STATE NEWS

March 25, 2009--AUSTIN, Texas--Texas Forest Service on Wednesday unveiled its first-ever statewide tree inventory, the results from which show the state is poised to take the lead in emerging alternative energy and ecosystem service markets.

The Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) initial report shows Texas has 60 million acres of forestland — more than any other state in the continental United States. Of that, 12 million is located in the Piney Woods of East Texas with the remaining acreage spread across the state. (Entire story may be found in the TFS Newsroom http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/default.aspx?dept=news.)

NATIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON, March 11 (UPI) -- Drought worries intensified as a U.S. meteorologist said January and February were the driest first two months of a year ever recorded in the United States.

Richard Helm of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration told USA Today that the average rainfall in the U.S. during January and February was a sparse 2.69 inches, the lowest average since NOAA began keeping records in 1895.

About seven percent of the nation is considered to be in a drought, and while that pales to the roughly two-thirds of the country affected during the Dust Bowl days, it is enough to worry agriculture and wildfire experts.

Among the problems spots, according to NOAA, are South Florida's dwindling water table, and the below-average mountain snowpack in California and Texas, where pastures and fields are too dry to support spring grazing and planting.

Meanwhile, parts of the Midwest Corn Belt in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and Missouri were dealing with flooding this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Fires</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Structures Lost</th>
<th>Structures Saved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/09-3/31/09</td>
<td>5,717</td>
<td>185,948</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>4,416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/08-12/31/08</td>
<td>18,390</td>
<td>1,582 million</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>14,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/5/05-9/16/06*</td>
<td>29,141</td>
<td>2.26 million</td>
<td>2,054</td>
<td>34,756</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2005/2006 winter fire season (Jan. 1, 2005 to Sept. 18, 2006)
(Texas Forest Service-including all reporting agencies www.tamu.edu/ticc/predictive_services/tx_sitreport.pdf)

Compiled by:
Texas Forest Service
Urban Wildland Interface Program for Wildfire Volunteers

Prepared by:
Texas Forest Service

National Wildfire Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Period</th>
<th>Fires</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/09 to 3/20/09</td>
<td>18,484</td>
<td>469,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/08 to 3/20/08</td>
<td>8,672</td>
<td>461,352</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Interagency Fire Agency www.nifc.gov/fire_info/nfn.htm
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the March 2009 Ft. Davis CWES graduates. Mountainous terrain, volatile vegetation and frequent dry lightning often increase wildfire risks in the Davis Mountains. Paul Van Tine, a CWES graduate, exhibits his passion for the area in his photos posted at www.davis-mountains.com.

Congratulations to Los Venados in achieving their Firewise/USA status. Los Venados is a 3,800-acre ranch community with 276 home lots that range between five and 10 acres each. There are approximately 50 families living in Los Venados and new residences are being built.

The Texas Forest Service Mitigation/Prevention team hosted a Firewise Volunteer Workshop at the YO Ranch Resort Hotel in Kerrville, Texas, March 24. TFS staff Mike Dunivan, fire analyst I; PJ Pearson, wildland urban interface specialist; Rich Gray, mitigation and prevention coordinator; Sandra Taylor, fire prevention specialist; and Jan Fulkerson, wildland urban interface specialist presented an array of information used for fire prediction, preparation and prevention. Attendees ranged from Firewise Communities/USA committee members, volunteer fire department members, camp managers and concerned citizens. Due to the active wildfire season, several citizens from the area attended to learn more about Firewise Communities/USA. The information prompted several citizens from the non-Firewise communities to take action by making appointments for initial Firewise assessments.

Abilene AgriLife Extension office hosted Landscape Options to Protect Your Home and Property on March 11. Melissa Clifton Sturdivant, extension horticulturist; Randy Turner, KRBC Chief Meteorologist; and PJ Pearson, TFS wildland urban interface specialist offered Firewise techniques and tips. Aware that West Texas wildfires are an all-too-common occurrence, area residents braved the cold and rain to learn how to protect their homes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CWES Class
July 18 & 19 (Classroom 8 a.m.)
August 22 (Field Trip 8 a.m.)
Davis Mountains Resort VFD, Limpia Canyon, Ft. Davis, Texas
Registration fee $50. For more information, contact: Jan Fulkerson, TFS WUI specialist (979-220-1010 jfulkerson@tfs.tamu.edu) or Lexi Maxwell, TFS WUI specialist (512-321-2467 ext. 2 lmaxwell@tfs.tamu.edu).