

Regional Extension Forestry

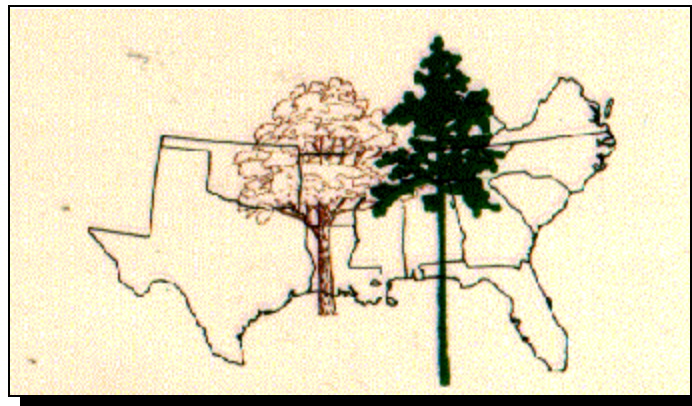
Annual Report

January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997

and

Plan of Work

January 1, 1998 to December 31, 1998



with

Monthly Activity Reports for 1997

for

William G. Hubbard

Southern Regional Extension Forester

prepared January 30, 1998

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Annual Report

January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1997

William G. Hubbard

Southern Regional Extension Forester

Goal of the Southern Region Extension Forestry Position:

To facilitate forest resources and utilization education to a variety of clientele through the Cooperative Extension System, the Forest Service, and other members of the forestry community (as stated in the Cooperative Agreement between the USDA-FS and the Cooperative Extension System Southern Region - Appendix A).

Introduction:

This position was originally created in 1979 and remains primarily a liaison role with the USDA Forest Service and the thirteen Forest Resources Units in the South. It also has evolved into a representation, promotion and communication role with the forestry and natural resource communities regionally and nationally. In 1979, a cooperative agreement between the thirteen 1862 Southern Land-Grant institutions and the USDA Forest Service was signed. This document will be used as the basis to judge the degree of success the Regional Extension Forester has had in accomplishing the terms of the Agreement (Appendix A). From the 16 duties and responsibilities outlined in this Agreement four Objectives have been outlined. These are explained in detail in the following section. Each activity outlined in the Monthly Activity Reports will be associated with one or more of these objectives. In addition, a fifth objective has been added to account for administrative and miscellaneous details associated with the position.

In addition, there are numerous other activities that will be highlighted. These reflect changes since the 1979 agreement, particularly an increase in collaboration with many natural resource agencies throughout the South and the nation and the subsequent demand on the Regional Extension Forester's time to assist in their program planning and outreach efforts.

There are many issues currently facing the forestry and natural resources communities. Concerns about growth-drain deficits, property rights, urban/wildland issues, wildlife protection and enhancement, capital gains, forest health, timber markets and water quality are but a few of the issues facing those with an educational responsibility in this community. It is the goal of the Regional Extension Forester (REF) to assist these professionals and others with methods and tools that facilitate more efficient use of their time and resources.

Objectives of the Regional Extension Forestry Position

Objective 1: Work within the Cooperative Extension System to enhance forestry and natural resource programming in the 13 Southern States. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 1)

Discussion: This is a broad area that involves working closely with various levels of the Cooperative Extension System. These levels include the federal USDA-CSREES, the Southern Extension Directors, the Southern ANR and CRD Program Leaders, the Forest Resources Extension Unit Leaders, the Forest Resources Extension Specialists and others within the System. With the invitation to join the national Natural Resources and Environmental Management Base Program Strategic Plan Implementation Team (NREMBPSPIT), the role of coordination expanded during 1995 to include not only forestry and forest resources but natural resources and environmental management education program coordination. While NREM and its implementation has been quite a challenge, it has broadened the role at least temporarily of the regional position. Specific activities in this arena will be discussed below. Other areas include utilizing new technologies and providing a hub for information and material distribution.

Objective 2: Work within the USDA Forest Service to assist with information dissemination, technology transfer, continuing education opportunities, and enhanced communication with Extension and external partners. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 2)

Discussion: The USDA Forest Service has various needs and responsibilities with respect to education. The University System and the Cooperative Extension Service play a key role in assisting the Forest Service with technology transfer, etc. The CES can assist with its County delivery system, its continuing education expertise, and its communication networks. The REF plays an important role in assisting these two agencies with these responsibilities.

Objective 3: Work within the interface of the Cooperative Extension System, the USDA Forest Service, and state forestry agencies on programs, activities and projects of joint interest. Help to develop, coordinate, promote, conduct, evaluate and/or facilitate joint programs. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 3)

Discussion: The liaison role between the USDA Forest Service and the Extension Service remains a critical one. Each organization has overlapping interests in the private landowner, the environment, the forestry professional, and youth. By working closely with both agencies educational needs can be fulfilled.

Objective 4: Work within the overall forestry and natural resources community to develop, promote, conduct, evaluate and/or facilitate programs of mutual interest that involve university, Extension or educational aspects. Work to promote the Cooperative Extension System and the USDA Forest Service as key players in the natural resources educational community. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 4)

Discussion: The forestry and natural resources community consisting of public, private, association,

education and other nonprofit entities continues to be one of the most exiting around. The need to work together has never been greater. Issues such as National Forest policy, taxation, private property rights, rural and economic development, urban and community forestry, urban/wildland interfaces, and others have provided strong justification for collaborating, cooperating and communicating. The REF operates within this community as a problem solver and cooperator. As more information is gathered concerning this community, the REF has taken on more responsibilities and leadership. Extension has a great opportunity in this arena. Through promotion at the Regional level it is a desire of the REF to spur state-level Extension involvement. Initiatives such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative have provided opportunities for Extension to take a major leadership role in educating forestry producers and landowners on sustainable forestry practices. The Forest Based Economic Development Initiative offers other opportunities to work with state Rural Development Councils, the Rural Development Center, and others to improve rural forest-based economic conditions. The Executive Director of the Forest Landowners Association in Atlanta is requesting active involvement of the REF and state Extension Specialists. In summary, working with external partners has been very rewarding.

Objective 5: Work to complete reports, travel requests and reimbursements, prepare budget, and participate in School of Forest Resources, UGA Extension, and related activities. Present budgets and updates at regional Extension Director, ANR and associated meetings.

Discussion: This objective covers miscellaneous aspects of running a regional office and being associated with an academic unit on campus. Time is spent in planning and report writing. It is also spent on University and School level committees and local assignments. While this is not a substantial amount of time, it is important to keep these responsibilities current. The School offers space and other support and in return, the Regional Extension Forester participates where needed.

Executive Summary of Regional Extension Forestry Activities

Program Highlights:

Publications, Documents and Computer Programs

- ? An article was co-authored for the Forest Landowner - *The 1996 Farm Bill Provisions*, Bill Hubbard and David Hoge, *Forest Landowner*. Volume 55, Number 5. September/October 1996. 5 p.
- ? Five bimonthly newsletters were written and mailed to over 500 Extension, Forest Service and other federal cooperators, Association, state forestry and natural resource agency, university forestry/natural resource faculty and administration, and others interested in natural resources education activities. The newsletters contain information of use and interest to those involved in education and Extension throughout the region and country. The newsletters were also placed on the UGA World Wide Web (<http://www.uga.edu/~soforext>). Specifically, the following four page newsletters were written:
- Extension Update South: Forest Resources Newsletter*. Volume 2, No. 10, January/February 1997. 4 Pages.
- Extension Update South: Forest Resources Newsletter*. Volume 2, No. 11 March/April 1997. 4 Pages.
- Extension Update South: Forest Resources Newsletter*. Volume 2, No. 12, May/June 1997. 4 Pages.
- Extension Update South: Forest Resources Newsletter*. Volume 2, No. 13, September/October 1997. 4 Pages.
- Extension Update South: Forest Resources Newsletter*. Volume 2, No. 14, November/December 1997. 4 Pages.
- ? Quarterly Southern Regional Forestry Updates were written for the National Woodlands Magazine. (Four updates written).
- News from the Regions: South*, National Woodlands, Volume 19, No. 1, January, 1997.
- News from the Regions: South*, National Woodlands, Volume 19, No. 2, April, 1997.
- News from the Regions: South*, National Woodlands, Volume 19, No. 3, July, 1997.
- News from the Regions: South*, National Woodlands, Volume 19, No. 4, October, 1997.
- ? Quarterly National Forest Stewardship Newsletters were edited as an Associate Editor - Southern Region Representative. (Four issues reviewed)
- ? A Windows-based software program was developed and distributed to Extension System personnel (NREM-BASE). A hard copy directory and Internet site were also developed (www.uga.edu/~soforext/nrem).
- ? A Regional Media Guide was developed. It will be delivered to various audiences in January/February.

