

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Annual Report 2006 - 2007

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STATE COMMISSION OF FORESTRY

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Robert C. Schowalter, State Forester

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

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

FIRE MANAGEMENT

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

Wildfire Summary

Agency firefighters recorded 2972 fires that burned 16,677 acres of forestland and grassland during the fiscal year.

Wildfires destroyed 31 homes and damaged 13 others. In addition, 62 other buildings were destroyed and 27 buildings were damaged. There were 57 vehicles damaged.

Fire Protection Cooperatives

The Forestry Commission has cooperative arrangements with 12 fire and emergency management entities. Activities for each cooperative during FY 2006-07 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 2006-2007 the Forestry Commission assisted Texas, Georgia, and Florida with firefighting resources under the compact agreement. These states had unusual fire activity due to drought. 67 personnel and 40 pieces of equipment were sent to assist.

SC Emergency Management Division: SC Forestry Commission personnel participated in several EMD emergency response training sessions involving hurricanes, earthquakes, and dam failures. Revisions of the Logistical Staging Area (LSA) SOP as a result of the training exercise held in June 2007 were made to improve the clarity and effectiveness of the LSA operational procedures.

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. The Guard used the SCFC Bambi buckets on forest fires in Florida at the request of the Florida Division of Forestry.

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: 68 Fire Departments requested \$316,911 worth of firefighting equipment of which all 68 fire departments were funded for \$88,776.

National Fire Plan Grants for wildland firefighting needs: 84 Fire Departments requested \$400,411 worth of firefighting equipment of which all 84 fire departments were funded for \$105,207.

Federal Excess Property Program: SCFC acquired a total of sixty-six (66) items of inventoried federal excess equipment with an acquisition value of \$1.1 million. These items were loaned to fire departments during the year. At present, 1,794 pieces of equipment with acquisition value of \$33.4 million are assigned to fire departments statewide. Assignments and reassignments were done on 866 items with an acquisition value of \$17.8 million throughout the year as the inventory was being rectified and an audit conducted.

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.

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.

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), an Incident Management Team (IMT) Coordinator position was created. The IMT coordinator works with fire & training staff to facilitate the development of a nationally-qualified Type 2 IMT from within the Forestry Commission, a Type 3 IMT within the Forestry Commission, and to ensure consistency among four multi-disciplinary Type 3 IMT's located in each region of the State. These teams are being developed to increase the capability of the state to manage wildfires, natural disasters, or other major events that may occur. Once trained, the Type 2 team will be able to respond within the state, region or nation as needed. This year, training standards were determined, standard operating guidelines were written, and equipment needs were identified for the teams.

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 2007*

<i>Month</i>	<i>Precipitation</i>
July 2006	3.04
August	5.63
September	4.36
October	3.06
November	5.27
December	3.74
January 2007	3.88
February	2.56
March	2.48
April	2.08
May	1.48
June	4.06
Total	41.64

*Source – National Climatic Data Center

Precipitation Last 5 Years*

Fiscal Year	Precipitation Inches	Departure from Normal**
2002-03	61.18	+12.91
2003-04	42.90	-5.37
2004-05	49.35	+1.08
2005-06	45.05	-3.22
2006-07	41.64	-6.63

*Source – National Climatic Data Center

**statewide normal, based on previous 30 years is 48.27 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 2007 are as follows:

<i>Region</i>	Coastal	Pee Dee	Piedmont
Readiness 1 (No wildfire danger)	6 days	6 days	0 days
Readiness 2 (Low wildfire danger)	176 days	234 days	212 days
Readiness 3 (Moderate wildfire danger)	173 days	96 days	139 days
Readiness 4 (High wildfire danger)	10 days	29 days	14 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 2006-2007. There was one Red Flag Fire Alert during the year. The red flag alert was for:

April 6-11 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 11 aircraft with 2 full time pilots and on average 15 temporary pilots which fly on as needed basis. Specially trained private aerial contractors provide basic wildfire detection services..

During the year, SCFC pilots flew a total of 2,673 hours (Coastal—859 hours, Pee Dee--1004 hours, Piedmont—810 hours); contractors flew fire detection a total of 1388 hours.

Prescribed Fire

Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program: Four Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Programs were conducted during the year with 172 participants. Participation in this program strengthened over the past year due to increasing statewide interest in prescribed burning. This course focuses of planning prescribed burns to comply with mandated air quality standards.

Prescribed Burning for Forestry, Wildlife, and Agriculture FY07 (Smoke Management Guidelines)

Region	<u>Forest Understory</u>		Forestry Site Prep.		<u>Wildlife</u>		<u>Agriculture</u>	
	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres	Number	Acres
Coastal	2,389	197,692.9	2496	7,940	816	77,048.9	2,693	38,211.9
Pee Dee	1,388	68,268.1	872	2,923	441	28,918.3	2,741	48,083.4
Piedmont	519	60,256.1	1934	5,672.6	179	7,913.8	539	4,199.3
Totals	4,296	326,217.1	5302	16,535.6	1436	113,881.0	5,973	90,494.6

Total Forestry, Wildlife & Agriculture Burns: 17,007 for 547,128.3 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. A mobile exhibit demonstrating the WUI risks and how to mitigate these risks was purchased as a joint effort with the USFS, USFWS, and NPS. The exhibit will be housed and scheduled by the SCFC.

Wildfire Prevention: Wildfire Prevention Teams were implemented in historically high fire occurrence areas in each of the three regions. The teams had two objectives 1) to inform the public of safe debris burning practices to reduce the number of escaped debris fires and 2) to emphasize to property owners their responsibility in protecting their property to reduce the losses due to wildland fire. The teams accomplished these objectives by implementing strategies which involved coordinating with the local fire departments and providing assistance to local areas as requested and showing and promoting Firewise principles.

Five Prevention Teams visited over 300 locations/businesses on traplines located in five counties. Wildfire prevention materials were delivered to 14 schools where over 3,700 letters were distributed. A *How to Have a Firewise Home* workshop was conducted as well as presentations to 17 other groups – homeowners, planning committees, and fire chiefs. Yard debris demonstrations (3) and burn site inspections (121) were also conducted. Various wildfire prevention products (21,300+) which included door hangars, bracelets, notification magnets, cups, pencils, signs, and rain gauges were distributed at trapline locations and at several events. The *Think Before You*

Burn slogan was promoted through the use of various printed materials (231,293) brochures (English and Spanish), newsletters, newspaper inserts, posters and stickers.

Fires By Cause

Cause	Number	Acres Burned	Average Acres per Fire	Percent of Total Number FY 07
Lightning	102	1,925.5	18.9	3.43
Campfire	26	645.1	24.8	.87
Smoking	66	249.7	3.8	2.22
Debris Burning	1,303	5,883.9	4.5	43.84
Incendiary	733	5,451.2	7.4	24.66
Equipment	269	1,006.3	3.7	9.05
Railroad	22	62.1	2.8	.74
Children	197	443.4	2.3	6.63
Miscellaneous	254	1,009.9	4.0	8.55
TOTALS	2,972	15,677.1	5.6	100

Five-Year Summary: All Fires

Fiscal Yr.	Acres Protected	# Fires	Acres Burned	<u>Avg. Acres/Fire</u>	% Area Burned
2002-03	13,657,033	1,760	9,182.0	5.2	0.07
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
<i>Five Year Averages</i>		2,750	15,810.4	5.7	0

**Acres Protected and Total Burning Notifications by County,
Fiscal Year 2007**

County	Acres Protected	Smoke Mgt. Notifications	Other Notifications
Abbeville	248,551	215	2,531
Aiken	524,743	1,032	14,929
Allendale	199,005	386	845
Anderson	216,023	232	13,193
Bamberg	202,862	484	1,789
Barnwell	266,959	518	3,316
Beaufort	130,448	333	8,232
Berkeley	595,291	772	16,979
Calhoun	151,294	293	2,936
Charleston	318,526	377	7,688
Cherokee	168,077	75	3,852
Chester	315,565	160	2,970
Chesterfield	416,239	458	6,706
Clarendon	238,952	493	4,971
Colleton	560,896	1,199	13,725
Darlington	176,333	305	6,950
Dillon	163,935	193	2,744
Dorchester	272,524	350	9,986
Edgefield	279,433	290	2,087
Fairfield	408,433	141	2,417
Florence	308,707	613	11,726
Georgetown	400,136	506	9,837
Greenville	296,082	142	14,912
Greenwood	205,593	119	3,044
Hampton	303,663	854	3,254
Horry	493,012	486	18,195
Jasper	341,036	664	3,594
Kershaw	376,376	246	15,054
Lancaster	291,845	92	4,855
Laurens	337,499	10	4,326
Lee	121,735	229	1,559
Lexington	256,939	338	36,932
Marion	226,896	206	6,657
Marlboro	226,676	133	4,596
McCormick	223,394	121	1,159
Newberry	334,566	156	2,635
Oconee	292,590	134	11,190
Orangeburg	446,887	1,132	11,370
Pickens	236,029	98	9,883
Richland	352,904	229	7,464
Saluda	196,376	151	1,390
Spartanburg	286,496	214	8,496
Sumter	268,338	360	11,833
Union	277,640	92	444
Williamsburg	407,761	1,122	6,777
York	293,768	164	11,390
Total	13,657,033	17,007	351,418
	Total Smoke Mgt. & Other Notifications	368,425	

