

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
LAKELAND DISTRICT
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LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33813

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

September 30, 2016

Mark Woodard, Administrator
Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners
315 Court Street
Clearwater, FL 33756

Dear Mr. Woodard,

The Florida Forest Service's annual report is attached. This report is provided, in compliance with our agreement, for informational purposes. It requires no formal action of the Board.

Sufficient copies are enclosed for distribution to each commissioner. If there are any questions concerning this report, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

ADAM H. PUTNAM
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Kawika J. Bailey
District Manager
Lakeland District

RECEIVED
BOARD OF
2016 OCT --5 AM 10: 22
PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA

Attachments

cc: Brad Ellis, Chief, Forest Management
John Kern, Deputy Chief, Field Operations
John Fish, Chief, Forest Protection
Erin Albury, Chief, Field Operations

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Florida Forest Service

Lakeland District

ANNUAL REPORT TO

PINELLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016



INTRODUCTION

Florida's forests are as complex and diverse as any in the country, and meeting the public's expectations for their management and protection is an enormous challenge. The social and economic needs of the nation's third most populous state have influenced forest land values, ownership patterns and exposure to wildfire in an unprecedented manner. The Florida Forest Service (FFS) must meet the challenges of changing landowner values, protecting lives and property, and managing the public land in a manner that serves the citizens of the state to the best of our ability.

MISSION

The mission of the Florida Forest Service is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations.

AUTHORITY

The Florida Forest Service, through the Forest and Resource Protection Program, is charged with the primary duties and responsibilities mandated by Chapters 589 and 590 of the Florida Statutes. The Forest Service will:

- Promote and encourage forest fire protection, environmental education, land stewardship, tree planting and care, forest recreation, and the proper management of public lands;
- Serve as the lead management agency and provide direction for state-owned lands which are suited for forest resources and managed for multiple use;
- Continue an aggressive program to reforest lands for which the Forest Service has forest resource management responsibilities; and
- Prevent, detect, suppress, and extinguish wildfires wherever they may occur in Florida.

FIRE CONTROL OPERATIONS

Providing Leadership to Protect Forests, Wildlands, and the Public from the Destructive Effects of Wildfire

A long-standing contractual agreement between Pinellas County and the Florida Forest Service is in place to provide fire protection in the forested undeveloped lands of the county. This report outlines accomplishments identified in the agreement.

Fire control operations in Pinellas County are conducted under the direction of District Manager Kawika Bailey and Forest Area Supervisor Patrick Keogh. A total of four (4) Forest Rangers and Senior Forest Rangers, who are certified wildland firefighters, are strategically located in Pinellas County. Two (2) tractor plow units and three (3) brush units are used for wildfire suppression. FFS uses a fixed wing aircraft for fire detection routinely throughout the year. Our fixed wing aircraft also provides aerial tactical assistance with wildfire suppression efforts by locating access routes and by identifying structures in need of protection.

Pinellas County has contributed \$4,134.62 to help offset Florida Forest Service expenditures based upon \$.07 per acre for 59,066 acres of accessed wildlands.

During Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the Lakeland District responded to 5 fires totaling 25.1 acres in Pinellas County. The efforts of these specially trained and dedicated firefighters are often the only control point between the local fire departments and large destructive wildfires.



Forest Service Tractor Plow on wildfire

In a cooperative effort amongst state-wide Forest Service personnel, our agency promotes an aggressive wildfire prevention effort. Law enforcement investigations by the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement and hard work by the District's Fire Prevention Team helped reduce fire occurrence throughout the county.



WILDFIRES - PINELLAS COUNTY
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Fire Causes	Fires	Percent	Acres	Percent
Campfire	0	0.0	0.0	0
Children	0	0.0	0.0	0
Debris Burns – All Types	0	0.0	0.0	0
Equipment use – All Types	0	0.0	0.0	0
Incendiary	4	80.0	18.1	72.11
Lightning	1	20.0	7.00	27.89
Miscellaneous	0	0.0	0.0	0
Railroad	0	0.0	0.0	0
Smoking	0	0.0	0.0	0
Unknown	0	0.0	0.0	0
Total	5		25.1	



**FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY (FEPP) & FIREFIGHTER
PROPERTY (FFP)**

The FEPP/FFP program is authorized under terms of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, and the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. FEPP/FFP is Federal equipment on loan to State Foresters from the Federal Government for use in rural and wildland fire protection programs.



