



TENNESSEE FORESTRY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

9/18/2020

Tennessee Forestry Commission meeting was held in the Tennessee Department of Agriculture Division of Forestry, Bruer Building Oak Training Room, in Nashville, TN, September 18, 2020.

Participants:

Forestry Commission Members: Johnny Heard, Chairman; Tom Midyett, Vice Chairman; John Charles Wilson, Secretary; Alex Richman (attended remotely via WebEx), Bob Qualman, Mike Witt, Sharon Jean-Philippe

Forestry Commission Ex-Officio Members:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA): Brian Chandler, Forest Management Program Leader (attended remotely via WebEx)

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Charles Hatcher, Commissioner

Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA): Tom Womack, Deputy Commissioner; Shannon Klowski, Assistant Commissioner; Samantha Wilson, Budget Administrative Coordinator (attended remotely via WebEx)

Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry (TDF): David Arnold, State Forester; Heather Slayton, Assistant State Forester; Tim R. Phelps, Communications and Outreach Unit Leader; Rachel Greene; Forest Data and Analysis Unit Leader; Wade Waters, Fire Chief; Savannah Motl, Administrative Services Assistant (attended remotely via WebEx); Dyshea Brown, Executive Administrative Assistant; Philip Morrissey, State Forest Unit Leader (attended remotely via WebEx); Brian Hughett, Forest Stewardship Forester (attended remotely via WebEx); Neil Owens, Business Development Consultant (attended remotely via WebEx).

Tennessee Forestry Association (TFA): Candace Dinwiddie, Executive Director

Chairman Johnny Heard welcomed everyone to the meeting. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Johnny Heard motioned to acknowledge having a quorum of members with one member participating remotely. John Charles Wilson seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob



MINUTES

Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed. Meeting can be conducted.

Approval of the Minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting

- Tom Midyett asked that any Ex-Officio members not present at the meeting and don't have a representative in attendance will be omitted from the minutes.

John Charles Wilson motioned to approve minutes as presented. Bob Qualman seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe and Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed.

State Forest Timber Sale Summary

Philip Morrissey

- Timber sales for FY 2020 were \$2.48 million, short of meeting revenue target \$3.2 million. Overall, market decreases and instability due to COVID 19 threat may have been contributing factors in the reduced realized prices.
- Total managed acres sold were 1,131 acres. State Forest Timber Sale Summary was provided and will be included as an attachment to these minutes.

Memorial Resolution for Tyler Wakefield

A Memorial Resolution was read honoring Tyler Wakefield for his service with Tennessee Division of Forestry by Tom Midyett. The Wakefield family was present via remote video conferencing to hear the reading of the resolution.

Approval of the memorial resolution for Tyler Wakefield. A copy of the Resolution is attached to these minutes.

Tom Midyett motioned to approve the Memorial Resolution for Tyler Wakefield. Mike Witt seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe. Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed.

FY2021 and FY2022 budget review

David Arnold
Heather Slayton

- Recap of current FY2020 budget



MINUTES

- The Division of Forestry saved \$500,000 due to early hiring freeze and suspension of spending.
- Out of state deployment commenced in June 2020 and generated \$120,000 of revenue that will be applied to FY2020
- Information was provided to show how Tennessee Division of Forestry spent funds, how time was utilized by personnel and how funds were generated.

- Budget FY2021

Fiscal year 2021 started July 1, 2020. Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration (F&A) asked each department within state government for a twelve (12%) percent budget reduction.

- The twelve (12%) percent budget reduction was approximately \$2.6 million for Division of Forestry initially. It was later reduced to 7.7% (\$1.67 million).
- The department made reductions in other divisions to reduce the impact on Forestry.
- Information was provided showing budget operational expenditure details. Savings was shown as a result of reductions in FY2021 budget.

- Budget FY2022

- Fiscal year 2022 will start July 1, 2021. The Department was requested to identify a two (2%) percent reduction in addition to the FY2021 reduction plan. The Division of Forestry's contribution to this reduction target is roughly \$100,000 in real estate savings.
- The July 2021 work program will contain both the FY21 and FY 22 reduction amounts.
- Capital Maintenance and Capital Improvement projects were discussed for FY2022 and have not been approved. These projects are moving forward through the budgeting process to be considered for approval.

Approval to accept the budget as presented

John Charles Wilson motioned to approve the FY2022 budget. Sharon Jean-Philippe seconded the motion. All Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, Tom Midyett, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe. Alex Richman (remotely). The motion passed.

Federal Emergency Relief Program (Farm Service Agency (FSA) and National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS)

Jamie Carpenter
Brandi Broughton



MINUTES

Potential emergency relief support opportunities for forest landowners from FSA and NRCS. Brandi Broughton (FSA Agricultural Program Specialist) and Jamie Carpenter (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs).

- Handouts were given explaining the Environmental Qualitative Incentive Program (EQIP). EQIP will provide financial assistance in the event of a natural disaster.
- A conservation plan can be considered for a waiver and if approved work can begin before a contract is initiated. Landowners can be reimbursed for work that has been completed.
- Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) can assist homeowners in flood plain areas.
- Handouts were provided explaining the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) thru the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Coronavirus Agriculture and Forestry Business Fund (CAFB)

Neil Owens

This program was allocated \$50 million dollars under the CARES Act for Agriculture and Forestry businesses.

- Agriculture had more applications than any other commodity. There was a total of 1004 applications and Agriculture accounted for 18% of the total.
- There was a total of 183 Forestry applications; 112 loggers, 69 sawmills and 1 forestry manufacturer.
- Forestry was allocated \$12 million dollars
- All funds must be disbursed to applicants by December 30, 2020.

Emergency Response Process, deployments and fiResponse update

Wade Waters

- Tennessee Division of Forestry emergency response has deployed approximately 150 personnel this year. Emergency Response teams have supported 10 states and assisted the Federal government by providing resources.
- There has not been any COVID related issues.
- Received reimbursements in FY2020 for providing out of state resources.
- Live production version of fiResponse was received July 1, 2020.
- Tennessee Division of Forestry is 1 of 9 states that have the fiResponse program.
- Potential outlook for Fall fire season is projected to be a low fire season due to the amount of moisture.

