

Fact Sheet: Texas A&M Forest Service



QUICK FACTS:

Established:
1915

Number of counties served:
254

Number of locations:
96

FY 2015 operating budget:
\$70.5 million

Agency Overview

Fulfilling the service component of a land-grant university system, Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) is a proud member of The Texas A&M University System. Currently Celebrating a Century of Service, the state agency was created in 1915 by the 34th Texas Legislature.

Each state in the nation has a state forestry agency, but Texas was the first to establish its state forestry agency as part of a land-grant college. Four other states have since done the same — Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and North Dakota.

Of the state agency's key functions, TFS is driven by:

A Call to Serve - providing technical assistance, program delivery and readily-available, easily-accessible, science-based information

A Duty to Protect - providing protection against wildland fires and other all-hazard emergencies

The Commitment to Support - promoting statewide forestry-based economic development

The Power of Partnership - building the capacity of local responders and engaging in cooperative working relationships

Conserve & Protect

TFS is recognized as the leader in defining forestry for the future of Texas and the nation. Applied programs include forest and tree development; wildfire prevention, mitigation, and protection; urban and community forestry; and a host of innovative forest sustainability programs. TFS works to ensure the state's forests, trees, and related natural resources are conserved and continue to provide a sustainable flow of environmental and economic benefits.



TFS is the incident management agency for state disasters, including wildfires, floods, and hurricanes. TFS delivers wildfire response and protection through the Texas Wildfire Protection Plan (TWPP). Launched as a pilot program more than a decade ago, it is now a national model for state wildfire protection. TWPP is a tested and proven emergency response model emphasizing ongoing analysis, mitigation, prevention, and preparation followed by a coordinated and rapid response. With legislative support, TFS is working to expand the plan, increasing the number of personnel and emergency response resources throughout the state.



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Texas A&M Forest Service



DID YOU KNOW?

The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, one of the largest TFS-administered programs, was created in 2001 by the 77th Legislature.

Since FY 2003, this program has provided 1,504 fire trucks, 68,646 sets of protective gear and 57,255 training tuitions to volunteer fire departments across the state.

The needs are great as evidenced by the \$143 million in unfunded requests.



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SYSTEM

Inventory programs keep watch over state resources to monitor changes. The Forest Inventory & Analysis — or FIA — program is considered a census for trees. Our first-ever statewide tree inventory revealed that Texas has over 60 million acres of forested land — more than any other state except Alaska. Forests are monitored in 3 x 3 mile permanent plots and measured every 5-10 years or in some cases annually. Keeping a close eye on our trees helps us identify disease and drought trends and combat them early on, which helps us keep our forests healthy. And if our forests are healthy, Texas is healthy.



TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE DIRECTOR



Thomas G. "Tom" Boggus is the Texas state forester and director of Texas A&M Forest Service.

A veteran forester, Boggus has worked for the state agency since 1980. He has spent the early years of his career serving the nonindustrial private forest landowners of Texas by providing technical assistance and information — two of the agency's key functions.

Boggus was appointed to his current position in February 2010 after serving 20 months in an interim role. In the years that followed, he led the agency's response in two Texas wildfire seasons, including the worst in state history. Boggus has fostered statewide partnerships and collaborations to better protect the people of Texas. He has encouraged and supported TFS employees to develop solutions and deliver information and tools enabling Texans to manage their lands in ways that protect from wildfires and other natural disasters.

Boggus leads the nationally prominent state forestry agency by example. His leadership principles include building the capacity of others, passionately believing in making a difference, creating opportunities for success, building lasting partnerships and challenging the status quo by seeking innovative ways to improve.

Boggus received his forestry training at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry. He is a fellow of the Society of American Foresters and a member of the Texas Forestry Association. He served as president of TFA in 2006 and received The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Fellow Service Award in 2007 for outstanding service to the citizens of Texas.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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