



*Kansas Forest Service
... making a difference*



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The Kansas Forest Service provides for the development, promotion, protection, and conservation of forest resources in Kansas. This includes both rural and community forests. "Although the Kansas Forest Service's roots date back to 1887 and it has been a part of Kansas State University since 1909, it may be the best kept secret in the state," said Ray Aslin, state forester. "Today, the Kansas Forest Service is working hard to be an integral part of the service mission of Kansas State University. We have a big job in front of us, but we are stepping up to meet the challenge."

Demonstration Forest will Teach for Generations

Kansas Forest Service foresters make a difference to thousands of private landowners who own the 2.1 million acres of native forestlands in the state.

These forests are constantly changing. They need proper management to improve their health and productivity to provide goods and services, now and for future generations. Well-managed forestlands provide clean water, critical wildlife habitat for both game and nongame species, wood products, and recreational opportunities where hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing abound. Landowners rely on the assistance of the Kansas Forest Service to prepare management plans to guide their activities to reach the full potential of their forestlands.

Education is the key to successful management. "To help the Kansas Forest Service

educate landowners," said Aslin, "David Jackman Jr. is bequeathing, in his life estate, 950 acres of land in Butler County to the Kansas Forest Service as Kansas' first demonstration state forest. To build on Mr. Jackman's gift of land, financial support is needed to develop and maintain the property into a first-class working forest. This is an outstanding opportunity for us to show examples of what others can do to reach their forestland ownership objectives."



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Encouraging Community Tree Planting

Since the settlement of our cities and towns, residents have planted trees to improve their living conditions. As trees age and die, only one tree is replaced for every four removed. In addition, there are many vacant spaces in every community for new trees to be planted. This trend can be reversed with an aggressive tree-planting program.

The Kansas Forest Service has been making a difference in public tree management in communities across the state for more than 30 years.

“Many of our small communities do not have the financial resources to undertake a tree-planting program on their own,” said Aslin. “Support is needed, from people who care about our small communities, to establish a grant program for tree planting on public property to enhance the attractiveness and livability of these communities. When you plant trees, you have hope for the future, you leave a living legacy for those that follow.”





Protecting Life and Property

Wildland fire is a threat to more than 46 million acres of our rural lands. Since 1963, the Kansas Forest Service has been making a difference in wildland fire prevention and control by actively helping rural fire departments organize and develop to provide fire-suppression coverage statewide. With organization virtually accomplished, concerns exist regarding proper firefighting equipment. As metropolitan areas grow, the interface, where wildlands (rural lands) meet urban lands, is a challenge for rural fire departments. Property values are high, and reliance on rural fire departments, which are often the first line of defense, places extreme pressure on volunteers. Proper equipment is a key to successful firefighting.

“Many rural volunteer fire departments operate on a shoestring budget,” said Aslin. “Local funding to support rural departments is inadequate in many areas of the state. As a result, many departments rely on bake sales and chili feeds to supplement budgets.

Even the purchase of basic equipment to protect the safety of firefighters cannot be done. Establishing an equipment fund for rural fire departments would produce enormous benefits by improving their capabilities to save lives and property.”

Plant Seedlings for Conservation

Conservation trees and shrubs play a strategic role in land and water conservation.

“The Kansas Forest Service has been making a difference through the sale of low-cost tree and shrub seedlings to landowners for windbreaks, riparian forest buffers, woodlots, wildlife habitat, stream bank stabilization, and living snow fences since 1957,” said Aslin.

“We are the major supplier in the state for conservation tree and shrub seedlings,” said Aslin. During this time, more than 50 million seedlings have been purchased by thousands of conservation-minded landowners and planted in every county.



“Container-grown evergreen trees, the backbone of many of the conservation plantings, are produced in our greenhouse facility at the Kansas Forest Service headquarters in Manhattan. However, the greenhouse is more than 30 years old and is in need of renovation. Since the program operates only on seedling sale receipts, supplemental funding is needed to undertake the renovation project to meet the continued demand from tree planters for high-quality container seedlings.”



A Quality Learning Experience

The Kansas Forest Service is making a difference through education and training of participants in proper tree planting and care, forest management, and wildland fire suppression. However, many in-depth training courses require a facility that accommodates the use of specific forestry equipment, displays, and other supporting materials that are difficult to transport to other sites.

“What we need,” Aslin says, “is a Forestry Training and Education Center. The center, at the Kansas Forest Service headquarters in Manhattan, would allow us to offer quality training and educational experiences at one location for volunteer rural firefighters, arborists, landowners, youth, and other interested individuals.

