



# 2015 Committee Reports

## Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

NOVEMBER 2015

### **FORESTRY**

This committee reviews and makes recommendations on forestry issues as they may relate to Kentucky's conservation district programs.

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The committee recommends conservation districts carry out the following actions:

- Districts should promote and support all silviculture activities according to the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and Kentucky Forest Conservation Act for proper management and protection of Kentucky's Forestland.
- Districts should continue their promotion of the use of best management practices for timber harvesting as well as the Kentucky Master Logger Program by distributing the model timber sales contract for use by woodland owners.
- Districts are encouraged to become familiar with the Kentucky Forest Stewardship Program and recognize an Outstanding Forest Steward in a program similar to the Outstanding District Cooperator.
- Districts are recommended to work with federal, state, and local agencies to promote utilization of damaged timber for economic benefit of the landowner.
- Districts are encouraged to participate in their community to promote prevention of fires as well as Firewise activities.
- Districts should continue efforts that support funding for Forest Health Task Force to monitor and fight potential insect threats to Kentucky's forests.
- Conservation districts should promote fire prevention and encourage the courts to prosecute violators of forest fire laws.
- Conservation districts are encouraged to establish local Firewise councils and to annually encourage landowners to manage their privately owned property to reduce the potential for forest fires.
- Local conservation districts should work within their community to promote fire prevention and Firewise activities.
- Conservation districts should participate in the tree giveaway program by providing seedlings from the state nurseries for forestation efforts.



- Conservation districts should encourage post-mining reclamation efforts into woodland and wildlife options. Districts are also encouraged to support the efforts of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative to encourage the returning of land that was in forests prior to mining back to forests using reclamation practices that promote tree survival and growth.
- It is recommended that all conservation districts be involved in the Daniel Boone National Forest and Land between the Lakes National Recreation Area implementation to be managed for multiple uses, including timber production and harvest.
- Each conservation district is urged to incorporate programs that address forestry resource needs into their annual and long-range plans. Districts should utilize the assistance of the Kentucky Division of Forestry, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, NRCS, FSA , and the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service when developing plans and carrying out programs to assist landowners.
- Conservation districts should support financial incentive programs that promote the sustainability of our privately owned forests. This support should focus on the use of forestry best management practices in the Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality State Cost Share Program administered by the Division of Conservation and on future funding from the Forest Stewardship Incentives Fund established by the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act.
- Conservation districts should continue to work with active RC&D Councils to promote forestry and conservation education in the classroom.
- Conservation districts are encouraged to contact their local legislators to gather support when a legislative bill is offered by the efforts of the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association to promote legislation for fair and equitable property tax evaluation for forest lands.
- Local conservation districts are encouraged to partner with cooperative extension service in hosting meetings that encourage the creation of local forest associations or councils to be established by local forest landowners and other forest partners.
- Districts are encouraged to make available locally assistance to landowners with recovery efforts when forests have been destroyed by natural disasters such as flood, fire, landslides, insects, and diseases. Conservation districts should take advantage of and apply for any local, federal and state grants to fund these programs.
- Local conservation districts are also encouraged to work with partner agencies Division of Forestry, University of Kentucky Department of Forestry, Kentucky Division of Conservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service in assisting private forest owners, landowners and communities recover from natural disasters.
- It is recommended that conservation districts work with the Kentucky Division of Forestry with implementing the Kentucky Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Strategy of June 2010, which analyzes the current conditions and treats to Kentucky's forests and provides a five-year plan for protecting, enhancing and conserving Kentucky's trees and forests and provide this information to landowners within their counties.