Forest Landscape Level Plan

Brian Hughett

- Similar to individual plan; more detailed



MINUTES

- Reference for foresters on forest management
- Supported by FSP and ATFS guidelines
- There are eight states including Tennessee in Southeastern area of the U.S. at varying stages of implementing landscape management plans.

Forest Data and Analysis Unit update

Rachel Greene

- The division has received 5 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV).
- Units will be used for general forestry work, cruising stands, monitoring forest health issues, deployment and communication.
- Two units are equipped with infrared detection of hotspots for firefighting.
- Drone Small UAV pilot license and training will be obtained for ten to twelve personnel initially.

Public Comments

- Tom Midyett requested to form a committee to meet with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) Director. Bob Qualman, David Arnold and John Charles Wilson volunteered to be on the committee. This committee will meet with director of FSA on how the Division and FSA can work more collaboratively in providing resources to Tennessee landowners.

Future Meeting Dates

- January 12, 2021 – Discuss budget, timber sales (second Tuesday in January)
- April 6, 2021 – Approve Nursery current year seedling pricing, following years seedling productions quantities and appoint sub-committee to nominate Commission officers (first Tuesday in April).
- June 8, 2021 - Approve Commission officers and field trip (Second Wednesday in June).
- September 1, 2021-Approve Commission Budget (First Wednesday in September).

John Charles Wilson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Witt seconded the motion. Commission members voted yes to approve: Johnny Heard, John Charles Wilson, Mike Witt, Bob Qualman, Sharon Jean-Philippe. Alex Richman and Tom Midyett were not present. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:00PM CST.



State Forest Timber Sales Summary FY 2020

8/28/2020

Summary

Timber sales for FY 2020 performed well overall as scheduled sales sold and brought \$2.48 million. However the revenue target of \$3.2 million was not reached. A major challenge was adapting bid opening procedures for Covid-19 safety protocols, but Division staff identified several technological solutions and overcame this obstacle. Overall market decreases and instability due to the Covid-19 threat may have been significant factors in reduced realized prices. Somewhat lower volumes and quality of timber (not as much veneer as past years) were also a factor. 69% of the annual allowable cut acres were sold, up from 66% last year. Our overall goals of regenerating and properly managing state forest lands were successfully achieved.

Phil Morrissey- State Forest Unit Leader

Philip.morrissey@tn.gov

615-837-5422

Table 1. Overall sales summary by forest (Figures 1-5)

	Managed Acres* Sold	Acres % of total	Sale Revenue Total	Sale Revenue % of total	Average Price/ Managed Acre*	Sale Volume (Int.) Total	Sale Volume % of Total	Average Price / MBF	Number of sales sold	Number of Sales % of total
Bledsoe	42	4%	\$37,885.00	2%	\$902	277,818	3%	\$136	1	4%
Chickasaw	157	14%	\$617,724.00	25%	\$4,082	1,672,874	18%	\$414	5	20%
Chuck Swan	288	25%	\$365,454.00	15%	\$1,280	1,715,172	19%	\$207	4	16%
Natchez Trace	437	39%	\$1,090,481.08	44%	\$2,668	4,436,275	49%	\$259	13	52%
Prentice Cooper	140	12%	\$224,552.74	9%	\$1,604	486,756	5%	\$461	1	4%
Standing Stone	67	6%	\$151,675.00	6%	\$2,264	498,116	5%	\$304	1	4%
Totals	1,131	100%	\$2,487,771.82	100%	\$2,133	9,087,011	100%	\$297	25	100%

*Managed acres are for total stand area, including harvest area, SMZ and visual buffers.

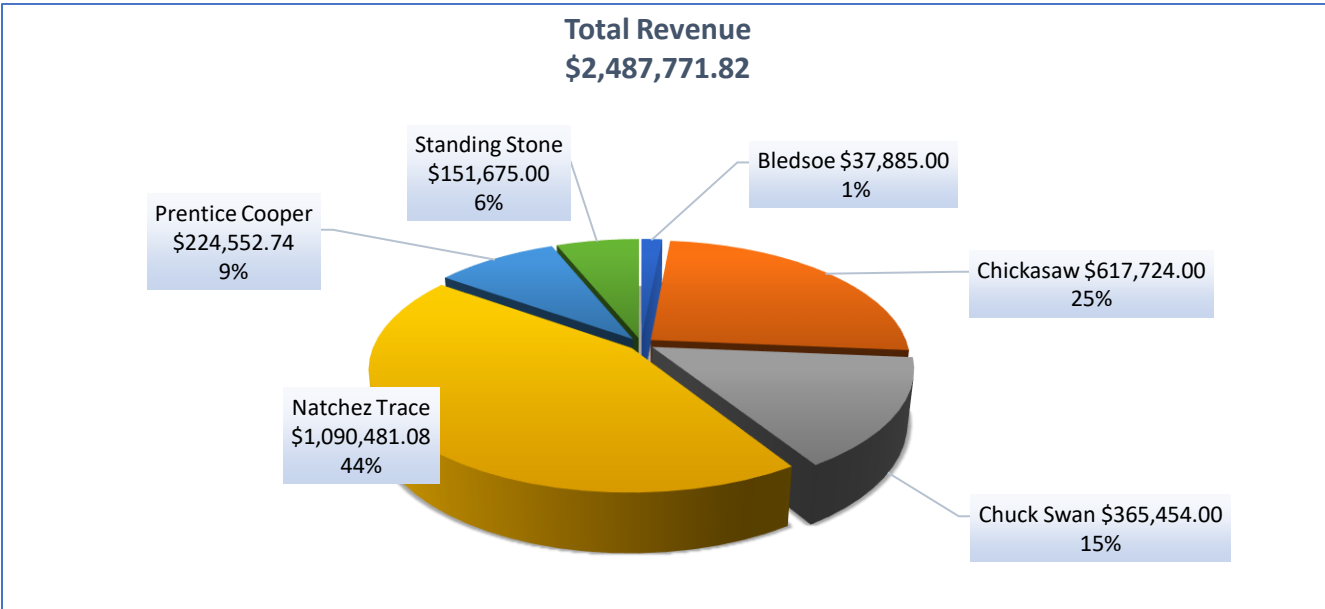


Figure 1. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest timber sales and percentages of sales by state forest.

