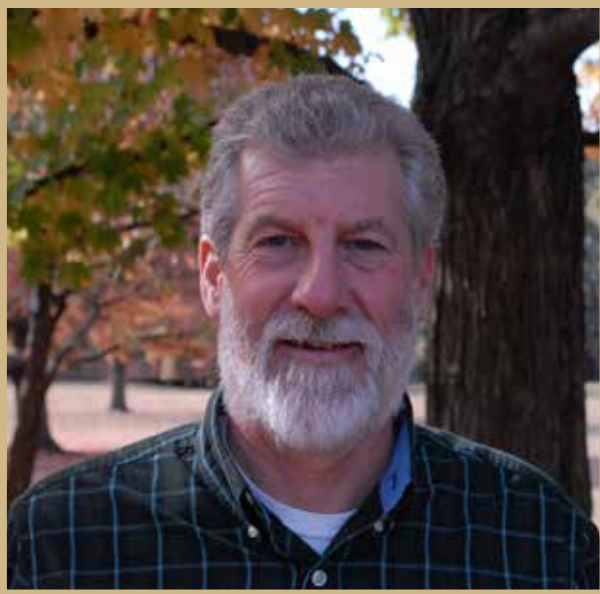




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JOHNNY HEARD
CHAIR OF FORESTRY COMMISSION

Tennessee's forests have proven to be valuable resources for the citizens of the state over the last two years. The pandemic has caused the closing of schools, places of employment, places of worship and many other inconveniences. Our forests have provided places where many people retreat to separate and recreate. The forest industries have continued to operate when other segments of the economy were shut down. Our forests have continued to produce the vital products that are part of our daily lives. The Tennessee Forestry Commission has continued to work with the Department of Agriculture, its Division of Forestry, and elected officials to ensure that the forests of this state are managed to meet the present and future needs of our citizens.

CHARLIE HATCHER, D.V.M.
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

One of the few certainties in life is change. And nothing has brought more change to us all than the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. That's why it's comforting to know that despite the challenges we all face, forestry remains a constant in Tennessee. I am grateful to the dedicated men and women who serve the Division of Forestry, and for the strong support of the Tennessee Forestry Commission and our partners in industry. This Annual Report spotlights the far-reaching goals set and met last year. Thank you for contributing to these achievements during an unprecedented time.



DAVID ARNOLD
STATE FORESTER

Resilient – this one word best describes Tennessee's forests and forest industry. During the past two years, our state's forest industry has borne the brunt of trade wars, market loss, supply chain disruptions, and work force issues all exacerbated by a global pandemic. With the support of Tennessee's Governor, General Assembly, and Commissioner of Agriculture, as well as the strong collaboration with the Tennessee Forestry Association, our state's forest industry is prevailing in these challenging times. The results are continued opportunities to enhance Tennessee's forest-based rural economies.





2021 AT A GLANCE

The Tennessee Forestry Commission met four times during the 2021 fiscal year. The Commission's meetings were both in person and remote, pursuant to the continuation of Governor Bill Lee's Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 state of emergency.

During the year, the Commission received reports from citizens, staff, and subject matter experts on various forestry topics and issues affecting forest landowners and the State of Tennessee. The Commission also discussed and took action on several significant matters.

The Commission continued its evaluation of the Tennessee Division of Forestry's wildland fire response and the adequacy of the Division's equipment and response personnel. As in previous years, the Commission expressed its continued concern about the retention and recruitment of qualified fire suppression and other Forestry Division personnel. State Forester David Arnold provided headcount and retention statistics at each Commission meeting. Arnold also reported proposed salary and classification adjustments to retain current employees and attract qualified applicants.

Arnold explained how previously-acquired fire suppression investments, including dozers and transports, helicopter dump buckets, new technology, personnel training, and community hazard mitigation projects have created improvements within the Division. As in previous years, the Commission endorsed the Firewise USA program to lessen the likelihood and severity of wildland fires and encouraged the Division to continue promoting this program throughout the State.

Arnold summarized the extensive deployments of Division personnel to assist western states and the federal government fight wildfires in the West. The costs of these deployments are reimbursed to the State of Tennessee and provide valuable training to Division personnel. Their deployments are also a source of additional income to Division employees.

The Commission identified the need for the Division to become more engaged with the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA). FSA manages programs that provide cost-share to implement conservation practices and emergency financial support to Tennessee's forest landowners. A subcommittee of the Commission and Division met with FSA's executive director to discuss opportunities to build awareness and enhance forest landowner enrollment in FSA programs. The Division's Forest Health and Sustainability Unit Leader was assigned to build this relationship through frequent communication and collaboration.



The Commission remains invested in the operations of the East Tennessee Nursery to ensure that this source of seedlings is operated efficiently and economically without sacrificing quality or quantity. The Commission continued to recommend that the Nursery increase its marketing efforts. The Commission also recommended renaming the facility the Tennessee State Nursery, or a variation thereof, as it is the only nursery operated by the State. The Commission scheduled its 2021 fall quarterly meeting at the Nursery, and invited local members of the General Assembly to join them.

The Commission learned of continuing efforts to increase conservation awareness in the forestry industry. The Commission again endorsed the Division's 2020 Forest Action Plan, which outlined threats facing Tennessee's forests and actions to deal with those threats during the next 10 years.

The Commission was updated on the Division's partnership with Tennessee's State Parks and Natural Areas to leverage skills, knowledge, and abilities to further common and agency-specific goals. To this end, the Division participated in the newly-formed State Lands Group comprised of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and Department of Agriculture. This Group aims for collaborative planning and resource sharing to manage State lands. The Executive Committee conducted their first meeting and identified initial projects for planning and development.

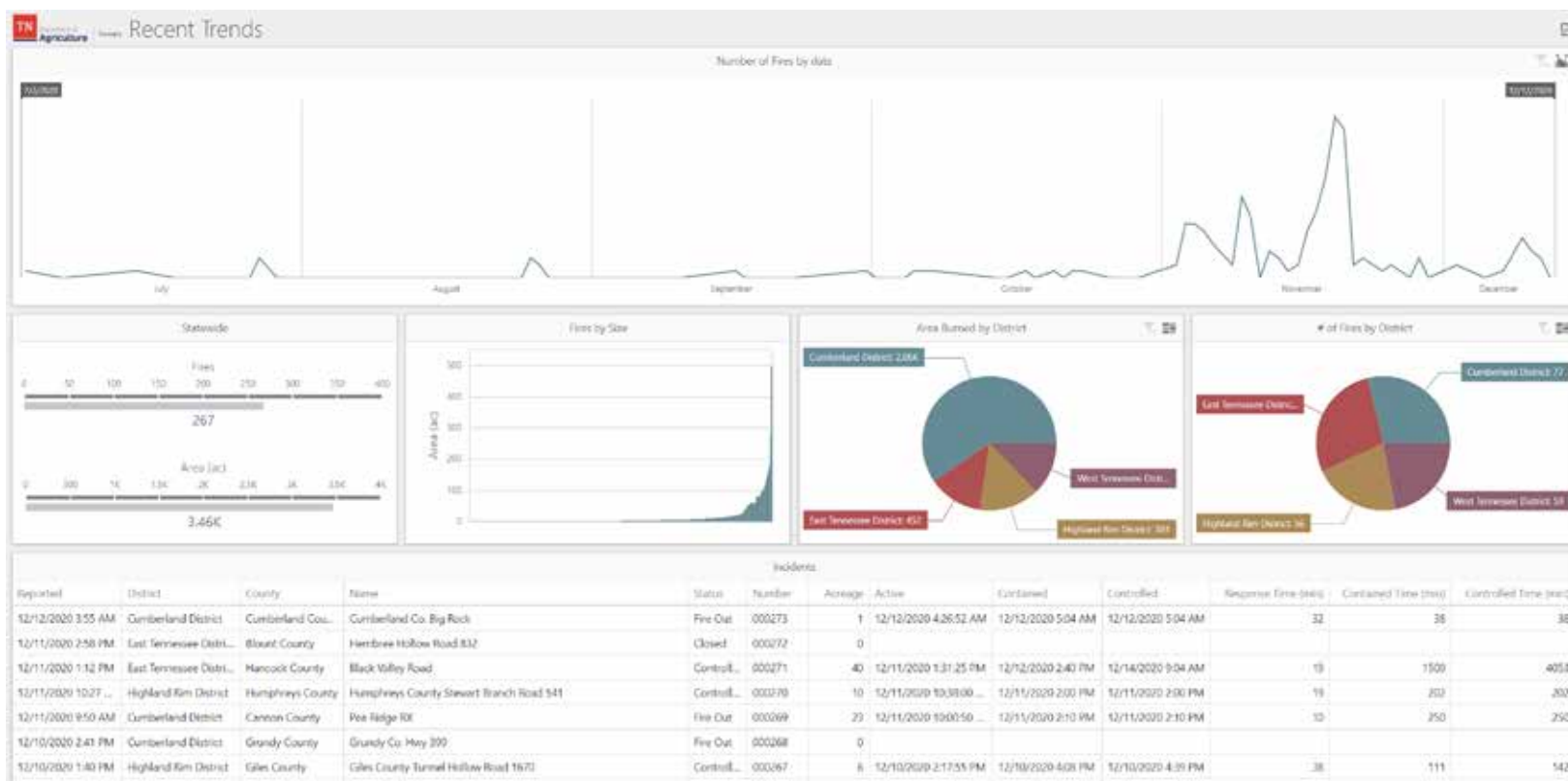
The Commission encouraged the Division to increase timber sales from State Forests when feasible to improve the health and quality of the forests and to generate additional income.

