

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**AGRICULTURE**  
**Senator Montford, Chair**  
**Senator Dean, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon  
**PLACE:** 301 Senate Office Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Montford, Chair; Senator Dean, Vice Chair; Senators Bullard, Galvano, Garcia, Grimsley, and Sobel

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TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentation by Jim Karels, Director of the Florida Forest Service		Presented
2	Presentation by Agritourism Operators		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			

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# Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

## **Senate Agriculture Committee November 17, 2015**

Sen. Bill Montford, Chair

Jim Karels, Director,  
Florida Forest Service



**Mission:** To protect and manage the forest resources of the state, ensuring they are available for future generations.

## Land Management Activities:

- Prescribed Fire
- Reforestation & Forest Products
- Grazing
- Invasive Species
- Recreation & Public Access Improvement



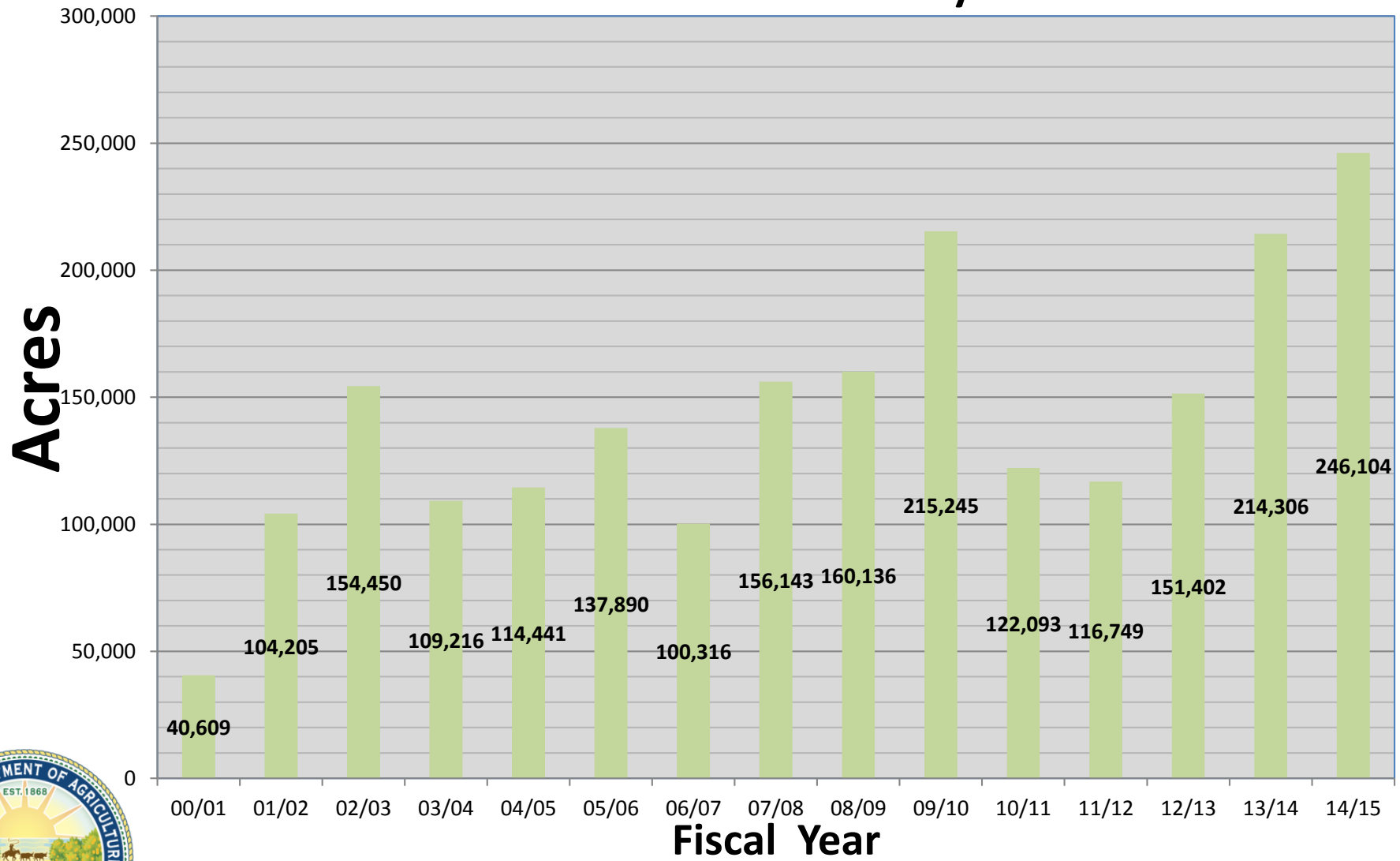
# Prescribed Fire



# Prescribed Fire



## Total Acres Burned on State Forests by Fiscal Year





# Reforestation



**In the last 10 years, the FFS planted an average of 5,800 acres of pine**





# Forest Products



**In the last 10 years more than \$65 million in revenue has been generated by properly managing the forest products in our state forests**