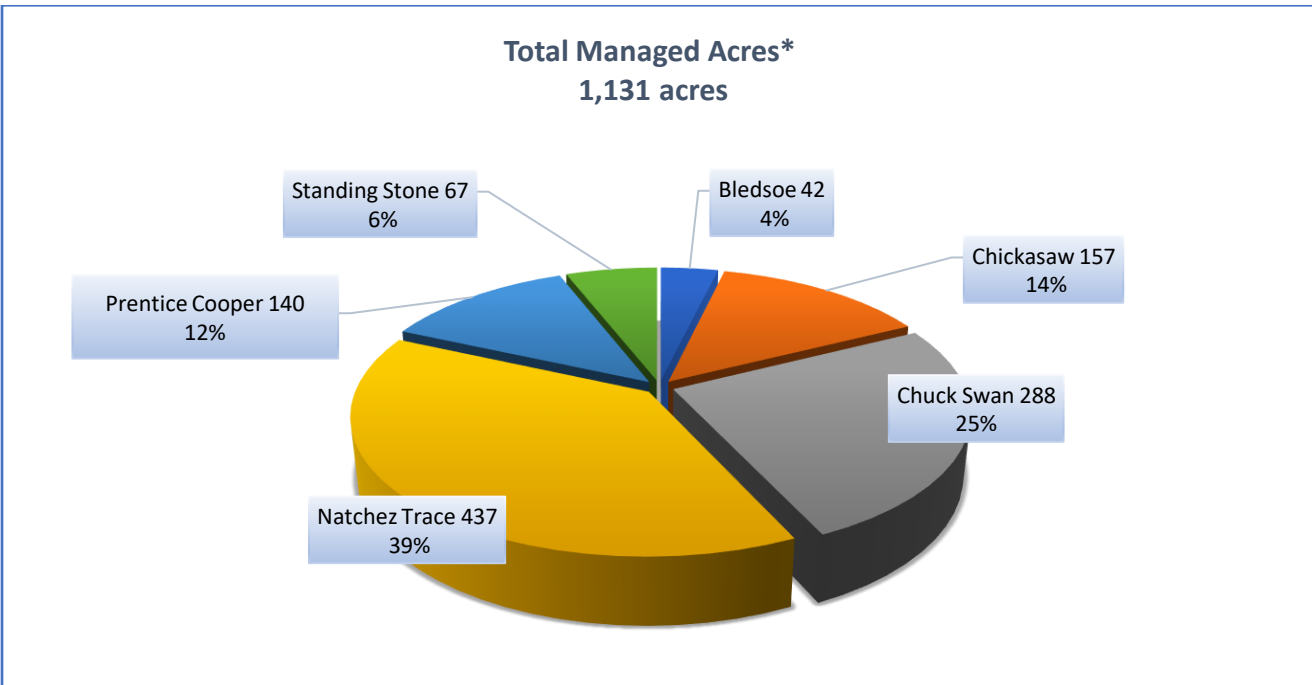


Figure 2. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest managed acres and percentages of acres by state forest.
*Managed acres are for total stand area, including harvest area, SMZ and visual buffers.

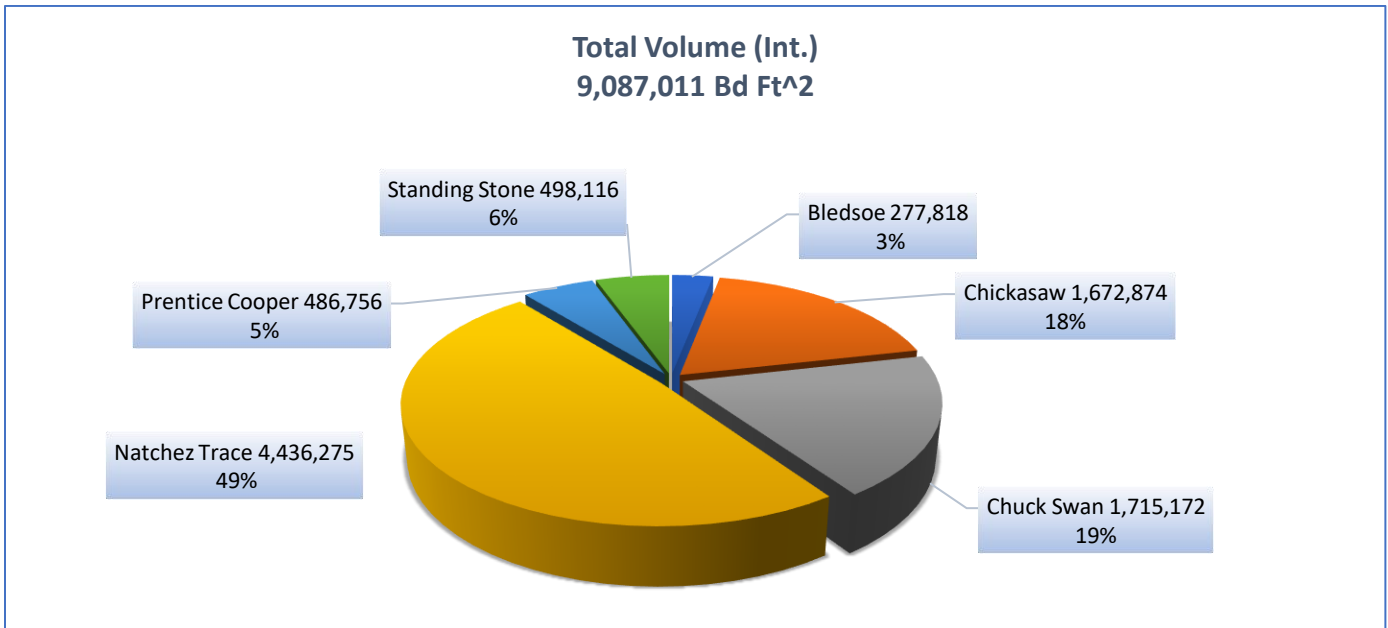


Figure 3. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest total volume (Int.) and percentages of volume by state forest