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- ? An article on hurricane damage to urban trees was co-authored and printed in the Journal of Arboriculture. “**Wind and Trees: A Survey of Homeowners After Hurricane Andrew**”, Mary L. Duryea, George M. Blakeslee, William G. Hubbard and Ricardo A. Vasquez. Journal of Arboriculture. Volume 22, Number 1, January 1996. pp 44-49.
- ? A proceedings was coauthored for the Southern Forestry GIS Conference. “Proceedings: SoForGIS ‘96.” Gregory J. Arthaud and William G. Hubbard. December 10-13, 1996, 449 pages.

Major Presentations

- ? “County-Based Urban and Community Forestry Programs” - NACAA annual meeting, Nashville, TN September 3, 1996.
- ? “Extension Forestry Programs in the Southern United States” - AFPA Landowner Assistance Program Meeting, Charlotte, NC October 2, 1996.
- ? “The Use of CD-ROM Technology in Urban & Community Forestry Programs” - Florida Urban Forestry Conference, Tallahassee, FL October 8, 1996.
- ? “Utilizing Internet Technology for Cost-Effective Extension Programming” - First Puerto Rican Forestry Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 5-8, 1996.
- ? “Major Issues Affecting Nonfederal Lands”, Atlanta GA June 14, 1996. Testimony to the National Research Council’s Committee on Prospects and Opportunities for Sustainable Management of America’s Nonfederal Forests. (Appendix B).

Regional Meetings Organized/Coordinated.

- ? A regional conference on **Southern Forestry GIS Applications** - SoFor GIS - was co-organized with a faculty member of the School of Forest Resources UGA. Conference was held in Athens, GA December 10-13, 1996. (185 in attendance).
- ? A regional continuing education program for Extension Natural Resources Specialists was organized. The conference was on **Marketing Measurable Returns from Extension Forest Resources**. (New Orleans - 15 speakers, 35 participants).
- ? A regional Forestry Unit Leaders meeting was organized and facilitated and held in Athens, Georgia for Forest Resources Extension Leaders, ANR Leaders, Forest Service and cooperators. (10 partners, 11 state specialists in attendance).

Funding Obtained for State and Regional Activities

- ? Funds were requested and obtained from the Forest Service to assist with the update of the Woodland Owner Correspondence Course (\$25,000 matching). Working with the Executive Director of the Forest Landowners Association, funds were procured from industries, associations and others for this effort (totaling \$78,000 to date). Forest Landowner's Research Trust will oversee the budgets — Auburn University and NC State Extension Services will provide technical expertise and will receive funds to accomplish their responsibilities.

- ? A proposal to host a regional "Southern Forest-Based Economic Development Academy" was written, submitted and subsequently approved by USDA-CSREES. The proposal was for \$15,000 to hold the meeting in 1997.

- ? A proposal was written and submitted to USDA-CSREES to fund a National NREM database project. The proposal was approved (\$18,000).

- ? The REF worked closely with AFPA and other forestry community members to obtain a grant to be used in the South for a national reforestation publication as part of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (\$20,000). The REF also worked with AFPA and the National Program Leader for Forest Management (USDA-CSREES) to pinpoint a specialist to assist with a wildlife habitat publication. The University of Tennessee will receive funds (\$20,000) to develop the publication.

- ? Assistance was provided to the director of the Urban Forestry Institute (University of Florida - CES) in course design, marketing and promotion, and securement of funding (\$15,000) from the USDA Forest Service

Technology Transfer Efforts

- ? Numerous demonstrations were given on utilizing new computer technologies in Extension Forestry.

- ? Technical assistance was provided to numerous agencies, organizations and nonprofits on designing Internet sites.

- ? A regional World Wide Web page was updated with pertinent Extension Service, Forest Service and other materials. Numerous materials were placed on the Web that should result in substantial saving to state Extension Services, state forestry/natural resource agencies, associations, nonprofits, educational institutions, students, industry and commercial entities, private landowners, farmers and urban residents (www.uga.edu/~soforext).

- ? Numerous publications, handbooks, videos, and related educational materials were distributed to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders for their use and circulation.

Miscellaneous Liaison Activities

- ? 11 of the 13 States in the Southern Region were visited in 1997. Extension specialists, administrators or other university faculty were visited either at the campus location or a meeting site location. When possible, the Regional Extension Forester (REF) would provide the Extension personnel in that state an update of regional and national activities of interest. The REF also obtained information from each state to distribute to others. The REF represented and promoted Extension and Forest Service activities at all meetings. Close to 40 presentations, demonstrations or updates were conducted around the region in 1997. The REF also moderated sessions and facilitated discussions at numerous other events.

- ? Two weeks were spent in Washington DC as part of the USDA Forest Service's Management Policy Seminar. The Seminar is a midlevel management course for Forest Service and closely aligned professionals. Forest Service, federal and political activities are reviewed and analyzed.

- ? Assistance was provided on a number of state, regional and national level programs, activities and initiatives. These include but aren't limited to: the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference (Atlanta, Fall 1997), the Southern Urban & Community Forestry Summit, USDA Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Programs for NIPF owners, Urban Wood Residue Conferences, NREM, rural development, Forest Stewardship, and multicultural outreach efforts of the Forest Service.

- ? Numerous phone, E-mail, fax, regular mail, and personal contact requests were handled. Requests for publications and other materials were sent after locating them.

Administrative

- ? Planning was initiated for various 1997 activities. Proposals were discussed, grant opportunities were forwarded to potential grantees and RREA reports were reviewed. An annual report and plan of work for 1997 was developed. A budget was developed.

Travel Summary 1997

Alabama	11 days
Arkansas	- days
Florida	21 days
Georgia (outside of Athens and Atlanta)	12 days
Kentucky	3 days
Louisiana	5 days
Mississippi	- days
North Carolina	- days
Oklahoma	4 days
South Carolina	10 days
Tennessee	9 days
Texas	3 days
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>9 days</u>
Total Travel to 13 States	86 days (34%)
<u>Atlanta</u>	<u>25 days (10%)</u>
Washington D.C.	5 days
Indiana	2 days
Minnesota	3 days
Montana	4 days
Puerto Rico	2 days
<u>Washington</u>	<u>3 days</u>
Total Travel Outside Region	19 days (8%)
Athens	105 days (42%)
<u>Annual Leave</u>	<u>15 days (6%)</u>
Total	250 days (100%)

Summary and Analysis of Activities and Accomplishments:

The annual report and plan of work gives the Regional Extension Forester (REF) and those who work with him an opportunity to review the previous twelve months of work and make suggestions for improvement. 1997 was another busy and exciting year in the forest resources community. As the Monthly Activity Reports illustrate, (see subsequent sections for detailed monthly activity summaries) there were numerous opportunities to fulfill the REF goals and objectives. New technologies such as the World Wide Web and new initiatives such as the Sustainable Forestry Initiative have provided unique ways of accomplishing our objectives here in the South.

Early in 1997, the REF organized the 2nd Southern Extension Forestry Unit Leader's Meeting. This meeting provides critical input into REF activities and planning. It is also an excellent opportunity to share programming information across state and agency line. Partners are invited and included Forest Service, Forest Landowners Association, NRCS, AFPA, CSREES and others. Extension Forestry Unit Leaders rate this meeting high on evaluations. 11 of the 13 states were represented in 1997.

The Southern REF, Northeastern REF and National Program Leaders for Forest Management and Wood Products also began to communicate more effectively in early 1997. Monthly conference calls were organized out of Washington DC for program planning and information sharing. As a result, the "team" of regional and national Extension foresters worked closely together on a number of important issues.

A number of important events were scheduled for 1997 including a triennial Extension Foresters' meeting, a Regional GIS conference, and a Rural Development Academy. Planning committees, agendas, logistics, speaker invites and other miscellaneous activities were undertaken. These events required timely intervention and frequent conference calls/meetings.

Work also continued with the Forest Landowner's Association. Numerous meetings were held throughout the year. The REF was asked to sit on the Forest Landowner's Research Trust Board. Responsibilities include overseeing research grants and other projects. The REF is a member of the Magazine Committee and regularly suggests article topics and potential authors. The REF and Executive Director of the Forest Landowner's Association began discussions to update the successful Woodlands Correspondence Course. Fund-raising efforts so far have netted close to \$75,000.