FEPP Equipment on loan to Oldsmar Fire Rescue

Currently in Pinellas County, FEPP/FFP equipment is on loan to Caladesi Island State Park, Honeymoon Island State Park, Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, Oldsmar Fire Rescue and Palm Harbor Fire Rescue.

OPEN BURNING AUTHORIZATIONS

Through a cooperative agreement with other fire agencies, the Forest Service administers open burning rules and regulation and is responsible for issuing burn authorizations for agricultural and silvicultural. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Lakeland District authorized 16 fires in Pinellas County consisting of 279 acres and 7 piles.

**BURN AUTHORIZATIONS - PINELLAS COUNTY
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016**

Burn Type	# Fires	Acres	Piles
Agricultural--Pasture	6	0	6
Agricultural--Range management	0	0	0
Agricultural--Stubble (post harvest)	0	0	0
Agriculture--Citrus	0	0	0
Land clearing - All	0	0	0
Silvicultural—All	10	279	1
Total	16	279	7



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Our Fire Dispatch Communications Center is operated by one (1) Duty Officer Supervisor and four (4) Duty Officers from 7 am until 9 pm daily. After 9 pm one of the Duty Officers are on-call for wildfires and all calls are forwarded to another district. The Communications Center is also responsible for issuing open burning authorizations for three (3) counties including Pinellas County.

PRESCRIBED BURNING AND PRE-SUPPRESSION PLOWING

The Florida Forest Service promotes the safe, effective use of prescribed fire as a means to reduce the threat of wildfires, and manage environmentally sensitive lands. The Forest Service assists various agencies including Florida Department of Environmental Protection, City of Tarpon Springs and Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management in safely conducting their prescribed burns.



Forest Service crews conducting a prescribed burn

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE

Brooker Creek is approximately 8,700 acres owned by both Pinellas County and Southwest Florida Water Management District. This property is the largest natural area in Pinellas County, which consists of mostly pine flatwoods and forested wetlands. Pinellas is tasked with managing the entire property and was acquired in 1997. The Forest Service performed approximately \$9,791.00 of in-kind services for the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management, Brooker Creek Preserve. This work includes fire line prep, prescribed burning, mowing, and mop-up of prescribed burns.



Brooker Creek Preserve

The Forest Service also constructs and maintains fire lines for both public and private landowners. These pre-suppression fire lines are used to control prescribed burns but also as a means to assist suppression efforts in the event of a wildfire.



The Forest Service maintains an aggressive wildfire mitigation program that has helped many landowners lessen the chances of devastating wildfires in high fire danger areas. Forest Service fire crews have completed wildfire mitigation burns and constructed firelines at no cost to property owners or the county.

FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Educating the Public About the Importance of Florida's Forests and Promoting the Renewal and Protection of these Resources

The Forest Service fire prevention committee is dedicated to reducing the number of devastating wildfires in Pinellas County through increased public awareness. Fire prevention and educational programs featuring "Smokey Bear" were used to reach thousands of school children and adults. These programs teach the public about the importance of fire safety, the benefits of prescribed fire, and general forestry practices.



Attending a Touch-A-Truck Event in Pinellas

Neighborhood wildfire mitigation and educational classes, and landowner contacts are part of the Forest Service's efforts to mitigate this fire danger. During dry windy periods, making local residents aware of fire danger is critical, and it is accomplished with the help of local media.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES



**Before applying "FIREWISE" Principles -
Ridgemoore**

Over the past fifty years increasing numbers of Floridians have moved out of our cities to build homes and businesses in outlying fringe areas known as the wildland/urban interface. Almost 1/3 of our population now lives in interface areas where structures intermingle with forests and wildland. Residents in these areas are often unaware they may live too close to nature. They may in fact be living on the edge of a wildfire disaster.



During dry years, Florida experiences severe wildfires that destroy homes, impact people's lives, and affect the economy. The Forest Service is currently working with local leaders and neighborhoods throughout the state to create FIREWISE Communities. This program recognizes those groups that demonstrate the spirit, resolve, and willingness to take responsibility as partners in wildfire protection. The program helps to prevent and reduce losses due to wildfires and fosters awareness and public participation.