# Grazing on State Forest Lands





# Treatment of Invasive Species





# Recreation & Public Access





# Land Management Funding

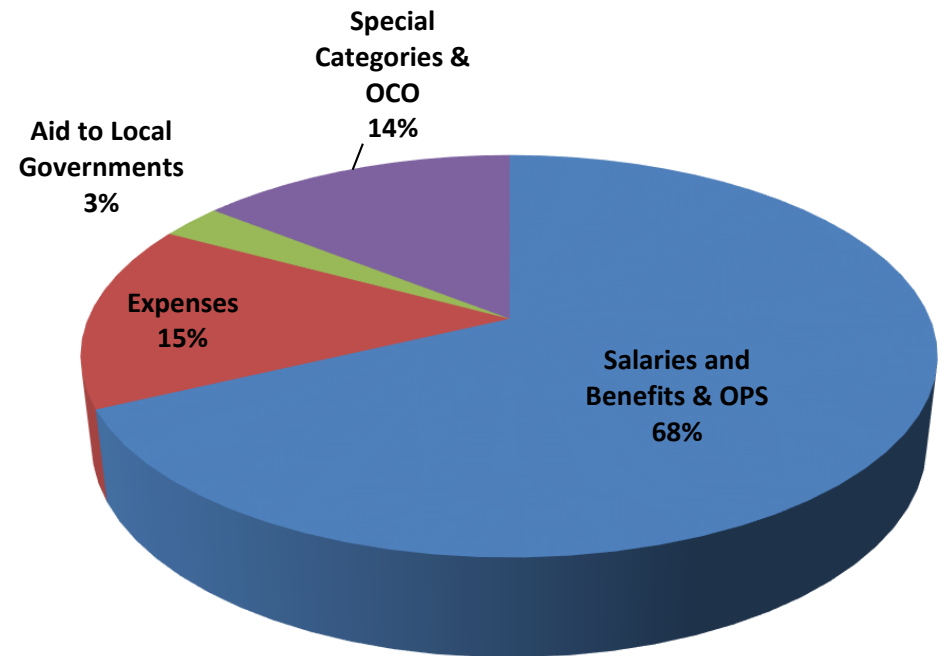
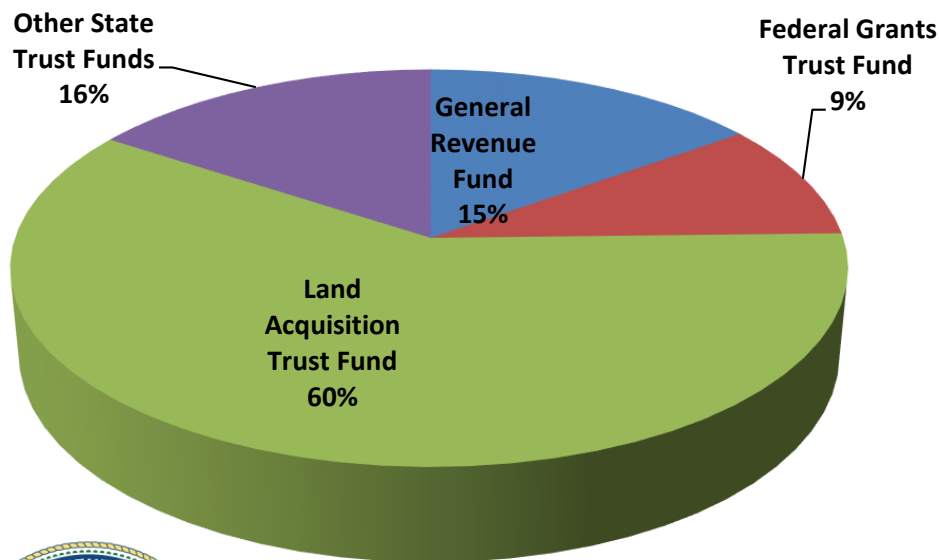


**Florida Forest Service Base Budget by Fund Source**

Fund Source	Base Budget
General Revenue Fund	14,551,498
Federal Grants Trust Fund	9,214,548
Land Acquisition Trust Fund	57,559,152
Other State Trust Funds	15,217,892
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,543,090</b>

**Florida Forest Service Base Budget by Category**

Appropriation Category	Base Budget
Salaries and Benefits	63,734,087
Other Personal Services	1,847,061
Expenses	14,453,061
Aid to Local Governments	2,690,890
Operating Capital Outlay	850,074
Special Categories	12,967,917
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,543,090</b>



# Florida Forest Service Legislative Budget Request



## Issues Include:

- \$2.4 million in General Revenue funding to provide pay increases to our certified firefighter and fire support positions.
- \$5.9 million in Trust funding for firefighting equipment and \$671,000 in General Revenue funding to replace a 1970 fixed wing aircraft.
- \$600,000 in General Revenue funding to replace 240 mobile communication radios.





# Legislative Budget Request Continued



- \$25 million in Trust funding to support the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.
- \$5.8 million in Trust funding for maintenance and repairs of state forest facilities, roads and bridges.
- \$3 million in Trust funding to support reforestation projects on private lands in North Florida.
- \$1 million in Trust funding for additional prescribed fire assistance on public conservation lands.