A number of REF activities have centered around the National NREM (Natural Resources and Environmental Management) Base Program Implementation Committee. Specifically, a user-friendly PC-based Windows compatible software program was developed at the University of Georgia under the supervision of the REF and a grant from CSREES-USDA. This program includes over 175 natural resource or environmental management Extension educational summaries from 27 states. It is a national database that is fully searchable by key word or subject matter. The REF also printed a 300-page hard copy directory of these programs and placed the information on the World Wide Web. State NREM contacts received this information and the Web Site has been highly publicized.

Another important part of the Regional Foresters job is representation and communication across the region. In 1997, 11 of the 13 Southern Region states were visited. Whenever possible, the Extension foresters/natural resource professionals were contacted. Extension administrators were also contacted whenever

possible. These contacts were made to provide information on state, regional and national activities and initiatives. Regular visits to the USDA Forest Services Region 8 office are also an important component of the job. Information and materials are shared at each visit. The REF invited Forest Service staff over to Athens for visits and to work with Extension faculty on various activities. This gave Forest Service personnel the opportunity to gain insight into education and Extension activities. In 1997, the REF hosted more than a half dozen Forest Service visitors. As a result of this communication and promotion, the Extension Service in the Southern Region has a reputation as a problem solver and team player.

The Southern Electronic Forestry Library was also an initiative of the REF in 1997. Started in 1995, this site currently contains a wide range of electronic information from taxation to forest stewardship to wood products and urban forestry. A counter on the Homepage registers the number of users who have accessed the page. As of December 31, 1997, 2,500 "hits" were registered. This number will likely increase exponentially as the number of users and the access to the site is made easier.

Electronic list-servers were also managed again in 1997. The two with which the REF has initiated include URBNRNET - URBAⁿ Natural Resources NETwork. This electronic network currently serves approximately 100 people in the country. The goal is to share information and communicate information electronically. The other listserv is the SERFNET - Southern Extension and Research Forestry NETwork. Currently, there are approximately 100 on this network as well. The REF will continue to promote the inexpensive use of these listservs to share information.

Urban and community forestry programs and activities remain a high priority for the REF. Regional activities that the REF was involved in include the Southern Regional Urban and Community Forestry Summit, bid and planning preparation for the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference, placing Urban and Community Forestry Technology Bulletins on the Web, assisting with the development of a regional resource guide on urban forestry materials, assisting with the regional urban wood residue conferences, and working with the University of Florida to update the Urban Forestry Institute. This area remains a critical one for Extension. As more of our public becomes urbanized, it becomes critical that we provide educational support to improve their quality of lives.

Another area that the REF is working in is the rural development arena. The REF is coordinating a regional conference on Forest-Based Economic Development. A proposal was written and submitted to CSREES-USDA to obtain funding for this conference. This effort will be in concert with the Forest Service, the state forestry agencies, the Southern Rural Development Center, state Rural Development Councils, economic development agencies, Extension and others. With the proposed Fund for Rural America and the opportunities associated with a heavily forested rural South, the effort should provide immediate payoff in better educated natural resource and rural development specialists.

Wood products and utilization also remains an important area for the REF to work in. Wherever possible, information is shared with the wood products extension specialists. Regional and national forest products meetings are attended when possible. The REF maintains regular communication with the National Program Leader for Wood Products and assists him with program implementation upon request.

The area of wildlife management is also important to Regional Extension activities. When possible, the REF is involved in wildlife Extension-related activities and events. The REF promotes these activities in newsletters, phone conversations, and other personal communication.

Numerous phone calls, letters, email transmissions, faxes and personal requests are handled at the Regional Office in as quickly and efficiently a manner as possible. These range from referrals for speakers at conferences to requesting materials announced in the bimonthly newsletters. The REF also wrote numerous articles and updates for Forest Landowner and National Woodlands; the two premier landowner magazines in the country. Other writing assignments included the bimonthly newsletter reaching over 500 natural resource professionals.

August 1997 marked the end of the third year for the REF. In the first three years, the REF has noticed a change in how Extension Forest Resources is treated in the South. Extension is known more today as a problem solver than it ever has. In fact the only complaint now heard from external partners is that there are not enough in Extension.

The REF provided the Extension Directors, Extension Administrators (1890), ANR Leaders and other Extension administration personnel with activity and progress reports and budget requests throughout the year. The REF works closely with the Deputy Forester, State and Private Forestry to discuss regional travel needs and budgets.

In conclusion, 1997 was a very productive year for the REF. New technologies and initiatives have been aggressively used to accomplish REF objectives. The REF has worked closely with the various natural resource agencies and entities in the South and the nation to ensure Cooperative Extension System recognition and involvement. A wide breadth of issues and areas are covered and the REF offers support wherever possible. The philosophy of getting involved in as many important forestry/natural resource fronts as possible is paying off. Extension forestry is now recognized as a key player in many regional movements. If we are to maintain a competitive edge in the various educational capacities we now serve, we must continue to assess our resources and adjust where necessary.

Monthly Activity Reports - January through December

Monthly Activity Reports - January 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office,

Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings) - 1 days

Alabama - 1 day

Florida - 2 days

Tifton, GA - 1 days

Kentucky - 3 days

Louisiana - 2 days

Total Travel (outside Atlanta) - 9 days

Total Travel (Atlanta) - 1 day

Total Days spent in Athens - 10 days

Activities for January

?* Tifton, Georgia was visited to coordinate a regional continuing education course. The course, "Restoration and Management of Urban Forest Ecosystems will be offered in Florida in June. The USDA Forest Service provides significant support for this course. [Associated objectives: 2]

?* Time was spent in the Athens office preparing for the Extension Forest Resources Unit Leader's. Speakers were lined up, facilities were arranged and miscellaneous logistics were handled. [Associated objectives: 1,3]

?* Two days were spent in Kentucky to discuss strategies related to federal funding for natural resources extension. Plans to provide better information to decisionmakers were discussed. The Southern REF will take the lead on a regional RREA synopsis [Associated objectives: 2,3,4]

?* Visits were made to both the Forest Service and Forest Landowner's Regional Offices to discuss

opportunities, distribute Extension materials and gather materials for distribution to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders. Advice was given to editors of the Forest Landowner magazine on potential authors for upcoming issues. [Associated objectives: 2,3]

?* Two days were spent in Florida working with Extension personnel and administration and providing a lecture on opportunities in Extension for seniors in natural resources. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* One day was spent in Alabama meeting the new Extension Director and forest resources extension faculty. A National Woodlands Owner award was presented by the REF at a photo shoot. [Associated objectives: 1,3,4]

?* Two days were spent in Louisiana at the annual ARK-LA-TX forestry meeting and visiting faculty and administration at LSU. [Associated objectives: 1,5]

?* One day was spent in Atlanta at the Local Arrangements Committee meeting for the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference to be held in September in Atlanta.

?* Various other activities at the Athens office included providing reviews of various Extension, Forest Service and other materials and handling other regional responsibilities. [Associated objectives: 1-5]

1. updating the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Home Page.
2. worked closely with FORS (Forest Resources Systems Institute), which is a nonprofit organization committed to enhancing the efficient use computers in the forestry and natural resources professional.
3. finished the November-December 1996 newsletter and distributed to approximately 500 natural resource professionals.
4. responded to various requests for information, publications, materials and referrals.
5. worked with University of Georgia on various projects
6. several conference calls were participated in including the Hardwood Management Working Group call, SAF videoconference group call, Southern Forest-Based Economic Development group call, a conference call with the National Program Leaders in Wood Products and Forestry and the Northeast REF. Numerous responsibilities were carried out with respect to these initiatives.

Monthly Activity Reports - February 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 2 days
Florida	- 3 days
Georgia (Waycross, Macon, Stone Mountain)	- 5 days
South Carolina	- 1 day
<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>- 2 days</u>
Total Travel	- 11 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 2 days
Total days spent in Athens	- 8 days

Activities for February

?* One day was spent at the USDA Forest Service office in Atlanta as part of a listening session on Natural Resources Conservation Education. A task force invited participation from the REF and others to develop a strategic plan for NRCE within the Forest Service. [Associated objectives: 4]

?* Travel within the state of Georgia included a trip to the GFC in Macon, three days in Waycross to assist with the Forest Landowner Information Fair and Field Day. A two hour presentation was developed that highlighted the information that landowners can access from the World Wide Web. A trip to Stone Mountain, Georgia was arranged to work with a computer internet firm on the upcoming National Urban Forestry Conference - A "virtual conference" is being planned as part of the conference. The REF is chair of this committee and sits on both the local arrangements committee and the national program committee. [Associated objectives: 1,3,4]

?* A continuing education meeting was attended at the Georgia Center for Continuing Education. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Time was spent in Athens at the annual Forest Unit Leader's/Coordinators meeting. The meeting involved 12 Extension Unit Leaders, numerous Forest Service foresters, Extension Administration, Southern NAPFSC and others. Major agenda items included program planning and sharing, national and regional updates, and other regional issues/activities. [Associated objectives: 4]

?* Two days were spent in Tennessee at an American Pulpwood Association Logger Training and

Education meeting. The REF facilitated sessions and participated in roundtable discussions on the future needs and issues concerning logger training and education. [Associated objectives: 1,3,4]

?* One day was spent in South Carolina with the Forest Resources Systems Institute and assisting with opening up their new office. A reception was held by Clemson to welcome FORS. Faculty and administration were visited and updated on current REF activities. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* Conference calls were participated in on a variety of topics including planning for the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference, SAF VideoConference, National Extension Forestry Leadership Team, Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals and a FORS board meeting. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* One day was spent in Alabama on a site visit to look at facilities for the upcoming Forest-Based Economic Development Academy. Hotels were visited and the local arrangements committee met to discuss meeting needs, logistics and schedules.[Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Two days were spent in Florida working with natural resource professionals on forest certification issues and opportunities. The Florida Forestry Forum was participated in.