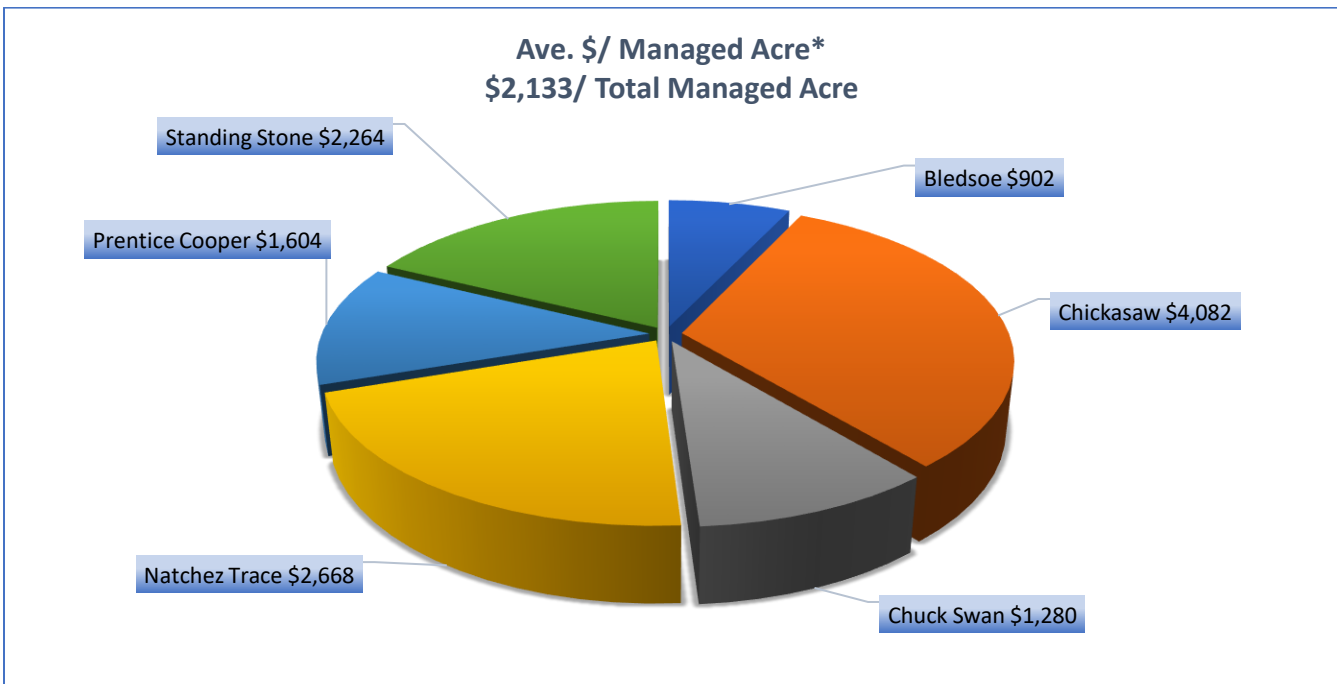


Figure 4. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest Average Value per managed acre* by state forest.

*Managed acres are for total stand area, including harvest area, SMZ and visual buffers.

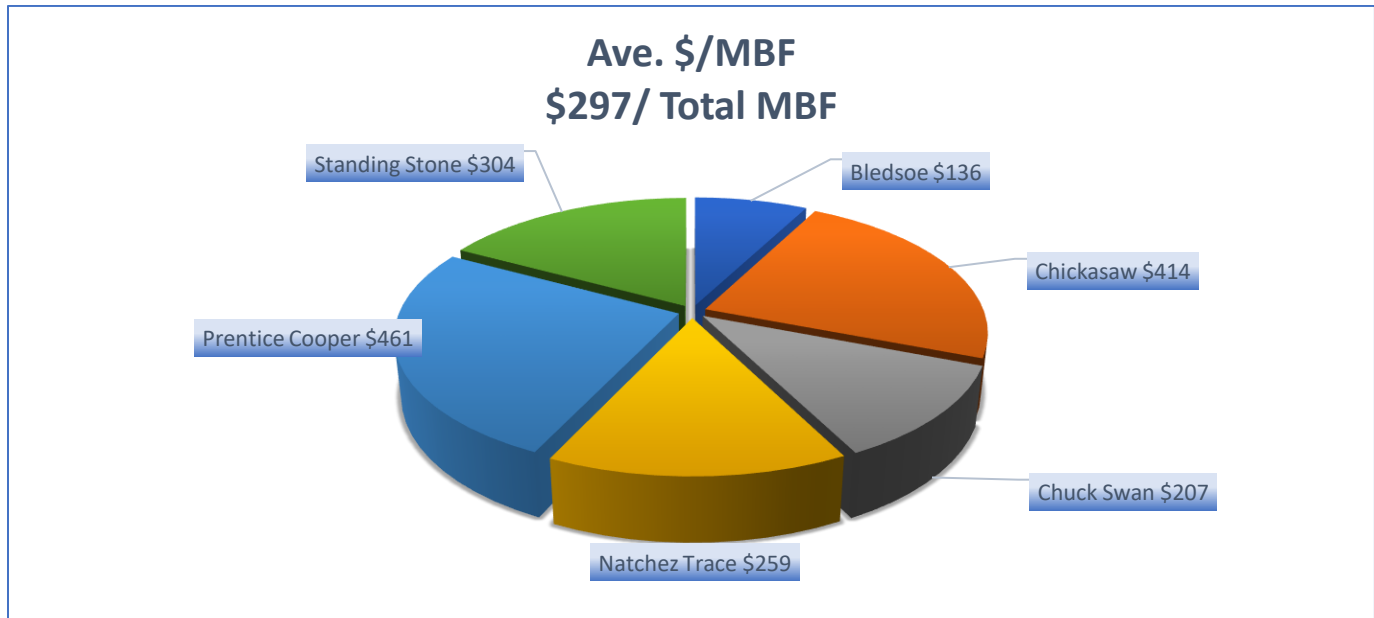


Figure 5. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest Average Value per Thousand Board Foot (MBF) of timber by state forest.