Total All Land Fires by County & Month -- Fiscal Year 2007																												
COUNTY	2006												2007									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	5	9.6	3	1.2						7	14.9	2	1.1	9	17.1	10	18.3	5	13.5	17	54.2	8	18.3	66	148.2			
AIKEN	15	42.7	9	65.1	5	10.9			3	1.3	3	17	5	16.1	9	18.3	11	43.1	13	74.9	30	109.1	14	212.6	10	110.3	127	721.4
ALLENDALE			3	0.8			4	6.4	3	2.8	1	0.1	1	2	4	26.8	6	31.1	4	17.7			2	6.1	28	93.8		
ANDERSON	2	11.5			2	4.1			1	0.3	2	5	2	11.5	6	41.3	4	5.5	9	28.5	6	13.5	5	326.8	39	448		
BAMBERG	2	1					1	0.1	2	1.5	1	7	2	5.5	4	41.1	4	8.1	3	56.1	2	0.2	1	0.1	22	120.7		
BARNWELL	1	0.5	1	1					2	4.5	1	3	2	7	5	36.5	7	87.5	2	2.1			2	3	23	145.1		
BEAUFORT	2	4	1	4			1	5	3	9	1	0.2			3	10	11	86.3	11	39.2	6	11.5	2	11	41	180.2		
BERKELEY	11	69	5	92.9	1	12	3	25.5	4	47	10	44.5	6	11.3	24	63.6	31	467.2	23	220	29	99.3	7	13.3	154	1165.6		
CALHOUN	5	13.5					2	22.5	2	2.6	2	1.3	2	1.2	5	5.2	5	18.5	3	5.1	2	6			28	75.9		
CHARLESTON	3	9.7	2	32.9	1	0.1	2	0.2					8	30		10	33.6	9	31.8	27	74.1	5	11.2	2	11.4	69	235	
CHEROKEE	1	0.1	2	15									3	25.2		4	6	5	10.9	8	13	3	3.7			26	73.9	
CHESTER	1	4	3	6.3									2	7	3	13	4	7.5	10	72.6	1	0.5	6	36.5	1	1	31	148.4
CHESTERFIELD	3	8	3	40			1	0.2	5	6.9	7	21.5	4	12.2	21	59.8	24	177	17	71.9	2	8	2	90	89	495.5		
CLarendON	3	1			1	2.5	4	3	3	20.5	8	58.5			12	55.7	31	154.9	16	103.7	10	74	2	10.5	90	484.3		
COLLETON	12	135.3	4	71.1	2	5	5	13.1	5	32.3	6	12.5	5	6.5	15	185.6	32	290	28	119.3	16	69.1	3	60	133	999.8		
DARLINGTON	3	11	1	6	2	2.6	2	4	6	40.8	3	7.5	6	10.4	16	53.5	14	24.4	12	79.5	4	2	2	146	71	387.7		
DILLON	6	31.6	1	1	2	3	2	2.1	1	6	2	1.2	5	32.2	13	26	13	22.2	10	51.1	6	19.1	2	2.5	63	198		
DORCHESTER	6	7.3	2	16			2	9.1	1	45	4	12.3	3	12.1	7	70.1	17	95.1	14	63.8	3	1.1	2	112.6	61	444.5		
EDGEFIELD	2	1.1					1	0.1	2	1.1					2	11	3	59	4	22.5	3	5			17	99.8		
FAIRFIELD	4	23.6	1	0.1			2	3.2	3	1.3	1	0.3	5	15.8	10	18.9	10	18.2	9	13.9	7	16.8	4	8.3	56	120.4		
FLORENCE	3	3.5	1	4.5	1	0.1	1	0.1	5	10.1	8	17.6	5	12.9	20	39.4	44	214.2	17	28.2	13	39.8	2	0.5	120	370.9		
GEORGETOWN	2	11.5	1	0.1			1	2					3	6.1	4	13	12	41.4	26	419.6	16	106.1	9	24.5	5	133.6	79	757.9
GREENVILLE	2	1.6	2	2.1			1	1.5	1	0.1	9	10.5	4	19.9	11	31	14	16.5	14	18.8	10	18.1	3	3.5	71	123.6		
GREENWOOD	1	71	3	0.9	1	5						1	0.1			3	1.9	5	8.2	7	39.4	1	2	1	1	23	129.5	
HAMPTON	5	73.5	5	1.5	2	2.5	2	1.1	2	2.4	3	6	2	10.1	8	138.5	18	71.2	13	34.8	5	25	2	5	67	371.6		
HORRY	1	3	3	9.5			1	0.1					3	7	3	4.9	20	159.2	36	161.3	37	1133.4	18	139.3	9	13.3	131	1631
JASPER	7	52.2					3	2.6	2	2.1	10	13.6	3	12	11	51.5	44	295.9	37	124.3	17	119.1	2	1.5	136	674.8		
KERSHAW	14	82.1	5	33	1	0.1	1	1	6	6.6	7	95.5	4	14	13	32.3	15	38.5	11	32.5	10	16.6	5	55.5	92	407.7		
LANCASTER	1	5					7	0.8	1	0.5					2	21	5	24.3	4	45	3	2.6	1	0.1	24	99.3		
LAURENS	2	3							1	2	1	2.5	2	2	3	5	6	24.9	4	24.9			4	10	19	49.4		
LEE	1	2.5	2	51	1	20	4	15.5	3	4.6	2	10.5	3	30.2	6	44.1	14	91	9	64.5	4	4.5	2	1.5	51	339.9		
LEXINGTON	5	7.7	3	15.6	2	1.7	4	0.7	6	40.7	10	21.5	1	17	8	101.4	10	27.5	6	25.2	19	46.4	2	3.5	76	308.9		
MARION	3	9.5	1	0.1					2	4.1	1	0.8			1	1	3	3.5	2	5.5	4	13.5	1	0.5	18	38.5		
MARLBORO	2	4.5			3	5.9			1	2	1	1			7	41.7	13	121.3	8	33	4	21.5	4	6.3	43	237.2		
MCCORMICK	3	2.5	1	0.2	1	0.1							2	1.8		1	20	4	10	7	11.5	2	6	3	23.5	24	75.6	
NEWBERRY							1	0.5	1	0.6					3	3.3	9	24.4	4	2.7	1	1	1	1	9.7	20	42.2	
OCONEE	3	2.9	2	0.2					1	0.2	6	17.7	2	3	7	7.6	13	20.6	13	29.1	6	8.2	5	226.5	58	316		
ORANGEBURG	21	127.8	5	31.1	5	5.2	5	59.9	9	24.8	12	76.6	12	13.1	26	302.9	43	173.5	26	95.6	13	56.4	6	31.3	183	998.2		
PICKENS	1	1							5	8.5	9	116.1	4	4.1	17	28.7	14	31.3	14	277.8	4	7	4	20	72	494.5		
RICHLAND	2	63	1	1	1	0.1			1	4	1	1.5			4	37	5	71	5	11	10	27	2	18	32	233.6		
SALUDA	1	0.1	2	12	2	4												6	40.1	1	1	3	3.3	15	60.5			
SPARTANBURG	5	5.6	1	8	1	0.1	1	0.3			7	11.1	3	21.6	8	16.3	8	40.9	13	19.3	5	9.4	3	7.2	55	139.8		
SUMTER	5	7.5	3	5.5	1	1	2	1.5	4	27.5	7	16	5	9	6	8.1	12	32.3	16	55.3	14	26.3	5	3.1	80	193.1		
UNION	2	33	2	0.6					1	2.5					2	30	4	40.5	8	34.3					19	140.9		
WILLIAMSBURG	5	10.7	2	6	1	0.1	1	0.1	3	4.6	11	65.2	4	10	37	232	81	814	40	284.3	25	150.9	3	5.5	213	1583.4		
YORK											2	23	1	6	4	21.2	4	6.5	4	13.1			2	3.1	17	72.9		
Grand Total	184	969.2	86	536.3	39	86.1	70	183.5	101	386.5	190	789.8	119	362.9	425	2228.9	709	4536.4	573	3669.4	339	1409.9	137	1518.2	2972	16677.1		

Total All Land Fires by County & Cause -- Fiscal Year 2007																							Total	Total
COUNTY	LIGHTNING		CAMPFIRE		SMOKING		DEBRIS BURNING		INCENDIARY		EQUIPMENT USE		RAILROAD		CHILDREN		MISCELLANEOUS		Fires	Acres				
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres						
ABBEVILLE			1	7.0			5	4.8	20	38.3	24	41.5	8	33.7		2	0.6	6	22.3	66	148.2			
AIKEN	11	142.8			4	14.1	48	380.0	7	31.2	9	10.9			23	69.2	25	73.2	127	721.4				
ALLEDALE	2	6.1			1	0.2	8	26.6	13	58.3	1	0.2	3	2.4					28	93.8				
ANDERSON	1	0.5	3	328.0			15	44.3	14	57.6					2	10.2	4	7.4	39	448.0				
BAMBERG	2	55.5					15	29.6	2	33.0	2	1.6			1	1.0			22	120.7				
BARNWELL							17	115.0			2	20.1			2	3.0	2	7.0	23	145.1				
BEAUFORT	1	5.0					12	29.6	23	129.6					3	12.0	2	4.0	41	180.2				
BERKELEY	5	141.7			1	3.1	66	370.3	58	527.7	3	6.4	1	0.5	6	5.1	14	110.8	154	1,165.6				
CALHOUN	2	10.0					20	54.2			2	6.6			2	4.1	2	1.0	28	75.9				
CHARLESTON	1	20.9	1	1.3	2	5.3	33	88.9	20	86.2	3	5.4	1	2.0	1	7.0	7	18.0	69	235.0				
CHEROKEE	1	12.0	1	4.7			8	9.6	2	27.0	6	9.1	1	1.0	4	7.4	3	3.1	26	73.9				
CHESTER	2	2.0			1	8.0	12	39.9	6	57.0	3	32.5	1	0.5	3	4.0	3	4.5	31	148.4				
CHESTERFIELD	3	114.0			3	13.0	55	217.5	10	93.8	8	22.9			4	8.8	6	25.5	89	495.5				
CLARENDON	1	1.0			1	0.5	46	202.2	36	240.5	2	12.0			1	1.0	3	27.1	90	484.3				
COLLETON	6	200.0					82	570.8	26	143.8	8	32.8			5	10.0	6	42.4	133	999.8				
DARLINGTON	2	146.0			3	4.0	37	129.6	12	72.1	2	7.1			4	1.9	11	27.0	71	387.7				
DILLON	1	10.0					17	29.3	22	48.3	12	64.8			7	42.0	4	3.6	63	198.0				
DORCHESTER	2	112.6			1	1.5	34	168.9	11	87.6	6	22.2			3	5.2	4	46.5	61	444.5				
EDGEFIELD							10	94.5			1	1.0			4	3.2	2	1.1	17	99.8				
FAIRFIELD	3	23.5	4	10.1	2	7.5	22	48.6	5	4.3	12	12.9			4	2.7	4	10.8	56	120.4				
FLORENCE	1	3.0	3	7.2	1	1.0	42	103.2	29	169.6	15	26.2			17	17.5	12	43.2	120	370.9				
GEORGETOWN	2	135.0	1	6.0	1	6.0	36	303.7	26	230.5	4	48.1	1	0.3	4	8.0	5	26.3	79	757.9				
GREENVILLE	2	6.0	1	3.5	2	1.5	21	24.7	18	23.3	10	25.3			7	24.5	10	14.8	71	123.6				
GREENWOOD	2	72.0					6	30.0	8	23.7	2	0.4			3	3.2	2	0.2	23	129.5				
HAMPTON	6	74.2	1	1.0	1	2.0	29	43.4	22	221.0	4	25.4	3	4.5			1	0.1	67	371.6				
HORRY	1	1.0	2	2.5			56	308.1	38	1,005.1	10	123.7			9	15.4	15	175.2	131	1,631.0				
JASPER	2	24.0					57	133.7	58	397.1	10	72.7	2	25.3	3	6.0	4	16.0	136	674.8				
KERSHAW	7	155.0			6	93.5	39	74.7	10	36.5	13	23.7			9	10.1	8	14.2	92	407.7				
LANCASTER	1	5.0					7	76.6	1	0.5	8	3.8			3	1.4	4	12.0	24	99.3				
LAURENS	2	5.8					6	11.9	1	0.2	3	8.0	2	16.0			5	7.5	19	49.4				
LEE					1	1.0	28	253.5	12	57.8	4	12.1					6	15.5	51	339.9				
LEXINGTON	2	1.7	1	2.5			24	163.4	7	40.2	10	24.8			24	40.0	8	36.3	76	308.9				
MARION							5	17.5	8	18.3	4	1.7			1	1.0			18	38.5				
MARLBORO	1	0.1			1	4.0	13	79.2	16	114.6	6	24.5			2	3.2	4	11.6	43	237.2				
MCCORMICK	3	20.7	1	1.5	1	1.0	7	14.1			7	30.1	1	1.0	1	3.0	3	4.2	24	75.6				
NEWBERRY	1	0.5			1	3.0	10	17.0			4	10.7	1	0.3	1	0.5	2	10.2	20	42.2				
OCONEE	3	206.6	3	11.3	3	8.2	23	28.5	2	0.7	14	35.4			4	3.7	6	21.6	58	316.0				
ORANGEBURG	6	81.5			15	47.1	109	474.7	31	307.4	15	83.0	1	0.1	2	3.1	4	1.3	183	998.2				
PICKENS	3	22.2	2	252.5	2	6.1	30	148.3	6	3.7	8	31.9			8	11.0	13	18.8	72	494.5				
RICHLAND	2	61.0					9	34.5	4	7.5					9	78.1	8	52.5	32	233.6				
SALUDA	1	2.0					8	43.4	1	0.5	4	14.5					1	0.1	15	60.5				
SPARTANBURG							21	81.9	17	13.0	7	23.6	2	4.0	2	3.1	6	14.2	55	139.8				
SUMTER	2	4.0			5	6.8	37	72.0	22	72.8	3	16.5			2	2.0	9	19.0	80	193.1				
UNION	2	31.5			1	4.5	6	64.6			4	25.5					6	14.8	19	140.9				
WILLIAMSBURG	3	6.1					89	579.8	105	967.7	8	11.4	2	4.2	4	7.2	2	7.0	213	1,583.4				
YORK	1	3.0	2	12.0	1	2.0	8	13.8			2	1.1			1	3.0	2	38.0	17	72.9				
Grand Total	102	1,925.5	26	645.1	66	249.7	1,303	5,883.9	733	5,451.2	269	1,006.3	22	62.1	197	443.4	254	1,009.9	2,972	16,677.1				