The Commission remained informed of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the State budget and the agriculture and forestry economy. Although the Department of Agriculture and Division of Forestry experienced a hiring freeze and substantial budget reductions due to forecasted revenue losses, the Division's mission was not adversely affected.

With the strong leadership of Agriculture Commissioner Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. and State Forester David Arnold, the Commission is confident that the Division of Forestry will obtain the staffing and equipment needed to maintain the level of service the citizens of Tennessee deserve and expect.

SUPPORTING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT WITH TECHNOLOGY

The 2020-2021 fire season marked the Tennessee Division of Forestry's transition to a new incident management software system: fiResponse. Following the historic 2016 fall fire season, the Division acquired fiResponse, an enterprise-wide decision support system for monitoring wildland fire incidents and operational activities. The system supports incident management, comprehensive resource management, real-time resource tracking for firefighter safety, and situational awareness for emergency responders and the public. During the 2020-2021 fire season, the Division managed 710 wildfires and 232 prescribed burns totaling 19,000 acres through the fiResponse system. The Division also responded to several ice storm events.



fiResponse is the single system the Division uses for personnel and equipment records, resource scheduling and rostering, dispatch, incident management, and record-keeping. Using geographically advantaged software, the system enables dispatchers and public information officers in the office as well as incident commanders and emergency responders in the field to see where all incidents and resources are located on a map in real time. The fiResponse mobile app provides situational awareness to emergency responders even when cellular service is unavailable.

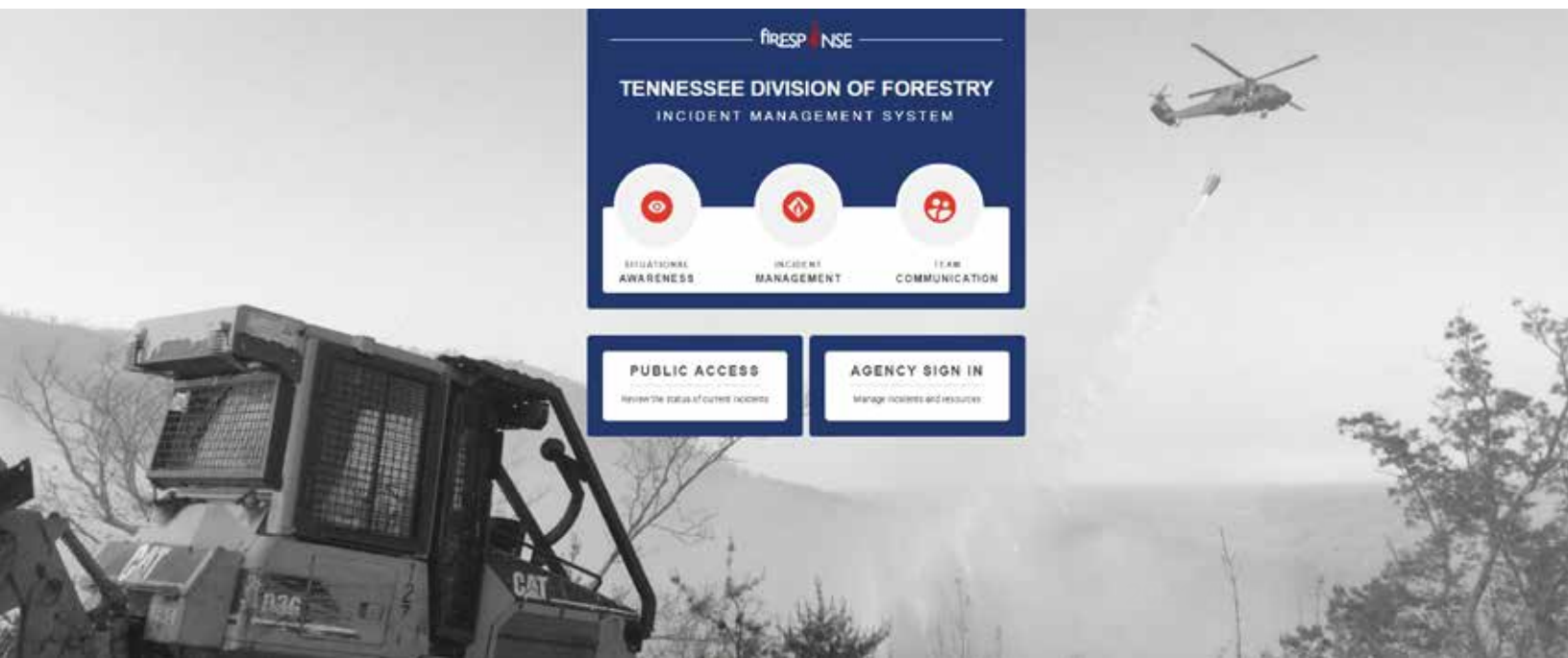
The Division's Forest Data and Analysis and Wildland Fire Protection Units implemented fiResponse technology and trained every agency emergency responder in the lead-up to the 2020 fall fire season. The Data Systems Forester developed a series of training videos that covered each function of fiResponse software. More than 150 Division personnel viewed the videos. During the 2020-2021 fire season, the Units held agency-wide "Coffee + Tech" sessions on Friday mornings to reinforce trainings, learn from each other's experiences, and discuss ideas for for optimizing software use.

One of the many advantages of fiResponse is real-time tracking of emergency responders and resources. The Division's new dozers now have automatic vehicle locating devices that are synced with the fiResponse system, allowing staff to track dozer positions from the office. Emergency responders' State-issued cell phones were also synced with fiResponse, enabling greater safety oversight on large incidents.

The Forest Data and Analysis Unit has enhanced communication with fire operations through the development of dashboards and reports. Dashboards provide clear, visually accessible situational awareness for Incident Commanders, Public Information Officers, the Fire Chief, and State Forester. The Recent Trends dashboard summarizes number, size, and status of fires by month and administrative district. This information and fire weather reports are vital to understanding trends in fire activity and assessing resource allocation and fatigue.

The Fire Incidents dashboard summarizes activities that that public information officers may need to report to citizens for awareness and safety. Daily fire reports are generated to provide consistent, clear messaging about fire activity within the Division and for our partners, including other wildland fire suppression agencies, and the Ag Crime Unit. During fire season, a Daily Situational Report is sent to Tennessee Interagency Coordination Center to enhance communication between agencies.

Public access to fiResponse provides current information on Tennessee's reported and active wildfires. The system can be found online at TNWildlandFire.gov. Under the Fighting Fires tab, click on "Current Wildfires."



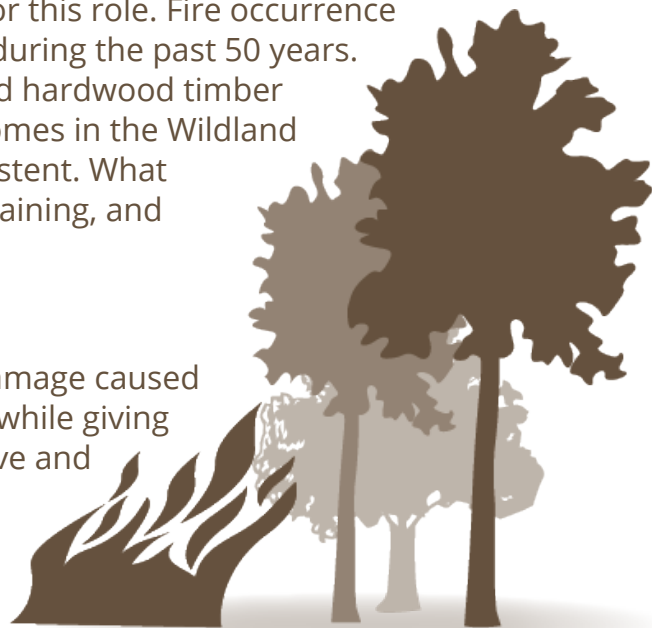


WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION

The Division of Forestry is legally tasked to protect Tennessee’s forest resources (TCA 11-4-405). Wildland fire prevention and suppression are the primary responsibilities of the Division (TCA 11-4-406), which is uniquely equipped and qualified for this role. Fire occurrence and acres burned in Tennessee have gradually decreased during the past 50 years. Forest resources have benefited, particularly with improved hardwood timber quality. As the forest landscape experiences an influx of homes in the Wildland Urban Interface, the Division’s fire role has remained consistent. What has changed is suppression equipment, communication, training, and emphasis on safety, prevention, and education.

