	1	3.0	9	27.8	6	7.7	2	85.0	3	5.4	7	11.3	73	222.6	
AIKEN	8	103.1	16	31.5	11	25.2	13	35.5	12	20.1	13	94.1	4	9.6	22	83.0	20	54.3	9	12.4	16	41.7	25	128.6	169	639.1	
ALLENDALE	5	91.6	4	5.4	1	3.0	3	3.2	1	0.5	1	0.3	1	0.1	4	9.2	3	11.6	1	43.0	1	0.1	2	5.2	27	173.2	
ANDERSON	4	5.2	3	3.2	7	5.5	1	3.0	5	4.7	4	11.1	1	2.0	7	47.1	3	14.5	4	1.8			14	245.5	53	343.6	
BAMBERG	1	4.1	2	1.6	2	2.5				2	4.0	3	15.0	1	0.2	5	17.1	5	7.0	2	1.5	4	72.6	3	75.1	30	200.7
BARNWELL	4	20.6	5	5.6	3	11.5	2	18.7	4	14.2	2	3.0	1	11.0	3	25.0	6	50.0			1	0.5	6	57.6	37	217.7	
BEAUFORT	2	5.0	2	0.6			1	0.5	1	4.0	5	35.1			7	23.0	8	44.0	1	5.0	1	0.3	1	0.8	29	118.3	
BERKELEY	4	21.7	9	28.7	1	0.1	6	31.8	15	128.7	17	72.0	8	62.5	26	1,028.4	41	250.2	10	200.3	8	45.9	12	52.5	157	1,922.8	
CALHOUN	1	0.1	2	3.0	1	1.0	1	0.5	1	1.5	2	1.2	2	3.1	10	22.0	10	20.9	1	1.0	2	0.4	11	56.2	44	110.9	
CHARLESTON	2	6.5	2	5.5	1	0.5			4	7.1	4	9.6	6	15.4	10	57.1	8	72.8	6	22.6	2	20.9			45	218.0	
CHEROKEE	2	5.0	10	23.5	6	17.0	2	6.3	2	1.4	2	9.0			1	0.5	7	12.6			1	0.1	10	21.4	43	96.8	
CHESTER	2	13.0	6	34.1	3	84.8	1	1.0	4	4.3	2	1.0	2	20.5	4	24.0	10	7.9			3	4.1	7	114.4	44	309.1	
CHESTERFIELD	8	24.9	19	67.2	12	16.9	10	17.8	6	12.6	6	6.9	6	39.0	12	20.3	12	71.2	4	9.5	7	34.7	24	288.2	126	609.2	
CLARENDON	2	3.5	12	110.7	8	26.7	6	10.0	14	64.9	8	17.5	3	1.4	12	244.7	22	89.8	4	25.4	4	14.8	12	116.3	107	725.7	
COLLETON	4	25.3	3	33.1	5	17.1	4	6.8	19	80.8	11	40.1	10	38.3	26	202.1	22	80.0	8	9.4	7	19.0	13	88.1	132	640.1	
DARLINGTON	7	9.2	13	98.8	13	26.0	10	17.7	9	14.3	14	47.4	1	18.0	11	76.1	21	69.4	4	3.1	7	6.6	23	51.1	133	437.7	
DILLON	6	3.4	14	130.7	7	87.4	10	21.7	11	195.3	16	62.5	2	2.2	5	33.6	2	3.0	3	19.2	2	1.2	29	64.3	107	624.5	
DORCHESTER	3	21.5	2	1.0	2	1.0	2	1.8	6	18.6	13	57.4	8	17.9	11	55.2	19	89.7	8	31.3	2	20.5	7	9.6	83	325.5	
EDGEFIELD	1	2.0	8	59.6	1	7.0	3	3.1	2	2.3	1	0.1			3	5.2	3	6.0	2	12.0	3	10.7	3	11.2	30	219.2	
FAIRFIELD	7	8.9	18	267.4	6	23.5	9	32.7	5	1.5	2	1.8	3	1.0	5	20.2	6	82.6	2	4.0	4	7.0	21	139.1	88	589.7	
FLORENCE	2	0.8	17	112.4	17	37.4	21	75.8	27	49.3	30	65.7	19	23.4	28	76.2	30	169.2	11	22.5	10	61.1	17	29.8	229	723.6	
GEORGETOWN	3	2.1	4	13.8	7	26.5	1	10.0	6	11.5	13	33.3	9	23.7	16	627.7	13	85.5	4	33.5	4	10.1	3	8.0	83	885.7	
GREENVILLE	1	1.0	5	25.6	2	1.1	4	3.2	3	4.0	1	0.5	2	1.5	3	9.5	11	19.5	2	3.5			6	24.5	40	93.9	
GREENWOOD	3	3.8	6	21.0	2	4.6	2	2.0	4	3.7	1	5.0	1	1.0	4	74.2	2	4.0	1	12.0	2	4.7	5	20.6	33	156.6	
HAMPTON	4	46.1	3	3.1					2	1.0	5	57.8	4	53.1	9	98.7	8	381.2	2	1.0			9	32.5	46	674.5	
HORRY	5	13.4	17	30.4	14	57.1	7	6.4	21	157.8	37	69.4	11	27.6	17	267.4	21	214.5	7	12.5	10	32.6	18	237.6	185	1,126.7	
JASPER	5	66.7	3	2.2	2	2.1	1	0.8	3	14.0	2	9.0	14	86.6	12	56.1	8	63.4	8	39.3	7	25.1	7	25.1	65	365.3	
KERSHAW	8	48.0	7	17.4	10	31.7	3	0.9	5	11.6	3	65.5	4	10.1	6	48.0	9	91.0	3	15.5	5	5.0	14	78.0	77	422.7	
LANCASTER	8	24.2	9	22.1	2	9.0	2	2.1	3	4.1	2	1.5	3	3.0			2	1.4	3	2.5	2	25.1	10	144.7	46	239.7	
LAURENS			13	218.3	4	123.1					4	9.8	1	5.0	5	5.6	4	93.5	1	1.0	2	3.1	7	58.0	41	517.4	
LEE	3	12.0	11	53.5	3	5.6	3	15.8	5	8.1	8	20.0	1	5.0	5	33.5	2	27.0	3	32.5	1	55.0	16	111.9	61	379.9	
LEXINGTON	8	15.2	7	18.7	6	6.6	5	17.2	9	21.7	9	21.4	4	6.2	10	88.8	11	16.8	2	0.6	10	25.6	10	36.7	91	275.5	
MARION			2	45.5	6	9.5	1	0.3	3	6.0	8	19.6	3	33.5	1	2.0	10	176.5	5	15.6	3	9.0	11	35.5	53	353.0	
MARLBORO	3	0.4	11	27.5	10	46.1	3	11.0	2	4.0	7	50.3	7	17.0	5	25.1	7	52.8	3	12.5	4	15.5	11	31.7	73	293.9	
MCCORMICK	3	69.0	11	95.3	2	22.0	1	1.0	2	4.5					5	45.1			1	5.0	4	1.6	3	2.6	32	246.1	
NEWBERRY	5	3.9	8	4.3	2	34.4	2	3.5	5	2.8	1	0.1	3	2.1	1	1.0	1	1.0	2	1.1			6	26.9	36	81.1	
OCONEE	2	2.2	3	3.2	2	8.1	2	1.6	2	1.5	3	4.5	5	13.7	11	30.2	4	10.4	7	18.0	3	4.2	9	382.7	53	480.3	
ORANGEBURG	7	22.8	6	237.0	5	12.7	8	27.1	22	121.9	31	79.2	15	56.7	32	152.7	27	287.8	8	10.0	11	46.4	32	198.6	204	1,252.9	
PICKENS	2	10.0	2	2.0	5	1.6	2	3.0	4	3.6	5	1.6	3	11.0	10	61.4	9	12.4	3	2.8	3	6.0	10	31.5	58	146.9	
RICHLAND	4	7.1	6	5.6	9	113.1	10	62.7	8	28.3	13	1,048.9	2	8.0	10	86.5	13	144.6	4	9.2	7	280.6	6	36.5	92	1,831.1	
SALUDA	2	2.1	4	8.7	4	35.6	3	1.4	1	0.2	2	0.4			7	8.5	2	6.1					3	19.5	28	82.5	
SPARTANBURG	3	2.6	5	4.5	7	13.6	3	3.1	6	11.8	6	18.4			7	96.3	7	60.3	5	16.3	3	3.0	9	53.7	61	283.6	
SUMTER	2	3.2	2	13.0	14	32.2	8	40.3	13	55.1	9	9.9	5	12.1	11	20.9	18	41.3	1	0.5	5	9.2	15	42.2	103	279.9	
UNION	4	25.6	8	9.3	1	0.5	1	1.0	2	2.0	1	2.0	1	1.0	1	0.2	3	2.5			2	4.0	7	14.6	31	62.7	
WILLIAMSBURG	1	0.3	16	28.3	9	45.5	9	23.9	20	39.5	27	101.1	13	48.2	33	180.0	74	999.2	29	141.6	13	28.9	18	193.6	262	1,830.1	
YORK	4	5.5	4	13.5	6	21.5	3	1.3	1	7.0	2	1.6	2	5.2	5	45.6	2	1.1	2	2.1	1	0.1	6	11.2	38	115.7	
Grand Total	169	764.5	349	1,970.6	246	1,062.3	192	534.6	312	1,156.3	368	2,217.9	180	622.3	449	4,193.3	536	4,000.9	188	921.7	191	976.6	498	3,524.7	3,678	21,945.7	

Total All Land Fires by County & Cause -- Fiscal Year 2008																				Total	Total
COUNTY	LIGHTNING		CAMPFIRE		SMOKING		DEBRIS BURNING		INCENDIARY		EQUIPMENT		RAILROAD		CHILDREN		MISC		Fires	Acres	
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres			
ABBEVILLE	2	3.1	3	3.0	6	7.8	21	38.3	25	157.2	8	5.9	1	5.0	3	1.6	4	0.7	73	222.6	
AIKEN	17	119.1	2	14.3	5	11.7	64	244.7	5	7.4	21	85.1	1	15.0	28	66.6	26	75.2	169	639.1	
ALLENDALE	5	91.8			1	0.2	9	17.9	8	13.2	2	47.0	1	3.0			1	0.1	27	173.2	
ANDERSON	2	3.0	5	16.3	6	22.8	14	22.7	8	39.2	8	25.5			4	5.2	6	208.9	53	343.6	
BAMBERG	5	56.6					20	142.6	3	1.1	1	0.2			1	0.2			30	200.7	
BARNWELL	2	30.0					15	103.5	12	51.9	4	13.0			1	15.0	3	4.3	37	217.7	
BEAUFORT	1	0.1					8	16.6	16	93.5	1	0.1			2	7.0	1	1.0	29	118.3	
BERKELEY	5	23.2	1	2.7			57	1,157.4	70	664.8	3	6.5	2	9.9	1	0.9	18	57.4	157	1,922.8	
CALHOUN	8	47.6	2	2.5	1	0.1	21	50.3			4	7.2			2	0.6	6	2.6	44	110.9	
CHARLESTON	2	9.4					24	95.3	12	88.5					1	3.0	6	21.8	45	218.0	
CHEROKEE	5	5.8			2	4.4	13	18.6	9	14.7	6	31.0	1	1.0	3	16.5	4	4.8	43	96.8	
CHESTER	6	140.0			4	1.7	8	128.2	13	8.9	3	3.6	2	4.2	3	5.5	5	17.0	44	309.1	
CHESTERFIELD	12	113.1			4	7.2	59	203.3	15	44.9	17	207.5	5	9.5	6	12.0	8	11.7	126	609.2	
CLARENDON	1	6.0			4	8.0	58	232.4	35	364.8	4	22.0	1	3.0	1	3.5	3	86.0	107	725.7	
COLLETON	4	90.1			1	1.0	86	377.0	32	149.6	6	19.0			2	3.1	1	0.3	132	640.1	
DARLINGTON	8	30.1			4	10.3	63	145.0	24	96.5	16	104.9	2	3.4	8	20.0	8	27.5	133	437.7	
DILLON	12	92.0	3	0.9	1	1.0	29	72.4	32	137.6	9	109.1			5	12.1	16	199.4	107	624.5	
DORCHESTER	2	1.0					39	128.3	28	148.4	3	2.3			6	18.0	5	27.5	83	325.5	
EDGEFIELD	6	133.1					12	22.3	2	7.3	6	19.8	1	32.0	1	2.5	2	2.2	30	219.2	
FAIRFIELD	19	265.9	2	1.1	1	1.0	25	119.8	6	6.6	14	128.7	2	0.8	1	0.2	18	65.6	88	589.7	
FLORENCE	4	7.8	4	3.1	2	5.2	69	222.6	76	249.7	28	107.3	2	43.0	16	22.9	28	62.0	229	723.6	
GEORGETOWN	3	6.3	1	0.5			36	715.3	21	114.4	12	25.0	1	0.1	2	5.5	7	18.6	83	885.7	
GREENVILLE	2	9.0					10	28.0	7	8.7	7	28.8	1	3.5	4	2.8	9	13.1	40	93.9	
GREENWOOD	4	27.5					8	17.0	6	10.6	9	80.7			1	2.0	5	18.8	33	156.6	
HAMPTON	7	65.1			1	47.0	28	118.5	7	439.4	2	1.5					1	3.0	46	674.5	
HORRY	5	29.1	1	3.0			92	683.7	56	357.3	14	18.7	2	6.5	6	17.8	9	10.6	185	1,126.7	
JASPER	5	84.0					32	86.4	20	167.5	3	4.1	2	7.2	1	8.0	2	8.1	65	365.3	
KERSHAW	9	87.5	1	0.5	6	75.1	31	87.5	9	76.7	5	17.2	1	2.5	2	2.1	13	73.6	77	422.7	
LANCASTER	3	112.7			2	0.6	12	58.1	3	38.5	13	13.8			2	1.8	11	14.2	46	239.7	
LAURENS	9	80.5	1	1.0			8	28.3	5	32.8	8	123.3			1	1.0	9	250.5	41	517.4	
LEE	3	24.5			2	37.0	36	114.5	13	161.6	5	41.0					2	1.3	61	379.9	
LEXINGTON	12	62.9					23	61.4	5	8.8	8	17.4	2	1.3	26	55.2	15	68.5	91	275.5	
MARION	6	61.2	1	0.5			21	90.3	16	53.8	6	143.7	1	1.0	1	1.5	1	1.0	53	353.0	
MARLBORO	4	8.2			2	2.2	26	87.6	26	159.9	7	19.6			4	13.0	4	3.4	73	293.9	
MCCORMICK	6	30.1	1	5.0			6	54.1	7	70.1	7	6.8					5	80.0	32	246.1	
NEWBERRY	7	23.7			2	0.7	7	5.1	3	3.0	4	5.3			1	1.0	12	42.3	36	81.1	
OCONEE	6	377.1			2	1.3	23	45.0	7	6.3	10	41.2			1	0.2	4	9.2	53	480.3	
ORANGEBURG	6	23.0	1	1.5	15	54.2	117	457.2	33	166.8	18	288.0			4	59.1	10	203.1	204	1,252.9	
PICKENS	7	23.0	1	0.2	1	0.5	23	41.9	1	1.0	11	58.2			4	10.0	10	12.1	58	146.9	
RICHLAND	3	75.3	2	16.0	2	10.7	25	1,072.6	11	86.5	14	114.7	2	75.0	12	17.9	21	362.4	92	1,831.1	
SALUDA	6	20.8	1	6.0			13	12.9	2	9.0	3	33.1			1	0.1	2	0.6	28	82.5	
SPARTANBURG	3	3.2			2	11.0	26	94.1	7	36.6	5	5.7	2	2.2	4	12.8	12	118.0	61	283.6	
SUMTER	2	7.0			1	2.5	66	165.3	17	29.1	8	49.8			4	3.7	5	22.5	103	279.9	
UNION	4	23.5					8	5.7	1	0.2	4	10.8	2	10.1	2	1.5	10	10.9	31	62.7	
WILLIAMSBURG	2	5.0	1	5.0	1	2.0	153	895.6	80	870.7	20	49.3	1	0.2	2	1.6	2	0.7	262	1,830.1	
YORK	1	1.0			1	7.0	14	27.5	5	53.6	6	9.4			6	8.7	5	8.5	38	115.7	
Grand Total	253	2,540.0	34	83.1	82	334.2	1,558	8,612.8	799	5,308.7	373	2,152.8	38	239.4	186	443.7	355	2,231.0	3,678	21,945.7	