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, 2006, 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 2006-2007, the losses were minimal. During that time, SCFC foresters and technicians plotted 723 active beetle spots containing 45,580 trees. This timber had an estimated volume of 1,280 cords and 1,823 thousand board feet. The green value of this timber was \$582,367.

During the spring of 2007, 31 counties were pheromone trapped for prediction of Southern Pine Beetle population trends. No counties trapped enough beetles to predict a severe outbreak. In Abbeville, Fairfield, and Newberry counties, sufficient beetles were trapped to predict increasing-high pine beetle activity. Aerial surveys were in progress at the end of the fiscal year and little beetle activity was found statewide. However, there was one large and several smaller spots in Florence County. Some of these spots were not known to the landowner and could have increased in size had they not been detected with aerial survey and had prompt suppression not been taken place. 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. It is a small insect that feeds by sucking plant juices from its host tree. Unfortunately, heavy infestations of this pest kill hemlocks and control is very difficult, especially in the general forest. Clemson University has established an insect rearing center to raise insect predators of the adelgid and is currently rearing two species of predatory beetles to relocate in infested stands. Unfortunately, we may face the loss of hemlock as an important forest species. We continued to contract with Clemson to perform a ground survey of susceptible stands to delineate the infestation area.

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 S.C. on an on-call basis to certify our lack of infestation.

Redbay Ambrosia Beetle/ Laurel Wilt Disease

In November 2004, an exotic ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus* Eichhoff, was discovered in a dead redbay tree on Hilton Head Island. The beetle attacks redbay trees and introduces a currently unnamed, and potentially exotic, fungus (*Raffaelea* spp.) into the tree. Since the discovery of *X. glabratus* in 2004, the beetle and its associated fungus has been found in six (6) South Carolina counties: Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, Charleston, Bamberg, and Colleton. The beetle and fungus has also been found in 16 Georgia counties and in 8 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 S.C. 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 recent 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 USA. This disease kills oaks and causes leaf spots on many other species. Testing of eastern species of oaks in California has shown that they could be susceptible to this disease if it occurs here. Unfortunately, some infected plants were shipped to S.C, but no local spread was detected.

As part of a southeastern project, we are cooperating in a survey to be sure the disease does not occur here. In the summer of 2006, oaks, rhododendrons, and other susceptible species were sampled in the forest adjacent to commercial nurseries and in general forest areas in the high risk category for SOD. All sample results from the ground survey were negative. In the spring of 2007, a stream baiting protocol to detect the fungus that causes SOD was initiated. This survey was ongoing at the end of the fiscal year.

Miscellaneous Insect and Disease Checks

Commission foresters made approximately 325 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 2006-2007, the Insect and Disease Laboratory processed 42 samples submitted by SCFC employees and private individuals. Recommendations for control of various pests identified were given where needed. In addition to these samples, 6,849 southern pine beetles and 12,403 clerids, and 133 native woodwasps (*Siricidae*) were counted in the lab.

Exotic Insect Trapping Project

The I&D Unit is cooperating with the US Forest Service in a program to identify exotic insects which may have become established in the state. We have placed three pheromone traps in nine locations each with a different pheromone lure. These traps catch bark beetles and ambrosia beetles that are initially pre-screened for common species and unknown species are sent to a USFS entomologist for identification. The traps are checked every two weeks and are active for 20 weeks. The results of the survey will be published upon completion.

European (*Sirex noctilio*) Woodwasp

The Insect and Disease section trapped for an exotic woodwasp (*Sirex noctilio*) that is currently found in New York state and in two north central Pennsylvania counties. Two pheromone traps with *Sirex* lure (alpha- and beta-pinene) were placed in 33 South Carolina counties. Traps were checked every two weeks and were active from August through December. We trapped 133 individual native woodwasps representing five (5) species. No *Sirex noctilio* woodwasps were trapped in the 2006 survey.

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.

Major defoliation continued this year due to an outbreak of Forest Tent Caterpillar. Larvae of this insect defoliated gum and other bottomland hardwoods over 202,000 acres in eight counties. Defoliation occurred until late May at which time the insects pupated to adults. The most impacted areas were along the Santee, Pee Dee, and Edisto basins, and in many low country swamps.

Timber losses due to beaver impoundment and feeding were seen on a total of 9,223 acres. Fire mortality was detected on 14,400 acres. The estimated value of beaver and fire-killed timber was \$8.8 million. Annosus root rot was also identified on 8,505 acres. Value lost due to annosus was estimated to be \$306,180.

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.

One training session was offered to our mechanics during the fiscal year in the area of air conditioning maintenance and brake repair.

Equipment Purchased

Coastal Region

- Two (2) 2008 ¾ Ton 4x4 Ford F250's w/ Extended Cabs
- One (1) 2007 ½ Ton Communications Van
- One (1) Mechanic's Service Truck
- One (1) Wildfire Engine Donated by Mead-Westvaco

Pee Dee Region

- Three (3) 2008 ¾ Ton 4x4 Ford F250's w/ Extended Cabs
- Five (5) 2007 Dressta TD-9M Crawler Tractors
- Five (5) 2008 International 7400 Transport Trucks
- Five (5) Fesco P3HJR Pull Plows
- One (1) Wildfire Engine Donated by Mead-Westvaco

Piedmont Region

- Seven (7) 2008 ¾ Ton 4x4 Ford F250's w/ Extended Cabs
- One (1) 2007 Dressta TD-9M Crawler Tractor
- One (1) 2008 International 7400 Transport Truck
- One (1) Fesco P3HJR Pull Plow

Manchester State Forest

- One (1) 2007 Ford F150 4x4 Extended Cab

Harbison State Forest

- Front Bucket Attachment and Backhoe Attachment for John Deere 5210 Farm Tractor

Columbia Headquarters

- Three (3) 2007 Chevrolet Impala Sedans for Urban Foresters
- One (1) 6x12 Utility Trailer for Information & Education
- One (1) 2007 Ford F150 4x4 w/ Extended Cab for BMP Forester
- Four (4) Fesco P3HJR Pull Plows to be Distributed to Regions at a Later Date

The Forestry Commission prepared and organized equipment for auction in November 2006. The auction netted the Forestry Commission \$202,910.50. This money was used to purchase equipment. Also, \$106.40 was received from the sale of scrap metal.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

During FY 07, the Forestry Commission had 36 sworn officers statewide. Of these, five were investigators focused primarily on complex timber theft, timber fraud, and woods arson cases.

Officers prosecuted 475 fire tickets, 30 litter and environmental cases, 63 violations of state forest regulations, and seven miscellaneous cases.

Timber theft/timber fraud complaints were on the rise this year. We worked 198 cases with a value of a little over half a million dollars.

There were 118 timber theft/fraud cases settled and \$557,278.65 went back into pockets of landowners in South Carolina.

During Fiscal Year 2007 the SCFC made three arrests for woods arson. The first arrest was made in Lexington County and the suspect was charged with three counts of *Willfully Burning Lands of Another*, for which he later plead guilty on all three counts and received probation. The second arrest was made in April in Dillon County and the suspect was charged with five counts of *Willfully Burning Lands of Another*, for which he was later tried and found guilty on all counts. He was sentenced to five years in prison on each count and his sentences will be served concurrently. The third arrest was made in Greenville County and the suspect was charged with three counts *Willfully Burning Lands of Another* by the SCFC and two counts by the Greenville County Sheriff's Department. Also, this same individual was charged with two counts of *Willfully Burning Lands of Another* in Anderson County by the SCFC and is still awaiting a court date.

County	Prosecutions				Investigations			Burn Site Inspection	State Forests	
	Outdoor Burning		Woods Arson	Total	Fire	Timber Theft/Fraud			Prose-cutions	Fines
	Prose-cutions	Fines				Investi-gated	Settled			
Abbeville	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	2	0	0		
Aiken	14	\$2,066.88	0	50	48	4	4	5		
Allendale	3	\$772.50	0	28	13	2	0	0		
Anderson	5	\$150.00	10	27	26	5	4	7		
Bamberg	6	\$709.00	0	23	22	2	1	1		
Barnwell	2	\$390.00	0	14	14	2	1	0		
Beaufort	4	\$512.00	0	18	16	3	1	1		
Berkeley	28	\$5,247.63	0	107	72	2	1	4		
Calhoun	6	\$1,357.50	0	17	17	1	1	0		
Charleston	11	\$1,024.88	0	46	44	2	0	3		
Cherokee	0	\$0.00	1	0	1	2	2	0		
Chester	3	\$210.00	0	4	6	2	1	2		
Chesterfield	27	\$2,400.00	0	64	69	5	3	0		
Clarendon	6	\$982.50	0	30	36	3	3	19		
Colleton	13	\$920.00	0	56	55	3	1	3		
Darlington	13	\$150.00	4	61	50	4	4	0		
Dillon	3	\$290.00	0	26	27	3	1	0		
Dorchester	14	\$2,215.00	0	42	41	3	0	1		
Edgefield	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	2	1	0		
Fairfield	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	10	10	0		
Florence	30	\$2,670.50	0	79	89	7	6	0		
Georgetown	20	\$1,505.00	4	23	23	3	3	0		
Greenville	10	\$509.00	42	31	21	5	2	17		
Greenwood	1	\$257.50	2	1	1	3	1	0		
Hampton	2	\$306.75	0	64	40	2	2	1		
Horry	42	\$2,180.00	2	52	53	5	5	1		
Jasper	11	\$1,122.00	0	74	52	5	1	2		
Kershaw	40	\$1,075.00	0	70	61	5	5	1		
Lancaster	4	\$285.00	0	8	9	9	8	0		
Laurens	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	1	1	0		
Lee	6	\$252.50	0	37	29	3	0	1		
Lexington	1	\$130.00	8	3	3	6	5	0		
Marion	1	\$50.00	0	4	3	4	3	0		
Marlboro	2	\$0.00	7	18	19	2	0	0		
McCormick	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	3	0	0		
Newberry	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	9	6	0		
Oconee	9	\$652.00	0	54	49	4	2	2		
Orangeburg	56	\$13,511.50	25	143	140	8	5	1		
Pickens	26	\$3,464.00	4	73	71	12	4	17		
Richland	2	\$515.00	4	5	3	8	6	0		
Saluda	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	5	1	0		
Spartanburg	1	\$101.00	9	1	1	7	2	0		
Sumter	7	\$515.00	0	47	69	4	1	2		
Union	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	4	2	0		
Williamsburg	46	\$3,678.00	8	187	181	6	4	5		
York	0	\$0.00	0	0	0	6	4	0		
Manchester									19	\$4,747.50
Sandhills									36	\$2,712.00
Poe Creek									8	\$1,542.00
Harbison									1	\$105.00
Totals	475	\$52,177.64	130	1587	1474	198	118	96	64	\$9,106.50

FOREST MANAGEMENT

There are 12.2 million acres of commercial forestland in South Carolina. According to the 2001 U.S. Forest Service Survey, farmers and non-industrial private owners own 73% of this land. Forest industry owns approximately 16% with 11% 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 and serve 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, 1,788 management plans were prepared for 106,097 acres. Beginning in July of 1999, customer satisfaction surveys were sent to every landowner that received a forestry management plan. In FY 07, 96% of the landowners that responded to the survey indicated that they were satisfied with the management plan they received. Of these landowners, 90% 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 115 cases were referred to consulting foresters and 23 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.

Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) – Federal

The Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) was authorized in the 2002 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171). Through FLEP, State forestry agencies can provide a wide array of services to ensure that our nation's non-industrial private forests (NIPF) and related resources continue to provide forest products and safeguard the health of our water, air, and wildlife.

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	302	7,772	0	1,583	\$674,035
CRP	135	2,512	0	0	\$163,092
FLEP	12	266	0	644	\$61,900
Totals	449	10,550	0	2,227	\$899,027

SEEDLING SURVIVAL

Survival checks were made on 10 percent of plantings using a row count or tenth acre plot method for determining survival. An average of all survival checks was used to determine the statewide survival of 82% for loblolly pine plantings. Survival rates for longleaf pine plantings were tabulated separately. Plantings with longleaf seedlings had a survival rate of 66% when bare root seedlings were used and 86% when containerized stock was used.

Forest Management Assistance 2006-2007

County	Non Cost-Share		Cost-Share		Forest Stewardship/FLEP	
	Exams	Acres	Exams	Acres	Exams	Acres
Abbeville	23	2,133	4	103	0	0
Aiken	20	912	14	610	3	82
Allendale	3	295	20	1,202	2	551
Anderson	67	3,330	10	319	4	415
Bamberg	6	237	54	2,512	2	613
Barnwell	19	1,256	36	2,038	4	523
Beaufort	1	54	2	105	0	0
Berkeley	20	945	15	736	0	0
Calhoun	4	720	24	1,097	1	60
Charleston	36	3,658	0	0	2	932
Cherokee	13	612	7	241	2	379
Chester	16	1,011	8	314	6	1674
Chesterfield	1	123	115	4,659	2	852
Clarendon	2	129	36	1,191	0	0
Colleton	12	555	35	1,329	1	191
Darlington	3	317	14	477	3	479
Dillon	6	555	13	247	2	1,504
Dorchester	45	5,096	8	42	4	661
Edgefield	8	258	9	411	2	192
Fairfield	6	1,431	10	303	4	482
Florence	16	825	9	369	1	192
Georgetown	9	548	26	1,330	1	45
Greenville	32	2,732	8	413	5	310
Greenwood	11	729	17	843	0	0
Hampton	3	450	36	2,081	2	333
Horry	21	1,627	46	1,201	1	149
Jasper	1	30	9	337	0	0
Kershaw	5	325	15	1,127	4	444
Lancaster	6	146	17	725	1	480
Laurens	23	1,753	8	323	4	619
Lee	2	105	14	594	2	219
Lexington	32	1,381	69	1,248	2	31
Marion	7	1,004	11	571	2	405
Marlboro	0	0	27	913	5	2,018
McCormick	7	485	2	60	0	0
Newberry	13	632	22	733	3	239
Oconee	19	1,015	8	309	3	305
Orangeburg	28	2,484	85	3,779	2	114
Pickens	21	560	5	241	0	0
Richland	5	567	6	143	1	135
Saluda	18	1,508	39	1,870	1	151
Spartanburg	7	114	5	122	3	415
Sumter	5	536	45	2,555	1	117
Union	7	552	13	423	1	90
Williamsburg	10	553	61	2,870	0	0
York	29	1,373	10	296	4	627
State Totals	648	45,659	1,047	43,410	93	17,028

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 FY 2006, a separate rate was established for firebreaks constructed with a heavy tractor. For FY 2006-07, these rates were set at \$110 for the 1st 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 \$300.00.

Prescribed Burning Standby - an agency tractor and employee on standby at burning site for \$50 for the 1st hour and \$25 for each additional hour while landowner performs burning under an approved plan. Minimum fee \$100.00.

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 06-07
Firebreak Plowing	574	1,563 miles	\$158,967
Prescribed Burning	164	13,941 acres	\$204,158
Prescribed Burning Standby	25	2332 acres	\$6,802
Equipment Rental	22	238 acres	\$2,570
Water Bar Construction	2	24 bars	\$470
Timber Marking	4	370 cords 677,500 board feet.	\$6,522
Totals	791		\$379,489

Beginning in July of 1999, a customer satisfaction survey was sent to all landowners that received forestry services. In FY 07, 55% of the 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 and educational assistance to municipal and county governments in 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 financial assistance grants to local governments, non-profit organizations, and educational institutions of higher learning in order to create, enhance and support long-term local, regional and statewide 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, employ professional urban forest staffing, adopt and implement natural resource policy, and work 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 \$230,000 were awarded to 26 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 36 municipalities, 1 county and 3 military bases under the Tree City USA program during 2007.

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 *seventh* 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 07*, 9 partnerships were developed and 76 different educational sessions were presented to approximately 2,650 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	138			18		
Non-profit organizations / trade associations	62			3		
Educational Institutions	27			0		
County Government	21			5		
State Government	5			0		
Others	<u>57</u>			<u>0</u>		
TOTAL	310			26		
Public Tree Ordinances Developed	1			0		
Urban Forestry Cultural Practices						
Commercial/Business	21			NA		
Residential	34			NA		
Public Agency	<u>15</u>			NA		
Total # of Assists	70					
Public Trees Inventoried	NA			7,287		
Public Tree Management Plans	NA			2		
Public Trees Planted	NA			118		
Tree City USA's	40			NA		
Demonstration Planting Projects	5			7		
Partnership Development	4			5		
Volunteers	32			202		
Public Information/Education	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Totals</u>
# Programs	50	26	76	9	4	13
# People	1,354	1,296	2,650	123	1,200	1,323
# Seat hours	1,938	1,503	3,441	330	1,200	1,530

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The Forest Stewardship Program is a cooperative effort among the USDA Forest Service, Forestry Commission, other natural resource agencies and organizations, forest industry, and private 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 07, 168 Stewardship Plans were written in South Carolina on 33,879 acres. The plans were written by the following cooperators: S.C. Forestry Commission foresters, and Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist - 93 plans, and Private Forestry Consultants- 75 plans.

Ten landowners (comprising 3297 acres) were certified for FY07.

STATE FORESTS AND OTHER STATE LANDS

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 2006-2007, the state lands coordinator provided assistance to six state agencies. The agencies and facilities were as follows:

SC Department of Corrections

Wateree Correctional Institution
Tyger River Correctional Institution
Ridgeland Correctional Institution
Leath Correctional Institution

SC Department of Natural Resources

Lewis Ocean Bay Heritage Preserve
Webb Wildlife Center
Palachucola Wildlife Management Area
Donnelley Wildlife Management Area
Jocassee Gorges
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 Parks Service

Cheraw 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

Four state-owned tracts were marked for timber sales and produced an estimated volume of 1,470,000 board feet of pine sawtimber and 1,600 cords of pine pulpwood and 97 cords of hardwood pulpwood. In addition, five areas totaling 332 acres were cruised to provide data for timber sales.

Three bid openings were held during 2006-07 for timber sales to be conducted on state-owned lands for which the SC Forestry Commission provided assistance. The total of these bids was \$388,018.

Fees collected for timber marking and cruising conducted on state-owned lands totaled \$21,141 with a total of \$12,241 being allocated to each region and \$8,900 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	Receipts
Timber & Stump Sales	\$554,302.66
Pinestraw Sales	\$802,365.91
Wildlife Management Area Payment	\$21,979.14
Rent State Owned Property	\$4,060.00
User Fees	\$9,333.37
Prior Yr Refund	\$3,218.95
Donation	\$7.38
Total	\$1,395,267.41

Note: 25% of \$1,387,981.08 was paid to Chesterfield and Darlington County School Systems. Sale of recyclables, donations, prior year refunds, and rental income categories are not included when calculating the total to be dispersed to the school systems.

Chesterfield County Schools	\$338,667.38
Darlington County Schools	\$ 8,477.89
Total	\$347,145.27

Silvicultural Practices

The following species and number of seedlings were planted:

Containerized Longleaf Pine

25,000

50 acres

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 clear up land for pinestraw 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 5 individuals working on approximately 10,767 acres of land. The enhancement contracts on 9,215 acres have expired.

Pinestraw 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
TOTAL	112	19398

As a result of 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. The program started in FY 2003. Sand Hills State Forest issued 134 red stickers and 73 yellow stickers in FY 07. The red sticker is use for a 2 week or 60 day pinestraw sale and the yellow sticker is use for the enhancement program.

Forest Protection

A total of 6,262 acres were 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 one wildfire that burned 78 acres in FY 07.

Recreation/Education

Recreational use of the Forest continues to increase. Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, riding, mountain biking, hiking, bird watching and camping continue to be favorite activities.

ATV use was discontinued July 1, 1999 based on an opinion from the attorney general's office. Environmental studies and mapping on a planned 5,000 acre off highway vehicle (OHV) trail continue. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must approve the OHV plan before it can be completed.

The Headquarters Mountain Bike Trail continues to attract riders from the surrounding areas. Twenty one permits were issued for bike riding in FY 07. The trailhead was moved from Flory Pond Road to a more visible site on U.S. Highway # 1. Volunteers from the mountain bike user group do the majority of the maintenance work.

At Sugarloaf Mountain, there are 6 primitive camping sites for family camping and 8 primitive equestrian campsites. Sand Hills' personnel booked 132 reservations for these sites this year. An estimated 3,196

visitors used the campsites and trails. FY 04 was the first time that a fee was charged for use of facilities at Sugarloaf. FY 07 fees are from \$15 per site for sites with shelters and \$10 per site without shelters

Summary of Sand Hills Recreation Areas

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
TOTAL	1,873	31,608

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

Trail use permits decreased from 1,147 in FY 2006 to 510 permits in FY 2007. Two hundred seventeen (217) annual permits and two hundred eighty-seven (287) daily permits were processed. Revenue from trail use permits totaled \$6,860.00. The majority of the annual permits are for horseback riders (211). Two hundred seventy two (272) of the daily permits were for horseback riders. The permit holders come from South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. Free-use permits are issued for any activity at Sand Hills State Forest that does not have a fee. Sand Hills’ staff issued 39 this year. Nineteen (19) of the permits were for raking pinestraw for personal use, twenty (20) for gathering firewood.

