SOUTHERN FORESTS

245 - MILLION ACRES

86% PRIVATELY OWNED

FORESTS OF THE SOUTH
are owned primarily by private landowners, making it the nation's stronghold for private forest ownership.

WATER RESOURCES

56% OF SOUTHERN FRESH WATER RESOURCES originate from forests that cover over 45% of the region.

PRODUCTS

THE SOUTHERN U.S. IS KNOWN FOR ITS HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE FORESTS

The 13 Southern states contain some of the most productive forestlands in the world and provide for over 18 percent of the world’s pulpwood for paper and paper-related products and 7 percent of its industrial roundwood.

SOUTHERN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROB FARRELL
Virginia Department of Forestry
Chair

MARK GOELLER
Oklahoma Forestry Services
Vice Chair

DAVID ARNOLD
Tennessee Department of Agriculture - Division of Forestry
Treasurer

SCOTT PHILLIPS
South Carolina Forestry Commission
Immediate Past Chair

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SUSTAINING AND CONSERVING ONE OF AMERICA’S MOST TREASURED RESOURCES
OUR WORK

- Promote sound forest management practices that conserve the South’s vast and diverse forest resources.
- Facilitate regional consistency on critical activities, such as wildlife suppression, water resource protection, insect and disease prevention and suppression, and reforestation.
- Coordinate state delivery of federally funded forest landowner assistance programs.
- Advocate for adequate funding to support the implementation of state and federally funded forestry programs.
- Support research that enhances the sustainable management of private forestland.
- Promote prescribed burning and fire prevention assistance, fire-related law enforcement, timber theft investigations, and assistance to volunteer fire departments.
- Promote programs that improve forest health including prevention, detection and suppression of wildfire, diseases and insect infestations.
- Provide response and recovery assistance for disasters, such as hurricanes and tornados.
- Encourage the development and maintenance of diverse and dynamic markets for forest products.
- Promote programs and initiatives that encourage the retention and expansion of forestland for public as well as private sector.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT FOR THE WORLD’S WOOD BASKET

As a coalition of forestry agencies in 13 southern U.S. states and two territories, the mission of the Southern Group of State Foresters is to provide leadership in sustaining the economic, environmental and social benefits of the South’s forests.

Our goal is to ensure the growth of healthy forests through good management, so we work together to identify and address existing and emerging issues and challenges that are important to southern forests and citizens.

SGSF MEMBER STATES

SOUTHERN GROUP OF STATE FORESTERS
SOUTHERNFORESTS.ORG