FOREST HEALTH

The Forest Health Program, in cooperation with the State Division 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, 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

The Southern Pine Beetle outbreak that began in York County in 1997 collapsed over most of the outbreak zone. As of June 30, 2008, there were no counties in outbreak status.

The calendar year 2003 was our worst on record for losses to Southern Pine Beetle. In that period, we had over \$255 million in pines killed by the SPB.

In fiscal year 2007-2008, the losses were minimal. During that time, SCFC foresters and technicians plotted 940 active beetle spots containing 31,963 trees. This timber had an estimated volume of 1,813 cords and 1.27 million board feet. The green value of this timber was \$408,046.

During the spring of 2008, 31 counties were pheromone trapped for prediction of Southern Pine Beetle population trends. No counties trapped enough beetles to predict a severe outbreak. Abbeville, Edgefield, McCormick, Newberry, and Union Counties trapped sufficient beetles receive a prediction of static – moderate pine mortality. Aerial surveys were in progress at the end of the fiscal year and little beetle activity was 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 aim is to prevent or reduce the potential damage due to Southern Pine Beetle. In this program SCFC personnel make forest management recommendations for practices known to minimize future beetle damage. These include thinning, prescribed burning, planting at low density, matching planted species to site, and other known mitigation measures. This program funded approximately six full time SPB forester level positions and a coordinator.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

An exotic insect pest of hemlock, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) was discovered in South Carolina in 2002. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is a small insect that feeds by sucking plant juices from the host hemlock tree. Unfortunately, heavy infestations of this pest can kill hemlocks and control is very difficult, especially in the general forest. Clemson University has established an insect rearing facility to raise insect predators of the Adelgid. The laboratory is currently rearing two species of predatory beetles; these beetles are released in HWA infested stands. Unfortunately, we may face the loss of hemlock as an important forest species. We continued a sub-grant contract with Clemson University Department of Entomology, Soils, and Plant Sciences.

Emerald Ash Borer

Currently, this exotic beetle is not yet a problem in South Carolina, but it is currently found in many Michigan counties, several counties in Ohio and Indiana, and in one county in Maryland. Last year's survey found no infestation by the EAB. We performed checks of stressed, dying, or dead Ash in South Carolina on an on-call basis to certify our lack of infestation. Additionally, field assistance was given to USDA APHIS and Clemson University Department of Plant Industry in EAB trap placement.

European (*Sirex noctilio*) Woodwasp

The Insect and Disease section trapped for an exotic woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*) that is currently found in several counties in New York and Pennsylvania, and in Vermont counties. Two pheromone traps with *Sirex* lure (alpha- and beta-pinene) were placed in 34 South Carolina counties. Traps were checked every two weeks and were active from August through December. We trapped 27 individual native woodwasps representing five (5) species. No *Sirex noctilio* woodwasps were trapped in the 2007 survey.

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 has been found in eight (8) South Carolina counties: Jasper, Beaufort, Hampton, Colleton, Charleston, Bamberg, Allendale, and Dorchester. The beetle and fungus has also been found in 21 Georgia counties and in 13 Florida counties. Unfortunately, in the areas where the beetle has been found, there is a large loss of red bay (up to 90% in some locations). A formal survey of the South Carolina counties with redbay trees was conducted. In this survey, redbay trees in uninfested counties were sampled and sent to a USDA Forest Service pathologist for testing for the Laurel Wilt disease. No new counties infested counties were found in this survey.

In Georgia, the redbay ambrosia and the Laurel Wilt disease has been found in sassafras trees since 2005. In South Carolina, the Laurel Wilt fungus was found in sassafras trees on one Beaufort County barrier island in May 2007.

Major Disease Problems

Oak Wilt

Oak wilt disease has been identified in Aiken, Barnwell, Chesterfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Lexington, and Richland counties. Other than the 2007 finding in Lexington County, the 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, periodic surveys 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. As part of a southwide effort, the Forestry Commission has established 19 permanent plots in the counties known to harbor infections of the fungus. The dogwoods in those plots 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 an exotic disease caused by a fungus 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 in a stream baiting survey to determine if the disease occurs in South Carolina. All sample results from the 2007 spring stream baiting survey were negative. Stream baiting survey to detect the fungus that causes SOD continued in the spring of 2008. This survey was ongoing at the end of the fiscal year.

Miscellaneous Insect and Disease Checks

Commission foresters made approximately 302 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 2007-2008, the Insect and Disease Laboratory processed 31 samples submitted by SCFC employees and private individuals. Recommendations for control of various pests identified were given where needed. In addition to these samples, 7,257 southern pine beetles and 7,637 clerids, and 27 native woodwasps (Siricidae) were counted in the lab.

Forest Health

The SCFC entered into agreement with the USFS to evaluate permanent Forest Health plots throughout South Carolina. This was done by the Management 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 apparent annosus root rot damage.

During the aerial survey, the observed losses to due beaver damage were estimated at 738 acres (acreage is based on 20% survey). Fire-caused mortality was observed on 2,191 acres of forestland (acreage is based on 20% survey). Annosus root rot was identified on 7,170 acres. Value lost due to annosus was estimated to be \$258,120.

EQUIPMENT

The Equipment Section is responsible for development and implementation of statewide programs concerning use, design, and maintenance of specialized forest fire control equipment.

This section is responsible for providing technical assistance and advice to repair shops, developing specifications for fire suppression equipment and motor vehicle fleet, and arranging training for all field mechanics.

Maintenance facilities at the regions, state forests, and Taylor Nursery were all certified by State Fleet Management. The Forestry Commission has eight maintenance facilities.

Equipment Purchased

Coastal Region

- Four (4) 2008 1 Ton 4x4 Ford F350's w/ Extended Cabs
- Four (4) 200 Gallon Slip-On Units for F350's
- One (1) 2009 Freightliner 10-Wheel Transport Truck
- One (1) 2008 John Deere 650J Crawler with Pull Plow
- One (1) 2008 John Deere 550J Crawler with Pull Plow
- Two (2) 2009 Freightliner Tractor Trailer Truck Transports

Pee Dee Region

- Three (3) 2008 1 Ton 4x4 Ford F350's w/ Extended Cabs
- Three (3) 200 Gallon Slip-On Units for F350's
- One (1) 2008 John Deere 650J with Pull Plow
- One (1) 2008 John Deere 550J with Pull Plow
- One (1) 2009 Freightliner 10-Wheel Transport Truck

Piedmont Region

- Three (3) 2008 1 Ton 4x4 Ford F350's w/ Extended Cabs
- Two (2) 200 Gallon Slip-On Units for F350's
- One (1) 150 Gallon Slip-On Unit for F350
- One (1) 2008 John Deere 550J with Pull Plow

Manchester State Forest

- One (1) 2008 Dodge Durango 4x4

Harbison State Forest

- One (1) 2007 John Deere Gator

Sandhills State Forest

- Two (2) 2008 Ford F150 4x4 Pickups

Columbia Headquarters

- One (1) 2008 Chevrolet Tahoe 4x4 for LE Chief
- One (1) 2008 Dodge Durango 4x4 for FIA Coordinator
- One (1) 2007 Lawrimore 25' Gooseneck Trailer for Federal Surplus Property Program

Some additional lighting for the entire fleet of transports was purchased this year as well. Each truck will be retrofitted with 6 new LED lights to improve visibility of firefighting equipment when parked on the side of the road.

The Forestry Commission prepared and organized equipment for auction in November 2007. The auction netted the Forestry Commission \$77,629.27. This money will be used to purchase equipment in fiscal year '08-'09.

Law Enforcement

During FY 08, the Forestry Commission had 33 sworn officers statewide. Four of these were investigators that focused primarily on complex timber theft, timber fraud, and woods arson cases.

Officers prosecuted 508 fire tickets, 32 litter and environmental cases, 45 violations of state forest regulations, and 17 miscellaneous cases. Total fines collected were \$102,255.91. Fines collected from these cases are retained in the county where the offense occurred.

SCFC Law Enforcement Investigators investigated 156 timber theft / fraud cases, which represented a loss of \$817,152.00 to the victims. SCFC collected and returned 54% or \$438,647.00 of that money to the affected landowners.

During the year, 84 arson fires were reported and investigated. Agents arrested 8 individuals for arson who were responsible for a total of 42 fires. Arson is historically hard to prove and this figure represents an impressive 50% arrest rate. During the year, there were 1,779 fire investigations conducted.

County	Prosecutions				Investigations			Burn Site Inspection	State Forests	
	Outdoor Burning		Woods Arson	Total	Fire	Timber Theft/Fraud			Prosecutions	Fines
	Prosecutions	Fines				Investigated	Settled			
Abbeville	1	\$75.00	0	8	1	1	1	0		
Aiken	29	\$4,075.02	0	96	98	3	3	0		
Allendale	1	\$465.00	0	26	10	0	0	0		
Anderson	2	\$77.00	10	41	22	1	1	0		
Bamberg	3	\$1,647.00	0	22	21	2	2	2		
Barnwell	4	\$600.00	0	24	23	6	4	2		
Beaufort	0	\$0.00	0	17	13	0	0	0		
Berkeley	31	\$7,867.64	2	110	91	5	4	0		
Calhoun	16	\$2,057.50	0	29	29	1	1	0		
Charleston	10	\$1,120.00	0	35	30	0	0	0		
Cherokee	0	\$0.00	1	6	3	2	1	0		
Chester	2	\$0.00	0	2	2	0	0	0		
Chesterfield	20	\$3,045.00	0	94	71	7	8	0		
Clarendon	16	\$525.00	0	78	65	5	2	8		
Colleton	8	\$405.50	0	52	52	0	0	0		
Darlington	2	\$100.00	5	101	76	3	2	0		
Dillon	4	\$210.00	0	77	59	1	1	8		
Dorchester	14	\$2,162.50	0	31	31	4	4	2		
Edgefield	0	\$0.00	3	3	0	1	1	0		
Fairfield	1	\$75.00	0	1	1	5	5	0		
Florence	23	\$1,955.00	5	188	167	5	9	0		
Georgetown	6	\$692.00	3	19	11	8	1	0		
Greenville	6	\$632.00	10	26	14	3	3	13		
Greenwood	1	\$0.00	1	1	1	3	2	0		
Hampton	3	\$668.25	0	45	21	5	3	1		
Horry	54	\$5,262.00	12	185	143	12	4	1		
Jasper	4	\$358.00	0	31	23	5	4	3		
Kershaw	11	\$1,615.00	2	77	68	2	2	1		
Lancaster	2	\$350.00	0	34	16	2	2	0		
Laurens	2	\$457.00	0	6	5	3	1	0		
Lee	18	\$3,272.00	0	60	46	3	3	0		
Lexington	8	\$1,487.00	5	7	7	4	1	0		
Marion	5	\$400.00	0	35	30	5	3	0		
Marlboro	0	\$100.00	2	72	48	1	1	0		
McCormick	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	2	1	0		
Newberry	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	5	4	0		
Oconee	11	\$1,017.00	0	51	43	0	0	1		
Orangeburg	72	\$12,726.50	12	155	154	5	3	5		
Pickens	12	\$2,160.00	2	62	52	0	0	7		
Richland	8	\$2,747.50	0	8	8	13	13	0		
Saluda	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	2	1	0		
Spartanburg	5	\$918.50	5	12	9	2	2	0		
Sumter	33	\$4,427.00	0	111	84	3	3	2		
Union	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	4	3	0		
Williamsburg	56	\$6,405.00	4	187	128	6	4	4		
York	4	\$457.00	0	4	3	6	6	0		
Manchester									9	\$2,862.50
Sandhills									36	\$17,456.00
Poe Creek									0	\$0.00
Harbison									0	\$0.00
Totals	508	\$72,613.91	84	2229	1779	156	119	60	45	\$20,318.50

FOREST MANAGEMENT

There are 12.8 million acres of commercial forestland in South Carolina. According to the 2006 U.S. Forest Service Survey, farmers and non-industrial private owners own 77% of this land. Forest industry owns approximately 11% with 12% in public ownership.