UNIT MISSION

The mission of the Fire Management Unit is to minimize damage caused by wildland fire to forest resources and personal property while giving priority to firefighter and public safety through cost-effective and creative programs and collaboration, as well as safe and effective fire and fuels management operations.



OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Strengthen agency performance related to incident business process and acumen during emergency response situations.
- Coordinate and execute high-level, nationally-certified training for wildland fire, all hazard incident management, leadership, and the Incident Command System.
- Further develop the Grand Divisions Type 3 Incident Management Team through repeated drills, exercises, and out-of-state specialized training deployments.
- Implement fiResponse computer-aided dispatch program to compile and communicate all information related to the full life cycle of an incident.
- Finalize content and roll out Tennessee's new website for wildland fire information, TNWildlandFire.gov.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Deployed 215 highly-trained personnel out-of-state to support wildland fire and hurricane emergencies across 13 states resulting in transferrable skills and experience to be utilized in Tennessee, as well as generating more than \$2.6 million in revenue.
- Deployed 35 highly-trained personnel in-state to four all-hazard missions supporting ice storm restoration efforts.
- Suppressed 709 wildfires for 6,910 acres and safely implemented 232 beneficial prescribed fires across 12,100 acres.
- Secured \$797,775 in federal grant funding to support state fire assistance surrounding remote automated weather stations, training, supplies, and personal protective equipment.
- Facilitated the 18th annual Wildland Fire Training Academy, with 114 instructors providing 27 leadership and incident management courses to 683 students from 34 states. Tennessee's academy is highly respected and one of the largest wildland fire academies in the nation.
- Executed three full-scale Type 3 Incident Management Team mobilization exercises in West, Middle, and East Tennessee over 5 to 14 day periods. Of note, the team mobilized to the Department of Energy Oak Ridge Reservation to manage a highly complex prescribed fire and fuels management project in collaboration with DOE, TWRA, and City of Oak Ridge Fire Department.
- Executed two Tennessee Certified Prescribed Burn Manager Workshops for more than 80 private landowners, forest industry employees, and partner agencies. This brings the number of Certified Burn Managers in Tennessee to 515.
- Implemented fiResponse computer-aided dispatch system to house all weather intelligence, wildland fire, prescribed fire, and all-hazard incident data, and serve as the Division's fleet management system.
- Implemented Tennessee's wildland fire public interface TNWildlandFire.gov. This site houses fire prevention, suppression, and prescribed fire content including: FireWise, TN Fire Adapted Communities, Burn Permits, Burn Bans, Fire Weather, fiResponse public viewer, Grand Divisions IMT, and Smokey Bear.

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Assist local volunteer fire departments serving populations less than 10,000 in obtaining wildland fire equipment, personal protective equipment, tools and communication supplies, and technical assistance.
- Provide wildland fire training to volunteer fire departments across Tennessee, including incident command system, tactics, leadership, mutual aid, and wildland urban interface.
- Prioritize and support economically-distressed counties and departments within those areas.
- Build efficiencies through technology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Secured \$272,299 in federal grant funding and awarded \$222,000 in grants to 74 volunteer fire departments.
- Provided free wildland fire training to 150 firefighters representing five fire departments.
- Coordinated with the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance and various media outlets promoting services and opportunities provided through the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program.

HAZARD MITIGATION AND PREVENTION

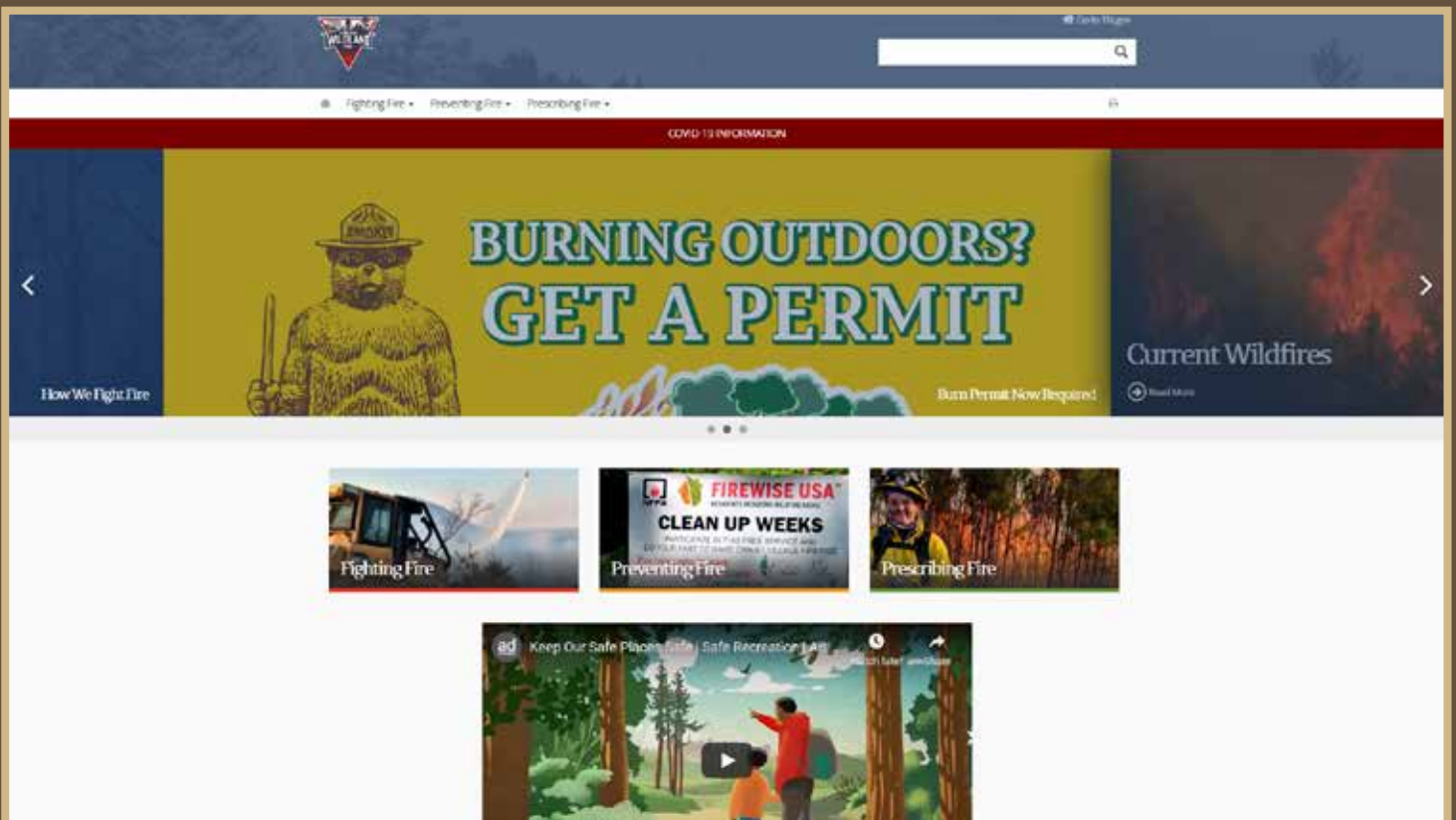
OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans, expand Tennessee's Fire Adapted Communities network, and increase certified Firewise USA Communities.
- Provide the public with safety information, including updates on current hazard situations and mitigation steps to prevent devastating wildland fire impacts.
- Manage the Division's safe debris burn permit program to limit the risk of a planned fire growing into a wildland fire. Since inception, the program has paralleled a significant decrease in wildland fires year-over-year.
- Pursue new and diverse revenue opportunities and effectively manage growing wildland fire mitigation needs in Tennessee.
- Serve as Tennessee's sponsor for the National Fire Protection Agency's FireWise USA program and the Smokey Bear wildfire prevention and awareness campaign.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- Secured \$441,209 in federal grant funding to implement wildland fire mitigation activities across Tennessee, including funding for wildland fire hazard mitigation covering 250,000 acres in Cocke County.
- Awarded \$112,000 in hazard mitigation grants to 17 communities for Community Wildfire Protection Plan development, outreach, education and community mitigation action items.
- Utilized federal funding to contract with multiple Hazard Mitigation Specialists and the Appalachian Rural Conservation District to expand capacity for hazard mitigation assessments and improvements.
- Provided outreach and education to 18,670 citizens through 210 events promoting Smokey Bear and fire prevention.
- Issued 431,100 safe debris burn permits to residents, agencies, and private companies totaling 34,257 acres.
- Executed an elevated multi-media advertisement campaign promoting safe debris burning, fire danger, and suspected arson reporting.
- Facilitated Tennessee's annual Fire Adapted Communities Workshop and Awards Banquet. Two communities awarded for 15 years of participation in the program.



