



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

301 North Lamar St., Suite 300, Jackson, MS 39201

[www.mfc.state.ms.us](http://www.mfc.state.ms.us)

---

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*June 23, 2008*

Contact: Kent Grizzard,  
Manager, Forest Protection  
and Information  
(601) 359-2841  
[kgrizzard@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:kgrizzard@mfc.state.ms.us)

### **Forestry Commission Announces Reorganization**

Jackson, MS—The Mississippi Forestry Commission is implementing an agency-wide reorganization starting July 1, 2008.

“The driving force behind this reorganization is to create a flatter organization that is more responsive to meeting the needs of landowners,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester of the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

The Forestry Commission’s leadership team developed the new organizational structure, which includes creating two new management districts. The new structure will allow the Forestry Commission to operate in a more efficient and cost-effective manner in carrying out its mission. The commission’s primary responsibilities include providing statewide wildfire protection on nearly 19 million acres of forestland, active forest management on 16<sup>th</sup> Section School Trust lands and other non-federal public lands, and technical assistance to the state’s private nonindustrial forest landowners.

No jobs at the district and local level of the agency will be lost due to the reorganization. However, 16 positions will be eliminated at the administrative/department level effective August 19. The State Personnel Board, in conjunction with the Mississippi Department of Employment Security’s Rapid Response Team, is providing outplacement assistance to the employees in these positions.

“We are committed to providing effective wildfire protection and quality forest management assistance to the landowners of Mississippi,” said Morgan. “This new operating structure will facilitate a more efficient delivery of services to the public.”

The Mississippi Forestry Commission is a service agency with the mission of providing active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi’s sustainable forest-based economy.

(more)

*Forestry Commission Announces Reorganization, cont'd*

Reorganization Key Points—

- Expand from five to seven management districts, while using existing office space and without adding personnel.
- Seven management districts provide a more effective structure for efficient personnel management and supervision.
- No jobs will be lost at the district and local level.
- Sixteen jobs at the administrative/department level will be eliminated August 19. Outplacement assistance will be provided to the employees in these positions.
- Forest management programs will be administered from the district level instead of the administrative level, placing programs closer to the customer (landowner).
- Forest management and firefighting equipment will be aligned with areas of high fire occurrence and heavy forestry workload.
- One administrative layer has been removed from the district level, resulting in more forester expertise available at the local level.

###