?* One day was spent in Pine Mountain, Georgia facilitating a session at the Southeast Section of the Forest Products Society meeting. [Associated objectives: 2]

?* An afternoon was spent with the local arrangements committee of the 8th National UFC. The REF will assist in setting up "The Virtual Coffee House" where participants can view new computer technologies in a casual setting with computer and internet access. A conference web page will also be developed by the REF. A grant of \$10,000 was provided by the Forest Service to achieve this.

?* The January/February 1997 Extension Update South Newsletter was developed and mailed to over 400 readers. The Newsletter was also placed on the REF's homepage. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Numerous phone calls, email transmissions and other types of correspondence was responded to. Materials were distributed to forestry, ANR, Forestry Deans and others. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* As Awards Chair of the Southern Forest Resources Extension Specialists Association, nomination announcements were sent out for the annual Awards Program. Once received, a Awards committee was assigned and the nominations were reviewed. The awards will be presented at the annual SFRES meeting in New Orleans later this spring. [Associated objectives: 1]

Monthly Activity Reports - March 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 1 days
Georgia (Rock Eagle 4-H Camp)	- 3 days
South Carolina	- 2 days
<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>- 2 days</u>
Total Travel	- 7 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 1 day
Total days spent in Athens	- 11 days

Activities for March

?* One day was spent in Waycross, Georgia assisting with the Forest Landowners Information Fair and Field Day. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* Two days were spent in Clemson, SC at a quarterly Forest Resources Systems Institute (FORS) Board meeting. The REF was elected chairman of this board for 1997. Responsibilities will include oversight of the transition from Alabama to Clemson and assistance to the new President of FORS, a former Clemson Extension Forester. [Associated objectives: 1,3,4]

?* A quarterly update for the National Woodlands magazine was written and sent to the Editor. [Associated objectives: 1,2]

?* Two days were spent at the Southern Forest Based Economic Development Council meeting in Tennessee. This council is made up of state forestry agency and USDA Forest Service personnel. The REF participates as a partner. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* An afternoon was spent at the MARTA Headquarters in Atlanta working with the Local Arrangements Committee of the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference. The REF is responsible for the virtual exhibit hall and

is assisting on the program planning committee. [Associated objectives: 1,23,4]

?* Three days were spent assisting with the Southern Conclave event which the University of Georgia hosted. The REF helped with setting competitions up and judging and scoring. [Associated objectives: 1,2,4]

?* Conference calls were participated in on a number of activities including the Society of American Foresters VideoConference Project, the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals, the Forest-Based Economic Development Academy, Fund for Rural America and the Hardwood Management Extension Working Group. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* A Regional Extension Foresters conference call was participated in with the NE REF, and NPL in Forest Management and Wood Products, Washington, DC. National, regional and state issues and opportunities were discussed. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* A bimonthly newsletter was written, calls were responded to, articles were written for trade magazines and administrative aspects of the position were tended to.

Monthly Activity Reports - April 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 1 days
Florida	- 3 days
Georgia (Tifton, Stone Mountain)	- 2 days
Oklahoma	- 4 days
Virginia	- 3 days
<u>Washington D.C.</u>	<u>- 3 days</u>
Total Travel	- 15 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 1 day
Total days spent in Athens	- 4 days

Activities for April

?* The REF assisted with facilitating a program for the Forest Service. Over 100 participants attended a technical assistance review of the research conducted at the Athens, Georgia laboratory. The REF worked with the station administrators to provide a review and input into the lab's plan of work. [Associated objectives: 4]

?* A meeting was participated in regarding the Woodlands Correspondence Course and the progress being made. Currently, drafts of the text are being circulated.[Associated objectives: 1]

?* The Regional Extension Forestry Budget was developed for FY 98. This budget will be presented at the Spring Southern Region Extension Director's Association meeting for discussion. [Associated objectives: 5]

?* Three days were spent in Oklahoma at the Southern Region Water Quality Conference. The REF assisted with the program, contacted speakers and arranged a session of forestry. The REF also moderated the session. Administrators at Oklahoma State University were visited including the forestry school chair and the

extension forester. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* The REF assisted with the development and conduct of an urban-wildland interface conference held in Athens, Georgia. Georgia Forestry Commission foresters participated in the continuing education course designed to improve their understanding of and programming in this area. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* The regional homepage was updated to include relevant information and links. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* One day was spent in Tifton, Georgia assisting with new agent training for the UGA CES. The REF developed a presentation on using the internet. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Time was spent on the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference and the virtual aspects of it. The REF received funding from the Forest Service to rent computers and other necessary hardware to develop a virtual conference with new materials for participants to view. Funding was also made available to hire students to assist with web-site development. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Three days were spent in Florida assisting with extension and university activities including planning for the Urban Forestry Institute, teaching classes and working with faculty on various projects. The REF also attended a meeting on intensive forest management while in Florida. [Associated objectives: 4]

?* A meeting of the LAC of the 8th National UFC was attended in Atlanta. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Three days were spent in Washington, DC working with USDA-CSREES, Forest Service, AFPA, NASF and others on projects of importance and significance to the southern region. Discussions were held concerning landowner information needs, the Renewable Resources Extension Act and ways Extension can partner more closely with these various agencies/associations. [Associated objectives: 2]

?* Materials were readied for placement under the Regional Extension Forestry Web Page. Materials included a national Estate Taxation for Forestland Owners Guide (in PDF format), newsletters, the Alternative Incomes From Your Forestland, and others -- the site <http://www.uga.edu/soforext> remains to be a useful tool for the REF in getting information to users. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Numerous phone calls, email transmissions and other correspondence were answered. Materials were sent out to forestry and ANR Leaders. Materials were also sent out to Forestry School Deans. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

MAR Hubbard - April, 1997

Objectives: 1-CES, 2-FS, 3-CES/FS, 4-forestry community, 5-administrative, miscellaneous

?* Four days were spent in Virginia at the annual Southern Forestry Conference held by the Forest Landowners Association. The REF coordinated a Southern Extension Forestry Awards Program and organized the annual extension forester's meeting prior to the Conference. Along with partner updates, the foresters in attendance listened to sessions on the urban-wildland interface and the forest certification issue. The REF also assisted the Forest Landowners Association with unveiling its new website - www.forestland.org. The REF provided updates to the Southern NAPFSC group and led a meeting concerning the woodlands correspondence course. The REF was also invited to participate in the planning of the next Southern Forestry School Dean's Tour sponsored by the American Forest and Paper Association.

