



OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2018

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MS Forestry Commission Deploys GIS Specialist to Support California Wildfire

JACKSON, Miss. (July 30, 2018) – The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) deployed one Geographic Information Systems Specialist (GISS) Trainee to Northern California. This individual will serve on an interagency incident management team, supporting efforts to suppress the Whaleback Fire by collecting field data and producing maps and other geographic information system (GIS) products necessary for daily use at the command center and in the field. Their name will be released upon their safe return to Mississippi in approximately two weeks.

“The wildfire maps and other geographic information system data our employee will assist in providing are invaluable tools that aid in situational awareness and tactical decision-making. This data will be used by the incident management team and wildland firefighters to help them suppress the Whaleback fire,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. “We appreciate our employee taking part in these efforts to help our state and federal partners in California and look forward to their safe return home in approximately two weeks.”

The Whaleback fire in California has burned approximately 14,098 acres and is 20 percent contained, according to reports released on July 30, 2018.

To learn more about the Mississippi Forestry Commission, please visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media: [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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About the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Established in 1926, the [Mississippi Forestry Commission](#) (MFC) protects the state’s valuable 19.8 million acres of forestland from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy. Mississippi's forestry and forest products industries have a \$12.79 billion economic impact and employ almost 70,000 people. Forestry consistently ranks as the state’s second most valuable agricultural commodity, right behind the poultry industry. The MFC looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi’s trees, forests, and natural resources.