

Mississippi Post-Hurricane Katrina Biomass Summit



Presentation to the
2006 Small Wood Conference
May 16-18, 2006
Richmond, VA



The Damage





Salt Kill Up to 20 Miles Inland





Multiple Stakeholders

- MS Forestry Commission
- US EPA Washington DC
- MS Dept of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
- MS Dept of Agriculture & Commerce (MDAC)
- USDA Forest Service
- MS Development Authority
- US Dept of Interior
- MS Technology Alliance
- MS State University
- America's Fund for Communities
- FEMA
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- Gulf Coast Community Fund
- LA State University
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Primary Power
- Vinoski & Associates
- Garick



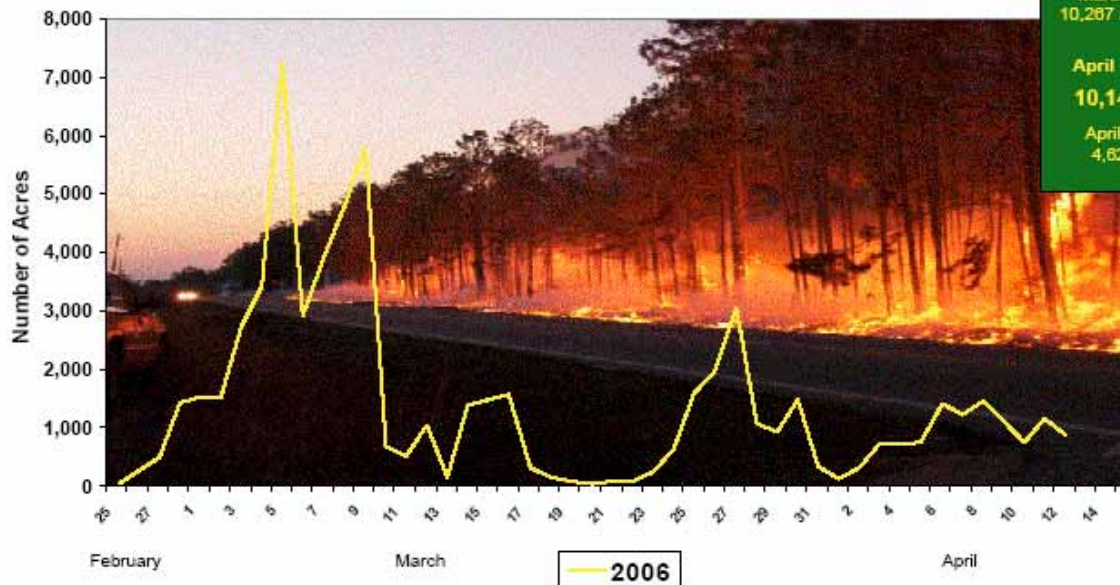
Summit Main Goals

- Goal 1 Reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires and help forest recovery from the storm.
- Goal 2 Identify a plan for long-term recovery of forest economics in MS, including developing diverse markets for woody biomass.
- Goal 3 Divert woody biomass from landfills.

Catastrophic Wildfires



Mississippi Wildfire Activity
Statewide Number of Acres Burned



Last day with no wildfires:
February 25, 2006

March 2006
43,253 acres
March Average
10,287 acres/month

April 1-12, 2006
10,146 acres
April Average
4,624 acres

Annual Average: 2,800 wildfires / 38,000 acres July 2005 to April 12, 2006: 4,902 wildfires / 100,152 acres

Source: Fire reports, Mississippi Forestry Commission.



Four Break-out Groups

- **Removal of Biomass and Recovery of the Forest** – including logistics, planning, contracts, harvesting, transportation, storage.
- **Market Development for Biomass** – including all potential uses (for both forest products and source separated wood waste), short term, long term, new and existing technologies.
- **Economics & Incentives** – including financial assistance, land owner assistance, regulatory, storage.
- **Long-term Recovery** – including economics, infrastructure, sustainable technology, social aspects, biologic considerations.



26 New Wet Yards





Main Accomplishments to Date

- Governors Report to Congress – State of the Forest of Mississippi.
- \$909 Million appropriated for forest recovery through NRCS & FSA
- \$30 Million to State Agencies to increase capacity to respond.
- Programs to include funding for clean up of downed timber, construction of fire breaks & prescribed burning, site prep & reforestation, recovery payments.
- 15% Salvaged for traditional forest markets.



Challenges For Action

- 1.3 Million acres of forest land damaged.
- 3.2 billion board feet of timber on the ground.
- Forest fuel loading normally runs around 5 tons per acre, heavily impacted counties now have up to 60 tons per acre.
- Additionally 20 Million cubic yards of vegetative debris.
- 181 Cities, Towns, Communities impacted damaging 2.7 million urban, city & street trees.



Planned Actions

- Continue Salvage Operations
- MS Institute for Forest Inventory (MIFI) continue state wide inventory and re-inventory of impacted area
- Partner with NRCS-FSA, Farm Bureau, MSU Cooperative Extension Service, MFA, MS Soil & Water Conservation Districts, to develop a comprehensive education & communication campaign aimed at landowners, contractors, and the public.
- Work with MS Development Authority to develop incentives to attract woody biomass industries.
- Develop a fire prevention campaign & utilize supplemental funding to purchase larger fire fighting equipment.
- Develop an Urban recovery strategy to prepare urban management plans and provide grant funds for recovery.
- Work with the State Fire Marshals Office to develop county fire prevention plans in the impacted counties, through the VFD's



Providing healthy forests for today and tomorrow.

That's the goal of the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

A healthy forest provides
clean water and clean air.

Healthy forests provide healthy habitats for wildlife
and great recreation for people.

Mississippi's healthy forests also provide the forest products
we need, whether it's wood for our homes
or paper for the books used to educate our children.

The Mississippi Forestry Commission . . .

Caring for the trees and forests of Mississippi.

www.mfc.state.ms.us