Monthly Activity Reports - May 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 3 days
Alabama	- 1 day
Florida	- 1 day
Texas	- 3 days
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>- 4 days</u>
Total Travel	- 9 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 3 days
Total days spent in Athens	- 10 days
Activities for May	

?* The REF was asked to be a banquet speaker at an annual awards banquet in Tuskegee, Alabama. The REF provided the guests with an update on forestry issues in the south. [Associated objectives: 2]

?* A Regional Extension Foresters conference call was participated in . [Associated objectives: 1]

?* One day were spent in Atlanta at the Forest Service office and with Forest Farmer's Staff updating them on regional Extension Forestry activities. Materials were distributed and gathered for distribution. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* A Local Arrangements Committee of the 8th UFC was attended. [Associated objectives: 1,2,4]

?* One day was spent as a guest at the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources 60th anniversary celebration. The REF served as a captain of the class of 1987 and planted a tree on their behalf at the school forest. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* Three days were spent at the East Texas Forestry Field Day. The REF was invited to provide a keynote presentation on the economics of pulpwood production in the south. The pulpwood market in Texas is improving and this issue is of interest to many landowners and foresters. This involved substantial research and time in developing a 40 minute presentation. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* Three days were spent in Texas with Extension and university faculty. Assistance was given the Extension foresters in Texas as they planned and held their annual East Texas Forestry Field Day. Over 300 attended the field day, held in Overton. Campus was visited and the Extension Director and ANR Leader were given a REF update. Materials were subsequently sent to Texas from the REF office to assist with drought relief for pine seedlings. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Two days were spent in Virginia at the quarterly Landowner Assistance Programs subcommittee of AFPA. The REF provided industry and association foresters with an update of extension forestry activities and materials. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Conference calls, newsletter, quarterly updates for National Woodland Owners Association and the Forest Steward were either participated in or worked on. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

Monthly Activity Reports - June 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 1 day
Florida	- 7 days
Indiana	- 2 days
Minnesota	- 3 days
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>- 2 days</u>
Total Travel	- 15 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 1 day
Total days spent in Athens	- 5 days

Activities for June

?* Three days were spent in Florida at the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting. The REF provided the management chiefs, information and education chiefs and urban forestry coordinators with an update of extension activities and materials. The REF also participated in discussions with the state foresters on ways to work together. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* A May/June newsletter was written and distributed to over 500 natural resources professionals. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* A presentation on continuing education needs in the forestry community was given at the Appalachian SAF meeting in Clemson. The REF provided a presentation on the state of continuing education and provided thoughts on future needs. Title of the presentation "Creating Educational Programs to Meet Educational Demands. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* Three days were spent in southern Indiana at a Central Hardwoods Extension Working Group meeting to discuss hardwood management issues and educational needs. This conference was co-coordinated by the Southern REF and the Northeast REF. Extension foresters from the midwest, south and northeast participated. A one-hour presentation was developed entitled "Hardwood Materials Available Today". A plan which includes publications, a website and a listserv were developed [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* A meeting of the Local Arrangements Committee of the 8th National UFC was attended in Atlanta. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* An article was written for Forest Landowner's Association Magazine. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Five days were spent in Florida assisting with coordinating, teaching, grading, moderating and facilitating the Urban Forestry Institute. A 75 minute lecture was prepared on "Urban Forest Ecosystem Restoration: Developing a Management Plan". [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Numerous phone, mail, E-mail and other correspondence took place. Materials were distributed to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders, ANR Leaders, Forestry School Deans, and others. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

Monthly Activity Reports - July 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 2 days
Total Travel	- 0 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 2 days
Total days spent in Athens	- 12 days
Annual/Sick Leave	- 5 days

Activities for July

?* Conference calls were participated in including Association of Natural Resources Extension Professional and National Extension Forestry Leadership Team. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* One day was spent with the Local Arrangements Committee of the 8th National UFC.

?* One day was spent in Atlanta working with Forest Service personnel, and Forest Farmer's Executive Director on various projects including the Woodlands Correspondence Course, Minority Outreach, Forest Stewardship, Reforestation and Nursery opportunities, Urban and Community Forestry, tax issues and other nipf issues. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Preparations for two fall conferences continued. A student was hired to assist with the call for papers, advertising and general conference planning. Students were hired to assist with the website development and design of the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference. The REF began working with various computer vendors to rent computers, acquire temporary internet access, acquire new computer software and CD-ROM's for use at the conference and acquire the technical assistance to network the computers to the internet via an ISDN lined to be installed at the hotel

?* The other conference that the REF is responsible for is the Forest-Based Economic Development

MAR Hubbard - July, 1997

Objectives: 1-CES, 2-FS, 3-CES/FS, 4-forestry community, 5-administrative, miscellaneous

Academy. The REF finalized the program, contacted potential speakers, and worked to get brochures printed and mailed to potential participants. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Materials were distributed to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders, ANR Leaders, and others. Various phone, electronic mail, fax and letter requests were handled. Miscellaneous projects were discussed with partnership agencies, and the bimonthly newsletter was updated. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Six days were spent on annual leave with new son, William "Liam" Richard Hubbard, born July 14th, 1998 and weighing 7 lbs 8 oz. Mother and son are doing fine. Dad's a little shaky though! [Associated objectives: 5]

Monthly Activity Reports - August 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 3 days
South Carolina	- 2 days
Florida	- 2 days
<u>Montana</u>	<u>- 4 days</u>
Total Travel	- 9 days
Total days spent in Athens	- 7 days
Annual Leave	- 5 days

Activities for August

?* One day was spent with the USDA Forest Service at their annual Cooperative Forestry Unit Leaders meeting. The REF met the new CF Unit Leader and provided everyone with an update of the REF activities and an Extension update from around the south. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* Time was spent assisting the Forest Service with developing a database of urban forestry materials. The materials will be input into a database and a report will be generated. The information will also be available on the Internet. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Letters were written for colleagues around the south for their promotion and tenure. Three letters were written and provided to committees at their home institutions.[Associated objectives: 1]

?* Two days were spent at the Southern Program Leadership Committee meeting in Tallahassee, FL. A Regional Extension Forestry Update was prepared and delivered to both the ANR Leaders and the CRD Leaders. Much interest was expressed about the Southern Forestry Initiative - an opportunity to link both sets of leaders in both natural resources and community development. There looks to be great opportunity at the Federal level for

resources to be made available in this arena. The Regional Forester also participated the general program. [Associated objectives: 1,5]

?* Four days were spent at a national rural development meeting in Montana. The REF participated in general and breakout sessions on connecting rural communities with natural resources. The REF provided conference participants with information and brochures on the upcoming Forest-Based Economic Development Academy. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* A FORS Board Meeting was attended in South Carolina. Strategic plans were laid down to bring FORS to the forefront in computer technology transfer. The new President and the Board members are excited about the opportunities in GIS, growth and yield, desktop mapping programs and other software. FORS and the REF discussed hosting another Southern Forestry GIS conference sometime in 1998. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* One day was spent at the Forest Service office in Atlanta meeting with Cooperative Forestry Unit, Forest Health, Fire and Aviation and other specialists with the Agency. Work continued on various regional projects (Correspondence course, minority outreach, urban and community forestry, wood products, forest management, and others). [Associated objectives: 2,3]

?* Materials were updated on the WWW, students were supervised on various projects. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* A conference call on the Southern Forest-Based Economic Development Academy was held. This Academy will bring together natural resource and rural development specialists to discuss how forest resources can play a role in sustainable rural development. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* The July/August newsletter was developed and distributed to over 500 people. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Conference calls on ANREP, and the National Extension Forestry Leadership Team were participated in. [Associated objectives: 1]

Monthly Activity Reports - September 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office,

Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings) - 9 days

Florida - 2 days

Total Travel - 2 days

Total Travel (Atlanta) - 9 days

Total days spent in Athens - 11 days

Activities for September

?* One day was spent with the Forest Service/EPA liaison on the development of a publication titled "Landowners Guide to Section 404 and Forest Wetlands". The REF will assist with the printing and placement of the document on the web. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* Two days were spent in Arizona at an NREM Implementation Committee meeting. The future of NREM and its support with the Extension System was discussed as was an update on a number of projects associated with NREM. Replacements to the National NREM Committee were discussed. A number of Southern Extension Directors and ANR Leaders were nominated to participate in the effort. The general consensus was that NREM should continue. National Program Leadership in DC cautioned that the new CSREES infrastructure may need to revisit how NREM functions. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* Four days were spent in Alabama at two meetings. The first was the Southern Urban and Community Forestry Summit, attended by over 200 professionals, nonprofits, city planners and others. The second was the Longleaf Pine Alliance Meeting, also with over 200 in attendance. Sessions were moderated and/or participated in both conferences by the REF. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Assistance was provided to the University of Georgia in planning the Southeastern Landowner Information Fair. Plans are to have two fairs; one in the North Georgia Mountains, and the other in South

Georgia. The Fair will be unique in that it will involve “information” booths where natural resource professionals can provide one-on-one and small group assistance to landowners. The Fairs could be used as regional models. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Time was spent with Rural Development Specialists of the Forest Service to discuss joint opportunities and collaboration. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Auburn University was visited. Specifically, meetings were arranged with the Longleaf Pine Alliance, Extension Administration and Faculty, and the forestry school Chair. Assistance was offered to the Alliance as they planned their upcoming conference in Mobile. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Two days were spent in Atlanta reviewing the agenda for the 8th National Urban Forestry Conference. Over 100 paper abstracts were reviewed and the full program was developed. The REF was invited to participate and chaired the economic/policy review. [Associated objectives, 1-4]

?* Three days were spent at the Atlanta Forest Service office working on regional projects and activities, distributing extension publications and materials, and acquiring Forest Service publications and materials for distribution to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders. [Associated objectives: 2,3]