Table 2. Pine / Hardwood Sales summary by Forest (Figures 6-11)

Forest	\$Pine Sales	\$Hardwood Sales	\$/Acre Pine	\$/Acre Hardwood	\$/MBF Pine	\$/MBF Hardwood
Bledsoe	\$0.00	\$37,885.00	\$0.00	\$947.13	\$0.00	\$136.37
Chickasaw	\$138,060.00	\$479,664.00	\$3,451.50	\$4,239.18	\$223.80	\$461.07
Chuck Swan	\$0.00	\$365,454.00	\$0.00	\$1,415.82	\$0.00	\$206.84
Natchez Trace	\$282,985.00	\$807,496.08	\$1,959.32	\$3,785.50	\$147.78	\$327.75
Prentice Cooper	\$0.00	\$224,552.74	\$0.00	\$1,714.14	\$0.00	\$461.33
Standing Stone	\$0.00	\$151,675.00	\$0.00	\$3,297.28	\$0.00	\$304.50
Totals	\$421,045.00	\$2,066,726.82	\$2,705.41	\$2,566.51	\$185.79	\$316.31

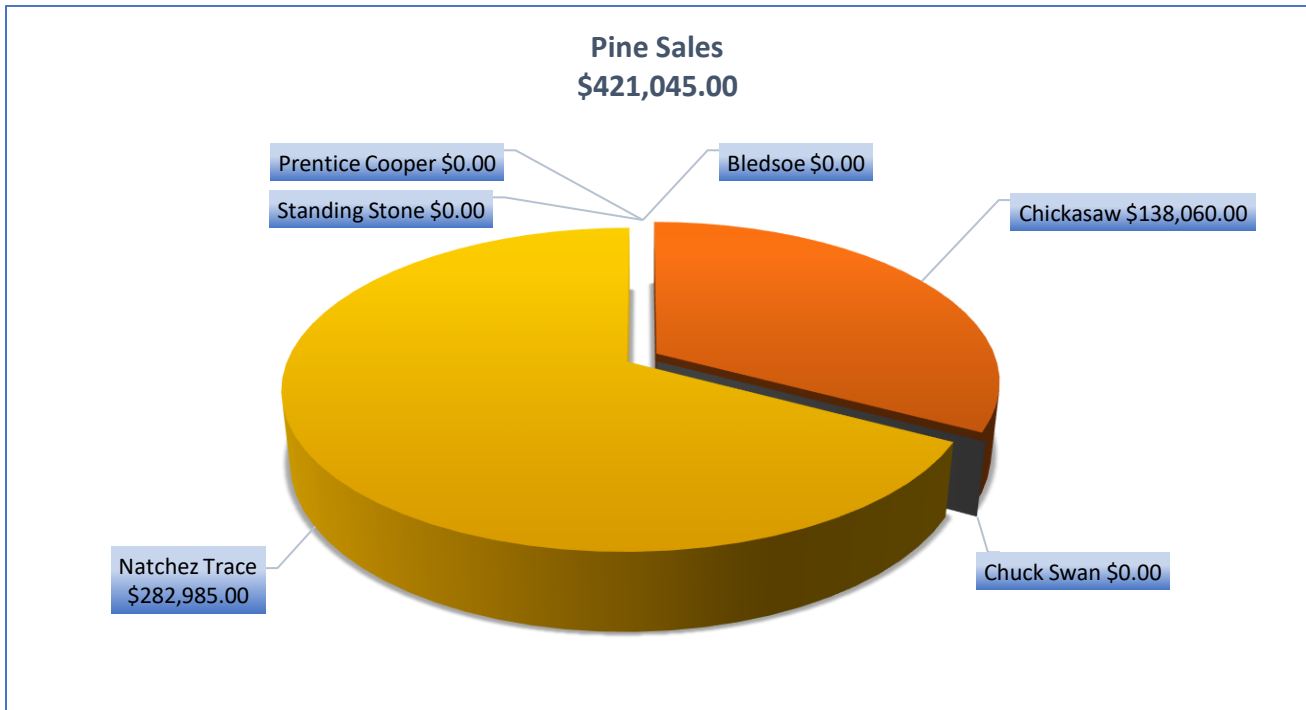


Figure 6. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest Pine Sales totals by state forest.