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 forests included in the state forest system. These lands are owned by the Forestry Commission and provide forest based recreation opportunities while serving as examples of the benefits of active forest management.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

Professional foresters from the 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, 1,290 management plans were prepared for 80,266 acres. Beginning in July of 1999, customer satisfaction surveys were sent to every landowner that received a forestry management plan. In FY 08, 95% of the landowners that responded to the survey indicated that they were satisfied with the management plan they received. Of these landowners, 93% 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 to assist in carrying out management recommendations. This year 123 cases were referred to consulting foresters and 15 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 effective July 1, 1996. This increase permitted an assessment of \$800,000 increasing 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 Program began with crop year 1986 and was renewed with the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Statewide Accomplishments For All Cost-Share Programs

Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement

Program	Number of Landowners	Acres Planted	Natural Regeneration	TSI Acres	Cost Share Payments
FRP	336	9,627	11	1,353	\$798,761
FLEP	38	1,093	0	580	\$109,704
CRP	128	3,244	0	0	\$152,604
Totals	502	13,964	11	1,933	\$1,061,069

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 79% for loblolly pine plantings. Survival rates for longleaf pine plantings were tabulated separately. Plantings with longleaf seedlings had a survival rate of 61% when bare root seedlings were used and 64% when containerized stock was used. The long term trends, 10 years for loblolly and 9 years for longleaf, of seedling survival were analyzed (see Figures 1 and 2). Seedling survival over the evaluated period was variable. However the overall trend indicates that seedling survival has increased over time. This is especially evident in longleaf pine plantings.

Figure 1. Ten years of seedling survival data for loblolly pine as sampled by the SC Forestry Commission.

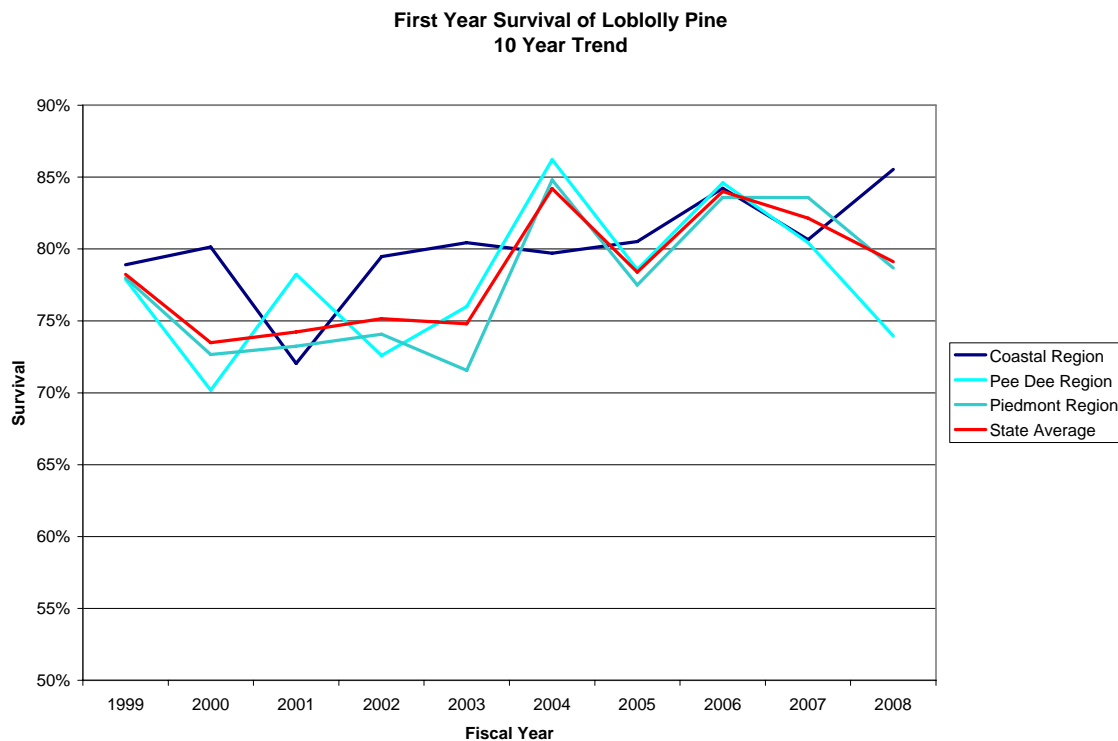
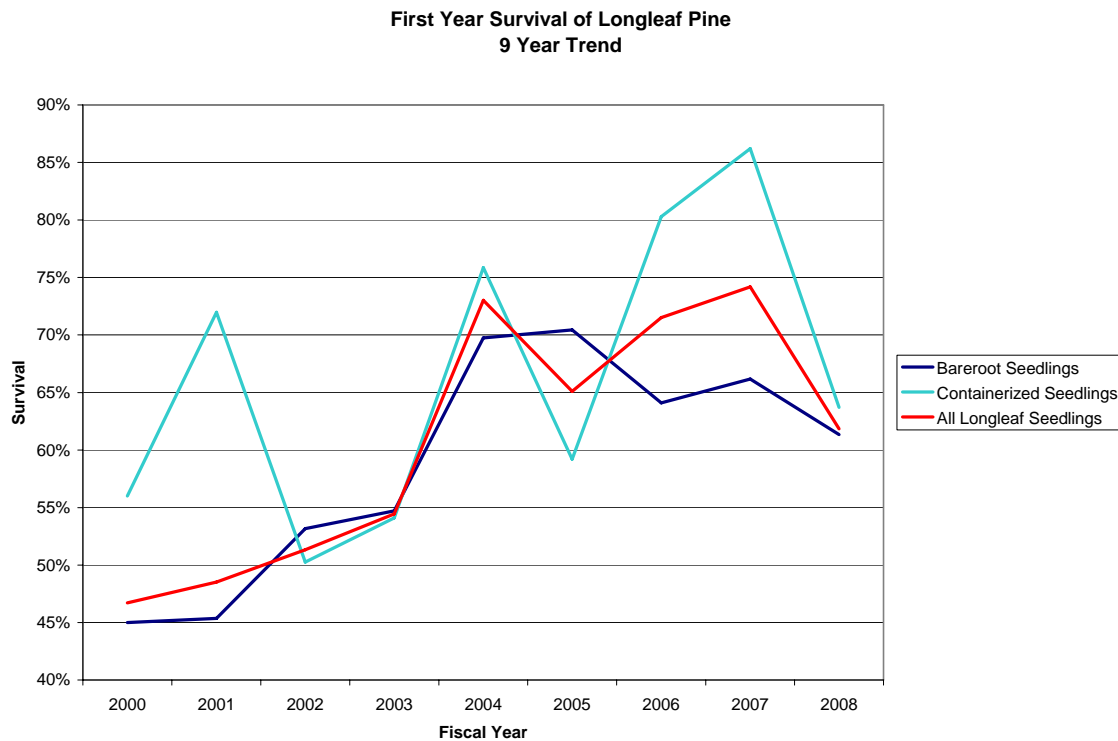


Figure 2. Nine years of seedling survival data for longleaf pine as sampled by the SC Forestry Commission.



FOREST STEWARDSHIP: FY08

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 forest 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 FY 08, 201 Stewardship Plans were written in South Carolina on 46,736 acres. The plans were written by the following cooperators: S.C. Forestry Commission foresters, and Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist - 55 plans, and Private Forestry Consultants- 146 plans. Of the landowners that responded to a survey, 99% indicated that they were satisfied with the management plan they received. Of these landowners, 85% also indicated that they intended to complete most or all of the recommendations in their plan.

Four landowners (comprising 1,429 acres) were recognized as Forest Stewards for FY08.

Forest Management Assistance 2007-2008

County	Non Cost-Share		Cost-Share		Forest Stewardship	
	Exams	Acres	Exams	Acres	Plans	Acres
Abbeville	42	3,593	12	878	2	1,655
Aiken	18	1,590	14	502	1	375
Allendale	9	386	24	1,643	2	324
Anderson	76	2,194	6	322	1	49
Bamberg	2	56	15	680	2	459
Barnwell	8	376	10	478	2	1,941
Beaufort	5	456	1	20	0	0
Berkeley	21	691	7	454	0	0
Calhoun	3	305	21	1,036	1	61
Charleston	18	1,211	0		0	0
Cherokee	17	1,309	6	231	0	0
Chester	10	1,377	11	270	4	983
Chesterfield	7	455	19	852	3	210
Clarendon	3	196	6	104	0	0
Colleton	10	842	23	1,310	4	231
Darlington	5	482	5	143	5	838
Dillon	5	892	22	757	1	407
Dorchester	17	962	5	280	0	0
Edgefield	9	1,083	17	710	0	0
Fairfield	11	806	15	551	1	240
Florence	16	851	6	187	2	194
Georgetown	7	573	12	512	1	128
Greenville	30	831	6	274	0	0
Greenwood	15	1,512	20	1,268	0	0
Hampton	12	590	17	820	4	744
Horry	12	804	22	595	0	0
Jasper	2	126	4	261	1	180
Kershaw	9	2,055	7	233	1	340
Lancaster	6	636	5	333	2	127
Laurens	24	1,771	13	454	5	764
Lee	5	163	8	197	1	21
Lexington	21	1,158	10	523	0	0
Marion	5	444	6	541	0	0
Marlboro	2	299	6	286	0	0
McCormick	2	172	20	927	1	108
Newberry	15	774	41	1,582	1	59
Oconee	50	2,214	8	432	2	108
Orangeburg	37	2,349	50	2,449	1	146
Pickens	10	378	1	85	1	55
Richland	8	115	9	225	0	0
Saluda	15	1,080	27	1,110	1	237
Spartanburg	2	16	4	48	0	0
Sumter	7	278	10	287	0	0
Union	3	1,141	10	452	1	250
Williamsburg	17	1,640	12	545	1	314
York	23	1,355	11	284	0	0
State Totals:	651	42,587	584	26,131	55	11,548

FOREST SERVICES

Through this program the 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 the year:

Firebreak Plowing - performed by Forestry Commission employees using agency equipment for \$100 for the 1st hour and \$60 for each additional hour. In FY06, a separate rate was established for firebreaks constructed with a heavy tractor. For FY08, this rate was \$110 for the first hour and \$80 for each additional hour.

Prescribed Burning - performed by Forestry Commission employees using agency equipment for \$15 per acre. Firebreak plowing costs are not included. Minimum fee \$300.

Prescribed Burning Standby - an agency tractor and employee on standby at burning site for \$50 for the first hour and \$25 for each additional hour while landowner performs burning under an approved plan. Minimum fee \$100.

Waterbar Construction – same rates as for firebreak plowing.

Equipment Rental Program – agency owned tree planters and drum choppers made available to private landowners at rates from \$5 to \$20 per acre.

Timber Marking - performed by Forestry Commission employees at the rate of \$8 per thousand board feet and \$3.00 per cord.

Service	Number of Tracts	Units of Measure	Receipts FY 08
Firebreak Plowing	494	1,220 miles	\$135,672
Prescribed Burning	144	11,290 acres	\$163,730
Prescribed Burning Standby	20	1,446 acres	\$4,672
Equipment Rental	17	155 acres	\$880
Water Bar Construction	7	178 bars	\$4,145
Timber Marking	0	0 cords	\$0
		0 board feet.	
Totals	682		\$309,099

Beginning in July of 1999, a customer satisfaction survey was sent to all landowners that received forestry services. In FY 08, 290 surveys were returned and 96% of these landowners indicated that they were satisfied with the services they had received.

COMMUNITY FORESTRY

The Community Forestry program exists to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to municipal and county governments 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; 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 towards 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.

Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program

The Community Forestry Financial Assistance and Partnership Program is a state program funded on the federal level with monies appropriated by Congress. These funds are funneled through the U. S. Forest Service to the SC Forestry Commission to administer. Pass-through funds in the amount of \$220,000 were awarded to 29 different municipal and county governments, non-profit conservation organizations, and educational institutions to assist in the creation, enhancement and support of long-term local, regional and statewide community forestry programs. Specific project types include but are not limited to: public tree ordinance development, community forest management plans, community forestry staffing, educational tree planting, and training and continuing education.

Tree City/Tree Line USA

Sponsored on the national level by the National 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 has recognized and awarded 35 municipalities, 1 county and 3 military bases under the Tree City USA program during fiscal year 2008.

The Tree Line USA program, also sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, seeks to stimulate and promote proper utility line clearing and safety techniques of 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 *eighth* consecutive year.

Partnership Development and Educational Programs

Through the direct technical assistance of the community forestry staff and implementation of the financial assistance projects, the program strives to develop partnerships with a variety of organizations and units of local government. Often these partnerships result in educational programs regarding the economic, ecological and social value of community forest resources. During *FY 08*, 5 partnerships were developed and 59 different educational sessions were presented to approximately 2,230 South Carolinians, both youth and adults.