**After applying "FIREWISE" Principles -
Ridgemoore**

TRAINING GIVEN AND RECEIVED

***Improving the Quality of Service through the Training and
Development of our People, our Single Greatest Resource***

***This Leadership Encourages Innovation,
Excellence and Freedom for Personal Growth***

The Forest Service operates the Withlacoochee Training Center in Brooksville, where our forest rangers attend annual training. The Forest Service employs some of the most well-trained, and experienced firefighters in the wildland fire services in the United States. On assignments throughout the nation, Florida is recognized for their qualified personnel.

Forest Service employees not only regularly participate in training to maintain and develop their skills, they also provide valuable training to local cooperators. As many as 35 local participants attended Wildland Chainsaws, Wildland Firefighter Training, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, Human Factors on the Fireline, and Annual Refresher Training.

The State Fire Marshal has mandated that all fire department personnel complete basic wildland fire classes consisting of "Firefighter Training" (S-130) and "Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior" (S-190). In addition to offering these classes through a traditional classroom setting, the Forest Service developed and administers an online training program titled "Fire in the Field" to provide these courses to local fire departments.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Florida Forest Service also participates in various meetings and committees. Many of the Forest Service employees in Pinellas County are members of the local Forestry Safety Committee, Fire Prevention Committee, Central Florida Prescribed Fire Council, and State Interagency Incident Management Teams.



COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE

Encouraging Family Forest Owners to Attain their Forestland Management Goals with Guidance and Technical Assistance that Promotes Good Land Stewardship Principles

INTRODUCTION

The Cooperative Forest Management Act of 1950 authorized "The Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with State Foresters or appropriate officials of the states to enable them to provide technical services to private landowners, forest operators, wood processors, and public agencies with respect to the multiple use management, environmental protection and improvement of forested lands: the harvesting, marketing, and processing of forest products; and the protection, improvement, and establishment of trees and shrubs in urban areas, communities, and open spaces." The program is implemented by the Florida Forest Service utilizing university trained professional foresters.



**Bob Makowski – CFA
Forester**

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Pinellas County was served by two Cooperative Forestry Assistance (CFA) Foresters. Corey Walk was the CFA Forester for the first six months prior to the Florida Forest Service hiring Robert "Bob" Makowski. Bob started January 15, 2016 and is current the CFA forester. Bob earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from the University of Kentucky in 1983. Bob continued his education with graduate work at Michigan Technological University in ecological systems, University of Montana in landscape ecology, Oregon State University in forest inventory and decision support and the University of Tennessee in advanced silviculture before earning the title of "Certified Silviculturist" with the US Forest Service.

Bob came to the FFS after retiring from the US Forest Service with 32 ½ years of Federal Service December 31, 2015. Prior to retirement Bob most recently served as the Southern Region Silviculture Program Manager serving National Forests from Virginia to Texas. Bob has spent the majority of his time since starting, assisting non-industrial private landowners by writing management plans, assisting landowners with cost share programs, environmental education for schools, urban forestry, overseeing tree inventory grants.

The CFA Forester provides technical forestry advice to all citizens, organizations, and agencies in Pinellas County. The main objective of the program is to provide private non-industrial forest (PNIF) landowners with sound technical advice in managing their forested lands. This is based on an analysis of an owner's desires and woodland conditions, balancing optimum productivity with conserving the land and available resources.



Other duties include:

- Urban forestry work- which includes assistance to planning groups, school boards, parks and recreation departments, and shade tree assistance to homeowners
- The Forester coordinates local forestry and conservation activities with the Cooperative Extension Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and the Farm Service Agency
- Keeps the public informed of new developments in forestry through the news media and workshops
- Florida is one of the top four tree-planting states in the nation, behind Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. The Forester helps facilitate tree seedling orders from Pinellas County landowners to the FFS nursery, reservations for the tree planters, gives technical advice, and assists with tree selection
- The Forester assists cities with the completion of grants they have received from the Florida Forest Service and provides any technical assistance needed related to these grants

Pinellas County Forest Facts:

- There is a total of 1,479 acres of agricultural land, which ranks 63rd in state for total value agricultural products sold (2012 – USDA Ag Census)
- Timberlands acreage is 0-10 percent of county (2011)
- Pinellas ranked 30th in state for cut Christmas trees and other short rotation woody crops in 2012
- Pinellas county had an estimated population of 949,827 people in 2015 (US Census Bureau)

COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

Landowner assistance in reforestation, marketing, utilization of forest products, and the use of “Best Management Practices” as well as other related areas will continue to be emphasized in Pinellas County. Bob and Corey also assisted landowners that live in an urban setting with the evaluation of their urban/neighborhood trees. The CFA Forester will also stress the importance of using private enterprising professionals when needed. Referrals to consulting foresters, certified arborists, tree planters, and timber buyers resulted and the sale of timber for fuel reduction in Pinellas County’s forests, and reforestation of land previously damaged and idle. The use of consulting foresters is to the advantage of both the buyer and seller, and promotes the use of Best Management Practices during the harvest.

