

A large stack of cut logs is shown on the left side of the page, with the text overlaid on it.

**\$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.

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