# Questions?



Florida Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services

**Jim Karels, Director**  
Florida Forest Service



THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Nov. 17, 2015  
Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Florida Forest Service

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jim Karels

Job Title State Forester

Address PL 10 The Capitol  
Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399  
City State Zip

Phone 850 617 7700

Email jim.karels@freshfromflorida.com

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FL Dept. of Agriculture + Consumer Services

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**



(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

11-17-15

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Agritourism

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Libbie Johnson

Job Title UF/IFAS Extension Escambia Co.

Address 3740 Stefani Road

Phone 850.475.5230

Street

Cantonment FL 32533

City

State

Zip

Email libbiej@ufl.edu

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FL Agritourism Association

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

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THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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11-17-15

Meeting Date

  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Agritourism

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Blake Thaxton

Job Title Commercial Horticulture Agent

Address 4920 Pineview Ridge Rd.  
Street

Phone 850-449-2120

Pace FL 32571  
City State Zip

Email bthaxton@ufl.edu

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Agritourism Association

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

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THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

11/17/2015

Meeting Date



Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Agritourism

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Trent Mathews

Job Title SweetSeason Farms (Farmer)

Address 2260 Horn Rd  
Street

Phone (850)686-5511

Milton FL 32570  
City State Zip

Email ssfcom@maze@aol.com

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FL Agritourism ASS.

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

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THE FLORIDA SENATE  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

Nov 17, 2016  
Meeting Date

✓  
Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Agritourism

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ben Parks

Job Title Exec. Director, Florida Agritourism Assoc

Address 6279 Whetstone Ln.

Phone 850-559-1155

Street  
Tallahassee FL 32312  
City State Zip

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking:  For  Against  Information

Waive Speaking:  In Support  Against  
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Agritourism Assoc.

Appearing at request of Chair:  Yes  No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature:  Yes  No

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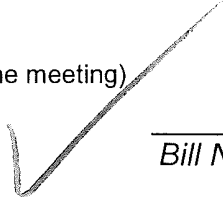
THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

11/12/2015

Meeting Date



Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Agricultural Tourism

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Homer Hunt

Job Title President

Address P.O. Box 506

Phone 850-593-6905

Street Sneads Ferry State 32460 Zip

Email huntfam@gmail.com



Speaking: For Against Information

Waive Speaking: In Support Against (The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing RiverWay South

Appearing at request of Chair: Yes No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: Yes No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities, *Chair*  
Agriculture  
Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Health  
and Human Services  
Health Policy  
Transportation

**JOINT COMMITTEES:**  
Joint Administrative Procedures Committee,  
*Alternating Chair*  
Joint Legislative Budget Commission

**SENATOR DENISE GRIMSLEY**

*Deputy Majority Leader*  
21st District

November 10, 2015

The Honorable Bill Montford, Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture  
335 Knott Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman Montford:

I respectfully request to be excused from the Agriculture Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 due to a previous commitment in the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Grimsley".

Denise Grimsley  
State Senate, District 21

cc: Katherine Becker, Staff Director  
Lauren Zaugg, Committee Administrative Assistant

REPLY TO:

- 205 South Commerce Avenue, Suite A, Sebring, Florida 33870 (863) 386-6016
- 212 East Stuart Avenue, Lake Wales, Florida 33853 (863) 679-4847
- 306 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5021

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

### COMMITTEES:

Agriculture  
Appropriations  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Education  
Education Pre-K - 12  
Health Policy  
Rules

### JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

### SENATOR BILL GALVANO

*Majority Leader*  
26th District

November 17, 2015

Senator Bill Montford  
335 Knott Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Montford:

I am writing to request approval to be excused from the Committee on Agriculture meeting scheduled for today, November 17, 2015.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Galvano".

Bill Galvano

cc: Katherine Becker  
Laureen Zaugg

### REPLY TO:

- 1023 Manatee Avenue West, Suite 201, Bradenton, Florida 34205 (941) 741-3401
- 330 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5026

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore

# CourtSmart Tag Report

**Room:** SB 301

**Case No.:**

**Type:**

**Caption:** Senate Agriculture Committee

**Judge:**

**Started:** 11/17/2015 10:05:07 AM

**Ends:** 11/17/2015 11:47:29 AM      **Length:** 01:42:23

**10:05:22 AM** Meeting called to order by Chairman  
**10:05:30 AM** Quorum present  
**10:53:35 AM** Presentation by Jim Karels, Director, Florida Forest Service  
**10:57:10 AM** Presentation by Libbie Johnson, UF/FAS Extension - Escambia County  
**11:02:41 AM** Blake Thaxton - Commercial Horticulture Agent-FL Agritourism Assn.  
**11:27:05 AM** Trent Mathews, Farmer, SweetSeason Farms  
**11:34:32 AM** Ben Parks, Executive Director, FL Agritourism Assoc.  
**11:46:02 AM** Homer Hirt, President, Riverway South  
**11:47:14 AM** Remarks by Chairman on Citrus greening  
**11:47:20 AM** Meeting adjourned