When landowners want or need forest management plan for their property, the CFA Forester also can assist in writing a management plan as well. Forest management



assistance or plans include information such as history, legal descriptions, forest types, maps, soils, recommendations for management, and current stand conditions. This past fiscal year, there were no forest management plan requests for private landowners in Pinellas County.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP



To practice sustainable forestry means to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the land to meet the needs of future generations. This is accomplished by practicing a stewardship ethic which integrates reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat, and aesthetics. Forest stewards are landowners who manage their forestlands within the context of a long-term plan of objectives that are economically viable, conservative of natural resources while being socially, environmentally, and ecologically responsible. The objectives of the Forest Stewardship program are: encourage non-industrial landowners to manage their properties according to the multiple-use concept, increase awareness among the general public of the important amenities that Florida's forestlands provide to all

citizens of the state, and to improve coordination among natural resource agencies and groups, both public and private, to better serve the state's landowners and achieve common goals.

There is currently one landowner in Pinellas County enrolled in the Forest Stewardship program. Some landowners may decide to not be part of the program or not follow management recommendations, which may also determine if they will continue in the Forest Stewardship Program in the future. If landowners follow management recommendations in a written Stewardship plan, they are eligible for Forest Stewardship certification or recertification.



TREE FARM ASSISTANCE (ATFS)

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) offers many valuable benefits to landowners who want to make their forest land a certified Tree Farm. Landowners with 10-10,000 acres of forest land are eligible for Tree Farm. The certified Tree Farm sign shows local communities that landowners are among the best forest stewards in the world. Participants in ATFS are committed to earning a sustainable forest and maintaining it over the years by following sustainable forest management practices. By following the new 2015-2020 Standards of



Sustainability, landowners may become a certified Tree Farm property. Currently, there is one certified Tree Farm landowner in Pinellas County. Bob is a certified Tree Farm Inspector and can assist landowners in becoming a certified Tree Farm. This past fiscal year, there were no landowners assisted for this program in Pinellas County.

COGONGRASS COST SHARE PROGRAM

Cogongrass is an invasive/exotic plant that is widespread on private and public lands in Florida. Cogongrass disrupts the natural fire regimes and disturbs habitat for native wildlife. During the past fiscal year, the Florida Forest Service made available to Pinellas County landowners a program called the Cogongrass Cost Share Treatment Program. The main objective of this program is to reduce the spread of cogongrass to new areas by assisting with control or eradication of existing cogongrass on private lands. This program assists private landowners with the eradication of cogongrass on their lands for 2 years and offers up to 50% reimbursement toward the cost of approved herbicide treatments. There were no Pinellas County landowners awarded funds for treating cogongrass through this cost share program. This program is funded through grants from the USDA Forest Service.

OTHER PUBLIC LANDS

The Florida Forest Service also assists Pinellas County with the services of a **Other Public Lands Forester**. Not all municipalities have a forester on staff to help with their forest needs. The Florida Forest Service Other Public Lands (OPL) Forester is available to provide technical assistance to urban and county officials in the planning, establishment, and management of timber resources. This fiscal year the Forest Service OPL forester has assisted with a land management review of the 3,190 acre Weedon Island Preserve on March 21, 2016.



URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS

The Florida Forest Service manages the Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Grant Program in which federal funds are made available to organizations to develop or enhance their urban and community forestry programs. During this past fiscal year, there was one active U&CF grant in Pinellas County.



Pinellas County Urban Forestry Department received a 2015 U&CF grant to perform a Pinellas County Right of Way Tree Inventory Project. This project is sampling selected neighborhoods for a right of way tree inventory. This inventory when completed will assist the county in prioritizing maintenance schedules to reduce potential liability which results from hazardous trees. This inventory will also be used as the basis for the continued development of an urban forestry management plan. This is an ongoing project.