<i>Types of Technical Assistance</i>	<i>Program Accomplishments Community Forestry Staff</i>			<i>Program Accomplishments Financial Assist. Grants</i>		
Program Development/Expansion	# of Assists			# of grants awarded		
Municipal Government	143			19		
Non-profit organizations / trade associations	56			3		
Educational Institutions	22			2		
County Government	25			5		
State Government	9			0		
Others	<u>64</u>			<u>0</u>		
TOTAL	319			29		
Public Tree Ordinances Developed	2			1		
Urban Forestry Cultural Practices						
Commercial/Business	25			NA		
Residential	42			NA		
Public Agency	<u>13</u>			NA		
Total # of Assists	80					
Public Trees Inventoried	NA			10,321		
Public Tree Management Plans	NA			3		
Public Trees Planted	NA			1,934		
Tree City USA's	39			NA		
Demonstration Planting Projects	3			9		
Partnership Development	5			13		
Volunteers	32			467		
Public Information/Education	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Totals</u>
# Programs	37	22	59	11	3	14
# People	1,235	995	2,230	397	856	1,253
# Seat hours	1,844	1,270	3,114	689	978	1,667

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. During fiscal year 2007-2008, the state lands coordinator provided assistance to six state agencies. The agencies and facilities were as follows:

SC Department of Corrections

Tyger River Correctional Institution
Wateree Correctional Institution

SC Department of Natural Resources

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve
Webb Wildlife Center
Palachucola Wildlife Management Area
Donnelley Wildlife Management Area
Bonneau Ferry Wildlife Management Area
Mason Wildlife Preserve
Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve
Congaree Bluffs Heritage Preserve
Congaree River Heritage Preserve
Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve
Waccamaw River Heritage Preserve
Janet Harrison High Pond Heritage Preserve

SC State Park Service

Cheraw State Park
Aiken State Park

SC Department of Transportation

Big Pine Tree Creek Mitigation Bank

SC Department of Mental Health

Crafts-Farrow Mental Hospital

University of South Carolina

The Wedge Plantation

Timber Revenue

Three state-owned tracts were marked for timber sales with an estimated volume of 1,652,000 board feet of pine sawtimber, 912 cords of pine pulpwood, and 190 cords of hardwood pulpwood. In addition, 2 tracts totaling 639 acres were cruised to provide data for timber sales.

These sales (along with another sale the state lands coordinator assisted with) are anticipated to generate \$993,023.52 for these agencies.

Fees collected for timber marking and cruising conducted on state-owned lands totaled \$18,152 with a total of \$11,200 being allocated to the regions and \$6,952 being retained in the state lands program budget.

SAND HILLS STATE FOREST

Sand Hills State Forest (SHSF) covers approximately 46,000 acres with 45,000 acres in Chesterfield County and 1,000 acres in Darlington 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. An additional 250 acre tract in Compartment 18 has been acquired and planted with longleaf pine.

Receipts

Since 1967, Sand Hills has been totally self-supporting.

Receipts for Sand Hills Operating Budget

Activity	FY 07	FY 08	Difference
Timber & Stump Sales	\$ 554,302.66	\$ 149,833.14	\$ (404,469.52)
Pinestraw Sales	\$ 802,365.91	\$ 1,311,501.87	\$ 509,135.96
WMA Payment	\$ 21,979.14	\$ 22,735.36	\$ 756.22
Rent State Owned Property	\$ 4,060.00	\$ 3,985.25	\$ (74.75)
User Fees	\$ 9,333.37	\$ 7,468.48	\$ (1,864.89)
Prior Year Refund	\$ 3,218.95	\$ 3,416.30	\$ 197.35
Donations	\$ 7.38	\$ -	\$ (7.38)
Total	\$ 1,395,267.41	\$ 1,498,940.40	\$ 103,672.99

Note: 25% of \$1,491,538.85 was paid to Chesterfield and Darlington 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 Payment

County	FY 07	FY 08	Difference
Chesterfield	\$ 338,667.38	\$ 363,935.48	\$ 25,268.10
Darlington	\$ 8,477.89	\$ 8,949.23	\$ 471.34
Total	\$ 347,145.27	\$ 372,884.71	\$ 25,739.44

Silvicultural Practices

The following species and number of seedlings were planted:

Containerized Longleaf Pine	197,365	367 acres
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In 1999 Sand Hills started a pinestraw enhancement program. Under this program an individual from the general public can enter into a multi-year contract with the Forestry Commission to rid longleaf pine stands of scrub oaks for pine straw production. The individual agrees to eradicate 90% of all hardwoods on a tract of land using herbicides. In exchange, that person 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. Currently there are 13 individuals working on approximately 7,441 acres of land. To date, 16,443 acres of longleaf stands have been cleaned up in the enhancement program and have reverted back to SHSF to sell during bid sales.

Pine straw Enhancement Program

Fiscal Year	Contracts	Acres
2000	29	5635
2001	25	6922
2002	5	1104
2003	3	467
2004	15	2147
2005	2	421
2006	26	1784
2007	7	918
2008	56	4644
TOTAL	168	24,042

As a result of community meetings and increased pine straw activity at 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. Red registration stickers are used for a 2 week or 60 day pinestraw sale, yellow registration stickers are used for the pine straw enhancement program and 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 were issued to hunters.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION STICKERS

Fiscal Year	Restricted Trails Green Stickers	Pinestraw Sale Red Stickers	Enhancements Yellow Stickers
2006	228	93	68
2007	237	134	73
2008	226	127	83
TOTAL	691	354	224

Forest Protection

A total of 1,425 acres was prescribed burned for wildlife habitat enhancement, hardwood control and fuel reduction. Smoke management limitations and weather limited the number of acres burned this year.

Sand Hills State Forest had three wildfires that burned 63 acres in FY 08.

Recreation/Education

Recreational use of the Forest continues to increase. Hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching, and camping continue to be favorite activities. Equestrian use on SHSF has dropped by 65%, since FY 06, due to the free riding that is offered at H. Cooper Black Recreational Area under the management of SCPRT.

Thirteen permits were issued for The Headquarters Mountain Bike Trail during FY 08. There was no volunteer work performed on the trail this year. SHSF has actively been pursuing a mountain bike representative to fill the vacancy on the SHSF Recreational Committee during FY 08 with no success.

This year SHSF applied for and received a grant for a 45 mile OHV trail to be constructed on the southeastern portion of the forest. The trail can only be built if permission is granted from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service after reviewing a biological assessment of the area conducted by a certified wildlife biologist. The biological assessment of the area will most likely be completed during the winter of 2008-09.

Also during FY 08 SHSF personnel revitalized the old existing nature trail located at Sugarloaf Mountain Recreation Area. This is a two mile hiking trail located in a mature mixed pine/hardwood stand across from Mountain Pond. In addition to trail improvements, personnel also constructed a trail head that is cabled off and will park approximately eight to ten cars.

In May of 2008 SHSF personnel began the Sugarloaf Mountain Debris/Slash Removal Project. This project took several hundred man hours to complete and consisted of the cutting and removal of 40+ standing dead, mature pines from the slopes of Sugarloaf Mountain. In addition to removing standing snags, several dump truck loads of slash were removed from the ground. The mortality was the result of a wildfire which was started from a campfire atop the mountain in 2006.

At Sugarloaf Mountain, there are 6 primitive camping sites for family camping and 8 primitive equestrian campsites. Sand Hills personnel booked 150 reservations for these sites this year. An estimated 3,122 visitors used the campsites and trails. FY 04 was the first time that a fee was charged for use of facilities at Sugarloaf. FY 08 fees were \$15 per site for sites with shelters and \$10 per site without shelters.

Summary of Sand Hills State Forest recreation Area

Fiscal Year	Reservations	Visitors
2000	316	3,674
2001	307	3,456
2002	283	4,200
2003	228	2,776
2004	268	4,986
2005	172	5,582
2006	167	3,738
2007	132	3,196
2008	150	3,122
TOTAL	2,023	34,730

***Does not include day users or visitors from other user groups (i.e. hunters, fisherman, pinestraw workers)**

Trail use permits continued to decrease from 1,147 in FY 2006 to 504 permits in FY 2007 to 398 permits in FY 2008. Two hundred sixty-three annual permits and 135 daily permits were processed. These include permits that were sold online. Revenue from trail use permits totaled \$7,250.00. All of the annual permits are for horseback riders. Two hundred seventy-two of the daily permits were for horseback riders.

These permit holders come from South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Free-use permits are issued for any activity at Sand Hills State Forest that does not have a fee. SHSF personnel issued 28 this year. Twelve of the permits were for raking pinestraw for personal use, 11 for gathering firewood, 4 for gathering old bricks and metals and 1 for backpacking around Middendorf Pond and the surrounding area.

Summary of Sand Hills Permits

Year	Trail-Use Permits	Free-Use Permits	Total
FY 2000	573	412	985
FY 2001	839	299	1,138
FY 2002	932	335	1,267
FY 2003	1,240	255	1,495
FY 2004	1,246	192	1,438
FY 2005	1,314	78	1,392
FY 2006	1,147	43	1,190
FY 2007	504	39	543
FY 2008	358	28	386

Nineteen scout groups used Sugarloaf Mountain Recreation Area for their weekend campouts. Sugarloaf Mountain shelters accommodated seven churches and six family reunions for picnics and retreats.

SHSF had classes from the following schools visit for educational purposes: Governor's School of Science and Mathematics and Francis Marion University. Long Middle School and Coker College visited SHSF and were presented with a program by state forest personnel. SHSF personnel visited and presented programs to the following schools: Lamar Elementary (1st Grade) – 150 students, Long Middle School (8th Grade)-150 students and Bethune Elementary School (1st Grade)-25 students. In addition to visiting classrooms, SHSF personnel also spoke to several civic clubs.

Wildlife Management

Approximately 40,000 acres of the Forest is included in the Wildlife Management Area program. This is a cooperative agreement between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the SC Forestry Commission. DNR personnel provide assistance with game food plot establishment, monitoring deer herd dynamics, tracking various game and non-game species, and pond management. Law enforcement on the Forest is provided through interagency cooperation. SHSF has two public dove fields. The Wilkes Chapel field is 57 acres in size and planted in corn, sunflowers, and lespedeza. The Davis field is 40 acres in size and is also planted in corn, sunflowers, and lespedeza.

Eighty-one acres (110 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, sorghum, and bicolor. All plantings were fertilized and limed at the recommended rates. All manageable bicolor patches in compartments 11, 12, 18, 19, 20 and the H. Cooper Black Recreation Area were bush hogged, fertilized, and limed. Three local volunteers worked approximately 400 man hours with the Sand Hills staff planting and maintaining wildlife food plots.

Quail Unlimited supplied \$1,000 worth of seed and fertilizer that SHSF staff used to establish and maintain 12 wildlife openings for quail.

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

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Management

Population Trends: The number of active clusters of red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) on SHSF increased to 64 clusters and the number of potential breeding groups increased to 63. In addition to the 64 active clusters, there are 8 inactive clusters, of which 1 can be considered a recruitment cluster. The other 7 would require habitat work in order to be considered suitable. One cluster is currently considered to be a relic cluster.

Sixty nesting attempts were made by 57 groups in 2008; 41 of these attempts produced viable offspring.

Management Implications: The initiation of a vigorous recruitment program will likely result in greater increases over the next few years. Recruitment clusters are to be provided at a rate of 10% of the active number of clusters. Therefore, we need to supply 6 recruitment clusters for FY 2009. This can be done by using the one recruitment cluster currently available, improving existing inactive clusters making them suitable, and by the creation of up to five new recruitment clusters in previously unoccupied habitat. Placing new recruitment clusters in strategic locations based on the RCW management plan in concert with translocation of individuals to recruitment sites will likely result in the highest rate of population growth.

Law Enforcement

In FY 08 law enforcement personnel at Sand Hills made 26 cases against 35 individuals for a total of 75 separate charges. Of these charges, 70% were either WMA (Wildlife Management Area) or Rules & Regulations of the Commission. All of the 75 charges received a 100% conviction rating in magistrates and General Session's court. Approximately 100 hours of community service were performed on Sand Hills for some of these charges. In September an individual pled guilty to grand larceny, a felony, for stealing a tractor trailer full of baled pine straw. He was ordered

to pay \$3,000 and received 3 years probation. He was also banned from doing business with the state forest. In FY 08 five game cameras were brought for surveillance. These cameras were instrumental in several cases of pine straw theft.

Research

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

MANCHESTER STATE FOREST

Manchester State Forest, located in Sumter County and Clarendon County, is currently comprised of approximately 29,070 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

Receipts For Operating Budget:

Activity	Receipts
Timber Sales	\$631,684.00
Pine Straw Sales	101,363.00
Land Lease Payments	39,790.02
Wildlife Management Area	57,809.19
Trail and Special Use Permits	40,489.00
Total	\$ 871,135.21

Note: 25% of all forest receipts are paid to Sumter and Clarendon Counties for a total of \$217,783.80.

Timber sales were concentrated on thinnings in overstocked stands and conversion of older slash pine stands to longleaf plantations according to the planning model.

Silvicultural Practices: One thousand three hundred forty-five (1,345) acres were prescribed burned during the fiscal year for wildlife, hazard reduction, hardwood control, aesthetic, and site preparation purposes.

Final harvest was conducted on 301.8 acres and 254.6 acres were sold for improvement cuts (thinnings).

The following species and number of seedlings were planted during FY08:

bareroot longleaf pine	518,000	832 acres
containerized longleaf pine (spot planted)	29,750	100
improved coastal loblolly pine	<u>39,000</u>	<u>83</u>
	586,750	1,015

Sales of pinestraw covered three hundred fifty-three (353) acres.

Forest Protection

Two wildfires occurred, burning approximately three acres with minimal damage to the timber. Two additional fires involving stolen vehicles also occurred, but were suppressed by the local fire departments. Manchester personnel also assisted the local fire departments with two additional fires, which were adjacent to the Forest.

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 all three sessions of Wood Magic, one school career day and hosted a silvicultural tour with approximately 12 participants.

Five special-use permits were issued for organized events with approximately 1,362 paid participants.

An organized clean-up comprised of 40 volunteers was held on Manchester, which resulted in 13 tons of trash being picked up. Those participating included Palmetto Pride, Clemson Extension, Shaw Air Force Base personnel, Sumter County, and Manchester State Forest personnel.

One meeting of the Manchester Recreational Advisory Council was held.