?* The Forest Farmer’s Association Office was visited to discuss Regional Extension Forestry activities. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* A quarterly National Woodland Owner’s Report was written and sent to the Editor. [Associated objectives: 1,5]

?* Work continued with the Rural Development Center and state Rural Development Councils on the Southern Forestry Initiative. This initiative looks to combine forestry and rural development expertise in the South to work on enhancing wood products value-added and forest-based recreation opportunities through networking and collaboration. A meeting is scheduled in Atlanta for later this fall. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

Monthly Activity Reports - October 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 1 day
Alabama	- 4 days
Georgia (Macon)	- 1 day
Tennessee	- 5 days
<u>Virginia</u>	<u>- 2 days</u>
Total Travel	- 12 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 1 day
Total days spent in Athens	- 10 days

Activities for October

?* An AFPA Landowner Assistance Program subcommittee meeting was attended in North Carolina. A Regional Extension Forestry update was provided. [Associated objectives: 1,4]

?* A meeting was attended to discuss an urban/wildlife interface conference for Georgia Forestry Commission Foresters. The REF was asked to assist with program development and locating potential speakers. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Four days were spent in the panhandle of Florida at two different meetings. The first was the Florida Urban Forestry Conference. The REF was asked to give a presentation on the use and value of CD-ROM technology in urban forestry. The presentation was given twice to approximately 75 people. The other meeting was held by the USDA Forest Service and included Rural Development Specialists. The REF provided a regional Extension forestry update and encouraged the Specialists to involve state-level Extension in their work. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Three days were spent in Mississippi attending various meetings and events. The first was a visit to the campus to participate in the Mississippi Magic Science Fair. This weeklong fair brings in thousands of kids from throughout the state and demonstrates the uses and values of wood. It uses entertainment and magic to get the word across. A visit to the new Extension Director was also arranged and time was spent with the ANR Leader and forestry department Chair. Regional and state information was shared. Finally, a FITEC board meeting was attended in Jackson. Industry training and education needs were discussed. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Two days were spent in Alabama at the Treasure Forest Conference. The conference was attended with Georgia's Public Service Assistant to get ideas for the upcoming Southeastern Landowner Information Fair. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Various conferences and projects were worked on. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Two days were spent at the Forest Service Regional Headquarters working with various specialists. Projects were updated, materials were exchanged and future opportunities were discussed. [Associated objectives: 2,3]

?* Two days were spent in South Carolina at two different meetings. The first was a meeting arranged by the South Carolina Forestry Commission to discuss a Teacher's Institute for educating high school teachers about forestry and natural resources. The second meeting was the South Carolina Forestry Associations Annual meeting. The REF participated in roundtable discussions at both meetings. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* The September/October Extension Update South was prepared and sent to over 500 people. It was also place on the REF's Home page. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?*A conference call was also participated in to work on a Hardwood Extension meeting for 1997. The meeting will focus on hardwood management information needs and opportunities to collaborate across the region to fulfill these needs. [Associated objectives: 1]

Monthly Activity Reports - November 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 3 days
Alabama	- 1 day
Puerto Rico	- 3 days
South Carolina	- 2 days
<u>Tennessee</u>	<u>- 1 day</u>
Total Travel	- 7 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 3 days
Total days spent in Athens	- 6 days
Annual Leave	- 2 days

Activities for November

?* Four days were spent in Nashville working with the USDA Forest Service on landowner assistance programs. The session was a strategic planning session focusing on the future of government programs as they relate to the private forestlands of the country. The REF and his secretary assisted with various aspects of the meeting including facilitating, strategic planning, equipment management, notetaking and report writing. [Associated objectives: 2,3]

?* Five days were spent in New Mexico at various national forestry meetings. The REF was elected Southern Chair of the recently formed National Association of Forest Resource Extension Professionals. A meeting was participated in. The National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges also met and the REF attended and provided an update of activities. Finally, the Society of American Foresters was attended, giving the REF an opportunity to network with others in the forestry community. A meeting was arranged with AFPA to discuss a national wildlife management publication. AFPA agreed to give Extension (CSREES) funds to write the publication if a specialist can be located to spend time in Washington.. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* A Continuing Education meeting was attended at the Georgia Center. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Conference calls were participated in on a variety of projects. [Associated objectives: 1,5]

?*The REF organized a three day session in Atlanta to plan the Southern Forest-Based Economic Development Academy. The REF obtained a \$15,000 grant from CSREES to hold the Academy in 1997. 25 professionals have been invited to assist in the planning of the Academy. 12 were invited to Atlanta including the NPL for Rural Development (CSREES), the USDA - Forest Service, state rural development councils, the Southern Rural .Development Center, state forestry agencies, Extension and others. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* SoFor Gis conference planning continued. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* An article on the Farm Bill provisions was co-authored for the Forest Landowner magazine. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* A National Urban Forestry Conference planning committee meeting was attended in Atlanta. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* A Regional Extension Foresters Conference call was held with CSREES and the NE REF to share information and plan for 1997. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* The regional Extension Forestry Homepage was updated to include new information and materials of relevance to internal and external audiences. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* The NREM-Base computer program was finished and distributed to state NREM contacts, ANR Leaders and others. A hardcopy directory and web page were also developed. [Associated objectives: 1]

?* Various materials were distributed to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders and others in the forestry community. [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

Monthly Activity Reports - December 1997

Travel

Atlanta (Forest Service Office, Forest Farmer's Association, Misc. Regional Meetings)	- 1 days
Florida	- 1 day
Louisiana	- 3 days
South Carolina	- 2 days
<u>Washington, DC</u>	<u>- 3 days</u>
Total Travel	- 9 days
Total Travel (Atlanta)	- 1 days
Total days spent in Athens	- 2 days
Annual Leave	- 6 days

Activities for December

?*A FORS Board Meeting was organized and attended. Future directions of this nonprofit organization was discussed and a new President was hired. The decision to move FORS from Florence, Alabama to Clemson SC was voted on by the Board as well. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Three days were spent at the Southern Forestry GIS Conference in Athens. Over 185 professionals attended the conference. A proceedings was provided to the participants. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* The regional Extension Forest Resources Media Guide was completed. The Guide contains Extension publications, videos, slide-sets, publications, newsletters and computer programs for the Southern Region. 400 copies will be printed and distributed throughout the Region . [Associated objectives: 1,2,3,4]

?* Time was spent updating the monthly activity reports, the 1997 Annual Report, and the 1997 Plan of Work. [Associated objectives: 5]

?* A November/December Extension Forestry Update South was written. It will be distributed to over 500 natural resource professionals after the holidays.[Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* An article on forestry/natural resource provisions of the Farm Bill was written for the National Association of Conservation Districts newsletter. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Web material development continued including placing the GIS proceedings on the Web. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

?* Numerous calls, requests for information, letters of reference and other activities were answered throughout the rest of the month. [Associated objectives: 1-4]

Plan of Work - 1997

Subject to the review of the annual evaluation committee, work will continue on various projects of relevance and importance to state, regional and national level Extension Service programming. This section is arranged into work planned in the five objective areas.

Objective 1: Work within the Cooperative Extension System to enhance forestry and natural resource programming in the 13 Southern States. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 1)

Activities planned: (110 days)

- ?* Visits to as many land-grant institutions as possible will be arranged for the 1997 calendar year. Plans will be made to visit Arkansas and Virginia, the two states missed in last year's travel. Specific visits with Extension Administration and Faculty will be arranged. Arrangements will be made to meet with Extension Specialists at miscellaneous regions to keep them informed of Regional Extension Forestry Activities.
- ?* The bimonthly newsletter will continue and be mailed to 500 recipients. The newsletter will also be placed on the World Wide Web.
- ?* Work will continue on NREM-related activities including the Flagship Database Program, the Awards Program and other National Support Team activities. The Regional Extension Forester will also actively maintain the NREM Web Site.
- ?* Electronic communication will be maintained, E-mail addresses will be updated (to date over 300 are in the database). Other forms of communication will continue including phone calls, faxes and personal communication.
- ?* A 1997 Guide to Extension Forest Resources Materials will be updated and distributed to Extension Specialists, and other internal/external partners.
- ?* Work to improve the lines of communication between and among states and the Regional Extension Forestry office.
- ?* Assist the Cooperative Extension System with improving performance and evaluation activities within the natural resources and environmental management arena.
- ?* Attend the National 4-H Forestry Contest in West Virginia. Assist where needed.

