

South Carolina

Tree Farm

Stewardship of the land...



South Carolina's Tree Farm program consists of a community of individuals and families representing nearly one million acres of private forestland in the Palmetto State. Tree Farmers are joined by their desire for excellence in forest stewardship. They share a commitment: to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, to conserve soil and provide outdoor recreation for their neighbors and to produce the wood our state and nation needs to grow.

For more information: www.sctfs.org
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SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY FACTS

Economic Impact

- Forestry is number one among manufacturing industries in jobs (over 90,000) and payroll (\$4.1 billion).
- Total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is about \$17.4 billion annually.
- Timber is the state's number one cash crop at around \$759 million annually.

Forest Ownership

- South Carolina has 13.1 million acres of forestland.
- 88% of South Carolina's forests are privately owned.
- 92% of wood harvested comes from private land.



Issues & Opportunities

Protecting Forest Landowners From Trespassers: South Carolina's current law provides that landowners owe no duty of care to trespassers except in very narrowly defined exceptions. The American Law Institute is recommending that courts impose a duty on landowners to exercise reasonable care for unwanted trespassers.

SC Tree Farmers support House Bill 3266 by Rep. Davey Hiott to codify the traditional common law rules governing trespassing in South Carolina. H.3266 passed the House on Feb. 5, 2015 and is pending in the Senate.

Infrastructure Funding (Bridges and Secondary Roads): There are 400 load restricted bridges in South Carolina. These restricted bridges force forest industry trucks to be re-routed resulting in higher transportation costs and lower wood prices for landowners. Many of the secondary roads that the forest industry uses need resurfacing to help move logs and wood products safely and efficiently.

Endangered Species State Listing Initiative: Need funding for DNR's Endangered Species State Listing Initiative to monitor and manage certain species in an attempt to keep these species from being listed as endangered or threatened under federal law, protecting landowners from onerous federal regulations.

State Budget: South Carolina Tree Farmers support the budget requests for the SC Forestry Commission, Clemson Public Service Activities, and the SC Department of Natural Resources.