Wildlife Management

Approximately 26,000 acres of the forest are presently included in the Wildlife Management Area Program through a cooperative agreement between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the South Carolina Forestry Commission. DNR provided technical assistance with game food plot establishment monitoring and dove fields. They also agreed to plant the 150 acre dove field on the Oak Lea Tract. The draw hunts at Oak Lea also increased in popularity as evidenced by the increased number of applications. Game harvests increased significantly from the previous year with 87 deer being harvested.

Five (5) public dove fields were opened on Manchester and Oak Lea with an opening day participation of five hundred six (506) hunters. One thousand five hundred eighteen doves were harvested on opening day with a total of 7,563 shots being fired.

Manchester also hosted its annual youth dove hunt on the Bland Tract, which was limited to 36 youths accompanied by 27 adults who were required to register in advance. Two hundred eighty-nine (289) doves were harvested during this event with 2,840 shots being fired.

During the year DNR also provided technical assistance with deer herd dynamics, tracking various game and non-game species including quail, turkey, and fox squirrels and pond management. DNR also assisted in law enforcement on the forest through interagency cooperation.

Planting and maintenance was conducted on 587 acres of wildlife areas. Corn, popcorn, Egyptian wheat, sunflowers, sorghum-brown top-millet-benne mix, wheat, rye, clover, vetch and bicolor were utilized to diversify the food supply. Several of the plantings were donated by the Department of Natural Resources and planted by Manchester and DNR personnel.

Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species Management

Manchester currently maintains six (6) clusters of Red Cockaded Woodpecker. 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 (USAF). An agreement was reached with the USAF that would allow them to monitor and work on the colony sites only with prior agreement with the Manchester State Forest Director. A meeting with DNR, Poinsett Weapons Range, and USF&W Service personnel resulting in an emergency recovery plan for the RCW.

Research

Manchester continues to cooperate with the SCFC Nursery Section by providing eight (8) sites for clone banks, seed orchards, and progeny tests.

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, U. S. Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Anheuser-Bush. Wee Tee contains 12,394 acres of which 770 acres is comprised of planted loblolly pine plantations and upland pine-hardwood types and the remaining 11,624 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, unfragmented 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 and education.

Receipts

For fiscal year 2007-08, \$34,762.30 was collected on Wee Tee State Forest as payment for SCDNR's WMA program and one timber sale for \$208,026.00 from which \$60,697.08 was paid to Williamsburg and Georgetown counties.

Silvicultural Practices

Two hundred acres of bottomland hardwood were silviculturally harvested for regeneration purposes.

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, information from hunters indicates successful seasons for both the deer and turkey.

Plans have been initiated in cooperation with Palmetto Conservation Foundation to allow canoeing and kayaking in the Wee Tee Lakes in conjunction with the Berkeley County Blueways.

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 2004-05 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.

Infrastructure

Manchester State Forest personnel made road improvements to approximately 15 miles of roads on Wee Tee during FY2008. Improvements included grading, mowing and drainage improvements due to existing beaver dams and culvert replacements.

A new water well was installed at the work center and other renovations and improvements are planned to enhance the functionality and security of the building.

A permanent employee was also added to Wee Tee with primary responsibilities to the wildfire efforts mainly in Williamsburg and Georgetown Counties, and secondary maintenance responsibilities to roads, buildings and other infrastructure at Wee Tee.

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

Parking fees were initiated in March 2004 to provide more equity with regard to user fees. Since 1997, bicyclists have been required to purchase daily or annual permits while hikers, runners, picnickers, and other Forest users were not required to pay fees. Fee boxes were installed at all trailheads in February 2004 to allow visitors to purchase parking permits without assistance.

Receipts for Operating Budget

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
Timber Sales	\$ 0.00
Shelter Rentals	\$ 1,880.00
Conference Room Rentals	\$10,208.00
Annual Bike Permits	\$23,800.00
Daily Bike Permits	\$ 7,851.31
Annual Parking Permits	\$ 2,025.00
Daily Parking Permits	\$10,101.00
Special Use Permits	\$ 550.00
Trail Donations	\$ 851.12
Total	\$57,266.43

Note: 25% of all receipts are paid to Richland and Lexington County School Systems. This amounted to \$11,081.83 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. (Donations and rental income are not included when calculating the total to be dispersed to the school systems.)

Silvicultural Practices

Recovery of the Forest following the 2002 southern pine beetle outbreak continues to take place at a satisfactory rate. Most of the areas that were understocked following salvage operations now contain an adequate number of natural seedlings, most of which are loblolly pine. A per unit timber sale consisting of approximate 63 acres was put under contract, which will expire October 8, 2009.

Three prescribed burns were conducted in January and February 2008 for a total of approximately 7 acres. One prescribed burn was conducted near the fire tower to serve as a demonstration area totaling 0.71 acre. It is located near previous burns and an unburned area to provide a contrast of one, two, and three years following a prescribed fire as well as how the Forest would look if fire was completely excluded. The second prescribed burn, approximately 3.75 acres, was conducted near Geology Road, an area where annual burns have been previously conducted, and focused on longleaf habitat improvement. The third, approximately 2.5 acres, was adjacent to the second burn and was burned during the Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination training class.

Forest Protection

No forest fires occurred on Harbison State Forest during this fiscal year. Harbison State Forest resources did respond to a 2.5 acre wildfire on adjacent land. Individual tree mortality returned to a normal level following the 2002 southern pine beetle outbreak. Trees that were considered hazardous to forest visitors and/or to buildings were felled as workload allowed. (Many of these trees were removed during chainsaw training conducted by the Forestry Commission's Training Section.)

Recreation/Education

Several events were held on the trails at Harbison during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The Friends of Harbison State Forest hosted a foot and bike race with an estimated 50 participants. The Friends of Harbison State Forest also held their second 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 an Adventure Race and an Ultra "50k" Run.

In addition to these events, numerous trail work days were conducted during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. These events included improving the trails by pruning overhanging branches and brush and rehabilitating wet areas and closed trails. Friends of the Forest members continue to provide leadership for these work days, enabling Harbison staff to perform other functions during these weekend events. The Friends of the Forest, with the help of a Richland County Recreation Grant, is helping to improve Harbison's trails by upgrading the Firebreak Trail with a major re-route around a badly eroding section of trail.

The Friends of Harbison State Forest continue to meet on a monthly basis to plan events and promote the Forest. They have received recognition from the Secretary of State as a non-profit group and have achieved 501(c)3 status from the IRS. 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 about 75 individuals.

Boy Scouts continue to provide assistance to Harbison through Eagle Scout projects and Cub Scout activities. Two Eagle Scout projects were completed this fiscal year, the first one being a beginners' compass course followed by a new arbor at the entrance to the Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Numerous educational programs were conducted for Scouts and others at Harbison State Forest. (See the Environmental Education section of this report for details.)

Scouts and other organized groups continue to use the four primitive camping facilities at Harbison. Harbison's camping facilities were used by 34 groups this fiscal year for a total of 631 users.

The canoe landing at Harbison State Forest provides access to the Broad River. During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, 74 groups used this facility for a total of 370 paddlers. Usage of the Canoe Landing appears to be recovering from the diminished use due to the closing of the down river take out at the Riverside Golf Center.

Wildlife Management

Five wildlife viewing areas totaling 2 ½ acres are maintained each year. These areas are planted in cover crops such as wheat, rye, and clover to facilitate the viewing of wildlife by Forest visitors.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Management

No threatened or endangered species are known to occur on Harbison State Forest. The two vernal ponds that were established in May 2004 have become well-established. These ½-acre wetlands provide habitat for amphibians, reptiles, and many species of insects and are favorite stops on nature hikes by educational groups and other Forest visitors.

Research

No research projects were conducted this year on Harbison State Forest

POE CREEK STATE FOREST

Poe Creek State Forest 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 that 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, 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:

Activity	Receipts
Timber Sales	\$0.00
Wildlife Management Area	\$16,365.48
Total	\$ 16,365.48

Note: 25% of all forest receipts are paid to Pickens and Oconee Counties for a total of \$4,091.37.

Silvicultural Practices

No timber harvesting occurred on Poe Creek State Forest or on the Piedmont Forestry Center during FY08. Two prescribed burns were conducted during the past year on the Piedmont Forestry Center property for a total of 12 acres. These burns were designed to control hardwoods, reduce the risk of wildfire, and improve the aesthetics of three loblolly pine plantations and one white pine plantation.

Recreation/Education

Long Shoals Wayside Park, known locally as Sliding Rock, was dedicated on June 24, 2005. The two-year project, led by upstate conservationists Dennis Chastain and Dr. George Smith, has transformed a local party spot into a family recreation area. Use during FY08 was heavy, with numerous individuals and groups taking advantage of this beautiful facility. The completion of a ¾-mile hiking trail adjacent to the Little Estatoe Creek during spring 2008 expanded the recreational opportunities available at this site. Trout fishing is available here and in the Cheohee River on the Piedmont Forestry Center property.

A fishing rodeo was held at the Piedmont Forestry Center during May 2008. This event, designed primarily for youth, was attended by 1,105 individuals and was sponsored by the Forestry Commission, SC DNR, and numerous partners.

Two scouting events were held at the Piedmont Forestry Center involving a total of 175 scouts and their leaders.

Clemson University personnel conducted 5 school programs for 273 children and 26 adults at this site.

Forest Protection

Harvesting on Poe Creek and on the Piedmont Forestry Center has reduced density in overstocked loblolly pine plantations. This harvesting has improved forest health and reduced the hazard of wildfire and infestation by bark beetles.

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. During FY08, three wildlife food plots were expanded and 14 other food plots were maintained to improve the wildlife habitat on Poe Creek. Poe Creek State Forest and Piedmont Forestry Center are both in DNR's Wildlife Management Area program and open to public hunting.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Management

Poe Creek State Forest continues to provide habitat for several populations of federally endangered plants. These areas are being protected from human encroachment and are scheduled for restoration work during FY09.

Infrastructure

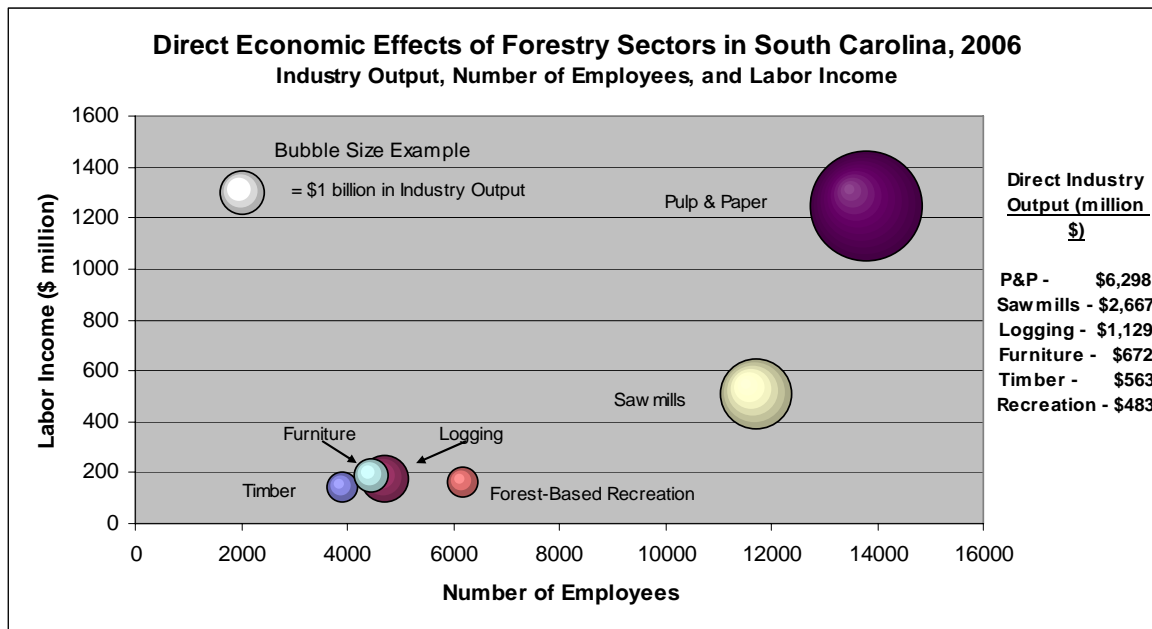
Road access at both the Piedmont Forestry Center and at Poe Creek State Forest was maintained during FY08 through mowing of road shoulders and grading where needed. Piedmont Region and state forest personnel constructed an additional road on the northern end of Poe Creek. This road will improve access for wildfire control and silvicultural activities.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

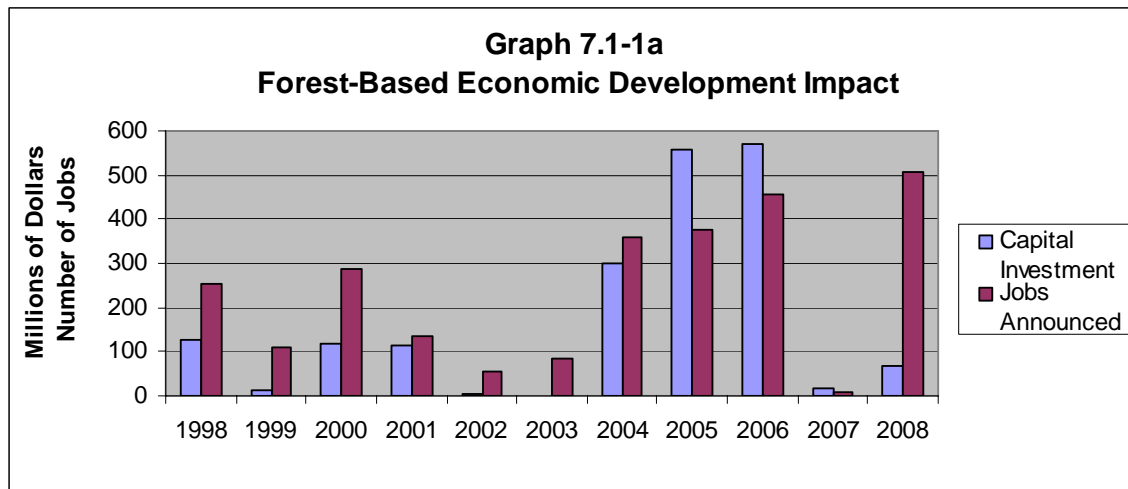
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

The nationwide slowdown in residential housing construction that began in spring of 2006 has continued through mid-2008. The number of new home starts fell an additional 30.6% in the South from June 2007 to June 2008. The number of new home starts is now less than half the number of homes built before the slowdown. Residential housing is a major outlet for lumber and wood panel products. Reduced home construction resulted in lower demands for these wood products and depressed lumber, plywood and OSB prices throughout the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Despite the recent construction slowdown, the impact of forestry on South Carolina's economy remains strong. An IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning) study showed forestry is the #1 manufacturing industry in South Carolina in terms of employment (44,708 jobs) and labor income (\$2.4 billion). Forestry contributes over \$17 billion in total industry output to South Carolina's economy. The chart below shows the relative contribution of the forestry sectors that were included in the study.