- The Division launched a new website, TNWildlandFire.gov, that features elements pertaining to the Wildland Fire Protection Unit. The site is categorized by the three main services provided including Fighting Fire (suppression), Preventing Fire (prevention), and Prescribing Fire (prescription). The safe debris burn permit system originally accessed through BurnSafeTN.org is now housed under this new website.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Manage administration, replacement cycles, and maintenance of 742 pieces of equipment and rolling stock owned and operated by the Division.
- Provide sound leadership, technical expertise, and fiscal accountability in fleet management decisions.
- Increase Tennessee's wildland firefighting capacity and capability through implementation of the Federal Excess Property Program and the Firefighter Property Program sponsored through the USDA Forest Service and Department of Defense, respectively.
- Build efficiencies through technology.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Deployed 48 new firefighting bulldozers and 48 heavy equipment transports.
- Coordinated with Vehicle Asset Management on replacement cycles of all assets and the direct surplus and replacement of 40 pieces of equipment and rolling stock not associated with bulldozer replacement.
- Completed statewide inventory and photo catalog of 105 pieces of Federal Excess Property sponsored by USDA Forest Service and executed by the Division. Property is acquired by the Division and loaned to fire departments in need at no cost.
- Utilized federal funding to contract with an equipment specialist to assist in screening, securing, and managing federal property for distribution.
- Collaborated with Data and Analysis Unit to implement a digital vehicle and equipment inspection process using a mobile app connected to a reporting dashboard program. This builds efficiency by replacing pencil-and-paper inspections and reporting.

SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Provide a structured approach to control safety risks in operations as well as promote a culture of open dialogue and reporting of accidents and near misses.
- Provide high level of guidance and mitigation strategies commensurate with the tasks and risks associated with all disciplines within the agency.
- Implement and provide oversight to OSHA workplace and employee safety reporting requirements and timelines.
- Build efficiencies through technology.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Coordinated internal and interagency COVID-19 PPE management and distribution to support internal and partner needs.
- Facilitated necessary Defensive Driving, Hazard Communication, First Aid/CPR, and Bloodborne Pathogen training for Division personnel.
- Collaborated with Data and Analysis Unit to develop a digital facility safety inspection process aligned with necessary documentation required by OSHA. This builds efficiency by replacing pencil-and-paper inspections and reporting.
- Collaborated with wildland fire management partners to develop national standards for wildland fire response for sending and receiving agencies in support of evolving COVID-19 strategies.
- Supported Tennessee Fallen Firefighters Memorial service with committee planning and execution of the annual memorial recognizing structural and Division of Forestry Line-of-Duty Deaths.



COLLABORATIVE PRESCRIBED BURN AT SAVAGE GULF STATE NATURAL AREA



The Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF), in coordination with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), conducted a 500-acre prescribed burn on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at Savage Gulf State Natural Area. Under the direction of Wildland Fire Chief Wade Waters and the activity's Burn Boss, more than 20 firefighters from both organizations worked together to meet objectives for the burn.

The Savage Gulf burn area was previously logged and was regenerating with loblolly pine. Once the State acquired the property, management goals were set to return the land to a shortleaf pine community. Shortleaf pine historically was the dominant pine species of this area. As a fire adapted species, demand for it has increased on the Cumberland Plateau. In the spring of 2020, this area was planted with more than 80,000 shortleaf pine seedlings. The prescribed burn was successful in killing much of the regenerated loblolly pine, leaving more room for the shortleaf pine to thrive.

The Division of Forestry's Prescribed Fire Strike Team assisted with the burn. Awarded grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2019 and 2020, the Team has increased capacity for prescribed fire.

"We expect to participate in more projects like Savage Gulf," Strike Team Coordinator Jackie Broeker said. "Collaboration with TDEC and the State Natural Areas gives us the opportunity to reap the benefits of prescribed fire on the Cumberland Plateau for years to come."

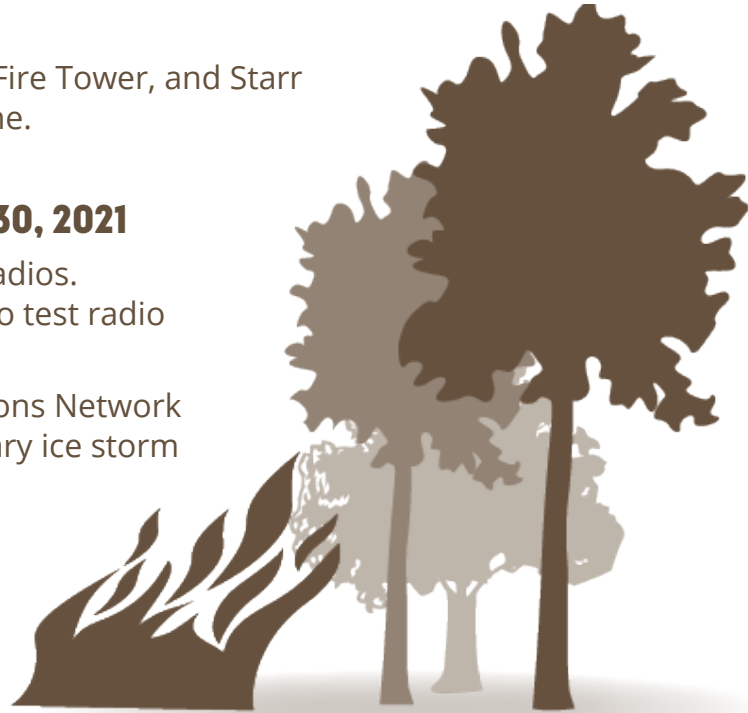
RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Maintain highest level of integrity for our current radio communications network.
- Upgrade base radios at the new Natchez Trace and Chuck Swan State Forest work centers.
- Upgrade Natchez Trace, Mooresburg, Cookeville Fire Tower, and Starr Mountain radio tower sites' antennas and feed line.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- Procured and deployed 605 new VHF handheld radios. Additionally, collaborated with the radio vendor to test radio software system.
- Assisted with Tennessee Advanced Communications Network site maintenance and repair needs during February ice storm damage.
- Installed radio communication equipment on 48 dozers, 48 transports, and 13 additional agency vehicles.
- Installed base radio and remotes at newly constructed Natchez Trace work center.



20-person TDF handcrew deployed on a western wildfire.



FOREST HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

The health of a forest directly influences all aspects of forestry and is a part of every Unit within the Division. Not limited to insects and diseases, forest health is also influenced by abiotic events, invasive plants, improper silvicultural prescriptions, harvesting damage to residual stand, air and water quality, soil compaction, wildland fire, and much more. Forest health is considered in all settings, whether the forest exists within an urban environment or a riparian strip between two agricultural fields. This focus on forest health provides the Unit with a holistic and sustainable approach to all forest management. It demonstrates the connectivity among forest health, the human interface, and the ecosystem services all forests provide.

UNIT MISSION

The mission of the Forest Health and Sustainability Unit is to protect and enhance the health and productivity of Tennessee's forests.



FOREST HEALTH

Forest health programs involve detecting, monitoring, managing, and suppressing native and non-native damaging forest health issues. The major forest health issues managed within this Unit are gypsy moth, hemlock woolly adelgid, laurel wilt disease, southern pine and other bark beetles, and invasive plants. Other threats to Tennessee's forests are addressed through consistent off-plot monitoring by aerial detection, ground detection, and technology including satellite imagery. A significant component of this Unit is education and outreach that emphasizes current and imminent threats and their transportation vectors (i.e. firewood).

PROGRAM MISSION

Enhance the health of Tennessee's forests and minimize forest resource losses caused by forest pests through effective prevention, detection, evaluation, suppression, and technical assistance measures.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Promote forest health through monitoring and management activities, staff trainings, technical assistance, and outreach.
- Improve collection, analysis, and sharing of data internally and externally to enhance customer relationships.
- Partner with Slow the Spread Foundation to conduct gypsy moth mating disruption treatments in Northeast Tennessee.
- Migrate gypsy moth trapping program onto a mobile data collection and management platform.
- Support research, collect data, and conduct outreach for laurel wilt disease, which was recently introduced to Tennessee.
- Provide leadership to the Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership through meeting facilitation, cooperative field days, and outreach.
- Protect significant hemlock forests from ecological disfunction or possible extinction through continued operation of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Strike Team.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- Recorded 1,050 forest health observations submitted statewide by Division personnel on ESRI's Survey123 platform.
- Protected 3,779 hemlock trees across 374 acres in 10 conservation areas.
- Provided operational and financial support to UT's Lindsay Young Beneficial Insect Laboratory for release of more than 1,000 biocontrol beetles targeting hemlock woolly adelgid.
- Monitored gypsy moth activity via placement of 5,665 traps, capturing 66 male gypsy moths in eight counties, which was similar to previous year.
- Conducted gypsy moth mating disruption treatments on 8,500 acres in Johnson County.
- Completed road surveys for the presence for laurel wilt disease, confirming 16 counties had symptomatic sassafras trees, an increase of six from the previous year.

- Held several forest health training events for Division personnel, partner agencies, and private landowners.
- Provided funding for four invasive plant control projects: six acres at Laurel-Snow State Natural Area, nine acres at Cardwell Mountain State Archaeological Area, 40 acres at Radnor Lake State Natural Area, and two acres at Spanish War Memorial Park and Lichterman Nature Center.

