

## *A Success Story:* **Post Hurricane Hugo Recovery**

On September 21, 1989, Hurricane Hugo struck South Carolina and dealt a severe blow to the state's timberlands and forest industry. A Forest Disaster was declared by Gov. Carroll A. Campbell who signed an Executive Order creating the Governor's Forest Disaster Salvage Council. Its mission was to salvage as much damaged timber as possible and to assist landowners in restoring and rebuilding forests devastated by the storm.

Here are highlights of the recovery as reported by the SC Forestry Commission. Today, there is:

- 19,509,396 thousand cubic feet of growing stock on SC timberlands. This is ten percent (10%) more than was present before Hugo.
- Nineteen percent (19%) more softwood volume than prior to Hugo and one percent (1%) more hardwood volume.
- 67,988,281 thousand board feet of sawtimber on SC timberlands. This is twelve percent (12%) more sawtimber volume than before Hugo.
- Eleven percent (11%) more softwood sawtimber volume and thirteen percent (13%) more hardwood sawtimber volume.
- Growth/harvest ratio of 1.50 overall (1.37 for softwoods and 1.97 for hardwoods) which indicates SC forests are growing approximately 33% more softwood volume than is harvested annually and twice as much hardwood volume as harvested annually. Growth/drain ratios before Hugo were much lower; 1.1 overall (0.98 for softwoods and 1.45 for hardwoods). Total removals have increased roughly twenty-five percent (25%) from before Hugo.
- Just over 5 billion growing stock trees which is slightly higher than before Hugo.
- An increase in longleaf pines from 100 million to 133 million.
- An increase in loblolly pines from 1.3 billion to 2.1 billion.
- Approximately 16 million green tons of wood biomass currently available.