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

As a result of community meetings, Sand Hills began a vehicle registration system for state forest users that wanted access to roads that had restricted use. The program began in December 2003 and each year registrations have increased. Two hundred thirty seven (237) vehicles were registered in FY 2007. Two hundred twenty eight (228) vehicles were registered in FY 2006. Two hundred twenty three (223) vehicles were registered in FY 2005. In comparison, 170 were issued in FY 04. The majority of the users were hunters.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION STICKERS

Fiscal Year	# Stickers
2004	170
2005	223
2006	228
2007	237
TOTAL	858

Eighteen scout groups used Sugarloaf Mountain for their weekend campouts. Numerous church groups used Sugarloaf Mountain shelters for picnics and retreats. Sugarloaf Mountain continues to be a favorite place for many family reunions.

We had classes from the following schools; Lamar Elementary School, Governor's School of Science and Mathematics and Frances Marion University to visit Sand Hills State Forest. Brian Davis visited the following schools: Francis Marion University – 10 students, Governor's School – 9 students, Lamar Elementary (3rd Grade) – 80 students, Long Middle School (8th Grade) 150 students, Lamar Elementary (1st Grade) – 125 students and Coker College – 20 students.

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 S.C. Forestry Commission. DNR personnel provide assistance with the 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. Sand Hills has a 57 acre public dove field. Thirty-five acres of the 57acre field were planted to annual crops with the remainder planted and maintained in bicolor lespedeza. A 30 acre farm field was made into a second public dove field this year. The field was planted in sunflowers and corn. It will open on September 1, 2007.

Brown Springs Pond was reopened in July 2007 for fishing.

Eighty two acres (125 plots) were planted as wildlife food plots. These plots were planted in chufa, 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 14, 15, 16, 17 and the HCB area were bush hogged, fertilized, and limed. Two local volunteers worked approximately 400 man hours with the Sand Hills staff planting and maintaining wild life food plots.

Quail Unlimited supplied \$1,000 worth of seed and fertilizer that Sand Hills' staff used to establish and maintain 12 wild life openings for quail.

Sand Hills 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 on SHSF was stable at 61 clusters and the number of potential breeding groups dropped to 53. There are currently 61 active clusters, and 9 inactive clusters, of which 1 can be

considered a recruitment cluster. The other 8 would require habitat work in order to be considered suitable. One cluster is currently considered to be a relict cluster.

Forty-five nesting attempts were made by 44 groups in 2007; 32 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 2008. 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 October 2006 Sand Hills State Forest hired a full time law enforcement officer. There were 18 incident reports written in FY 07.

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.

A professor from Clemson University set up a turkey litter/water quality survey on the forest in 1999. The professor is now at the University of Georgia but continues the study at Sand Hills.

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	\$643,195.66
Pine Straw Sales	\$6,460.00
Land Lease Payments	\$43,919.61
Wildlife Management Area	\$37,525.27
Trail and Special Use Permits	\$47,140.50
Total	\$ 778,241.04

Note: 25% of all forest receipts are paid to Sumter and Clarendon Counties for a total of \$194,560.26.

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

Silvicultural Practices: One thousand five hundred seventy-three (1,573) acres were prescribe burned during the fiscal year for wildlife, hazard reduction, hardwood control and aesthetic purposes.

Three hundred fifty-six (356) acres were cut for rotational purposes and one hundred ten (110) acres were thinned,

There were four hundred twenty-five (425) additional acres placed under pine straw enhancement, and straw sales covered one hundred forty-six (146) acres.

Forest Protection

One wildfire occurred burning approximately one acre with minimal damage to the timber. Three additional fires involving stolen vehicles also occurred, but were suppressed by the local fire departments.

Recreation/Education

Recreational use of the forest continues to escalate over previous years. Hunting, fishing, horseback riding, motorcycle/ATV riding, mountain biking, and use of the rifle/pistol range continue to be favorite activities.

Six special-use permits were issued for organized events with approximately 1,486 paid participants.

An organized clean-up comprised of 20 volunteers was held on Manchester which resulted in 13 tons of trash being picked up. Those participating included Palmetto Pride, Clemson Extension, Sumter County,

and Manchester State Forest personnel.

Two meetings of the Manchester Recreational Advisory Council were 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 45 deer being harvested.

Manchester also hosted its annual youth dove hunt on the Bland Tract, which was limited to 40 youths accompanied by 35 adults who were required to register in advance. Two hundred fifty-two (252) doves were harvested during this event with 2,081 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 plan and possibility of enrollment into the "Safe Harbor Program".

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 2006-07, \$33,251.35 was collected on Wee Tee State Forest as payment for SCDNR's WMA program and one timber sale for \$269,394.00 from which \$75,661.34 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. Manchester State Forest personnel opened and closed the gates to the three boat landings for this opportunity.

A hunting season was planned with SCDNR and was implemented starting in September 2004. Harvest data was collected for both the deer and turkey seasons resulting in the very minimal harvests due to continued high water levels in the Santee River Swamp.

Canoeing and kayaking will also be allowed at those times when the Wee Tee Lakes are open.

A permanent boat landing has been completed in cooperation with SCDNR and adjoining parking lot was partially rocked with the completion expected in the upcoming year.

Forest Protection

Gates have been constructed and placed on all known entrances into Wee Tee and are opened and closed for the protection of the property and infrastructure.

Wildlife Management

An agreement has been 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. Improvements included grading, mowing and drainage improvements due to existing beaver dams and culvert replacements.

Maintenance and renovations continued to the existing metal building which is being used as a work center 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

Activity	Receipts
<u>Activity</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
Timber Sales	\$0.00
Shelter Rentals	\$2,310.00
Conference Room Rentals	\$15,200.00
Annual Bike Permits	\$22,700.00
Daily Bike Permits	\$8,196.24
Annual Parking Permits	\$4,327.00
Daily Parking Permits	\$9,473.67
Special Use Permits	\$400.00
Trail Donations	\$807.26
Total	\$62,709.17

Note: 25% of all receipts are paid to Richland and Lexington County School Systems. This amounted to \$12,074.29 for the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

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 followed salvage operations now contain an adequate number of natural seedlings, most of which are loblolly pine. Working with The United States Probation Office Harbison was able to pre-commercially thin 3 acres and provide numerous hours of community service. The 3 acres that were thinned is adjacent to 2 acres of unthinned pines of the same age. This area will serve as a demonstration for landowners' showing the benefits of pre-commercial thinning. A timber harvest is planned for next year.

Four prescribed burns were conducted in January and February for a total of 5 ½ acres. Two prescribed burn was conducted near the fire tower to serve as a demonstration area totaling 2.5 acres. They are 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. One demonstration burns were conducted adjacent to the Coyote Campsite. The fourth prescribed burn was conducted near Geology Rd, an area where annual burns have been previously conducted, and which focused on Longleaf habitat improvement.

Forest Protection

No forest fires occurred on Harbison State Forest during this fiscal year. 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 2006-2007 fiscal year. The Friends of Harbison State Forest hosted a foot and bike race with an estimated 50 part. The Friends of Harbison State Forest also held what was hoped to be the first annual "Take a Kid Mountain Biking" day. This event helped raise awareness of the sport to a younger generation and increase awareness of the state forest.

Geocaching has now become an established activity at Harbison State Forest and there are currently over 20 known caches.

In addition to these events, numerous trail work days were conducted during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. These events included improving the trails by pruning of overhanging branches and brush, the rehabilitation of 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 also began bike patrols throughout the Forest to aid users in their time of need while at Harbison. The bike patrol members are trained in First Aid and CPR by the American Red Cross.

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. No Eagle Scout projects were completed this fiscal year; however, several were in the planning stages and will be completed in the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Numerous educational programs were conducted for Scouts and others at Harbison State Forest. (See the Education and Information Technology 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 69 nights this fiscal year for a total of 1019 users.

The canoe landing at Harbison State Forest provides access to the Broad River. During the 2006-2007 fiscal year, 51 groups used this facility for a total of 189 paddlers. With the closing of the only accessible down river landing the usage of the canoe landing has declined 42% from the previous year’s usage.

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. A wildlife view platform was constructed overlooking the Crooked Pine vernal pond to help facilitate users’ viewing of wildlife.

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.

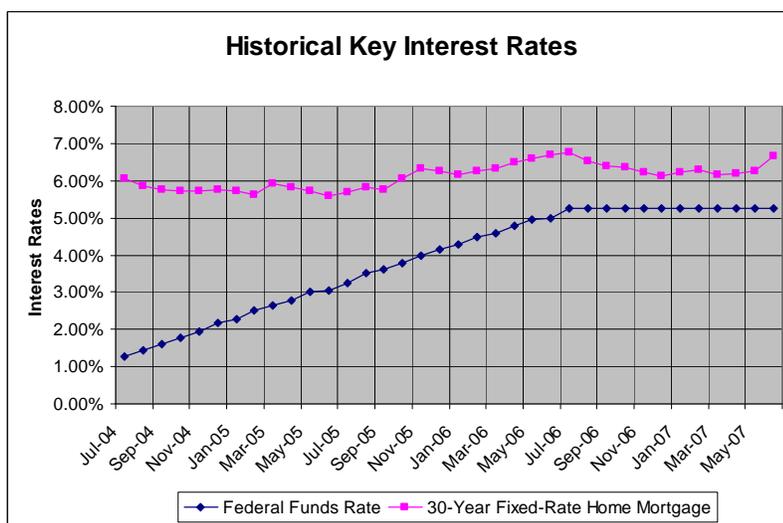
Research

One Research project was conducted by a student from Dutch Fork High School on Harbison State Forest. This study focused on the relationship between pollution in a major water source and how it affected its tributaries. Harbison’s Middle Creek was used as a control sample for this study. The results of this study showed that Middle Creek had similar level of pollutants as other tributaries on the Broad River that were assumed to be more polluted.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

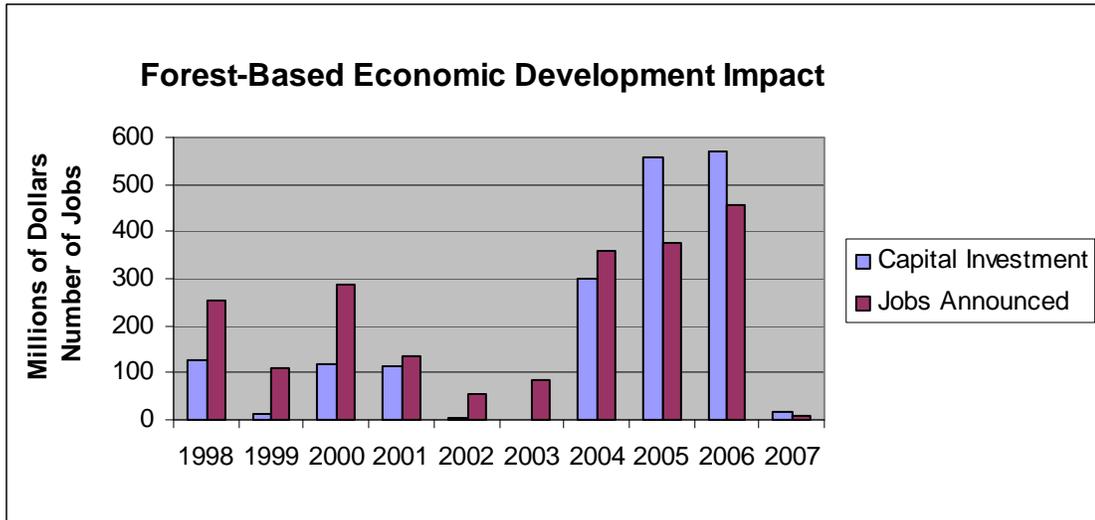
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Rising interest rates and a tightening of the money supply contributed to a dramatic downturn in the housing construction industry. The federal funds rate peaked in August 2006 after a three-year period of incremental increases. 30-year fixed rate home mortgages peaked in July 2006 at 6.76%. Partly as a result of higher borrowing costs, the number of new home starts fell 39% by January 2007. 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 2006-2007 fiscal year.