RURAL FOREST MANAGEMENT

Family forest owners are the key to keeping Tennessee’s forests productive and healthy. They play an important role in providing all Tennessee citizens with forest products, clean water, wildlife habitat, and natural beauty. Many of these landowners are unaware of the role forest management plays in maintaining sustainable and resilient forests. This lack of awareness has quite often resulted in activities that leave forests less productive or at risk to insect, disease, and water quality problems.

The Division of Forestry provides forest management planning and financial assistance to encourage landowners to manage their forest resources in a manner that increases productivity, maintains forest health, and protects water quality. Forest management planning assistance is provided as individualized management plans, published materials, and group presentations. Financial assistance is offered through various federal and state funded cost-share programs.

PROGRAM MISSION

Encourage and assist landowners to implement forest management practices that yield healthy, productive forests.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Provide professional development and continuing education opportunities for Division Foresters.
- Develop Landscape Management Plan for Tennessee. This project will reduce the burden of individual management plan development, allow foresters to spend more time with landowners on the ground, and contribute to accomplishing landscape-level goals.
- Fully implement the ArcGIS Pro landowner assistance mapping, geospatial database, and performance tracking suite of tools.
- Provide excellent customer service to Tennessee’s forest landowners.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Continued work on Landscape Management Plan for Tennessee, securing additional funding to host information online.
- Fully implemented the ArcGIS Pro landowner assistance mapping, geospatial database, and performance tracking suite of tools specifically designed for landowner assistance.
- Provided assistance to 2,899 forest landowners who own 115,230 acres of forestland. This was a 20% increase from previous year.
- Wrote 46 forest stewardship plans addressing 11,100 acres.
- Wrote 471 other forest management plans addressing 56,245 acres.

- Wrote 653 prescription plans improving 25,473 acres.
- Assisted 118 forest landowners through our vendor service program totaling 10,509 acres, including 8,739 acres of prescribed burning.
- Provided services for standby, firebreak construction, tree planting, and timber marking.
- Funded 66 cost-share applications for completing forest management practices totaling \$376,589. This is a 39% increase in funding from previous year.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID STRIKE TEAM RECIEVES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD



The Division of Forestry accepted the 2020 Governor's Environmental Stewardship Award in Ag/Forestry for the efforts made in managing hemlock woolly adelgid in Tennessee. HWA Strike Team Coordinator Jackie Broeker accepted the award on TDF's behalf. The Tennessee Hemlock Conservation Partnership and other collaborators have greatly contributed to the program's success.

DUCK & ELK RIVER WATERSHED FOREST & BUFFER INITIATIVE

Through a partnership with the Tennessee Forestry Association, the Division launched a new cost-share initiative providing family forest owners a free consultation on their property with a forestry professional. Foresters share recommendations based on the landowner's objectives for the property, develop written management plans covering improvement activities, and assist with enrollment in the Tennessee Tree Farm Forest Certification Program.





URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Urban and Community Forestry programs provide technical and financial forest and tree management assistance to communities and municipalities statewide. Technical assistance can be offered at the tree board or city planning level, through rapid on-site forest or tree assessments, or communication through outreach events or individual inquiries. Financial assistance is offered to cities, municipalities, and non-profit groups through a competitive proposal process. These proposals range from ball-and-burlap plantings to urban riparian restoration projects. The urban forestry programs also include nationally-recognized programs that allow cities, utilities, and centers for higher learning to promote their urban forest status and bring awareness to the importance of urban trees.

PROGRAM MISSION

Assist and encourage municipalities and private urban landowners to establish, improve, and maintain healthy urban forest resources.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Provide grant opportunities to municipalities to increase canopy cover.
- Provide assistance and support for Arbor Day Foundation Program participants.
- Partner with the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council to fill staffing and programmatic demands.
- Provide urban forest information and training to Division Foresters.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- Administered Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program tree planting grants for 15 municipalities that planted 3,549 trees for a total investment of \$239,090. This is an increase of more than 100% in trees planted.
- Provided technical assistance to 46 Tree Cities, 18 Tree Lines, and 10 Tree Campus Higher Learning USA members.
- Continued support of Champion Tree Program contract with University of Tennessee – Knoxville.
- Supported Arbor Day Celebrations statewide.
- Created two positions with the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council: Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator and Urban and Community Forestry Partnership Coordinator.

FOREST LEGACY

The Forest Legacy Program identifies and protects environmentally important private forestlands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Program emphasis is to maintain well-managed, working forests on the landscape.

PROGRAM MISSION

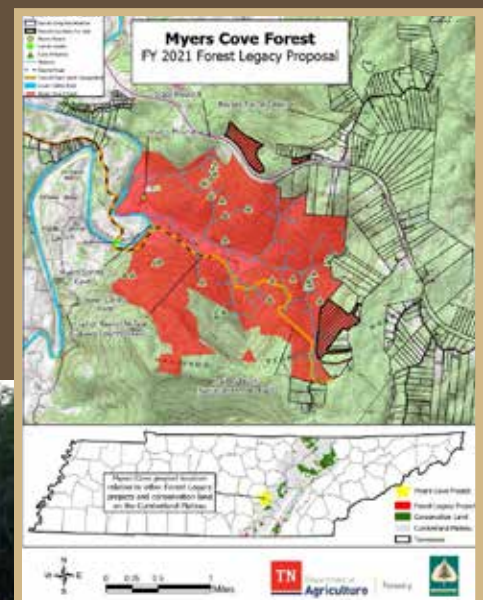
Protect environmentally important, private forestlands threatened with conversion to non-forest uses.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

The Tennessee Forest Legacy Program currently conserves 53,315 acres valued at \$59 million across Tennessee through fee simple and permanent conservation easement purchases. More than half of the \$59 million land value (\$32.9 million) was funded with federal Legacy grant money with the balance being private, non-federal matching lands and funds.

MYERS COVE CONSERVATION EASEMENT ACQUISITION (WARREN COUNTY)

- *Status: Submitted to National Panel for acquisition grant award consideration for FY 2021*
- *Acquisition Type and Location: Proposed conservation easement in Warren County*
- *Acreage: 2,100 acres*
- *Requested Forest Legacy Program Acquisition Funding: \$1,800,000*
- *Description: This project will protect by conservation easement 2,100 acres of hardwood forestland that has operated as a working farm and forest since 1851. This property contributes to the local economy through timber harvests, an agroforestry nursery, and hunting leases. The property encompasses almost the entire watershed of Panther Creek, which is an important source of clean water to the Collins River, supporting its unique fishery and federally-protected aquatic species. Located on the biologically-rich Cumberland Plateau, the property's karst topography contains 31 cave openings, underground flowing streams, a rare grove of butternut trees, and general forest habitat protecting seasonal birds. The property contains a National Historic Register site with artifacts dating back more than 6,000 years. A portion of the Trail of Tears, a National Historic Trail, would be permanently protected by this proposal. Additional key scenic bluff lots have been listed for sale and additional portions of the property will likely be made available for real estate development if not protected by a conservation easement.*



WATER QUALITY

Water is a valuable product of the forest. Benefits of this product are difficult to measure, but changes in quality and quantity are easily observed. Forests act as buffers and filters that can reduce the damage caused by practices from other land uses such as urban runoff and protect stream banks from erosion caused by flooding. Since the mid-1980s, the Division has provided leadership to ensure timber harvesting operations do not pollute our streams and rivers. Encouraging implementation of Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) is the foundation of the Division's water quality program. We assist the forestry community with BMP implementation through three major program areas: technical assistance, water quality complaint investigations, and BMP implementation monitoring.

Best Management Practices are integral to keeping Tennessee's forests healthy and preserving our water quality. Division professionals provide technical assistance to loggers and landowners by visiting logging operations to ensure BMPs are used and by conducting training events for the forest industry.

PROGRAM MISSION

Improve the quality of surface and sub-surface water using forest cover as a filter and buffer for agricultural point and non-point pollution sources.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Inspect logging operations to ensure compliance with Forestry BMPs.
- Provide technical assistance to loggers upon request and where BMP implementation needs improvement.
- Conduct BMP training events for the forest industry.
- Conduct 5-year review of TDF-TDEC MOU for water quality complaints.



PROTECTING WATER QUALITY

An abundant supply of clean water has long been one of the main benefits derived from Tennessee's forested watersheds. Protecting water quality and preventing soil erosion during forestry operations is an important responsibility for forest managers, forest landowners, and loggers. The Tennessee Department of Agriculture and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation revised their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for handling water quality complaints. Since 1995, the departments have worked in tandem to provide effective and efficient response to water quality impairment concerns in agricultural and silvicultural activities. The revision emphasizes that TDEC will seek technical assistance from the Division in cases involving silvicultural practices. TDEC will retain responsibility if regulatory action is required.

To meet the objectives of the Federal Clean Water Act - "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters," Tennessee has adopted Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry operations. These are practical, nonregulatory guidelines to be used during the construction of roads, log landings, and skid trails to minimize the environmental impact of forest management activities. BMPs offer a flexible, preventive, and nonregulatory approach to protecting water quality during forestry operations. They are designed to be low-cost, practical, and easily applicable to all forestry operations.

