

A large stack of cut logs is shown on the left side of the page, with the text "\$21 Billion" overlaid in large yellow font.

# \$21 Billion

Total economic impact of South Carolina's FOREST industry is \$21 Billion annually.

Snapshot of

# SOUTH CAROLINA'S FORESTS

## FOREST AREA

- South Carolina has 13 million acres of forestland -- 67% of the state's total land area.
- Hardwood timber types occupy over 52% of the state's forestland. Softwoods occupy 48%.
- South Carolina's forestland acreage has averaged 12.6 million acres since 1968.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Forestry is number one among manufacturing industries in jobs (84,000+) and labor income.
- Total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is \$21 billion annually.
- South Carolina exports \$1.27 billion in forest products each year.
- Timber is the state's number one harvested crop at \$759 million annually.

## FOREST OWNERSHIP

- 88% of South Carolina's forests are privately owned.
- 63% of private forests are family-owned.
- The average "family forest" is 80 acres. 56% of these owners live on the land.
- Forest industries own 137,400 acres, down 93% since 2001 and continuing to decline.
- Public agencies manage 12% of South Carolina's forests.

## FOREST INVENTORY

- South Carolina's forests now contain 25 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century.
- The state's forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing more wood than is being harvested.
- Net annual softwood growth is double the growth rate of 30 years ago. The present annual growth of 935 million cubic feet per year is the highest recorded.
- Net annual hardwood growth rates have steadily increased since Hurricane Hugo. The present annual growth of 321 million cubic feet per year is 39% above pre-Hugo levels.

## ALSO OF INTEREST

- SC's Best Management Practices for Forestry successfully protect water quality with 97% compliance.
- Over 439,000 acres are enrolled in the SC Tree Farm Program.

*Information provided by SC Forestry Commission and USDA Forest Service. For more about the state's forest resource, contact the SC Forestry Commission at 803/896-8800 or [www.trees.sc.gov](http://www.trees.sc.gov).*

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