The rapid expansion of the forest products industry in South Carolina over the past three years slowed considerably in terms of new capital investment. Two projects, a pole plant in McCormick County and a biomass steam plant on the Savannah River Site in Aiken County, were announced this fiscal year. However, the limited number of announcements belies the interest in industry expansion in the state, especially the interest in renewable energy projects. Of the 20 forest products-related economic

development projects that were active in FY 2006-2007, 15 projects were biomass energy related. Pellets plants for export of biomass to European markets were the primary area of activity.



Acquisition of existing forest products facilities, primarily by Canadian firms, continued the trend in increasing foreign investment in South Carolina’s natural resources. Facilities owned by Bowater, Georgia Pacific, International Paper, New South, and Weyerhaeuser were acquired by Abitibi-Consolidated, Canfor, Domtar, Flakeboard, Roseburg Forest Products, and West Fraser Timber during this fiscal year. All of the new owners are Canadian firms except for Roseburg Forest Products which is based out of Oregon. Abitibi and Bowater combined in a merger of equals to form the 3rd largest public paper and forest products company in North America. The corporate headquarters moved from Greenville, South Carolina to Montreal, Canada.

During the 2007 fiscal year, the SCFC Resource Development Division represented the agency and forestry community through 10 statewide and regional economic development organizations. The SCFC actively participated in the SC Competitiveness Initiative representing the forestry-related clusters. In addition, the SCFC took the lead in promoting the *Grow Some Green* tree planting campaign through radio advertisements, directed mail outs, and landowner meetings. Twenty-one presentations were made to forestry groups about forest sustainability throughout the year. Finally, 209 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 are 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 2005-2006, the average accuracy for all crews was 93.80%.

During FY 2006-2007, the 9th survey was completed and the 10th survey for the state began. Field crews completed one Panel of plots that began in FY 2005-2006 and began the next Panel. For the fiscal year a total of 623 plots were completed. The Forestry Commission FIA program is currently 10% 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 the FIA plots, the FIA program completed 100 product utilization studies across the state.

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 Seed Orchard 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 2006-2007, 49,791,250 softwoods and 1,108,800 hardwood seedlings were planted in South Carolina for a total of 50,900,050 seedlings. This number is slightly lower than the 52,165,000 reported planted in FY 2005-2006. The number of seedlings planted in South Carolina declined 51% 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 3,743,000 softwood and 452,000 hardwood seedlings in FY 2006-2007 for a total of 4,206,000 seedlings total. This amounts to distribution of 71% of the total number of bareroot and containerized seedlings grown at Taylor Nursery. The SCFC sold 8.3% 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.

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 ranged from 84% to 98%, averaging 94% overall. The 2007 survey indicated that 90% of our customers were satisfied with our seedling quality and service. Of the customer comments on returned survey forms, 35% were complimentary of the nursery program. 38% of the comments identified two specific areas of

needed improvement: (1) less variability in seedling size for selected species and (2) more convenient pick-up options for seedlings. All comments are being evaluated and addressed as possible.

The SCFC entered into an agreement with Cellfor in 2005 to jointly produce and market an elite variety of loblolly pine that is 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 May 2006, 110,000 Cellfor Q-3802 seedlings were transplanted for sale during the 2006-2007 planting season. In May of 2007, an additional 100,000 seedlings, representing two different selections were transplanted for sale during the 2007-2008 planting season. Plans are being made to increase this to 3 million transplants in May of 2008. 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 and (2) a study to find an alternative to methyl bromide for nematode control.

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 1985-1988 and totaled 322 acres. NFC's orchards came into production in 1993 with some 4,542 bushels collected from both Coastal and Piedmont province orchards, and in the subsequent years, these orchards have produced in excess of 49,000 bushels.

Staffing of the facility reached its height during the early years of establishment, when NFC had six full-time employees. Economic factors were harsh to this program during the years from 2000-2004. Overall tree planting dropped markedly during this period, and as a result of this, in conjunction with severe state budget reductions, the SCFC ended its 41-year history with the North Carolina State University-Industry Tree Improvement Cooperative (NCSU-ITIC). Since June 1, 2004, the Seed Orchard Manager has remained as the only staff member on a full-time basis. Although minimally staffed, NFC continues to operate as a productive seed orchard complex; to this extent, some 600 grafts were made this fiscal year. These grafts will be transplanted into areas designated for our third-cycle orchards. This project will take several additional years to complete; however, the completed orchard will be comprised of some of the best selections within our breeding zones. This orchard will permit the Forestry Commission to continue its long tradition of offering landowners high-quality plant material for reforestation.

During FY 2006-2007, a total of 1,710 bushels of longleaf pine cones were processed, yielding 1,080.1 pounds of seed (0.64 lbs./bu.) and was a joint effort between the US Forest Service and the Forestry Commission. Additionally, some 2,163 bushels of second-generation loblolly pine cones were collected at NFC: 797 bushels from the Piedmont orchard and 1,366 bushels from the Coastal orchards. 447 bushels of cones were sold and the remaining 1,716 bushels were processed through our seed extractory. 1,625.65 pounds of loblolly seed were extracted for use in seedling production or seed sales.

Niederhof has enjoyed a unique situation whereby excess seed is produced and can be targeted for sale to forest industry to generate revenues. During FY 2006-2007, NFC generated \$84,353.82 in seed sales, and an additional \$13,518.79 in cone sales. To date, Niederhof has generated \$1,239,800.11 in revenue through the sale of second-generation cones and seed.

This year, the Forestry Commission continued to reap benefits from multiple research agreements with two forestry companies: Cellfor and MeadWestvaco. Cellfor is a leading developer of Elite Varietal Seedlings produced by somatic embryogenesis for use by forest landowners on three continents. Our arrangement

with Cellfor provides a fixed source of income for use of portions of the Niederhof Forestry Center complex in order to conduct NCSU-ITIP breeding and testing. The research agreement with MeadWestvaco will permit us to increase productivity from our second-generation Coastal orchard and also provides a market heretofore unrealized for surplus Coastal loblolly pine cones. Due to recent changes within the Nursery and Tree Improvement Program, joint research agreements with private forest research organizations appears to be a cost-effective means to remain abreast of current and future advances within tree improvement.

Tree Seedling Distribution by Landowner Classification 2006-2007

Land Ownership	Softwoods Planted	Hardwoods Planted	Total Number of Trees Planted	Percent of Total
Non-Industrial Private Landowners	26,795,350	919,725	27,715,075	54.4%
Forest Industry	16,618,175	62,425	16,680,600	32.8%
Corporate	5,653,225	96,050	5,749,275	11.3%
Government	724,500	30,600	755,100	1.5%
Total	49,791,250	1,108,800	50,900,050	

Source of Seedlings Planted in South Carolina

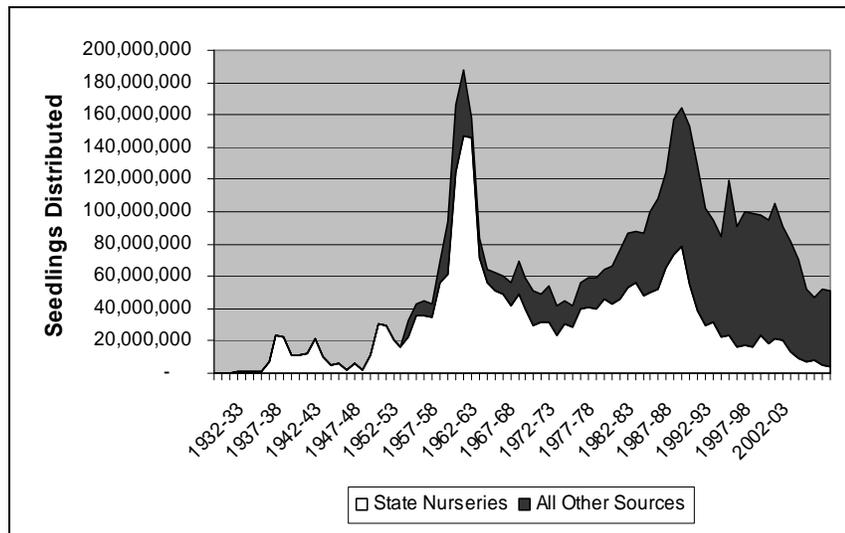
Nurseries in South Carolina	Softwoods Distributed	Hardwoods Distributed	Total Number of Trees Distributed	Percent of Grand Total
International Paper	17,571,500	571,550	18,143,050	35.6%
Weyerhaeuser	12,433,750	65,000	12,498,750	24.6%
MeadWestvaco	7,000,000	20,000	7,020,000	13.8%
South Carolina Forestry Commission	3,754,000	452,000	4,206,000	8.3%
Oak Grove Nursery	300,000	0	300,000	0.6%
Total	41,059,250	1,108,550	42,167,800	82.8%
Nurseries Outside of South Carolina				
Plum Creek	5,400,000	0	5,400,000	10.6%
International Forest Company	1,489,000	250	1,489,250	2.9%
North Carolina Forest Service	800,000	0	800,000	1.6%
Georgia Forestry Commission	650,000	0	650,000	1.3%
Meeks	393,000	0	393,000	0.8%
Total	8,732,000	250	8,732,250	17.2%
Grand Total	49,791,250	1,108,800	50,900,050	100%