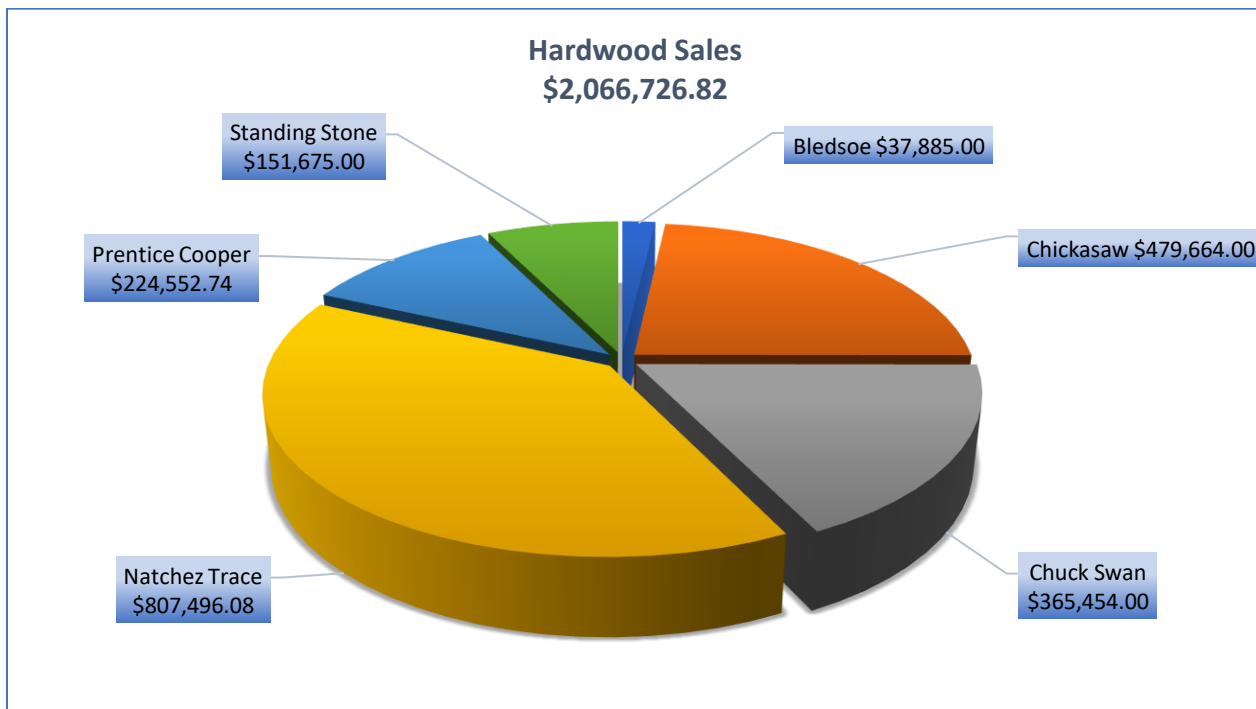


Figure 7. State fiscal year 2020 total state forest Hardwood Sales totals by state forest.

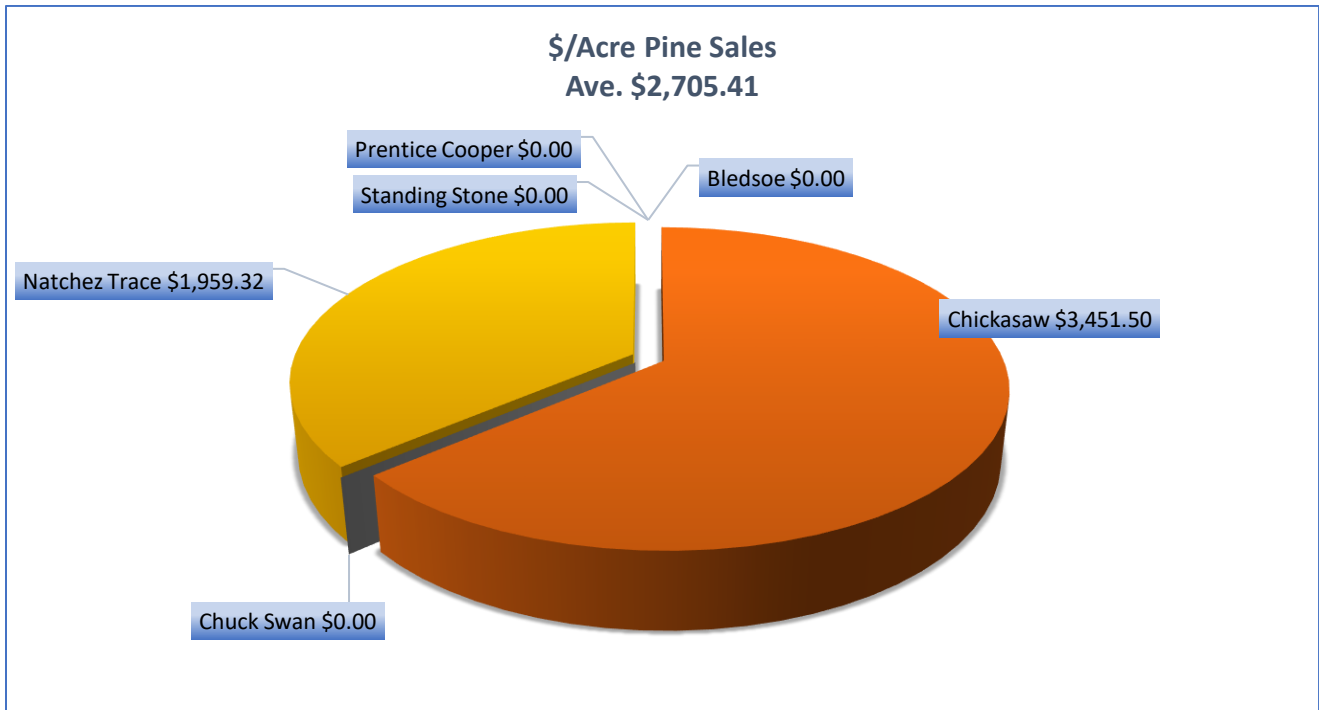


Figure 8. State fiscal year 2020 Average Value per Acre of Pine sales by state forest.