The revised MoU details that the Division will provide quarterly reports on Forestry BMP implementation and any violations. In addition to fulfilling this need, these reports are valuable to other programs, including keeping the 168,000 State Forest acres under Sustainable Forestry Initiative Certification. The Division will also continue to provide financial and technical resources that promote the Tennessee Master Logger Program. The program increases logger credibility as these workshops are supported among the forestry community and the general public by bringing attention to how forestry practices can be conducted in a manner that protects water quality.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- Assisted the forestry community with BMP implementation through technical assistance, water quality complaint investigations, and BMP implementation monitoring.
- Trained and provided technical assistance, in partnership with the Tennessee Forestry Association, to more than 3,000 foresters, loggers and landowners since the start of the program.
- Conducted 1,027 harvest operations site visits statewide and responded to 38 reported water quality complaints.
- Confirmed loggers implemented BMPs 98% of the time on inspected harvest sites.
- Evaluated 38 logging operations with water quality complaints. Twenty-two of the operations were found to have issues affecting water quality. Responsible producers were provided technical assistance to bring the issues into compliance with Tennessee's Water Quality Control Act (TCA 69-3-101).
- Completed five-year review of TDF-TDEC MoU for water quality complaints.
- Completed four TDF-TDEC trainings across entire state to ensure effective cross-agency collaboration.



REFORESTATION

The Division of Forestry's East Tennessee Nursery in Delano produces forest seedlings that are available for sale to landowners in Tennessee. These seedlings are adapted to growing conditions found in the state and are used primarily for reforestation and forest conservation projects. Approximately one-half of the 80 acres available for seedling production at the nursery are used for this purpose each year.

UNIT MISSION

Provide high quality, affordable seedlings to Tennessee landowners and to optimize genetic improvements to increase the productivity of the state's forests.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Plan for this year's seedlings and acquisition of seed sources for the nursery in the future. The Division is building partnerships to help achieve this objective.



MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Partnered with White Oak Initiative to develop an educational video and encourage the public to collect white oak acorns. The nursery was short 2,300 pounds of white oak acorns when vendors could not fill the full purchase requested. It is hoped that this new partnership will benefit the White Oak Initiative, the nursery, and the public demand for more seedlings.
- Developed a partnership with Growing Bridges LLC of Oklahoma for 500,000 loblolly pine 1.5 generation and 250,000 tulip poplar seedlings. The seedlings will be for 2023 and used for certified carbon offsets for oil/gas pipelines in Oklahoma.
- Continued six partnerships that provide quality seedlings to the public: D'Addario, Huber, DEWI, One Tree Planted, TWRA, and UT.
- Sold 2,744,296 seedlings: 1,968,025 in pines and 776,271 in hardwoods.
- Produced \$467,813.56 in revenue.
- Hosted tours and events at the nursery including a Master Logger class and a high school cross country track meet.
- Harvested white pine Elite seed, hybrid chestnuts, and tulip poplar 2.0 seeds.
- Worked with UT and Dr. Scott Schlarbaum to graft tulip poplar 2.0 seedlings for future orchard at the nursery.
- Worked with Dr. Hill Craddock to grow seedlings at the nursery to create a new hybrid chestnut orchard that will supply future seed for sale.

RAKING IN THE ACORNS

The Division is thankful to Trees Knoxville for answering the call to collect white oak acorns to help fulfill demand for seedlings. Demand for oak seedlings is always high and sometimes providing enough supply can be challenging. Support from public groups and private citizens is always welcome, and we appreciate their interest in conservation.

Tracie Hellwinckel, Project Manager with Trees Knoxville, led a group of trained volunteers who gathered more than 150 pounds of acorns. The collection was provided to Area Forester Brook Smith who sent the seeds to the nursery to help supply another generation of white oak seedlings for conservation plantings across the state. Trees Knoxville is well respected by the Division of Forestry and the local community for their tree plantings, education and outreach, and volunteer efforts on behalf of the forest.





STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Tennessee's 15 State Forests, totaling 166,459 acres, range from mountain coves in the East to bottomlands along the Mississippi River. State Forests are managed for a mix of natural resources including game and non-game wildlife, and high-quality timber. State Forests do not feature inns, golf courses, or restrooms. However, they offer hunting, hiking, bird watching, and tranquility.

Many State Forest lands were in poor condition when acquired, either eroded or unsustainably harvested. Some were planted with trees to control erosion; others regenerated naturally into hardwood forest. Since then they have been carefully protected and managed.



Following decades of restoration, conservation, and careful management, Tennessee's State Forest system now contains an abundant supply of high-quality timber and other forest products. Timber harvested from some of these forests helps support local forest products industries. Money spent by consumers in the pursuit of recreational opportunities on the forests supports local merchants. State Forests are sites for field sessions demonstrating application of sustainable forestry practices that maintain and enhance multiple use values. Sites have been established to demonstrate how forestry best management practices maintain, protect, and enhance water quality. State Forests also provide data to characterize the resources and values provided to local communities and local economies.

UNIT MISSION

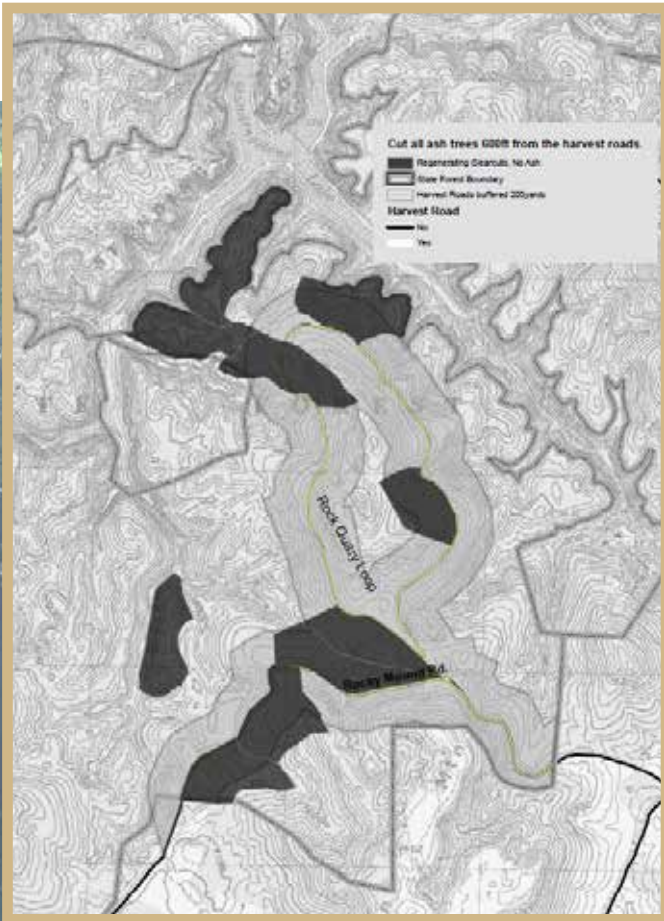
Provide for the multiple-use management of all resources on State Forest lands so that those resources are protected and utilized to best meet the long-term needs of the citizens of Tennessee.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Complete 15 compartment plans and approve all plan prescriptions before field implementation.
- Host two demonstrations, tours, or field days on State Forests.
- Harvest and regenerate 1,200 acres of timber.
- Complete Sustainable Forestry Initiative 3rd party annual audit.
- Manage \$3.2 million in expected revenue collections to maintain health and sustainability objectives across the State Forest system.
- Complete ArcMap to ArcPro transfer and utilize ArcOnline data housing GIS updates.
- Complete new Forest Level Plans and update compartment planning procedures.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

- Completed annual audit for Sustainable Forestry Initiative 3rd party accreditation.
- Completed and approved six compartment plans.
- Completed 24 scheduled timber sales totaling 1,375 stand acres and yielding 10.7MM board feet.
- Generated \$3,495,056 in scheduled timber sale revenue.
- Generated \$113,988 in salvage timber sale revenue.
- Hosted Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods field day demonstration at Chickasaw State Forest.
- Completed Natchez Trace State Forest Work Center and began Chuck Swan State Forest Work Center.





STANDING STONE STATE FOREST ASH SALVAGE

Ash trees in and surrounding Standing Stone State Forest are succumbing to the invasive, exotic emerald ash borer (EAB). In 2019, it appeared that most of the white and green ash trees in the forest had evidence of infestation. With the lifespan of an EAB-infected tree estimated at two to five years, a salvage harvest was determined to be the best course of action. From July 2019 to September of 2021, the Division aimed to reclaim value from dead and dying ash trees within the State Forest.

Harvesting was limited to ash trees within 200 yards of the three roads that run through the State Forest, providing accessibility without the need to create additional road infrastructure.

The Division of Forestry contracted with Livingston-based Walnut Creek Timber LLC to implement the salvage operation for \$180 per 1,000 board feet for sawtimber and \$4 per ton for pulpwood. Approximately 500,000 board feet of sawtimber and more than 2,000 tons of ash were harvested by the end of the salvage resulting in nearly \$100,000 of revenue for the Division.



