

**Division of Forest Resources
Report of Accomplishments for 2008-09**

TO: Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Elizabeth S. Snyder, County Ranger

Please find attached the summary of work accomplished by our office for Lincoln County for the 2008-09 year. While these figures offer an overview of the work, additional information for each program area follows.

Forest Management

County Rangers and Service Foresters continue to work to provide timber management assistance to landowners. Requests come into our office directly from landowners and as a result of revaluation requests through the local tax office.

Financial assistance is available for landowners interested in replanting a cutover, or in starting a forest. We are responsible for determining the practices needed, certifying the acreage, and correct completion of the project. Without our certification, projects would not be eligible for financial assistance.

Fire Control and Protection

The Division supplies specialized fire fighting equipment to assist local fire departments. This includes crawler tractors with 'fire plows', aircraft, and crews of trained personnel for extended events.

Continued development has resulted in an increase in urban/wildland settings- homes built in wooded areas with little defensible space from wildfire. During the upcoming year, Rangers will present information on the safe burning at every opportunity.

"Smokey Bear" will visit schools and make appearances at various county events to spread the word on fire safety and prevention.

Insects and Diseases

Rangers service requests for general shade tree assistance. An aerial flight is made of the county annually to determine if pine beetles are becoming a problem. Gypsy moth traps are placed countywide each summer, and recovered in early fall.

Information and Education

Rangers are available to present programs on several items. These include "what we do", career opportunities, forest management, fire prevention and other Division programs.

Training

Rangers are required to maintain annual certification in First Aid/CPR, pesticide licenses, and fire training.

Summary of Accomplishments
June 2008 to July 2009
NC Division of Forest Resources

Forest Management

- 62 management plans prepared on 2,384 acres
- 5 practice plans prepared on 44 acres
- 12 regeneration plans prepared on 100 acres
- 1 Stewardship plan prepared on 11 acres
- Assisted Beatty's Ford Park with tree identification of desirable trees to leave for growth.
- 10 projects referred to Private Consulting foresters for timber sale assistance.
- One tree farm inspection completed in Cleveland County.

- 58 acres of stand improvement completed (release of desirable species).
- 21 acres of silvicultural burning completed.

- Tree planting completed on 270 acres; 21 acres of natural regeneration set aside for growth.
- 226 acres of site preparation completed prior to planting.

- 412 acres of final timber harvest completed by prescription.
- 255 acres of intermediate timber harvest completed by prescription.
- 39 logging operations inspected for compliance with FPG's-no violations.

Fire Control

- 43 fires required Forest Service assistance; 58 acres burned.
- 16 structures directly threatened by wildfires.

- 20 days rated as "high fire danger", requiring both rangers to be ready for immediate dispatch.
- Both rangers were dispatched to the "Evans Road Fire" (east coast) during July.

- 2,928 permits were written to county residents; 813 e-permits were obtained by residents.

Fire prevention

- Rangers attended 6 Fire/Rescue Association meetings; Ranger Snyder attended 5 Association Board meetings.

- "Smokey Bear" visited 11 elementary schools and met first grade students.
- Ranger Snyder and the Division helicopter appeared at the fall Fire/Life Safety Day at Betty Ross Park.
- Both rangers and "Smokey Bear" participated in the Apple Festival.

Insects and Disease

- A general flight for Southern Pine Beetle was conducted in January. No infestations noted.
- Low to normal insect and disease activity noted. Drought stress continued to affect large, mature hardwoods.
- 14 landowners received assistance with 'shade tree' problems.
- 300 Gypsy moth traps were scheduled to be placed county wide by the NC Department of Agriculture. This is in response to the possible 'spot' in the Crouse area.

Information and Education

- Rangers participated in the county-wide 'Conservation Field Days' for sixth grades.
- Ranger Snyder gave 3 Forestry/Career talks to students at West Lincoln High School.
- Ranger Snyder assisted the East Lincoln High School 'Environthon' team with forestry training.
- 2 preschools were visited; programs on trees/fire safety given.
- Rangers took part in the spring 'Adopt-a-cop' celebration at Betty Ross Park.

Training

- Both rangers completed First aid/CPR training.
- Ranger Snyder completed recertification of pesticide license.
- Assistant Jody Eudy completed 'Level I' FM Ranger training.
- Assistant Eudy participated in Region 1 Fire School.