Objective 2: Work within the USDA Forest Service to assist with information dissemination, technology transfer, continuing education opportunities, and enhanced communication with Extension and external partners. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 2)

Objective 3: Work within the interface of the Cooperative Extension System and the USDA Forest Service on programs, activities and projects of joint interest. Help to develop, coordinate, promote, conduct, evaluate and/or facilitate joint programs. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 3)

Activities planned: (85 days)

- ?* Schedule work at the USDA Forest Service Region 8 office in Atlanta. Work with Cooperative Forestry, Forest Health, Fire and Aviation, Management Systems, INFOSouth, Public Affairs Office and other Units within the Forest Service to accomplish educational, technology transfer and outreach goals of the Forest Service through close association with the Extension Service. Ongoing projects include work in Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health, Fire and Aviation, Multi cultural Outreach, Rural Conservation and Development, Long-Leaf Pine Restoration, Reforestation, etc. Work with specialists and administrative personnel of both organizations in planning activities where Extension can be an integral part.
- ?* Work with professionals in these agencies to utilize new technologies in data and information dissemination. Work on enhanced communication tools including the Internet and the Web, videoconferencing, etc.
- ?* Attend Forest Service and related state forestry agency meetings other than Atlanta whenever appropriate.
- ?* Assist Forest Service with facilitation when requested and appropriate.
- ?* Promote the goals and objectives of the Forest Service.
- ?* Work to develop and distribute educational materials involving the Forest Service and Extension Service.
- ?* Work to promote each agencies goals, missions and expertise within the context of the position.
- ?* Keep abreast of Forest Service work and research in various fields of forestry and help develop educational materials from new information as it becomes available through the specialists of both organizations.
- ?* Provide a coordinating role between Extension Service and the Forest Service specialists to facilitate more joint programming and co-authoring of publications.
- ?* Keep both Extension and the Forest Service personnel informed of the progress of the Regional Extension role via discussions, letters, and reports.
- ?* Assist in the development of opportunities for continuing education of professional foresters and those in related disciplines in the South (Urban Forestry Institute, Southern Forest-Based Economic Development Academy, others).

Objective 4: Work within the overall forestry and natural resources community to develop, promote, conduct, evaluate and/or facilitate programs of mutual interest that involve university, Extension or educational aspects. Work to promote the Cooperative Extension System and the USDA Forest Service as key players in the natural resources educational community. (Associated objective code for Monthly Activity Reports: 4)

Activities planned: (30 days)

- ?* Work with State Forestry Associations, Forest Landowners Association, Southern Forest Products Association, American Forest Council, American Forest and Paper Association, state forestry agencies, Natural Resources Conservation Service, state forestry continuing education committees, Southeastern Lumberman's Association, Timber Mart-South representatives, American Pulpwood Association, USDA F&WS, EPA, Southern NAPFSC and NAUFWP Deans and Directors, FORS, state urban forestry councils, the Association of Consulting Foresters, forest industry and others in forest resources education programs. Attend their meetings whenever possible and promote partnerships with the Forest Service and Extension Service.
- ?* Continue work to enhance Extension's role in the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- ?* Work with Logger Education and Landowner Education Programs
- ?* Assist members of the forestry community with new communication and information dissemination technologies.
- ?* Assist with the regional meetings. Moderate and facilitate sessions where possible. Encourage better communication and education components of regional initiatives.
- ?* Continue with the leadership role in the Southern Forest-Based Economic Development Academy. Coordinate expertise within the forestry community and the university and Forest Service community to better capitalize on wood products value-added and forest-based recreation opportunities in the rural South. Develop a directory of resources for this initiative.
- ?* Serve as Chair of the FORS Board of Directors. Work to coordinate Extension into FORS activities and distribution channels. Assist with the transition from Alabama to South Carolina.
- ?* Assist with urban forestry activities.
- ?* Assist the EPA, Forest Service and state forestry agencies with education activities associated with new conversion guidelines for unique wetland areas.

Objective 5: Work to complete reports, travel requests and reimbursements, prepare budget, and participate in School of Forest Resources, UGA Extension, and related activities. Present budgets and updates at regional Extension Director, ANR and associated meetings.

Plan of Work 1997

Activities planned: (10 days)

- ?* Keep Extension Directors, ANR Leaders, Forest Service administration, and others informed on the progress of the Regional Extension Forestry position.
- ?* Develop an annual budget for the operations and maintenance of the Regional Extension Forestry office and submit it to the Steering Committee for review.
- ?* Write the plan of work for the Regional Extension Forester and submit it to the Steering Committee for review.
- ?* Write an Annual Report of the accomplishments and activities of the Regional Extension Forester and submit it to the Steering Committee for review.

APPENDIX A - Cooperative Agreement Regional Extension Forester

PART III: Program Narrative

This Cooperative Agreement is being implemented to fulfill the requirements of the USDA Interagency Agreement on Forestry which was executed on January 30, 1978. The Agreement called for the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Georgia (Extension Service) and Southern Region (Forest Service) to identify, prescribe and implement an optimum mix of education and technical services which will increase the efficiency of forestry programs in the South.

In order to carry out the above task, the Extension Service and the Forest Service agree to the following:

A. The Extension Service Shall:

1. Be responsible for maintaining the Agreement with the Cooperative Extension Services currently in force in the following listed States:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

covering their individual participation in and contributions toward the purpose of this Agreement.

2. Be responsible for collecting the financial contributions from the Cooperative Extension Services listed in Section A-1 and use the funds collected for the purposes of this Agreement.

3. Retain in the employ of the University of Georgia a Regional Extension Forester to perform the duties outlined, under the immediate supervision of the Extension Service Director.

4. Provide office space and necessary support for the Regional Extension Forester to perform the duties not performed at the office named in Section B-2 below.

5. Bill the Forest Service at least quarterly for its share of the costs toward accomplishing the purposes of this

Agreement.

B. The Forest Service Shall:

1. Designate employees of Southern Region who shall work with the Regional Extension Forester on activities and programs of mutual interest.

2. Provide office space, supplies and services without charge for the Regional Extension Forester at the Atlanta, Georgia offices of Southern Region for the conduct of duties not performed at the office named in Section A-4 above.

3. Upon receipt of itemized invoices, reimburse the Extension Service an amount not to exceed \$11,000 in FY 1997 in payment of non-salary costs in support of the Regional Extension Forester such as travel, supplies and the costs of preparing and printing publications. The remainder of the \$16,000 of federal funds, \$5,000, is being held for airline ticket charges using SATO. If the entire \$5,000 is not used for airline tickets, then any balance will be available under the reimbursement method. Such reimbursement will be subject to available funds.

C. It is Mutually Agreed That:

1. The Regional Extension Forester will be jointly headquartered at the locations named in Sections A-4 and B-2 and that the incumbent will regularly schedule work time at both locations.

2. The Regional Extension Forester will be responsible to the parties to this Agreement through the Cooperative Extension Service Director, University of Georgia.

3. A Steering Committee shall be designated to formulate an Annual Financial Plan and an Annual Plan of Work, both of which will be attached to and become part of this Agreement. In addition, said Steering Committee will review reports of progress and evaluate the annual accomplishments of the Regional Extension Forester.

4. Membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of - -

-Southern Directors' Administrative Advisor for the Southern Extension Forest Resource Specialists (SEFRS).

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-Cooperative Extension Service Director, University of Georgia.

-Two Officers of SEFRS: one representing the Extension Foresters, the other representing Wood Products Specialists -- these being the Chairman and the appropriate Vice-Chairman SEFRS.

-Assistant Director for Natural Resources, Science and Education Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, who shall serve in an ex officio, non-voting capacity.

5. The members of the aforementioned Steering Committee shall elect one of their members as Chairman of the Steering Committee and shall select, as Vice-Chairman, the aforementioned Chairman of the Southern Group of Extension Foresters or the aforementioned representative designated by the Southern Forest Products Utilization Group.

6. The Regional Extension Forester, among other things, will- -

a. Provide liaison with State Extension Forest Resource Units and facilitate the development of programs among these Units and the Forest Service, to meet Regional needs.

b. Work with the Forest Service and utilize available resources and facilities of the land-grant universities in the South to accomplish identified objectives.

c. Conduct programs developed jointly by the Forest Service and the State Extension Forest Resource Specialists.

d. Work with designated Forest Service employees in planning all educational activities for which incumbent will be responsible.

e. Initiate, lead, participate in, and work to promote attendance of others at workshops, symposia, demonstrations and other educational events for professional foresters and those in related disciplines, and for landowners and processors in the South.

f. Assess the need, and develop jointly with Extension Forest Resource Specialists and Foresters of the U. S. Forest Service, materials suitable to meet the need for educational programs for professionals and private

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landowners.