During FY 2006-2008, five forest industry announcements were made that involved \$65.7 million in new capital investment and 505 new jobs. Roseburg Forest products purchased Georgia Pacific's Holly Hill fiberboard plant and invested \$49 million in capital improvements. In Barnwell County, Elkay Cabinet announced plans for a \$12 million plant that would employ 300 residents. Other new projects included a wood molding plant in Manning, a pallet and packaging plant in Calhoun County, and a corporate expansion by Domtar Paper in Fort Mill.



Other major changes in South Carolina's forest industry included MeadWestvaco's acquisition of Eastman Chemical Company's pine chemical product line and the sale of MeadWestvaco's 71-year-old kraft paper mill in North Charleston to Illinois-based KapStone Paper and Packaging Corporation for \$485 million. The sale included a lumber mill in Summerville and chip mills in Elgin, Hampton, Andrews and Kinards. Chesterfield Lumber was purchased by Canfor Corporation for \$18 million. Finally, ArborGen announced the agreement to acquire the nursery and tree improvement operations from MeadWestvaco and International Paper Company.

During the 2008 fiscal year, the SCFC Resource Development Division actively participated in 21 economic development projects. 20 of the 21 projects involved utilization of biomass in the manufacture of pellets (9 projects), biofuels (6 projects), and electric power generation (5 projects). The SCFC represented the agency and forestry community through 18 statewide and regional economic development organizations. Finally, 201 individual business assists were made to address single-issue requests.

FOREST INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program is a cooperative program with the US Forest Service – Southern Research Station 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. Additional funding is supplied by state 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. 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.

A subset of the FIA plots is selected to provide data on forest health (referred to as the Phase 3 portion of FIA). A total of 204 plots are located in South Carolina. Each year, during the summer, 20% of these plots, referred to as panels, are measured to provide forest health data, such as, soil chemistry, tree health, tree carbon fixation, tree nutrient storage, and potential for tree survival and reproduction. Phase 3 data provides a quantitative assessment of current tree conditions and provides an integrated measure of site conditions, stand density and influence of external stresses. In addition, separate bioindicator plots are taken to detect the presence of ozone pollution.

Currently, four full-time inventory crews are stationed throughout the state with field offices in Spartanburg, Newberry, Marion, 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 2007-2008, the average accuracy for all crews was 93.88%.

During FY 2007-2008, field crews completed one panel of plots that began in FY 2006-2007 and began the next panel. For the fiscal year a total of 753 plots was completed. The Forestry Commission FIA program is currently 32%

complete with the 10th survey and is on schedule to complete the 10th survey measurements in five years, with December 2011 as a target date for completion. In addition to data collected on FIA plots, the FIA program completed 32 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 trees. The FIA program also collected Timber Product Output (TPO) data on all primary wood producing mills within the state. TPO data accounts for the total volume of roundwood products from all sources plus the volume of byproducts recovered from mill residues.

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 2007-2008, 48,186,030 softwoods and 1,134,487 hardwood seedlings were planted in South Carolina for a total of 49,320,517 seedlings. This number is slightly lower than the 50,900,000 reported planted in FY 2006-2007. The number of seedlings planted in South Carolina has declined 53% since FY 1999-2000 due to fewer acres of final harvest, lower timber stumpage prices and a slowdown in government cost-share funding. Growth in forest industry and the SCFC's "Grow Some Green" campaign hope to increase future tree planting.

Taylor Nursery distributed 4,099,980 softwood and 439,862 hardwood seedlings in FY 2007-2008 for a total of 4,539,842 seedlings total. This amounts to distribution of 60% of the total number of bareroot and containerized seedlings grown at Taylor Nursery. The SCFC sold 9.2% of the seedlings distributed in South Carolina this year from all public and private sources. Taylor Nursery is a primary producer of hardwood and longleaf pine seedlings in the state. High demand for containerized longleaf led nursery staff to double capacity to grow 900,000 seedlings. Incremental expansions are planned over the next few years.

Each year the SCFC surveys a 10% sample of seedling customers to determine general satisfaction with our seedlings and to target areas for improvement. Since beginning the survey, customer satisfaction has averaged 94% overall. The 2008 survey indicated that 90% of our customers were satisfied with our seedling quality and service. Of the customer comments on returned survey forms, 63% were complimentary of the nursery program. Of the 10 comments that suggested areas for improvement, half of the comments concerned seedling quality issues. All comments are being evaluated and addressed.

The SCFC entered into an agreement with Cellfor in 2005 to jointly produce and market elite varieties of loblolly pine that are specifically suited to South Carolina. Cellfor uses vegetative propagation to produce identical copies of seedlings in mini-plugs that are transplanted into Taylor Nursery seedling beds. In June 2008, 113,000 Cellfor seedlings were transplanted to be grown for sale during the 2008-2009 planting season. Plans are being made to increase this to 1 million transplants in May of 2009. Through this agreement, non-industrial private landowners will have access to these highly-valued seedlings through the SCFC's nursery sales 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. Recent research studies conducted at Taylor Nursery include: (1) a herbicide toleration study to improve chemical control of hard-to-control weeds such as spurge, nut sedge and Poor-Joe, (2) a study to find an alternative to methyl bromide for nematode control, and (3) a broad fumigation + fungicide study installed in April 2008.

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.

Second-generation loblolly pine orchards were established from 1985-1989, totaling 322 acres. NFC's orchards came into production in 1993 with some 4,542 bushels collected from both Coastal and Piedmont province orchards; to date some 51,000 bushels have been collected.

A welcome addition to NFC this fiscal year was the addition of a Forestry Technician I to the staff in March 2008. This is one of three new positions administered by the agency to begin a shift toward developing a 40-hour workweek fire suppression team. The technician will divide workload assignments between tree improvement and fire suppression duties. Additionally, the SCFC renewed its relationship with the North Carolina State University Cooperative Tree Improvement Program (NCSUCTIP) by joining as a Contributing Member. This relationship will make available to the Commission all data within the Cooperative breeding/testing programs, and is enabling the Commission to update deployment strategies for third-cycle orchard establishment, and providing new opportunities for marketing seed and seedlings.

Third-cycle orchard establishment continues in earnest with 198 grafts added to the Coastal province and 127 added to the Piedmont province in 2008. Orchard establishment is at roughly 50%, with approximately 9 acres of Coastal province and 6 acres of Piedmont province orchards in place. 2008 grafting has yielded an additional 231 Coastal grafts and 234 Piedmont grafts to be deployed.

Cone collection for 2007 yielded 2,745 bushels. Seed processing generated 2,430.35 pounds of seed. Utilizing new data from the NCSUCTIP, selected family lots collected are being grown at Taylor Nursery to enhance the potential revenue a landowner may expect from reforestation with these seedlings. NFC's annual sale of seed and pine cones generated \$96,493.12 in revenue: to date, Niederhof's 2nd-generation orchards have created additional revenue in the amount of \$1,336,293.23 from cone and seed sales.

Our relationships with ArborGen and Cellfor continue to provide the Forestry Commission with additional revenue opportunities while promoting valuable research through tree breeding activities. Cellfor is a full member of the NCSUCTIP and continues Cooperative breeding and testing at NFC; ArborGen's relationship provides the agency the opportunity to market additional cone sales while enjoying the results of soil fertility studies. As funding for the Commission's Tree Improvement facility remains tenuous, these research agreements are a vital component of funding operations.

Tree Seedling Distribution by Landowner Classification 2007-2008

Land Ownership	Softwoods Planted	Hardwoods Planted	Total Number of Trees Planted	Percent of Total
Non-Industrial Private Landowners	26,050,415	703,367	26,753,782	54.2%
Forest Industry	14,993,415	320,600	15,314,015	31.0%
Corporate	5,329,600	96,350	5,425,950	11.0%
Government	1,812,600	14,170	1,826,770	3.7%
Total	48,186,030	1,134,487	49,320,517	

Source of Seedlings Planted in South Carolina

Nurseries in South Carolina	Softwoods Distributed	Hardwoods Distributed	Total Number of Trees Distributed	Percent of Grand Total
International Paper	17,549,650	210,025	17,759,675	36.0%
Weyerhaeuser	11,950,200	33,000	11,983,200	24.3%
MeadWestvaco	6,575,000	40,000	6,615,000	13.4%
South Carolina Forestry Commission	4,099,980	439,862	4,539,842	9.2%
Oak Grove Nursery	425,000	0	425,000	0.9%
Total	40,599,830	722,887	41,322,717	83.8%

Nurseries Outside of South Carolina

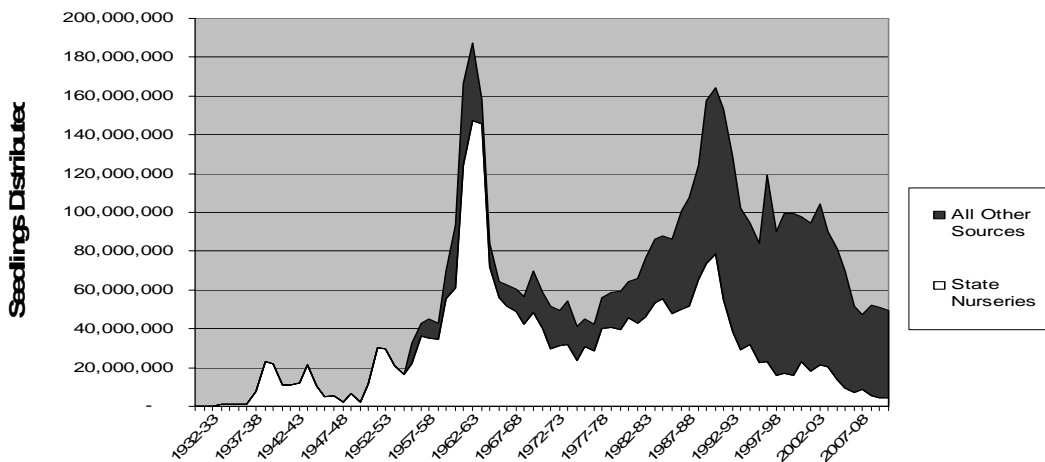
Plum Creek	4,400,000	0	4,400,000	8.9%
International Forest Company	639,200	411,600	1,050,800	2.1%
Meeks	1,100,000	0	1,100,000	2.2%
North Carolina Forest Service	950,000	0	950,000	1.9%
Georgia Forestry Commission	497,000	0	497,000	1.0%
Total	7,586,200	411,600	7,997,800	16.2%
Grand Total	48,186,030	1,134,487	49,320,517	100%

State Nursery Seedling Production & Sales for FY 2007-2008

<u>Species</u>	<u>Seedlings Produced</u>	<u>Seedlings Sold</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
Ash, Green	15,000	15,000	100%
Atlantic White Cedar CTR	9,000	6,200	69%
Baldcypress	50,000	29,440	59%
Carolina Sapphire CTR	1,152	1,152	100%
Cedar, Eastern Red	20,810	20,810	100%
Cherry, Black	2,500	2,280	91%
Clemson Greenspire CTR	1,152	1,152	100%
Dogwood	24,920	13,230	53%
Lespedeza, Attaway	871,000	141,760	16%
Leyland Cypress CTR	18,000	18,000	100%
Loblolly Pine, CTR	8,000	6,650	83%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal 2nd gen.	450,000	91,150	20%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Fast Growth	384,810	384,810	100%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Rust Resistant	450,000	70,600	16%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Best Family	176,000	139,700	79%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont 2nd gen.	1,400,000	735,010	53%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Fast Growth	700,000	361,150	52%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Rust Resistant	462,000	258,900	56%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Best Family	155,710	155,710	100%
Loblolly Pine, Cellfor Q3802 & L3791	120,250	120,250	100%
Loblolly Pine, Texas	20,000	8,970	45%
Longleaf Pine	1,190,010	1,190,010	100%
Longleaf Pine CTR	510,000	510,000	100%
Maple, Red	2,360	2,360	100%
Misc. Minor Species	18,510	12,960	70%
Mulberry, Red	5,000	1,820	36%
Oak, Bur	4,000	3,660	92%
Oak, Cherrybark	30,000	5,610	19%
Oak, Gobbler	13,000	9,530	73%
Oak, Laurel	8,500	1,680	20%
Oak, Live	7,000	7,000	100%
Oak, Northern Red	6,000	5,338	89%
Oak, Pin	8,000	2,720	34%
Oak, Post	6,000	80	1%
Oak, Sawtooth	19,724	19,724	100%
Oak, Shumard	15,000	1,096	7%
Oak, Swamp Chestnut	3,700	2,760	75%
Oak, White	2,000	2,000	100%
Oak, Willow	20,000	5,240	26%
Pecan	3,000	1,470	49%
Plum, Chickasaw	10,415	10,415	100%
Redbud	3,200	3,179	99%
Shortleaf Pine	20,000	2,850	14%
Slash Pine, Rust Resistant	15,000	4,800	32%
Sweetgum	25,000	2,740	11%
Sycamore	19,000	14,609	77%
Tupelo, Blackgum & Ogechee	1,600	730	46%
Virginia Pine	105,000	59,420	57%
Walnut, Black	10,000	5,770	58%
White Pine	65,060	36,940	57%
Wiregrass, CTR	14,600	14,600	100%
Yellow Poplar	<u>16,807</u>	<u>16,807</u>	<u>100%</u>
Totals	7,517,790	4,539,842	60%