The City of Largo also received a grant in FY 2015-2016 to perform an Urban Tree Canopy assessment. This assessment was used as the basis for an Urban Forestry Master Plan. Davey Tree Company was hired and performed the assessment and developed the plan. This project was completed and signed off by Corey Walk on 1/15/2016.

Pinellas County Arborist Inventorying Right of Way trees

TREE CITY U.S.A



TREE CITY USA®

This program recognizes communities that have committed adequate personnel and financial resources to develop comprehensive, long term urban forestry programs. This program began in 1976 as a Bicentennial project sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and U.S. Forest Service. The benefits of this program include a framework for action, education in urban forestry, public image, citizen pride, financial assistance, and publicity.

Currently there are 164 Tree Cities in Florida, eleven of which are in Pinellas County: Town of Belleair, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Largo, Oldsmar, Pinellas Park, Safety Harbor, St. Petersburg, Seminole, South Pasadena, St. Petersburg, and Tarpon Springs. In addition, Tampa Electric Company (TECO) is a Tree Line USA Company. This past fiscal year, Bob attended a Tree City USA celebration at Clearwater. Belleair, Clearwater, Dunedin, Gulfport, Largo, Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, South Pasadena, Seminole, St. Petersburg, and Tarpon Springs applied and received recertification awards during this past fiscal year. The Forester believes strongly in this program and would like to add more Pinellas County cities to that number.





**Clearwater Tree City USA
Tree giveaway**



Clearwater Tree City USA

CHAMPION TREE PROGRAM

In 1940, the Champion Tree Program was created by the American Forests organization to recognize the largest known tree of each species in the United States. Every two years, American Forests publishes their National Register of Big Trees. The 2012 edition of the Register includes 111 Florida species, many of which are only found in the tropical region of the state. Currently, Florida has the most national champions of any state. There are two designated Champion trees in Pinellas County. These include the Emeritus National Champion South Florida slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*) and the Florida Champion Weeping Podocarpus (*Podocarpus gracillior*). During the past fiscal year, there were no Champion Tree designations in Pinellas County.

ARBOR DAY GRANT FUNDING

Each year, the Florida Forest Service offers Arbor Day grant funding available for urban and community forestry activities. During the past fiscal year, Pinellas County was the recipient of three grants. Sunken Gardens celebrated by holding a Childrens Craft Fair, a tree give away and the Tree walk and stroll where a Sunken Garden Arborists identifies different trees in the gardens.

The UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County was awarded a grant where they hosted an "Adopt-A-



**Sunken Gardens
Arbor Day Celebration**



Tree" event which included 4 learning stations. Ecological service provided by trees, planting the right tree in the right place, initial tree care including pruning, planting, watering, fertilizing and mulching. and then after care, including pruning, planting, watering, fertilizing and mulching. After participants attended all four stations they received a 3-gallon tree best suited for their planting location.

The third grant was received by the City of Dunedin for the celebration of Arbor Day. The grant funded advertising costs and purchase of trees. The city of Dunedin gave away 165 3 gal trees. The species given away were Magnolia, Red Maple, Red Cedar and Bald Cypress.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Youth Forest Education activities included Smokey Bear presentations, "Walk in the Forest", forestry presentations, Dunedin Touch-A-Truck, Arbor Day celebrations at various schools throughout the county, helping Girl Scouts earn their forestry badges, and participation at the State Fair.

The FFA Forestry Field Day is a competitive activity that tests students' skills and knowledge in the area of forest management. Event components include a general forest knowledge exam, tree and equipment identification, a forest issues interview and forestry application practicums. On October, 8th 2015 at Hillsborough River State Park, 71 students from Pasco, Hillsborough and Pinellas County Schools participated in the District 9 FFA Forestry Field Day contest. The FFS Sumter County Forester and 22 personnel from the Withlacoochee Forestry Center along with Steve Lloyd participated in this event. This year's FFA Field Day consisted of the following events:

1. General Knowledge Test
2. Tree Identification
3. Equipment Identification
4. Tree Measurement-Timber Cruising
5. Map Interpretation
6. Tree/Forest Disorders



