

Trees: A Valuable Resource To South Carolina

Trees, a renewable resource, are environmentally beneficial and economically necessary to the Palmetto state and its citizens.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Forestry is number one among manufacturers.

- Jobs: Over 90,000
- Payroll: \$4.1 billion

Forestry:

- Generates \$1 billion in exports
- Is SC's number one commodity at \$784 million



The total economic impact of SC's forest products industry is over \$17 billion.

FOREST AREA & OWNERSHIP

South Carolina's 13.1 million acres of forestland is:

- 88% privately owned
- 67% of those private forests are family owned

The average family forest is 65 acres.

- 74% of these owners live on their land



68% of South Carolina is forested.

BENEFITS TO THE STATE & ITS CITIZENS

South Carolina's forests produce timber and jobs while providing:

- Clean air and water
- Soil protection
- Wildlife habitat
- Recreation
- Carbon storage
- Beautiful landscapes



SC forests provide clean water and other important benefits.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Forests are not created overnight. For decades, South Carolina family forest owners, foresters, and others in the forestry community have grown, nurtured, and protected the forest resource.

A vital component of sustainable forestry is the wise use of resources to meet society's needs, while not jeopardizing the future.

Our 13.1 million acres of forests need protection from wildfire and other threats. The complex raw material supply chain -- including management planning, silviculture, wood procurement, mill processing, right through to transport of the final product to the customer -- needs to be supported by policy makers and competitiveness initiatives.

Providing protection from wildfire is becoming increasingly challenging. Budget cuts of over 46% since 2008 have made it difficult to maintain reliable equipment and adequate staffing -- placing citizens, property, wildlife and more at risk.

Policies and legislation that support SC's valuable forest resource, and stakeholders, are vitally important. So too is ensuring funding for education, programs, and services that assist landowners and further strengthen the industry.



TREE FARMERS CARE FOR AMERICA'S FORESTS



The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide community of nearly 90,473 individuals and families joined by their desire for excellence in forest stewardship. They share a unique commitment: to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, to conserve soil and provide recreation for their neighbors and produce the wood America needs to grow.

For more information about the Tree Farm Program, visit www.treefarmssystem.org or www.sctfs.org.

In 2011, the
South Carolina Tree Farm Program
proudly celebrates its
65th Anniversary.