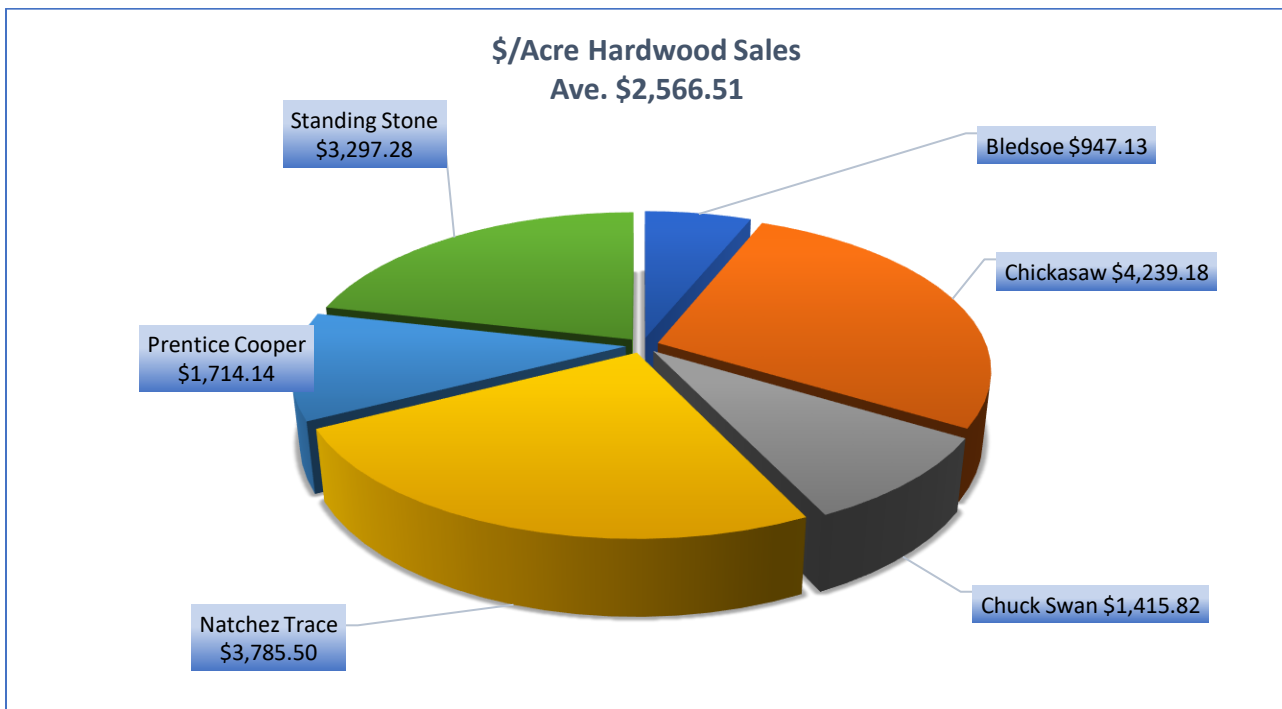


Figure 9. State fiscal year 2020 Average Value per Acre of Hardwood sales by state forest.

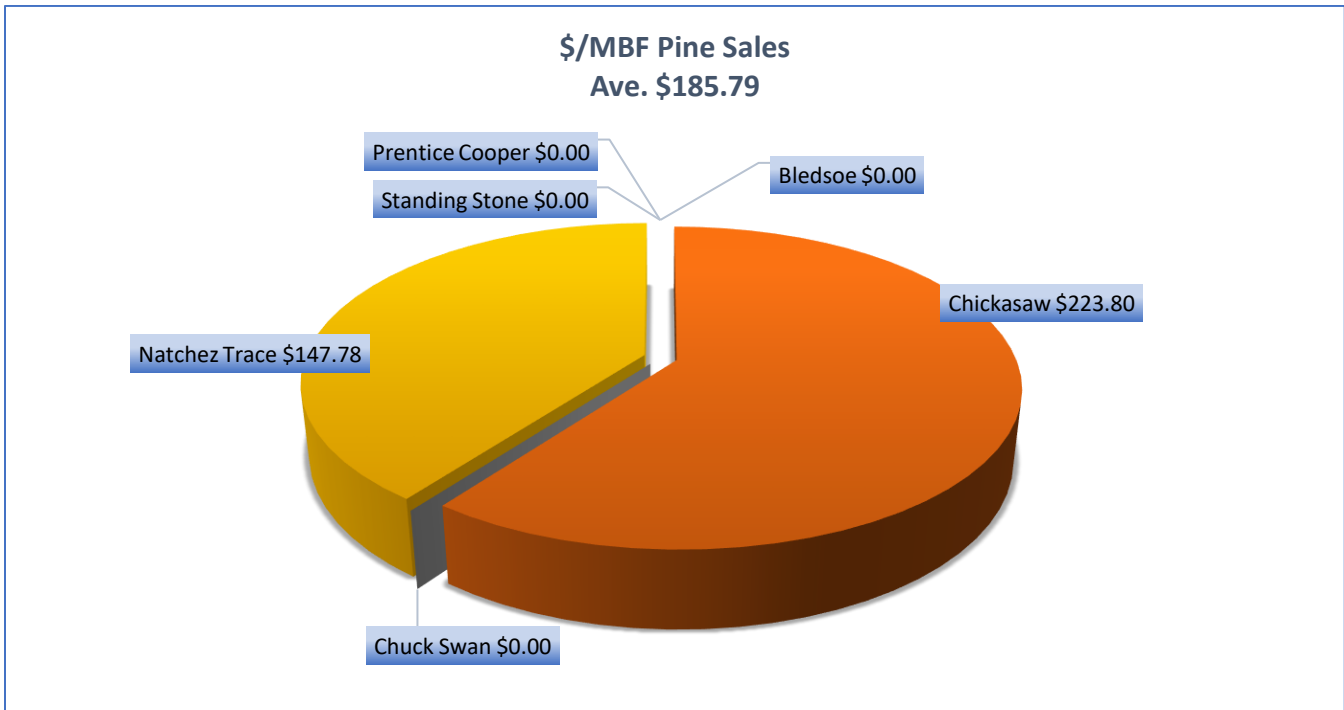


Figure 10. State fiscal year 2020 Average Value per Thousand Board Foot (MBF) of Pine sales by state forest