- g. Develop up-to-date market and business management information useful in the Southern forestry.
- h. Facilitate preparation of publications and other written and audio-visual materials that present a how-to-do-it approach to timber management; harvesting; utilization; energy opportunities in forestry; protection management of forest resources for livestock grazing, wildlife habitats, recreation and other non-fiber products; land-use programs involving forestry.
- i. Keep an inventory of publications and audio visual products useful in forestry across the South; provide timely revisions and new publications or audio-visual materials as needed.
- j. Work with other specialists to develop educational programs and materials to meet specific, specialized problems of forestry having a Southwide scope.
- k. Keep abreast of work in various fields of forestry expertise and develop educational materials from new information as it becomes available.
- l. Determine through personal contacts and surveys that available publications and other educational materials are reaching the intended audiences, that they serve the audiences' needs effectively; provide suggestions for improvements when needed.
- m. Help evaluate individual State Extension Forest Resource programs at the request of respective Extension Service Directors.
- n. Make recommendations on anticipated funding needs for each year and present a written Annual Plan of Work for consideration of the Steering Committee by no later than August 1, each year.
- o. Write an annual progress report for submission to the Steering Committee by no later than November 1, each year.
- p. Initiate and participate in conducting training and help publicize the availability of opportunities for the continuing education of professional foresters and those in related disciplines in the South; needs for other

educational programs for professionals will also be evaluated and findings presented to the Steering Committee.

7. Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating the Forest Service to expend or as involving the United States in any contract or other obligation for the future payment of money in excess of appropriations authorized by law and administratively allocated for this work.

8. No member of, or Delegate to, Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to share any part of this Agreement, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

9. This Agreement will extend through September 30, 1997, with funding to be renewed at the beginning of the Federal fiscal year subject to the availability of funds as covered in Section 7 above.

APPENDIX B - Testimony to National Research Council

Prepared Statement for

The National Research Council's Committee on Prospects and Opportunities for Sustainable Management of America's Nonfederal Forests

prepared by: William G. Hubbard, Southern Regional Extension Forester

June 14, 1997, Atlanta, GA

I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your study on "Prospects and Opportunities for Sustainable Management of America's Nonfederal Forests. My name is Bill Hubbard and I work for the 13 Southern 1862 Land grant Universities. Specifically, I work as the Regional Forester with the Cooperative and Agricultural Extension Services of these institutions. I provide liaison support for the specialists across the south who work with nonindustrial private forest landowners, youth, urban forestry audiences, and virtually any audience with needs involving our natural resources.. I also work closely with the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry Section on efforts to provide educational materials to the South's five plus million nonindustrial private forestland owners.

I have obtained input from my colleagues in the Cooperative Extension Service Southern Region and will concentrate on the first question with input from the other five questions integrated. Specifically there are a number of issues I wish to comment on.

Question #1:

1. What do I see as the major issues for nonfederal forests in my region now and over the next decade or two.

1. Adequate reforestation following timber harvest on nipf lands - This is of course a major issue here in the Southern Region and one I'm sure will be discussed in great length by this Committee. Reports vary by subregion, reporting agency, harvest method and species however invariably, private landowners who harvest forestland in the south do not actively plan for regeneration. Anywhere from one in three to one in nine acres are planted, leaving the remaining to reforest naturally or not at all. With increased harvesting on these lands due to the timber harvest shift, resource scarcity along with higher consumer prices may result.

2. Fair and equitable market values for timber. - An issue in this Region and others I'm sure is the problem with timber theft, either through trespass or unethical purchase. Our recently retired Texas State Forester often tells the story of the forestland owner offered \$20,000 for his timber later to find out it's true market was more than 10 times that. This kind of treatment goes beyond the free market system and should be corrected through stepped up educational and awareness programs. The results will be educated landowners who truly know the value of their forestland investment and more interest in protecting and sustaining that investment.

3. Equitable federal tax structures to encourage proper forest management. - This topic is also of great importance to our nonindustrial private forestland owners and is an issue that has received some attention by our

nation's decision makers. Research into the impact of various levels of capital gains rates could provide information that may encourage active management and maintenance of our nation's forestlands.

4. Equitable state property tax structures to encourage proper forest management. The state property tax laws vary by state and forestland does for the most part enjoy lower property taxes than other forms of land use. In some states here in the South, forested property is taxed at rates that do not match the ability of the forest to produce the level of valuation. These systems need to be improved and stabilized for the long-term, unique practice of forestry.

5. Higrading of our private hardwood forests. On our hardwood forests, we have a problem dealing with taking the best and leaving the rest. These stands are either clearcut or higraded with no plans for regeneration or stand restoration. Stands can be managed and need to be managed more appropriately for both short rotation and long rotation products in a more sustainable fashion.

6. Decreasing tract size, increasing numbers of owners. New survey results show an increase of almost 20% of the number of nlpf owners in the country. These figures are similar for the Southern Region (Birch, 1995). These new owners are owning smaller tracts of land. Educational programs need to be designed for these new owners as they can benefit from various forest management alternatives.

7. Inheritance and estate taxation concerns. - These issues remain critical as our average forestland owner here in the south is close to 60 years old. Many landowners are forced to sell to pay for these taxes.

8. Forest management on limited resource and minority-owned tracts. - There are hundreds of thousands if not millions of acres in this category. Educational, financial, taxation and technical assistance should be provided where possible to these landowners who traditionally have not received these benefits from federal sources.

9. Forest health issues. - As evidenced by the severe Southern Pine Beetle attacks in our rural and even urban areas, forest health will continue to be a major issue on all of our forestlands.

10. Regulations concerning forest management activities. - The application of prescribed burning is under fire as problems with smoke, safety and damage to surrounding properties have all caused concern. Certain chemicals and silvicultural applications are also being questioned. Alternative methods for vegetation control and stand management should be researched as well as adjusting current methods to satisfy societal concerns. Educational efforts need to be stepped up in cases where misinformation has led to poor regulation.

11. Viable wildlife populations. - Because of the rapid growth in the Southern Region in the last few years and conversion of some natural stands to pine plantations, there are concerns that we are not keeping viable populations of critical wildlife species on private lands. These concerns need to be researched to the extent they can provide more accurate information and management recommendations for all landowners. Success stories such as the white-tailed deer and the wild turkey are the result of sustainable forest management and need to be promoted.

12. Poorly or unmanaged forestland. - Although these terms are used variably among natural resource professionals, it is a common fact that most landowners do not have a management plan for their property. Management plans, like personal financial plans provide for activities based on objectives and visions. Without professional assistance and information most landowners have neither a vision or objective. Increased commodity and noncommodity production would be seen on virtually millions of acres if we were to have more

and better management plans.

13. Lack of understanding and management of our urban forests. - Falling in this broad category of issues on nonfederal forestlands is the management of our natural resources in urban areas. Growth is occurring at unprecedented rates in our urban and suburban areas. Growth is also occurring in our urban/wildland interface, causing land-use conflict, safety, and other problems. Policy and education can alleviate some of these problems. Research into what this policy is and what types of education are needed needs to be stepped up.

14. Lack of resources to manage state forestlands. - Some states in the South have aggressive land acquisition programs but do not budget for management activities on these lands. These lands, if not managed properly can suffer the same consequences as those not managed in the private sector however at a cost to the public. The state of Florida is an example and until only recently, few natural resource professionals were assigned responsibility of these lands. More resources are needed to manage these forests which can provide demonstrational and educational opportunities for landowners and citizens.

15. Need to increase educational efforts on all fronts. - Throughout these first fourteen issues is a common thread. It is that of education and information. From information on how to best market and sell timber to recommendations on improving wildlife habitat, the need for information is readily apparent. In the south, and all over this country we have one of the best nonformal educational infrastructures in the world. Through our Cooperative Extension System we can provide information and education to our landowners and to those who assist with land management. This system involves local, state and federal support and hence is truly Cooperative in nature. Concerning federal involvement, our RREA programs have been funded at about 20% of their authorized level. This amounts to a little over 3 million dollars of an authorized level of 15 million. This amounts to little more than a drop in the bucket in the billions of dollars we spend on natural resource programs and management in this country. It is even a smaller drop in the bucket of the amount of money spent on agricultural programs and education in this country.

What is needed is a concerted educational effort by all members of the forestry and natural resources community. A multi agency strategic planning effort involving the Extension Service, state forestry agencies and schools, USDA Forest Service and others in natural resources must be undertaken to better define our educational roles. Extensive use of the National Council on Private Forests is needed as at the current time this Council is only an information sharing medium. Education is one area where we can all work together. Enlightened forest landowners, urban citizens, youth and natural resource professionals lead to better understanding of our natural resources and ultimately to better forest management on nonfederal lands. Thank you.