FOREST DATA AND ANALYSIS

The Forest Data and Analysis Unit manages Division of Forestry data resources, provides visualization and analytical services, interprets data, and communicates findings to internal and external audiences. Critical work areas include statewide forest inventory, integrated database management, analytics and mapping, and remote-sensing technology.

The Unit tracks availability and sustainability of forest resources and provides this information to landowners, forest industry, other state agencies, partners, and the public. Furthermore, the Unit facilitates the evaluation and implementation of pertinent technologies for efficient data collection and management, mapping, and distribution to field staff.



UNIT MISSION

Collect, manage, visualize, analyze, and communicate data to address forest resource availability and sustainability, support Division of Forestry operations, and enhance business intelligence. The Unit facilitates the development and utilization of technology and supports other Units and TDA's Business Development Division.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Implement a technology system for tracking and managing wildfires.
- Create an analytical services program to assist forest industry.
- Improve operational efficiency and programmatic tracking for vendor services, Volunteer Fire Assistance grants, and equipment inspections.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Launched fiResponse, an enterprise-wide decision support system for monitoring wildland fire incidents and operational activities.
- Supported nearly 350 staff in the implementation of fiResponse during 924 emergency response incidents in the State of Tennessee.
- Partnered with the Business Development Division to create an analytical services program. Projects included producing five mill siting and timber availability analyses for forest products companies considering building in Tennessee.
- Produced a comprehensive forest resource availability analysis to support a Tennessee sawmill's application for federal grant funding. The grant was awarded and will enable the sawmill to generate its own energy and transition to a zero-waste facility.
- Improved operational efficiency and programmatic tracking for vendor services reporting and invoicing. The improved system facilitates documentation, reduces staff time spent billing, and shortens length of time needed to provide landowners with invoices.
- Virtualized the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant process to facilitate an easier application experience for volunteer fire departments. The new process also identified volunteer fire departments at greatest current and future risk of wildland fire, quantified trends in fire and suppression activities, and brought accountability to annual award decisions.
- Developed a mobile equipment inspections workflow to demonstrate the Division's fiscal and material responsibility, ensure preparedness, and identify maintenance issues before they scale to larger, more costly problems.

FORESTRY MEETS ANALYTICS

Tennessee's forest industry relies on 14 million acres of forestland in the state, most of which is privately owned. In 2019, Division of Forestry staff heard from industry partners with concerns about possible changes in wood availability and ownership types near Tennessee's 250+ mills. In response, the Division's Forest Data and Analysis Unit developed an Analytical Services Program to offer comprehensive analytical and mapping services for forest resource and timber availability assessments. The Analytical Services Program examines ownership and parcel dynamics, forest condition and wood volume data, insect and disease risk, and availability of transportation corridors. These datapoints and analyses inform business decisions such as mill siting and expansion, while supporting the 98,000+ forestry jobs in Tennessee.



Tennessee's Forest Products Industry

Source: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry

Forest Products Industry Quick Stats

Total Output

\$ 24 B

Total Value Added (~GDP)

\$ 9.8 B

Jobs

98,154

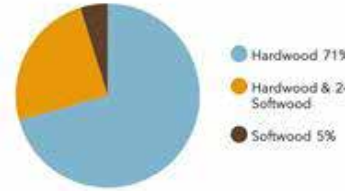
Wages & Salary

\$6,215 M

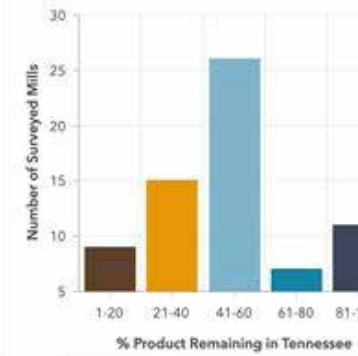
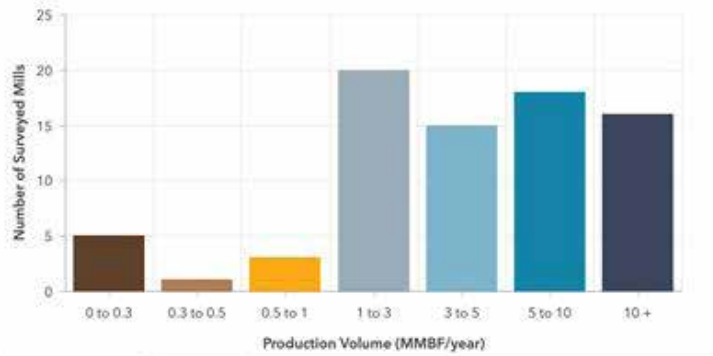
Where are TN's mills?



Map Legend: Species Processed



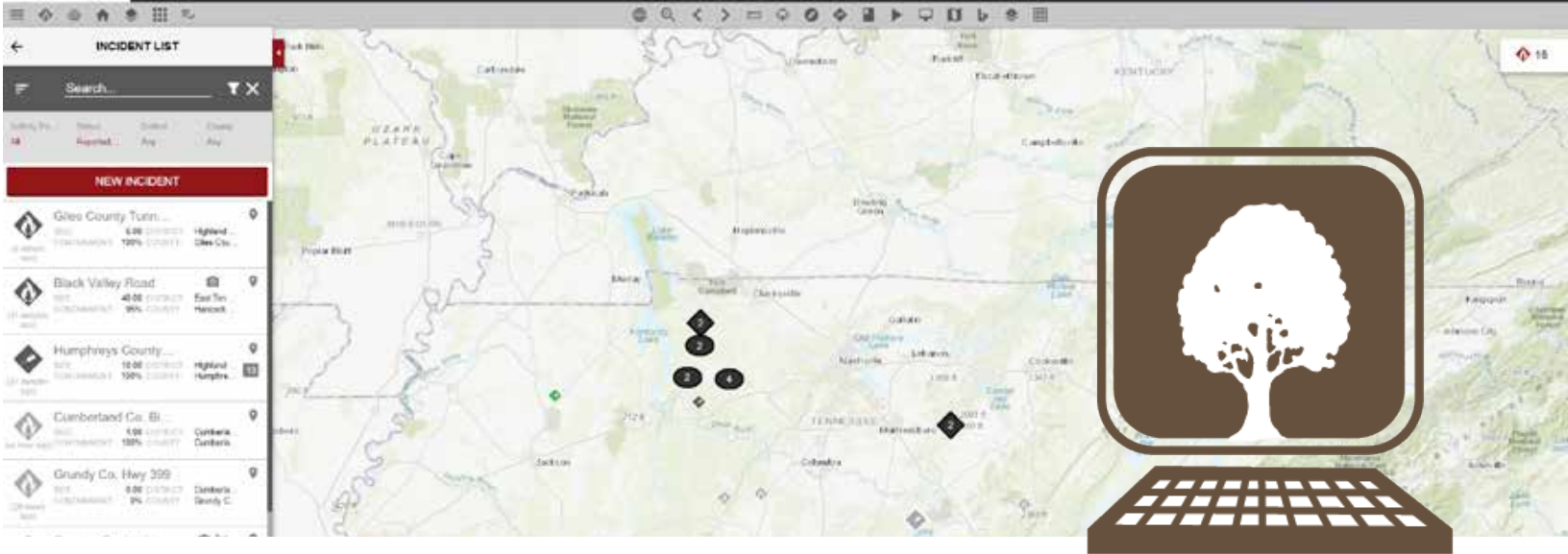
Eri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, EPA, NPS | Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry | Eri, HER... Powered by Eri



Production Volume Workforce

TN Domestic Exports Forest Products





FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) Program is a continuous census of forest resource condition and health, productivity, and sustainability that dates back to the late 1940s. Tennessee’s FIA foresters complete detailed forest inventory measurements on more than 4,200 permanent plots on public and private lands on a 5- to 7-year cycle. The FIA Program also conducts felled tree studies, gathering information from loggers and manufacturing facilities in the State that utilize wood produced by forests. The FIA Program provides information on forest age dynamics, forest health, ownership patterns, socioeconomic benefits, and emerging market opportunities such as forest biomass and carbon.

PROGRAM MISSION

Monitor the condition, productivity, and sustainability of Tennessee’s forest resource to formulate policies, support economic development, and develop programs.

OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Improve safety check-in processes.
- Provide FIA foresters with additional training opportunities.
- Develop an internship program.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Completed measurements on 225 plots and 7 National Forest intensification plots despite being only 33% staffed until June 2021.
- Foresters featured on Tennessee’s Wildside TV program to explain the FIA program and how it supports Tennessee’s mills and conservation organizations.
- Improved use of location-based tracking and text-based daily safety checks to ensure foresters arrived home safely each evening.
- Trained in wilderness first aid and public speaking.
- Hosted three interns during summer and developed their technical skills. Interns were University of Tennessee-Knoxville students majoring in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS FEATURED ON TENNESSEE'S WILDSIDE

FOREST DATA AND ANALYSIS



Tennessee's Wildside TV featured the Division's Forest Data and Analysis Unit and showed how the data they collect helps businesses provide raw materials for a wealth of products we use everyday.