Seedling Distribution 1928-2008

Year	Total State Nurseries	Total All Sources	Year	Total State Nurseries	Total All Sources
1928-29	142,000	142,000	1968-69	29,529,000	51,453,000
1929-30	148,000	148,000	1969-70	31,415,000	49,203,000
1930-31	986,000	986,000	1970-71	31,940,000	54,541,000
1931-32	976,000	976,000	1971-72	23,678,000	41,357,000
1932-33	996,000	996,000	1972-73	30,978,000	45,239,000
1933-34	1,031,000	1,031,000	1973-74	28,443,000	42,306,000
1934-35	7,529,000	7,529,000	1974-75	40,082,000	55,997,000
1935-36	23,000,000	23,000,000	1975-76	40,664,000	59,063,000
1936-37	22,000,000	22,000,000	1976-77	39,795,000	59,238,000
1937-38	11,192,000	11,192,000	1977-78	45,735,000	64,380,000
1938-39	10,854,000	10,854,000	1978-79	43,010,000	65,937,000
1939-40	12,244,000	12,244,000	1979-80	46,375,000	76,207,000
1940-41	21,165,000	21,165,000	1980-81	53,513,000	86,420,000
1941-42	10,275,000	10,275,000	1981-82	55,728,000	87,793,000
1942-43	4,742,000	4,742,000	1982-83	47,799,000	86,265,000
1943-44	5,663,000	5,663,000	1983-84	50,170,000	100,394,000
1944-45	1,963,000	1,963,000	1984-85	51,636,000	107,718,000
1945-46	6,402,000	6,402,000	1985-86	65,465,000	124,381,000
1946-47	1,963,000	1,963,000	1986-87	73,555,000	157,523,000
1947-48	11,357,000	11,357,000	1987-88	78,788,000	164,095,000
1948-49	30,389,000	30,389,000	1988-89	55,052,000	153,450,000
1949-50	29,502,000	29,502,000	1989-90	38,356,000	128,475,000
1950-51	20,615,000	20,615,000	1990-91	29,297,000	102,384,000
1951-52	16,619,000	16,619,000	1991-92	31,984,000	94,710,000
1952-53	22,036,000	32,246,000	1992-93	22,665,000	84,287,000
1953-54	36,210,000	42,852,000	1993-94	23,286,000	119,311,000
1954-55	35,373,000	45,182,000	1994-95	16,154,000	90,336,000
1955-56	34,414,000	42,932,000	1995-96	16,841,000	99,549,000
1956-57	55,754,000	69,659,000	1996-97	16,058,000	99,439,000
1957-58	60,846,000	93,369,000	1997-98	23,278,000	97,963,000
1958-59	123,985,000	166,351,000	1998-99	17,955,000	94,539,000
1959-60	147,146,000	187,516,000	1999-00	21,524,000	104,594,000
1960-61	145,609,000	158,331,000	2000-01	20,095,000	90,346,000
1961-62	71,892,000	83,844,000	2001-02	13,500,000	81,431,000
1962-63	56,191,000	64,202,000	2002-03	9,376,000	69,989,000
1963-64	51,446,000	62,424,000	2003-04	7,202,000	51,823,000
1964-65	49,010,000	60,683,000	2004-05	8,563,000	47,243,000
1965-66	42,311,000	56,529,000	2005-06	5,437,000	52,165,000
1966-67	48,575,000	69,598,000	2006-07	4,206,000	50,900,000
1967-68	39,970,000	58,812,000	2007-08	4,539,842	49,320,517
Total State Nurseries		2,566,137,842			
Total All Sources		4,887,997,517			



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		
Coastal Loblolly Pine 2.0	1985-1988	68.3
Piedmont Loblolly Pine 2.0	1985-1988	63.1
Longleaf Pine 1.0	1988-1990	30
Loblolly Pine Breeding Orchard 3.0	1997-2003	10
Longleaf Pine Seedling Seed Orchard	1998	8
Coastal Loblolly Pine 3.0	2005-2006	9
Piedmont Loblolly Pine 3.0	2005-2006	6
Total		194.4
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	12
Virginia Pine 1.0	1993	3
Northern Red Oak Seedling Seed Orchard	1993-1995	2
Total		17
Grand Total		278.4

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 Implementation Monitoring

Preliminary compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to timber harvesting was 99% for 2007-2008, demonstrating continual improvement since monitoring began in 1990. Compliance for harvesting BMPs was 84.5% in 1990, 84.7% in 1991, 89.5% in 1994, 91.5% in 1999, 94% in 2001, and 98% in 2005. Further analysis of 2007-2008 data will include comparison with Courtesy Exam data and an expert review of monitoring practices.

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, 4,356 contact hours of training were held across the state for loggers, landowners, contractors, and forest resource professionals. Included in these meetings were twelve workshops for the Timber Operations Professional (TOP) logger training and education program. BMP Foresters participated in 33 programs reaching 1,031 individuals.

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 the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the BMP Foresters provided assistance on 505 sites and completed 325 courtesy exams. The overall BMP compliance rate on sites which had a courtesy exam was 99.4%, compared to 98% overall statewide compliance.

Endangered Species

The Environmental Management Section monitored endangered species developments with an emphasis on those species that may impact forestry operations. Species of interest include the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Flatwoods Salamander, and Carolina Heelsplitter. The BMP Foresters are available to provide information and assistance to SCFC personnel, foresters, and private landowners. This assistance may include site visits, cooperating on the Safe Harbor program administered by the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, and assisting State Forests and other state-owned properties upon request.

Cooperation with Other Agencies

Programs related to environmental protection of forest resources require close cooperation with other agencies. 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. BMP Foresters often work with DHEC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when those agencies have regulatory authority over issues which may effect 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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Section is responsible directly and indirectly for the maintenance and support of the agency's local and wide area network, nine (9) Windows Server 2003 Servers, one (1) Windows NT Server, network storage devices, over 150 computer users, software applications and implementation of various initiatives to support agency operations and programs. A major project this year was configuring and supporting the computer needs of the agency's Incident Management Teams in training and disaster exercises.

The State's data network backbone is being upgraded from frame relay and ATM circuits to Multiprotocol Level Switching (MPLS). MPLS offers a higher level of reliability and ability to prioritize various types of network traffic. Upgrading to MPLS will better align the agency with current and future technology needs such as Voice over IP telephony. State agencies had until May, 2008 to migrate to MPLS and avoid substantial increases in network costs. Unfortunately, vendors awarded the MPLS contract by the State Office of the CIO have been unable to resolve technical issues with the MPLS circuits to replace the agencies current ATM circuits by this deadline. It is anticipated this project will be completed within the first quarter of FY 2009.

Over 11,700 pounds of electronic waste was recycled this year in a major effort to discard obsolete and unsellable surplus copiers, computer equipment, two-way communications equipment, telephones, fax machines, etc. accumulated by the agency over the past 10 years. Through a State Term contract with a vendor, hard drives were shredded; components and precious metals environmentally recycled; and electronic waste (such as lead, mercury, and lithium) captured and properly disposed.

GIS

The Forestry Commission was selected as an ESRI beta test site for various ESRI GIS software with the agency's continued development of an Enterprise GIS System to support USDA Forest Service Spatial Accomplishment Reporting requirements. The system will focus around a spatial database and mobile GIS application for field personnel to capture forest management activities to develop management plans and maps. As time and funding permits, this Enterprise GIS System will also be utilized for agency property management; wildland and urban interface planning; fire management applications; state forest and state lands management; natural disaster survey and recovery work; and possibly an agency GIS presence on the Internet.

The Southern Group of State Foresters is exploring updating data used in a GIS model that analyzes the risk of wildfires in the southern region of the US. The Southern Fire Risk Assessment System identifies the potential for serious fires and prioritizes areas where mitigation options may be desirable. The GIS analyst is assisting in updating data used in the model to better represent local South Carolina conditions for further use by agency Fire Managers.

The GIS Section also assisted in the procurement and deployment of handheld GPS units to be used in the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) program. This equipment and applications will streamline and improve the accuracy in the collection of SPB infestation data and development and implementation of suppression plans.

The GIS Manager was deployed for two weeks to provide GIS support for Type 2 and Type 3 Incident Management Teams on large fires in Georgia. In addition to completing the task book for GIS-S position, various processes were streamlined or automated for daily map products that greatly improved the flow of information to IMT members and other decision makers. This first hand knowledge has been shared with GIS personnel with the State Emergency Management Division to better prepare them for similar disasters.

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. In FY08, the intern was responsible for updating mapping layers for the South Fire Risk Assessment System; updating state and regional fire grid maps; and 911 address and centerline layer for the agency's computer aided dispatch system.

COMMUNICATIONS

Using National Fire Plan grants, the Forestry Commission continued updating its two-way radio system to narrowband technology as mandated by Federal Communications Commission regulations. Federal agencies were mandated to migrate to narrowband by 2006 and all other users by 2013. Initial purchase of 140 mobile radios targeted firefighters that interoperate with the US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service and other federal land management agencies.

By the end of FY07, the majority of the agency's mobile radios (555), major base stations (7) and repeaters (26) were replaced with narrowband capable equipment. In FY 2008, 300 narrowband capable portable radios were purchased and distributed to the field. With all equipment in the field narrowband capable, the agency can now move all its VHF radio frequencies to narrowband spacing in FY09.

An additional eight (8) 800MHz portable radios were purchased for Incident Management Team members using Homeland Security Grants for better interoperability with other Federal, State, and local agencies. These were added to the existing 35 portable radios currently assigned to the agency's law enforcement officers and a State CIO Office supplied base station incorporated with the agency's dispatch centers.

The Communications Section is also looking at Radio over IP and Voice over IP products for replacing the agency's "end-of-life" radio dispatch consoles and statewide networking system in FY 2009 or FY 2010. Products in this area have matured over the past few years and become less proprietary – important features for reliability and interoperability for mission critical communications.

DISPATCH OPERATIONS

The Forestry Commission operates three (3) dispatch centers that handle over 60,000 phone calls annually for burn notifications for the purpose of forestry, wildlife or agricultural and reporting of wildfires. On July 1, 2005, the agency went "live" with a new computer aided dispatch and records management systems. These systems replaced a custom developed application written in 1996. Federal funds from the National Fire Plan and other grants were used to fund this new system.

Utilizing commercial, "off-the-shelf" dispatching software from Logistic Systems, Inc., the system incorporates many of the features and functionality of 911 dispatch systems. The new system determines the closest available unit based on road mileage and travel speeds; automates the notification of personnel of wildfires; alerts dispatchers when certain dispatching timeframes are exceeded; allows for the utilization of automated vehicle location (AVL) technology; and automates the compliance issues with smoke management regulations on forestry, wildlife and agricultural burn notifications.

South Carolina was the first state to have a statewide forest fire dispatching system. Commercial, "off-the-shelf" dispatching software makes it more cost-effective for other federal and state forest firefighting agencies to deploy a similar system. Built around a standard product line, updates, enhancements, maintenance and support costs are shared with a larger customer base than a custom built application.

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) was reduced by 2.15 minutes (see table below). This improved by another 0.20+ minutes in FY 2007 and FY 2008. Processing of smoke management notifications also decreased with the new software by 1.2 minutes on 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 2002 through 2008

TIMES	FY 2002 Average (Minutes)	FY 2003 Average (Minutes)	FY 2004 Average (Minutes)	FY 2005 Average (Minutes)	FY 2006 Average (Minutes)	FY 2007 Average (Minutes)	FY 2008 Average (Minutes)
Dispatching	6.27	5.12	5.10	6.33	4.18	3.56	3.53

**SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF SMOKE MANAGEMENT NOTIFICATIONS PROCESSING TIMES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004 through 2008**

TIMES	FY 2004 Average (Minutes)	FY 2005 Average (Minutes)	FY 2006 Average (Minutes)	FY 2007 Average (Minutes)	FY 2008 Average (Minutes)
Processing Time	4.16	4.61	3.49	2.81	3.00

The new dispatching software includes applications that allow for remote, real-time access to wildfire, prescribed fires, and resource activity. Fire Managers and Fire Information Officers have access to current information for command and control functions and media requests. Using virtual private network (VPN) connections through cellular wireless broadband services, agency personnel in the field have real-time access to dispatching activity throughout most of the state or nation.

PLANS AND SUPPORT

The Division of Plans and Support is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the implementation progress of our agency's Strategic Plan. In addition, the Division is responsible for the Annual Accountability Report as required by law. In an effort to gather data and benchmark with other southern states we distributed a survey during the 2008 Southern Group of State Foresters Meeting hosted by the Commission. Responses received will aid us in comparing our performance with other southern states and the services we provide. During FY 2008, we were awarded a \$10,000 Planning Grant from the U.S. Forest Service. Great strides have also been made in developing an agency Continuity of Operations Plan.

Within the Division of Plans and Support also reside the following sections and functions: Construction/Property, Training/Safety, Internal Audit and Records Management. During FY 2008, two employees within the Division of Plans and Support participated in the Certified Public Manager Program. One graduated in May 2008 and the other is scheduled to graduate in May 2009.

INTERNAL AUDIT

During FY 08 Internal Audit verified 10% of the agency's custodians' fixed asset inventories. In addition, fiscal year-end inventories were performed in select shop locations. Analyses and reconciliations have been performed of the agency's fuel purchases and are on-going. Identified concerns and opportunities for improvement are being addressed. Analyses have also been performed on the customer satisfaction surveys for forest management plans, stewardship plans, and services. Again, identified concerns and opportunities for improvement are being addressed to insure quality service.

Internal Audit was also aware and involved where applicable in reviews performed by external sources including the State Auditor's Office, the Materials Management Office, and the Legislative Audit Council. Management is kept abreast of issues that warrant attention.