“Education and training of people actively involved in the management, conservation and protection of our forest resources is essential to reaching our goal of improving our state’s forest resources.”

Making a Difference

People can make a difference in Kansas Forest Service programs and services.

“Many of our best supporters who are actively involved in our programs and take advantage of our services may want to give something back for the lifetime of benefits they have received,” said Aslin. “Others who have an interest in seeing our forest resources grow and improve may want to offer support for the work the Kansas Forest Service is doing now and in the future.

“Clients and supporters can have an amazing influence on the Kansas Forest Service through philanthropic gifts,” Aslin said. “If people are interested in our programs and have the financial resources to support them, then they can most certainly target a particular program with their gift. On behalf of the Kansas Forest Service, I would appreciate their support of our programs and the priorities that we have for capital projects and general needs.”





Ways to give to the Kansas Forest Service

Private gifts enhance the Kansas Forest Service's ability to provide important programs to the citizens of Kansas and can take several forms. Gifts to the Kansas Forest Service are given through the Kansas State University Foundation.

Expendable Gifts

Expendable gifts are those that will be fully spent.

Endowed Gifts

Gifts of \$10,000 or more may be endowed, meaning that the gift is permanently invested. The earnings on the fund provide the income for the donor's designated purpose. Gifts of \$500,000 or more may qualify for partial income matching through the Kansas Board of Regents Faculty of Distinction Program.

Gifts of Cash

Most contributions to Kansas State University are cash gifts, made by check, credit card, or wire transfer.

Gifts of Securities

Gifts of appreciated stocks or bonds entitle a contributor to two income-tax benefits: an income tax charitable deduction for the securities' fair market value on the date of the gift and the avoidance of capital gains taxes.

Gifts of Real Estate

The outright gift of a parcel of appreciated land or other real estate is a method that may offer considerable tax savings.

Retained Right to Use Real Estate

A provision in the federal tax law permits a donor to transfer ownership of a personal residence or farm to the Kansas Forest Service through the foundation and retain the full use of the property while receiving a current income tax deduction.

Bequests

All bequests should be made to the Kansas State University Foundation. The donor can then designate the Kansas Forest Service. Notification of future bequests enables the foundation to consider these expectancies in long-range planning for gift support.

Matching Gifts

Many corporations match their employees' gifts with an equal or greater corporate contribution. Information on gift matching is available through a company's human resources department.

Testamentary Charitable

Remainder Gift

A charitable bequest can be arranged to provide income for a selected beneficiary (i.e., nephew, niece, friend), and support the Kansas Forest Service in the future by directing that the bequest establish a charitable remainder annuity trust, a unitrust, or a charitable gift annuity. The named beneficiary may receive income from the trust for life, or for a specified number of years. When the trust is terminated, the principal will pass to the Kansas Forest Service through the Kansas State University Foundation. In addition to the personal satisfaction of making a philanthropic gift,

the estate will receive a charitable tax deduction, reducing estate settlement costs.

Donor-Advised Fund

A donor-advised fund is a convenient way for a donor to simplify charitable giving and take advantage of tax savings at the same time. Donor-advised funds are viewed by many as an alternative to establishing a private foundation. This fund allows the donor to open a philanthropic account by making a tax-deductible donation to the Kansas State University Charitable Gift Fund. Grants are made at the donor's recommendation. The initial contribution may be in the form of cash or appreciated stock. For those who want to give money now but wait to decide where it will be distributed, this may be a good tool.

Gifts-in-Kind

Gifts such as art, book collections, equipment and furnishings that further the mission of the Kansas Forest Service may be donated. Feasibility of acceptance by the university should be determined in advance of the gift.

Gifts of Life Insurance

When properly arranged, life insurance offers an attractive way to benefit the Kansas Forest Service.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets

Retirement plan assets offer another tax-efficient way to make a generous gift. The account can pass directly to the Kansas Forest Service as the primary beneficiary, or it can be transferred to a deferred giving arrangement that will pay an income for

life to a family member, after which the remaining assets pass to the Kansas Forest Service.

Kansas Forest Service Funding Priorities

Goal for Kansas Forest Service: \$20 million

Cash or Deferred Gift Needs for Endowment Projects Goal: \$14.5 million

- Development of Demonstration Forests for Public Education - \$2,500,000
- Statewide Grant Program for Tree Planting on Public Property - \$6,000,000
- Fire Management Equipment Grant Fund for Rural Fire Departments - \$6,000,000

Cash Needs for Capital Projects Goal: \$5.5 million

- Renovation of the Conservation Tree Planting Greenhouse - \$500,000
- Forestry Training and Educational Center - \$5,000,000





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