"How long do you have to look before seeing something made of wood? Trees provide a massive support system for our lives. To maintain that structure requires research and investment not only by foresters but by businesses. The Thompson family hopes their long legacy in the lumber business will continue and the scientific research the Division of Forestry is doing today, should help them make plans for products from the forests of the future."

<https://youtu.be/XMnPcdGFJAY>



COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The Forestry Communications and Outreach Unit strives to inform and educate audiences by providing a better understanding of forestry as a discipline and the role that the Division plays in maintaining a healthy and productive forest resource. A successful effort leads to an enhanced appreciation for the state's forests, which, in turn, leads to an informed citizenry who recognize the benefits of conserving, protecting, and enhancing the resource. As a result, our society receives essential ecological benefits. The Unit also helps foster communication within the Division, a critical function of a healthy organization.

UNIT MISSION

Communicate clearly and accurately to Tennessee's citizens the information necessary to accomplish the Division's mission and to optimize in-house communications.



OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Raise awareness about important and timely forest resources issues.
- Educate our youth on the importance of trees and forests in our rural lands and within our communities.
- Maintain social media profile for Protect TN Forests conservation education campaign.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Held 391 educational outreach activities reaching 12,217 children and adults statewide.
- Administered a contract with the Tennessee Forestry Association to fund a Conservation Education Coordinator who managed the Project Learning Tree Program, conducted Teacher Conservation Workshops, and trained facilitators.
- Produced 19 news releases pertaining to relevant topics including forest pests, wildland fire danger, burn permit requirements, capital improvements, tree planting, urban forestry, cost share opportunities, state forest closures, and state forest certification.
- Gave multiple radio and television interviews addressing Division programs and topical issues.
- Launched the new TNWildlandFire.gov website to feature information on suppression and prevention of wildland fire and resources for prescribed burning.
- Promoted Division services and outreach campaigns across multiple media outlets. This included advertising campaigns for wildland fire prevention, prescribed fire, forest health, the Tennessee Wood Products campaign, and East Tennessee Nursery tree seedlings.
- Grew reach of social media profiles for Protect TN Forests conservation campaign including Facebook (added 403 Likes and a reach of 20,018 people), Twitter (added 68 followers and 41,400 impressions), and Instagram (added 48 followers and a reach of 309 people) to connect with a broad audience and promote conservation education and Division activity in forest management.

An infographics series promoted on social media successfully increased awareness of the benefits and process of prescribed fire. Developed in partnership with the Southern Group of State Foresters, the series illustrated how prescribed fire is a useful tool, demystified the process, and ensured safe practices.





ADMINISTRATION

Spread across the state and administered from four district offices and one reforestation office, the 475 employees (330 full time, 152 seasonal) of the Department of Agriculture’s Division of Forestry have responsibilities in nine separate programs. Effective planning, priority setting, and communication within the Division are crucial to organizational effectiveness. Assistant State Foresters work with staff to refine systems that improve customer services and operational efficiencies.

UNIT MISSION

Assist the State Forester in increasing the effectiveness of management, the quality of customer services, the efficiency of operations, and the cost effectiveness of Division programs.



OBJECTIVES FOR YEAR

- Manage personnel, facilities, vehicles, and equipment.
- Provide administrative support to large Division-wide projects.
- Manage separate budgets for Operations and Facilities Maintenance.
- Procure and manage federal grants.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

- Met budget cost savings requests by implementing more efficient practices in the online burn permit system, integration of Microsoft Teams platform, and increased use of TeamTN and Sharepoint.
- Completed the 2020-2030 Tennessee Forest Action Plan in partnership with the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.
- Purchased 142 cell phones and email addresses for all Forestry Aide 2 employees to improve communication and emergency response.
- Broke ground for the new work center at Chuck Swan State Forest in December 2020.
- Completed construction on the new work center at Natchez Trace State Forest in January 2021.
- Updated half of the Division's job classification specifications and created three new classifications to better reflect workforce needs.
- Partnered with the Tennessee Forestry Association to kick off the Forest Industry Workforce Development Initiative.



Groundbreaking for Chuck Swan State Forest Work Center

FOREST ACTION PLAN

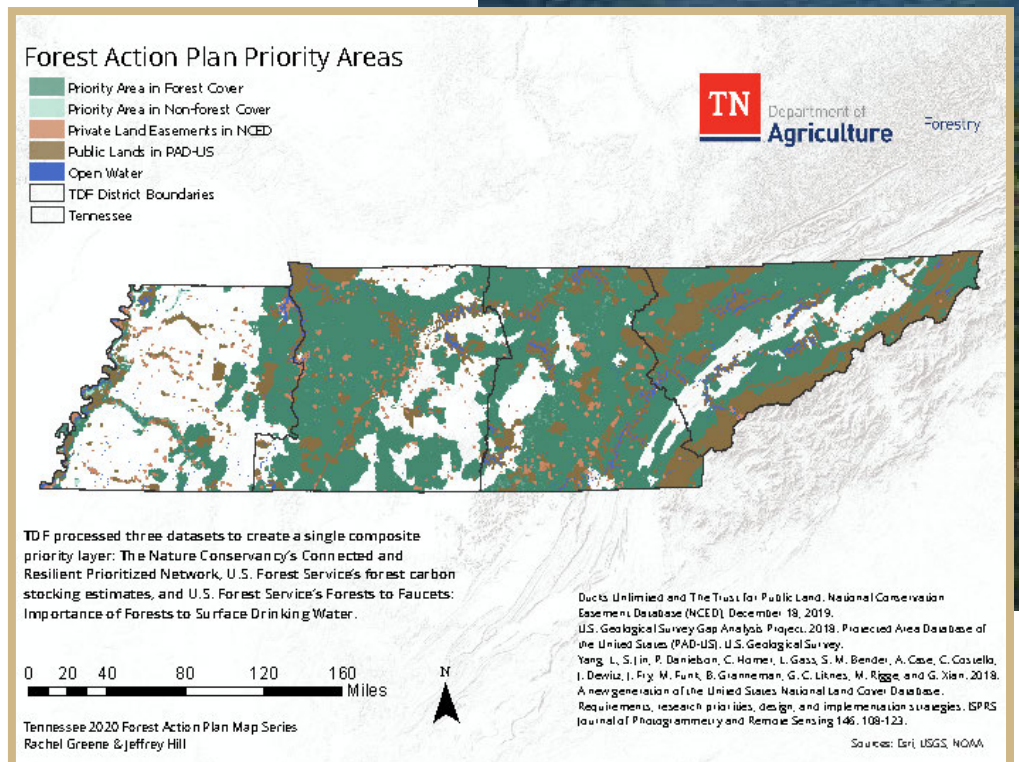
The Division, in cooperation with the Tennessee Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, released the 2020 Tennessee Forest Action Plan. All 50 states are required under federal law to develop and update a Forest Action Plan every 10 years to maintain eligibility for funding under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act administered by the USDA Forest Service.

To maintain and strengthen Tennessee's forests, this Forest Action Plan addresses four key objectives:

- Enhancing Forest Health and Resilience
- Expanding Market Diversification
- Maintaining and Improving Connected Landscapes
- Strengthening Wildland Fire Resilient Communities

The plan aspires to motivate a wide variety of partners to collaboratively address and provide resources that can be leveraged to support the strategies and actions identified in the plan.

www.tn.gov/agriculture/forests/protection/ag-forests-action-plan.html





PROTECT. CONSERVE. ENHANCE.

Photo by: Byron Jorjorian



FORESTRY COMMISSION DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

The Tennessee Forestry Commission was established by the legislature under T.C.A. 11-4-201 to:

1. Nominate candidates for State Forester.
2. Review, approve, and submit the annual budget of the Forestry Division to the Commissioner of Agriculture.
3. Make an annual report to the Governor; Department of Agriculture Commissioner; the Tennessee Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.
4. Recommend to the General Assembly legislation to protect, conserve, and develop the forest resources of the state.
5. Approve the Division's comprehensive long-range plan for the state's forest resources.
6. Establish state forestry policies that will enable the Division to manage its programs.
7. Include in budget recommendations those goals and objectives necessary to implement state forestry policies.

THE STATE OF TENNESSEE POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's policy of non-discrimination, the Tennessee Department of Agriculture does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability or military service in its policies or in the admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs, services, or activities.

If you seek more information or feel that you have been treated unfairly in regard to the State's services or hiring practices, contact the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, EEO/AA/ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 40627 Melrose Station, Nashville, TN 37204, 615-837-5115.

MEMBERS

Chair Johnny Heard | Collinwood | Represents hardwood manufacturers
Vice-Chair Tom Midyett | Knoxville | Represents pulp and paper manufacturers
Secretary John Charles Wilson | Memphis | Represents conservation organizations
Bob Qualman | Brentwood | Represents forest landowners of less than 500 acres
Mike Witt | Cookeville | Represents forest landowners of less than 500 acres
Alex Richman | Lynchburg | Represents forest landowners of greater than 500 acres
Dr. Sharon Jean-Philippe | Knoxville | Represents public-at-large
Ex-Officio Charlie Hatcher, D.V.M. | Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture
Ex-Officio Bobby Wilson | Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
Ex-Officio David Salyers | Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation





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