State Nursery Seedling Production & Sales for FY 2006-2007

<u>Species</u>	<u>Seedlings Produced</u>	<u>Seedlings Sold</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
Ash, Green	10,000	9,470	95%
Atlantic White Cedar CTR	4,000	4,000	100%
Baldcypress	50,000	13,240	26%
Carolina Sapphire CTR	216	216	100%
Cedar, Eastern Red	38,870	38,870	100%
Cherry, Black	2,000	1,060	53%
Clemson Greenspire CTR	1,548	1,404	91%
Crabapple	1,510	1,510	100%
Dogwood	19,080	9,310	49%
Hickory, Pignut	500	320	64%
Lespedeza, Attaway	300,000	230,420	77%
Leyland Cypress CTR	17,622	17,622	100%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal CTR	6,000	5,200	87%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal 2nd gen.	220,000	203,000	92%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Fast Growth	201,900	201,900	100%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Rust Resistant	400,000	153,600	38%
Loblolly Pine, Coastal Best Family	89,000	89,000	100%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont 2nd gen.	1,500,000	724,270	48%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Fast Growth	650,000	567,250	87%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Rust Resistant	400,000	143,820	36%
Loblolly Pine, Piedmont Best Family	50,020	50,020	100%
Loblolly Pine, Cellfor Q3802	104,970	104,970	100%
Loblolly Pine, Texas	25,000	8,300	33%
Longleaf Pine	964,450	962,450	100%
Longleaf Pine CTR	380,006	370,006	97%
Maple, Red	2,500	2,482	99%
Misc. Minor Species	6,910	2,775	40%
Mulberry, Red	15,000	340	2%
Oak, Burr	5,000	1,290	26%
Oak, Cherrybark	20,335	20,335	100%
Oak, Gobbler	10,000	5,670	57%
Oak, Laurel	15,000	3,180	21%
Oak, Live	10,000	8,275	83%
Oak, Northern Red	1,900	1,900	100%
Oak, Pin	5,000	3,380	68%
Oak, Post	3,000	560	19%
Oak, Sawtooth	30,000	15,485	52%
Oak, Shumard	12,000	1,230	10%
Oak, Swamp Chestnut	4,097	4,097	100%
Oak, White	11,740	11,730	100%
Oak, Willow	11,000	10,620	97%
Pecan	5,000	2,530	51%
Persimmon	3,000	3,000	100%
Plum, American & Chickasaw	6,020	3,450	57%
Redbud	5,500	4,130	75%
Shortleaf Pine	50,000	10,200	20%
Slash Pine, Rust Resistant	15,000	6,300	42%
Sweetgum	20,000	2,795	14%
Sycamore	10,000	4,460	45%
Tupelo, Blackgum	12,000	10,260	86%
Virginia Pine	64,580	59,330	92%
Walnut, Black	20,000	5,250	26%
White Pine	36,950	32,300	87%
Wiregrass, CTR	37,600	37,200	99%
Yellow Poplar	<u>20,180</u>	<u>20,180</u>	<u>100%</u>
Totals	5,906,004	4,205,962	71%

Seedling Distribution 1928-2007

Year	Total State Nurseries	Total All Sources	Year	Total State Nurseries	Total All Sources
1928-29	142,000	142,000	1967-68	39,970,000	58,812,000
1929-30	148,000	148,000	1968-69	29,529,000	51,453,000
1930-31	986,000	986,000	1969-70	31,415,000	49,203,000
1931-32	976,000	976,000	1970-71	31,940,000	54,541,000
1932-33	996,000	996,000	1971-72	23,678,000	41,357,000
1933-34	1,031,000	1,031,000	1972-73	30,978,000	45,239,000
1934-35	7,529,000	7,529,000	1973-74	28,443,000	42,306,000
1935-36	23,000,000	23,000,000	1974-75	40,082,000	55,997,000
1936-37	22,000,000	22,000,000	1975-76	40,664,000	59,063,000
1937-38	11,192,000	11,192,000	1976-77	39,795,000	59,238,000
1938-39	10,854,000	10,854,000	1977-78	45,735,000	64,380,000
1939-40	12,244,000	12,244,000	1978-79	43,010,000	65,937,000
1940-41	21,165,000	21,165,000	1979-80	46,375,000	76,207,000
1941-42	10,275,000	10,275,000	1980-81	53,513,000	86,420,000
1942-43	4,742,000	4,742,000	1981-82	55,728,000	87,793,000
1943-44	5,663,000	5,663,000	1982-83	47,799,000	86,265,000
1944-45	1,963,000	1,963,000	1983-84	50,170,000	100,394,000
1945-46	6,402,000	6,402,000	1984-85	51,636,000	107,718,000
1946-47	1,963,000	1,963,000	1985-86	65,465,000	124,381,000
1947-48	11,357,000	11,357,000	1986-87	73,555,000	157,523,000
1948-49	30,389,000	30,339,000	1987-88	78,788,000	164,095,000
1949-50	29,502,000	29,502,000	1988-89	55,052,000	153,450,000
1950-51	20,615,000	20,615,000	1989-90	38,356,000	128,475,000
1951-52	16,619,000	16,619,000	1990-91	29,297,000	102,384,000
1952-53	22,036,000	32,246,000	1991-92	31,984,000	94,710,000
1953-54	36,210,000	42,852,000	1992-93	22,665,000	84,287,000
1954-55	35,373,000	45,182,000	1993-94	23,286,000	119,311,000
1955-56	34,414,000	42,932,000	1994-95	16,154,000	90,336,000
1956-57	55,754,000	69,659,000	1995-96	16,841,000	99,549,000
1957-58	60,846,000	93,369,000	1996-97	16,058,000	99,439,000
1958-59	123,985,000	166,351,000	1997-98	23,278,000	97,963,000
1959-60	147,146,000	187,516,000	1998-99	17,955,000	94,539,000
1960-61	145,609,000	158,331,000	1999-00	21,524,000	104,594,000
1961-62	71,892,000	83,844,000	2000-01	20,095,000	90,346,000
1962-63	56,191,000	64,202,000	2001-02	13,500,000	81,431,000
1963-64	51,446,000	62,424,000	2002-03	9,376,000	69,989,000
1964-65	49,010,000	60,683,000	2003-04	7,202,000	51,823,000
1965-66	42,311,000	56,529,000	2004-05	8,563,000	47,243,000
1966-67	48,575,000	69,598,000	2005-06	5,437,000	52,165,000
			2006-07	4,206,000	50,900,000
Total State Nurseries		2,561,598,000			
Total All Sources		4,838,677,000			



SCFC Active Seed Orchards

Orchard Type	Years Established	Acres
Creech Seed Orchard/Manchester State Forest		
Genetic Diversity Archives (Clone Banks)	1977-1983	25
Coastal Loblolly Pine 1.0 Rust Resistant	1971	5
Longleaf Pine 1.0	1971	12
Virginia Pine 1.0 (Creech)	1980	1
Virginia Pine 1.0 (Manchester)	1986	2
Sawtooth Oak 1.0 Seedling	1990	2
Total		47
Niederhof Seed Orchard		
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	2
Piedmont Loblolly Pine 3.0	2005-2006	2
Total		183.4
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		267.4

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

Compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to timber harvesting was 98% for 2004-2005, 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, and 94% in 2001. A new survey was initiated for 2007-2008 that will include evaluation of 150 sites throughout the state, 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, 3,830 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 39 programs reaching 1,139 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 2006-2007 fiscal year, the BMP Foresters provided assistance on 644 sites and completed 430 courtesy exams. The overall BMP compliance rate on sites which had a courtesy exam was 99.5%, compared to 98% overall statewide compliance.

Endangered Species

This year, the Environmental Management Section continued training on endangered species biology and management, with an emphasis on those species that may impact forestry operations. With the Forestry Commission's Analyst, a financial impact of protecting the endangered Flatwoods Salamander was provided to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. 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

An internal reorganization in FY07 established the Information Technology Division. This Division consists of the Information Technology Section, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section, Communications Section and Dispatch Operations Section.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Section is responsible directly and indirectly for the maintenance and support of the agency's wide area network, 10 Windows NT Servers, 9 Windows Server 2003 Servers, over 150 computer users, software applications and implementation of various initiatives to support agency operations and programs. In accordance with standards established by the State Architecture Oversight Committee, the IT staff completed a major migration of servers running Windows NT 4.0 operating system to Windows Server 2003 servers; and upgrading the agency's e-mail system to Microsoft Exchange Server 2003 in March, 2007. Network Attached Storage devices were installed at the Regional Offices and Columbia to handle file storage and data back up from end-user desktop and laptop computers. These RAID 5 devices eliminated the need to perform nightly tape backups.

The State's data network backbone is being upgraded from frame relay and ATM circuits to Multiprotocol Level Switching (MPLS). The IT staff has been reviewing options and cost/benefits to upgrading the agency's ATM circuits to 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. State agencies have until May, 2008 to migrate to MPLS and avoid substantial increases in network costs.

GIS

The development of an Enterprise GIS System began this year to support USDA Forest Service Spatial Accomplishment Reporting requirements. The system will have a mobile GIS application for field personnel to capture forest management activities and for the development of 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 possible agency GIS presence on the Internet.

The Southern Group of State Foresters released 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.

Various GPS/GIS mobile data recorders were procured for use on state forests and fire management activities. The GIS analyst assisted in configuring this equipment and conducting training to end users. SCFC continued its migration of GIS users to ESRI's ArcGIS software in accordance with the standards established by the State Architecture Oversight Committee. The GIS analyst coordinated the procurement of additional licenses, software installation, configuration and end user support.

A graduate level GIS internship program with the University of South Carolina was established this year. This program provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to state government activities and utilize GIS technology in a real world setting. In FY07, the intern was responsible for producing mapping products from the South Fire Risk Assessment System for various publications and displays, updating state

and regional fire grid maps; and development of county map books with current 911 road data for each county for agency fire personnel.

The US Geological Survey in cooperation with South Carolina contributors completed the acquisition of leaf-off aerial photography of South Carolina under the National Aerial Photography Program (NAPP) during January and February of 2007. The development of digital ortho quarter quads (DOQQs) is expected to be completed during the summer of 2007. Copies of DOQQ developed from the 2006 flight were distributed to the regional and unit offices for field personnel use. This include all images flown in 2006 except those that were either rejected due to rain, haze, smoke or weren't captured due to leaf-out conditions. Individuals can also download these files from the Department of Natural Resources' data clearinghouse web site at <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/GIS/gisdownload.html> after establishing a "free" user account with DNR.

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. 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. Federal agencies were mandated to migrate to narrowband by 2006 and all other users by 2013. 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. Approximately 300 portable radios are targeted to be replaced in FY08 which will then allow the agency to implement a new statewide narrowband frequency plan in FY09.

The State CIO Office provided the Forestry Commission with an 800MHz base station. This was installed at the Pee Dee Dispatch Center and incorporated with the agency's statewide radio network to provide access from the Coastal and Piedmont dispatch centers and Columbia Headquarters radio consoles. This provides another communication link to the agency's dispatch systems for the 35 agency law enforcement officers that received an 800MHz radio in 2006. These radios were purchased with a Homeland Security Grant for better interoperability with other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.

The agency continued to explore automated vehicle location (AVL) technology in association with the installation of its new computer aided dispatch software. A pilot was conducted with AVL on several suppression units to determine real-time cellular data reception issues under tree cover. An option to utilize the Palmetto 800 System to receive real-time AVL data from the agency and contract aircraft was also explored. A pilot may be conducted in FY08 to determine the feasibility of such an approach.

DISPATCH OPERATIONS

The Forestry Commission operates three (3) dispatch centers for taking 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 0.22 minutes in FY 2007. These time savings can be attributed to the new dispatch software’s automation of alerting fire personnel and improvements in determining the closest available unit.