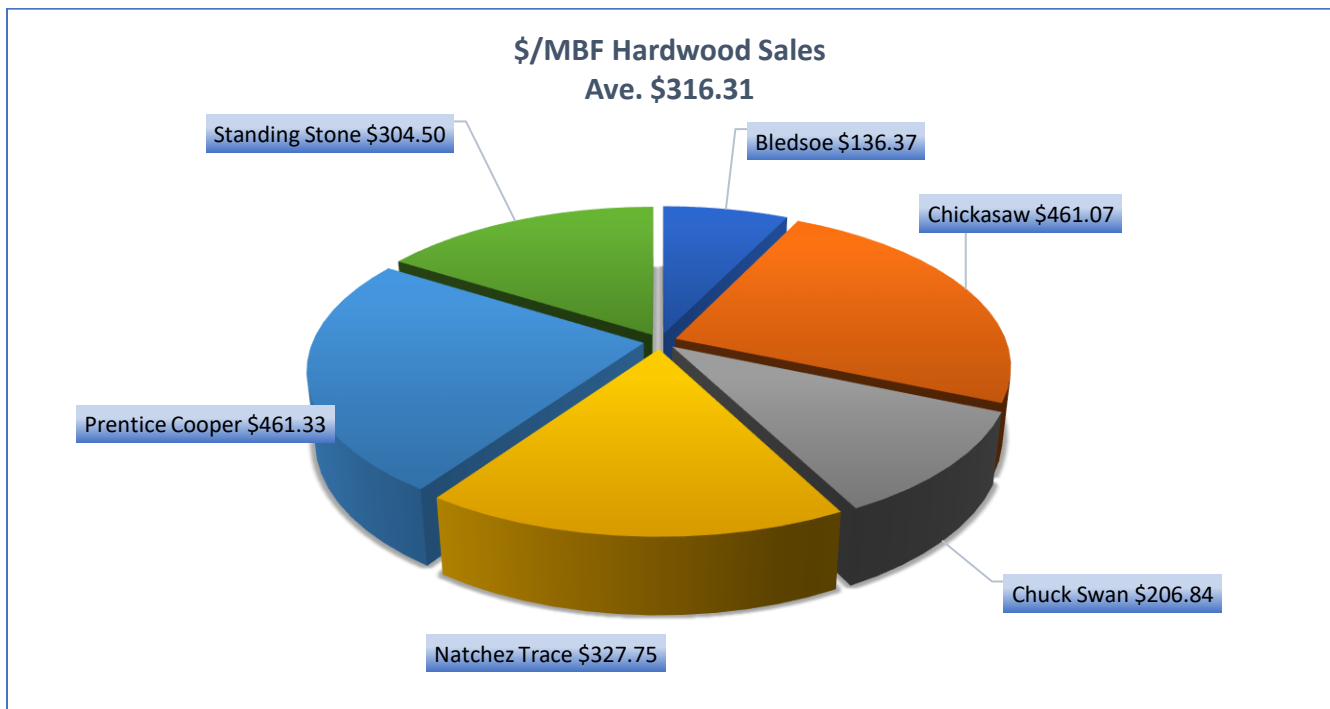


Figure 11. State fiscal year 2020 Average Value per Thousand Board Foot (MBF) of Hardwood sales by state forest



Table 3. Individual sale data by state forest.

State Forest	Sale Number	Total Sale Vol. Int.	Sale Revenue Total	Price / MBF	Price/ Harvest acre	Total Sale Harvest acres	Price/ Managed Acre*	Total Managed Acres*
Bledsoe	A-01-20-01	277,818	\$37,885	\$136	\$947	40	42	\$902
Chickasaw	A-03-20-02	339,469	\$151,800	\$447	\$3,795	40	40	\$3,795
Chickasaw	A-03-20-01	203,969	\$118,888	\$583	\$5,944	20	20	\$5,944
Chickasaw	A-03-20-05	257,354	\$141,088	\$548	\$4,703	30	30	\$4,703
Chickasaw	A-03-20-03	255,198	\$67,888	\$266	\$2,514	27	27	\$2,514
Chickasaw	A-03-20-04	616,884	\$138,060	\$224	\$3,452	40	40	\$3,452
Chuck Swan	A-04-20-01	332,256	\$62,392	\$188	\$1,095	57	61	\$1,023
Chuck Swan	A-04-20-02	652,390	\$147,500	\$226	\$1,695	87	94	\$1,569
Chuck Swan	A-04-20-03	424,427	\$104,000	\$245	\$2,080	50	56	\$1,857
Chuck Swan	A-04-20-04	306,099	\$51,562	\$168	\$793	65	77	\$670
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-02	392,985	\$148,088	\$377	\$3,085	48	59	\$2,510
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-05	214,742	\$34,777	\$162	\$1,932	18	21	\$1,656
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-08	349,591	\$73,177	\$209	\$3,659	20	20	\$3,659
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-09	466,662	\$69,777	\$150	\$2,114	33	38	\$1,836
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-06	292,280	\$124,008	\$424	\$5,637	22	29	\$4,276
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-03	416,063	\$73,254	\$176	\$1,980	37	47	\$1,559
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-04	328,350	\$144,088	\$439	\$5,337	27	34	\$4,238
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-07	151,375	\$57,385	\$379	\$3,826	15	20	\$2,869
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-10	452,743	\$94,808	\$209	\$2,788	34	38	\$2,495
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-01	287,768	\$131,088	\$456	\$5,699	23	23	\$5,699

Natchez Trace	A-09-20-13	372,579	\$38,177	\$102	\$1,005	38	44	\$868
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-11	502,833	\$75,177	\$150	\$1,748	43	43	\$1,748
Natchez Trace	A-09-20-12	208,304	\$26,677	\$128	\$1,270	21	21	\$1,270
Prentice Cooper	A-11-20-01	486,756	\$224,553	\$461	\$1,714	131	140	\$1,604
Standing Stone	A-13-20-01	498,116	\$151,675	\$304	\$3,297	46	67	\$2,264
Totals & Averages	25 sold	9,087,011	\$2,487,771.82	\$278	\$2,917	1,012	1,131	2,657

*Managed acres are for total stand area, including harvest area, SMZ and visual buffers.



MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Tennessee Forestry Commission, meeting in Nashville on the eighteenth day of September 2020, took the following action:

Upon a motion of Vice Chair Midyett, and seconded by Commissioner Witt, the following Resolution was presented.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee Forestry Commission wishes to recognize the life and contributions of TYLER WAKEFIELD to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry, and

WHEREAS, Tyler was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and attended the Pennsylvania State University. Tyler, upon graduation, came to Tennessee and became a valued employee of the Division of Forestry in May of 2015, and

WHEREAS, Tyler served as an Area Forester for DeKalb, Cannon, Warren, and Coffee Counties, where his leadership, and his service were greatly appreciated, and

WHEREAS, whether working with Tennessee forest landowners, with school children as an instructor at Forestry Camp, or with his fellow employees at the Division of Forestry, Tyler's love for the flora and fauna of the Cumberland Plateau region of Tennessee was always evident. Tyler became a true son of the Volunteer State, and

WHEREAS, Tyler loved nature and expressed his love by his dedication to the planting of trees, as well as to his planting of wildflowers to be enjoyed by his adopted community, and

WHEREAS, Tyler's contributions to the Division of Forestry and to his community and the people with whom he worked will live on and will continue to be appreciated.

By unanimous vote, the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Commission, this eighteenth day of September 2020.

Johnny Heard, Chair
Tennessee Forestry Commission

John Charles Wilson, Secretary
Tennessee Forestry Commission