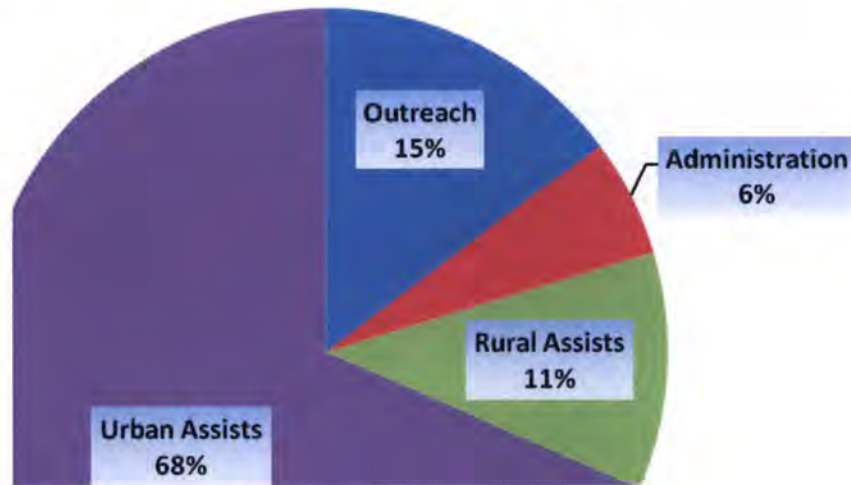
The students participating in FFA and the FFA Forestry Field Day are some of the brightest and most highly motivated youth in our school system. They are the future agricultural leaders of our community. This event, and the preparation that takes place prior to the event, introduces the students to forestry and allows them to attain a level of understanding of the subject that is highly desirable when this generation starts making career choices and decisions affecting forestry and all other aspects of agriculture.



In July of each year since 1933 the Florida Forest Service has run a Forestry Training Camp for FFA high school and middle school students. The Florida Forest Service's commitment to this camp is so strong that not even the labor shortages caused by the Second World War or the memorable 1998 wildfire season were allowed to prevent the camp from operating.

This six-day resident camp is held at O'Leno State Park in North Florida. At Forestry Camp students learn about the many facets of forestry and FFA teachers learn different techniques for teaching the subject matter.

CFA Time Distribution - Pinellas



During the past fiscal year, the CFA Forester spent majority of time with urban forestry assists and outreach activities in Pinellas County. Other assists within Pinellas included roughly 11 percent for rural assists to landowners and 6 percent for administration. During this past fiscal year, he spent time in several trainings in order to keep his knowledge of new programs and the latest forestry techniques up to date. These trainings will benefit the homeowners and landowners of Pinellas County by keeping them current on the latest information and trends happening in the forest industry. This past fiscal year Corey has attended trainings on Tree Farm (ATFS), Longleaf Academy (Longleaf 101), Wildlife Best Management Practices, ISA Symposium at USF, Cooperative Forestry Assistance statewide training, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and FFS annual tactics for fire suppression. Since Bob has taken over in January he has attended the RT130-190 firefighter refresher class, attended meetings with Heartland Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area(CISMA), New Employee Orientation (NEO) training, Society of American Foresters workshop on Advances in Pine Silviculture, CPR/AED training, Tree Farm Inspector training and attended the annual statewide Cooperative Forestry Assistance Forester meeting.



IN THE COMING YEAR

CISMA

Bob has been involved with local Heartland Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area steering committee and plans to get involved with the Suncoast CISMA. Covering Pinellas County this year. Being involved with the CISMA's exposes Bob to wider audiences for programs and other forestry related activities. This next fiscal year he plans on taking part in invasive/exotics workshops or providing assistance to related activities with this working group.

Bob periodically plans on writing articles for different local magazines, newspapers, and newsletters. This may include topics about programs for landowners, urban forestry, exotics removal, forest management practices, or fire management.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bob also plans to assist in promoting forest management activities and Stewardship programs, exotics control on private and public lands, spread the message of fire prevention, assist with Tree City USA and Arbor Day Celebrations, provide assistance to cities and the county when needed for tree ordinance technical advice, and keep abreast of any new developments in the industry that will affect the citizens of Pinellas County.

CONCLUSION

Since starting in January, Bob has hit the ground running and continues to look forward to assisting the public, non-industrial forest landowners and local governmental organizations in Pinellas County as requested. Bob looks forward to another year serving the citizens and promoting the natural resources of Pinellas County. Bob looks forward to becoming a Certified Arborist this year as well.