SUMMARY AND COMPARISON OF DISPATCH TIMES
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999 through 2007

TIMES	FY 2000 Average (Minutes)	FY 2001 Average (Minutes)	FY 2002 Average (Minutes)	FY 2003 Average (Minutes)	FY 2004 Average (Minutes)	FY 2005 Average (Minutes)	FY 2006 Average (Minutes)	FY 2007 Average (Minutes)
Dispatching ¹	5.68	5.42	6.27	5.12	5.10	6.33	4.18	3.56

The new dispatching software includes applications that allow for remote, real-time access to wildfire, prescribed fires, and resource activity. These applications were installed on computers and laptops of Fire Managers and Fire Information Officers to assist in providing current information for command and control functions and media requests. Tests were conducted and software configured to utilize virtual private network connections through cellular wireless broadband services. This technology provides agency personnel in the field with real-time access to dispatching activity almost state or nationwide.

In 2007, The Forestry Commission implemented a Career Path for Dispatchers. Meetings were held during the first week of May with all dispatchers explaining the program and answering questions. In addition to the current Job Title of Dispatcher, the Forestry Commission now has Job Titles of Dispatcher II and Dispatcher III.

Dispatcher II requires: two years of continuous experience as a full-time regional dispatcher with the agency; completion of the I-100 and S-190 courses; a dispatch performance rating score of 4 or better; and demonstration of specific knowledge and skills in dispatch operations. Dispatcher II will have the additional job duty of assisting with the training of dispatchers.

Dispatcher III requires: three years of continuous experience as a full-time regional dispatcher with the agency; completion of the Certified Prescribed Fire Manager and S-290 courses; a dispatch performance rating score of 7 or better; and demonstration of detailed knowledge and skills in dispatch operations. Dispatcher III will have the additional job duties of training dispatchers and assuming responsibility for the shift in the absence of the Dispatch Manager.

¹ Time between initial report of wildfire and first attempt to contact initial attack warden.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

In FY 2003-04 the Education and Information Technology Division was created to combine all Communications services into a centralized department. In the spring of 2007, Information Technology and Dispatch were split out and elevated to division level. The Information and Education Division now includes Creative Services, Analysis, Public Information and Forestry Education. The Piedmont Forestry Center is now included in State Lands Management as part of Poe Creek State Forest.

CREATIVE SERVICES

The Creative Services Department provides audio-visual and print material for use by schools, Forestry Commission personnel and the public for both educational and training purposes. The department oversees compliance with Title VI and is the agency's contact for forestry outreach. Creative Services is responsible for keeping lines of communications open with Forestry Commission external and internal audiences. Currently the department accomplishes this using a weekly electronic news bulletin and a frequently updated website.

I&E's Graphic Designer, Anne Kyle, retired in June 2006. Her replacement, Rebecca Bradstreet, was hired in late November 2007 as a graphic designer and photographer.

The State of South Carolina's Trails: Plans, Progress and Partnerships

The I&E and Forest Management directors set up an inter-agency committee, including representatives from Parks, Recreation & Tourism, the Department of Natural Resources and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, to plan a statewide conference on the current status and future of South Carolina trails on state, federal and municipal public lands. The two-day conference was held at the Commission's Piedmont Forestry Center and attracted more than 75 participants.

ANALYSIS

- The Forestry Commission's analyst, Nathan Smith, oversaw completion of the Timber Products Output Survey and worked closely with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station on data analysis. A Primary Wood-Using Mill Directory was published in September, 2006. An interactive version is available online, including a location map with detailed information accessible by clicking on a mill icon.
- He constructed a database for Law Enforcement to aid in better tracking of LE personnel activities such as timber theft and arson investigations as well as fire suppression.
- Participated in two Minority Landowner Conferences. Gave presentations on minimizing timber income tax burden.
- Procured growth and yield software to help SCFC foresters make silvicultural decisions.
- Prepared a report, "Aviation Program Statistics" as part of a project to evaluate the aviation program and improve efficiency of flight plans.
- Assisted several in-state and out-of-state forest products businesses.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Following the retirement of Ken Cabe, SCFC's Information Officer, former WIS-TV news anchor Scott Hawkins was hired in April, 2007, and the position reconfigured to eliminate Cabe's law enforcement responsibilities. Hawkins got immediate experience during what turned out to be the busiest month of fire season.

Hawkins will handle media contacts, news releases and feature articles, Freedom of Information Act requests and other information and education responsibilities.

Fire Prevention Team Support

- Material for distribution by S.C. prevention teams: Design and produce: Think Before You Burn Road signs. Reprint: *Think Before you Burn* Newspaper inserts, *Think Before you Burn* brochures in English and Spanish, *Living with Fire*

- A Firewise postcard was produced to mail to all residents of Horry County after a wildfire in the vicinity of Carolina Forest.
- Promotional Pieces: *Think Before You Burn* cups & koozies

Web

All online forms were converted from read-only pdfs to forms that can be filled out and saved.

Publications

- *It's Time to Grow Some Green*: a brochure explaining how to make money growing timber in SC
- Wildfire in the South: a Risk Assessment. Brochure written by SCFC, designed by North Carolina Forest Service for the Southern Group of State Foresters.
- Save-the-date postcard, conference logo, program and agenda/registration materials, nametags and signs for *The State of South Carolina's Trails* conference
- Cogongrass identification cards
- Harbison recreational permit fee envelopes and new design for Annual Parking pass
- 2007-08 seedling catalogue
- Postcard with facility rental rates for Piedmont Forestry Center
- Revised SCFC *Smoke Management Guidelines*
- Revised SCFC Strategic Plan

Exhibits

- Working closely with other Creative Services and Fire Management staff, I&E's graphic designer designed and oversaw production of a 20' X 10' mobile, interactive, wildland-urban interface exhibit. The exhibit was a cooperative project with the US Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service.
- Firewise Landscaping in the Wildland-Urban Interface
- *Grow Some Green*

Outreach

NRCS organized two 2-day forestry workshops for rural minority farmers and landowners in Nesmith and Santee, SC. Nathan Smith gave a presentation on forest land taxation issues at both workshops. I&E sponsored an exhibit and distributed forestry information.

Training and Presentations

- Effective Presentations: Two 2-day training sessions for new foresters and other professional employees in preparing and presenting effective presentations.
- Grammar and Punctuation Tips for Press Release Writing
- The I&E director was invited to present the process and results of the SCFC Recreation Advisory Council's preparation of guidelines for trail-based recreation on SC State Forests at the Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference in Roanoke, VA.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

It is the responsibility of the Environmental Education Coordinator's position to plan, develop, support, and coordinate the Forestry Commission's environmental education effort. 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.

Last fiscal year (July '06 to June '07) SC PLT conducted 32 professional development workshops throughout the state to train 747 teachers. This is more than double the number of participants in the previous year. In addition, PLT participated in 2 exhibits and/or presentations at various functions across the state to reach approximately 1625 participants. SC PLT received a \$3,000 grant from the Weyerhaeuser Foundation to conduct a 3-day advanced PLT workshop for this year's S.C. Teachers Tour at Harbison State Forest. Since PLT was brought to South Carolina, over 16,200 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 8 years, six state PLT Educators have been nominated and selected as National PLT Outstanding Educators of the Year.

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 1900 students and 286 teachers and adult chaperones. Eighty-eight 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, 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 51 other organizations, forest industry, and state agencies also contributed to the success of this award-winning program, providing approximately \$93,000 in in-kind services from its 200 volunteers. Since the Wood Magic Forest Fair program first began in 1999, approximately 18,164 children and adults have participated in this forestry event.

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 Low Country area in June of this year. This successful tour provided 35 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. Twenty-five participants received 3-hours of non-degree graduate credit for their efforts. 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 304 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 4 programs were conducted for 305 students and 20 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 19 programs this past year, serving approximately 2767 participants. Fourteen programs were conducted at Harbison, with 1363 participants and 5 programs were conducted outside of Harbison by the staff, serving approximately 1404 participants. This figure does not include the Wood Magic Forest Fair held at Harbison in October, where 673 children and 106 adults participated at Harbison State Forest.

Harbison continues to offer support to the Scouting community. Eight Cub Scout programs were held where approximately 47 young scouts earned their Forestry pins, accompanied by 20 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 31 days in the last fiscal year to conduct environmental education events, with approximately 1684 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. Twenty-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 1051 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.

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Statement, Fiscal Year 2005 – 2006

REVENUES

State Appropriations	17,046,195
Federal Grants	4,427,603

Earmarked Funds

Hunting & Fishing License	107,795
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure	4,247
Burning Assistance Fee	216,307
Fire Lane Fee	166,833
Timber Marking Fee	14,326
Training Conf - Registr Fee	2,476
User Fee - State Park & Forest	104,588
Forest Product Assessment	827,366
Construction of Water Bar	470
Stand By for Prescribed Burning	4,288
Sale of Seedlings	465,931
Sale of Timber	2,295,703
Conviction Surcharge	20,807
Rent - Residence	35,546
Rent - Farm Land	61,942
Rent - State Owned Property	65,649
Rent - Equipment	2,794
Other Operating Grants - Restricted	5,000
Contributions & Donations	52,168
Insurance Claims	21,839
Sale of Services	50,783
Sale of Recycling Material	176
Sale of Land (Capitalized)	200,811
Sale of Vehicles (Capitalized)	199,180
Sale of Buildings (Non-Capitalized)	17,022
Sale of Vehicles (Non-Capitalized)	2,655
Sale of Machinery and Equipment (Non-Capitalized)	1,076
Capital Projects	90,000
Sale of Assets	421,058

Total Earmarked	\$ 5,458,836
Total Revenue	<u><u>\$ 26,932,634</u></u>

EXPENDITURES

State	
Federal	4,634,428
Earmarked	4,418,148
Permanent Improvements	292,904

Total Expenditures	<u><u>\$ 9,345,480</u></u>
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EXCESS OF REVENUES O/(U) EXPENDITURES	<u><u>\$ 893,930.00</u></u>
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INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Audit Department is an independent appraisal function that examines and evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of Commission activities as a service to all levels of Management and the Commissioners. Emphasis is on auditing the agency's activities, processes, systems and operations to ascertain efficiency in quality services.

During this fiscal year an audit was performed of Travel. The audit was performed to provide Management with audit assurance that Commission business travel is conducted in a cost-efficient manner and in compliance with relative guidelines. Equipment custodians were responsible for verifying their own fixed assets again this fiscal year with the knowledge that spot checks would be performed by Internal Audit. Internal Audit verified 10% of the agency's custodians' inventories. Other activities include: periodic inventories of shop supplies at regional shop locations, fiscal year-end inventories of shop supplies in select locations, participating in Career Day at a local elementary school and assisting with Wood Magic at Harbison State Forest.

The Internal Audit Department was also aware and involved where applicable in reviews performed by external sources including the State Auditor's Office, State Fleet Management, and the USDA Forest Service. Memorandums are prepared and submitted to Management noting various issues that warrant attention.

The Internal Auditor has obtained adequate training to maintain compliance with the continuing education requirements of the Government Auditing Standards.

During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, 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. She has also served as team leader in the performance of a peer review for the Division of Audits of the Department of Health and Human Services.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Internal Audit Department oversees the Records Management System for the Commission. The Internal Auditor serves as Records Officer. We have Record Liaison officers selected based on the organizational structure of the Commission. The Records Officer is responsible for training the Record Liaison Officers. Such training is performed periodically to ensure consistency and continuity. In addition, the Record Liaison Officers are kept abreast of other training opportunities available.

During Fiscal Year 2006-2007, a total of 173 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 Fiscal Year 2006-2007, 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.

South Carolina Forestry Commission Organizational Chart 2005-06