During FY 08, the Internal Auditor has served on the Peer Review Committee for the South Carolina State Internal Auditors Association as well as the Board of Directors. The Internal Auditor has obtained adequate training to maintain compliance with the continuing education requirements of the Government Auditing Standards.

Records Management

Internal Audit oversees the Records Management System for the Commission. The Internal Auditor serves as Records Officer. Record Liaison Officers have been selected based on the Commission's organizational structure. The Records Officer is responsible for training the Record Liaison Officers. Such training is performed periodically to ensure consistency and continuity. During April 2008, a training session was held where 22 of the officers attended.

During FY 08, a total of 75.15 cubic feet of official records were destroyed in accordance with the retention schedules approved by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. This total does not include the destruction of copies.

During FY 08, the Records Officer served on the Awards Committee for the South Carolina Public Records Association as Awards Chairperson. She also served as the Recorder for the Midstate Region.

TRAINING AND SAFETY

The training and safety section is responsible for evaluating training needs for SCFC employees in coordination with the various program and unit managers and establishing specific training curricula. The section develops and maintains a training system for all SCFC employee training programs and tracks all progress.

A total of 85 training classes have been carried out this fiscal year, with 1,451 students attending classes taught by the SCFC.

The Physical Fitness Program for the SCFC is administered by the Training and Safety Section. Participation in the Program is required for all fireline employees and for those that volunteer to assist with fireline duties. The percentage of employees passing remained constant in 2008 with 79 % passing the fitness test. (290 participants with 228 passing, for 78.62%.

A total of 10 safety inspections were carried out in FY-08.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

This section coordinates and manages all facility construction, maintenance, and repair projects to insure that they are completed according to the regulations of the B & C Board/General Services. The agency is responsible for managing property records for 354 buildings, 40 fire towers, and 102 land parcels containing 95,511 acres.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

The I&E division provides forestry education for all audiences, public information as well as audio-visual and print material for use by schools, Forestry Commission personnel and the public for both educational and training purposes. The division oversees compliance with Title VI and is the agency's contact for forestry outreach. I&E is responsible for keeping lines of communications open with Forestry Commission external and internal audiences. Currently the division accomplishes this on a regular basis using a weekly electronic news bulletin and a frequently updated website.

Information

A new Communication Plan was drafted including targeted audiences, goals and messages to be developed within annual phases.

Media efforts for fire season '08 were coordinated. The Public Information Officer:

- Worked to make SCFC personnel better represented in media coverage of wildfires.
- Expanded the number of different faces and names of SCFC employees representing the agency in the media.
- Related SCFC wildfire stories to national stories.

The PIO also coordinated media efforts to promote SCFC mission and services:

- Related storm damage stories to SCFC participation in statewide surveillance, intelligence gathering, and clean up for the Governor's office
- Alerted media to SCFC personnel available for interviews at Drought Response Committee meetings.
- Increased SCFC profile as the "go-to" source for journalists tackling non-fire stories (especially insects and disease, climate, law enforcement, rural economic development, state government)

A multi agency and organization *Wildfire Coalition* was formed to raise public and legislative awareness of SC's wildfire potential. Information was produced for the Governor's office and legislative committees on wildfire potential during fire season, and the economic impact of forestry in SC.

Two issues of State Forest *Sketches* newsletter were produced and sent to an expanded mailing list, including state forest permit holders and agency partners.

The agency's Freedom of Information Act requests and responses were streamlined and centralized.

Fire Prevention Team Support

I&E staff continued to produce material to support statewide fire prevention teams in January, 2008:

- Giveaway items
- School outreach - book covers/pencils
- WUI mobile exhibit used throughout state with promotional items
- Prevention exhibit for Charleston Wildlife Expo.
- Firewise program at Richland County Public Library- bookmarks listing books about wildfire for children

Campaigns

I&E staff worked with the Resource Development Division to publicize new information about the economic impact of forestry in South Carolina. Messages and media were tailored to reach many different audiences.

- Press release
- Information packets
- Fact card
- Posters
- Timber output flyer
- TV, radio and print interviews
- Updated web information

Southern region projects

- A regional publication, *Can Southern Family Forests be Saved?*, based on results of regional landowners' focus groups was written, designed, produced and distributed for the SGSF.
- All I&E staff were instrumental in planning the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) annual meeting held in Columbia in June, 2008. All signs and graphics, spouses program, photography, slide programs, hospitality,

and other logistics of the meeting were planned and executed, including an opening session of the meeting, which was attended by all SGSF committees, on grants research and writing.

- The Forestry Commission's analyst chaired the Southern Region's Utilization & Management task force and completed a proposal for regional forest-based economic development promotion.
- The I&E director participated as an advisory member of the Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Council based at the University of Florida

Exhibits and Signage

- Teachers Tour pop up exhibit,
- Wood Magic pop up exhibit,
- PLT school banners.
- An "education trailer" was wrapped with a design that advertises forestry education programs and outreach.
- Interpretive signs were produced for the Harbison State Forest education center's Butterfly Garden.

Web

- A more easily accessible URL was obtained for the SCFC website: www.trees.sc.gov
- A special Fire Season '08 page was created.
- A new URL (GrowSomeGreen.com) was obtained to support a 2008-09 *Grow Some Green* tree planting campaign.

Presentations

Powerpoint presentations were created for the State Forester and Commissioners to assist with programs for the Timber Producers Association, the Council on Forest Engineering, county council and various landowners' association meetings. Presentations were also created for use by Fire Management and Dispatch.

Analysis

A forestry analyst was assigned to I&E in FY 06-07. He completed analysis projects for Fire Management, Law Enforcement, Building and Construction, and Resource Development. A major assignment was to work with the USDA Forest Service to improve, expand and publish results of the annual Timber Products Output (TPO) survey and report. In 2007 the analyst began oversight of the 2008 TPO Survey, which for the first time is being conducted by FIA crews. In May, 2008, he resigned to take a job in another state. The position will be reassigned to Resource Development.

Environmental Education

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Education Coordinator to plan, develop, support, and coordinate the Forestry Commission's environmental education effort and support the agency's mission of promoting the forest lands of S.C. and educating the public about forestry issues. The Coordinator oversees the development of Harbison State Forest's Environmental Education Center and serves as State Coordinator of Project Learning Tree (PLT), which is an international environmental education program designed for students in pre-kindergarten through high school. The S.C. PLT Coordinator is also a trained mentor to other state PLT programs throughout the nation and serves as a team leader in conducting Best Management Practices Self Assessment techniques for other state PLT programs. The Coordinator also represents the Commission on the Coalition for Natural Resource Education and various other committees involved with environmental education throughout the state. This year we were able to reestablish the assistant environmental educator's position. This position allowed us to increase the number of opportunities available to the public to carry out our mission to promote the forest lands of S.C. and educate the public about forestry issues.

Last fiscal year (July '07 to June '08) SC PLT conducted 13 professional development workshops throughout the state to train 309 formal and non-formal educators. In addition, PLT participated in 7 exhibits and/or presentations at various functions across the state to reach approximately 2885 participants. This is more than triple the number of opportunities of the previous year. SC PLT received several grants to conduct secondary workshops related to forestry issues, totaling \$7350. One grant is to develop a map of the state's forest types and related materials on the state's economic, social, and environmental effects of forestry in South Carolina. This map and supplemental information is to be used throughout the nation in conjunction to PLT's newest secondary module "Forest of the World". Since PLT was brought to South Carolina, over 16,600 educators throughout the state have been trained in the use of PLT materials for their classrooms. The state PLT program continues to gain national prominence. In the last 10 years, seven state PLT Educators have been nominated and selected as National PLT Outstanding Educators of the Year. SC PLT also established its first "PLT Environmental School" in South Carolina. McDonald Elementary in Georgetown, SC was

certified in July '07 as having met all requirements to become a PLT School. Another school, the Low Country Day School in Pawley's Island, SC is also in the process of becoming a PLT Certified Environmental School.

The Forestry Commission was instrumental in assisting the training and conducting of this year's Envirothon competition. The Envirothon is a program for high school students to learn more about our natural environment. The Envirothon tests the student's knowledge on topics such as soils, water resources, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. James Miller, Forest Director for Harbison State Forest served on the steering committee, establishing contacts and training throughout the state, teaming our Commission employees and high school teams in their areas, along with conducting a training session for the teachers and coordinating the forestry part of the competition and test.

The Wood Magic Forest Fair was again successful this year. This event was held at Harbison State Forest in Columbia, the Piedmont Forestry Center in Oconee County, and Sewee Visitor's Center in Charleston County. The program involved approximately 1969 students and 413 teachers and adult chaperones. Ninety-nine school applications were received to attend the Wood Magic Forest Fair program this year. Demand continues to exceed the capacity of this popular education program. The South Carolina Forestry Commission, the S.C. Forestry Association and the USDA - Forest Service jointly sponsor SC's Wood Magic Forest Fair program, with the Forestry Commission serving as the key partner for coordination, logistics and recruitment. Over 68 other organizations, forest industry, and state agencies also contributed to the success of this award-winning program, providing approximately \$89,000 in in-kind services from its 200 volunteers. Since the Wood Magic Forest Fair program first began in 1999, approximately 20,546 children and adults have participated in this forestry event for 4th graders throughout the state.

The Forestry Commission was also a key partner in the SC Teachers' Tour Coalition, an association of forest industry representatives, state and federal agencies. This coalition conducted the SC Teachers' Tour in the Piedmont area in June of this year. This successful tour provided 37 teachers with a first-hand experience of the forest industry and forest management. These educators received training, resources and information to conduct lessons in sustainable forestry for their students. Thirteen participants received 3-hours of non-degree graduate credit for their efforts while the others received educational credits from their participating school districts. The Environmental Education Coordinator serves as an adjunct professor for the University of Charleston in order to obtain this credit for the educators. Since the Teachers' Tour first began in 1998, approximately 341 educators have participated in this forestry education program.

Using the Title III Proposal under the Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, a partnership has been developed between the Information & Education Division of the Commission and the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service to use the Piedmont Forestry Center in Oconee County to conduct natural resource based environmental education classes for schools in the Oconee County area. Last year 5 programs were conducted for 273 students and 26 teachers and adults from Oconee County schools at the Piedmont Forestry Center. This was the third year for this program.

The Forestry Commission continues to be a strong supporter of the Coalition for Natural Resources' environmental education efforts throughout the state. Foresters are trained to help conduct Teaching KATE (Kids About The Environment) environmental education lessons in forestry at Camp Cooper in Clarendon County.

Environmental Education at Harbison State Forest

Harbison Environmental Forest, located within the city limits of Columbia, contains 2,176 acres. This tract is being managed as a public greenspace to emphasize environmental and forestry education, demonstrate forest management practices, and serve as a forest recreational area. The forest is open seven days a week, with estimated annual attendance of 80,000 – 95,000.

Harbison's staff and other SCFC employees associated with Harbison conducted 26 programs this past year, serving approximately 2035 participants. This is double the number of participants the educational staff reached last year. Twenty programs were conducted at Harbison, with 1366 participants and 6 programs were conducted outside of Harbison by the staff, serving approximately 626 participants. This figure does not include the Wood Magic Forest Fair held at Harbison in October, where 704 children and 151 adults participated at Harbison State Forest.

Harbison continues to offer support to the Scouting community. Five Cub Scout programs were held where approximately 54 young scouts earned their Forestry pins, accompanied by 23 adult leaders.

The Harbison Environmental Education Center is a 5,000 square foot log building containing three offices, a small conference room, a screened porch, a large deck and a 100-seat conference room. The conference rooms at the Center are offered free to groups or agencies conducting environmental education workshops or classes. The Center was used 16 days in the last fiscal year to conduct environmental education and forestry events, with approximately 1135 people attending these events. These include programs directly or jointly sponsored by the SCFC such as Project Learning Tree educator and facilitator workshops, the Wood Magic Forest Fair, the S.C. Teacher's Tour, the State Department of Education's SEER EIC program for teachers, the Coalition for Natural Resource Education meetings, Environmental Education Association of South Carolina annual cooperators meeting, and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts training. Forty-seven other events and meetings related to forestry were also held at no charge at the Harbison Environmental Education Center and were attended by approximately 1082 participants. The Harbison Environmental Education Center remains an important hub for the Forestry Commission's education mission as well as other cooperative environmental educational entities.

**SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY COMMISSION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2007 - 2008**

REVENUES

State Appropriations	\$ 18,526,225
Federal Grants	\$ 5,225,769

Earmarked Funds

Hunting & Fishing License	\$ 131,672
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure	390,689
Miscellaneous Revenue	298,011
Burning Assistance Fee	178,805
Fire Lane Fee	145,748
Timber Marking Fee	4,489
Training Conference - Registration Fee	1,815
User Fee - State Park & Forest	98,816
Forest Product Assessment	857,549
Construction of Water Bar	4,045
Stand By for Prescribed Burning	4,975
Sale of Seedlings	512,343
Sale of Timber	2,402,448
Conviction Surcharge	21,987
Rent - Residence	23,081
Rent - Farm Land	54,833
Rent - State Owned Property	45,587
Rent - Equipment	2,000
Contributions & Donations	1,851
Insurance Claims	27,000
Sale of Services	57,651
Sale of Recycling Material	29
Sale of Vehicles (Capitalized)	71,676
Sale of Machinery and Equipment (Capitalized)	1,809
Sale of Buildings (Non-Capitalized)	4,279
Sale of Vehicles (Non-Capitalized)	1,102
Sale of Machinery and Equipment (Non-Capitalized)	3,047

Total Earmarked	\$ 5,347,337
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Total Revenue	<u>\$ 29,099,331</u>
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EXPENDITURES

State	\$ 18,507,572
Federal	\$ 4,497,822
Federal	\$ 4,750,261

Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 27,755,655</u>
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EXCESS OF REVENUES O/(U) EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ 1,343,676</u>
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*State Appropriations includes \$368,971 carry forward funds from FY '07

South Carolina Forestry Commission Organizational Chart 2007-08

