



**Annual Activity &
Accomplishment Report
Southern Regional Extension Forestry**

January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001

And

Plan of Work

January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002

With

Monthly Activity Reports for 2001

For

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Southern Regional Extension Forester*

Prepared January 2002

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From the Regional Extension Forester

According to 2000 Census figures, there are approximately 91.8 million people living in the Southern United States. These people live, work and play among the forests of the South. They also use forest and timber products for their homes, their work and their recreational/personal pursuits. Many of these citizens do not know who owns the forest or where their forest products come from. They don't realize that more than 60% of the Southern landscape is covered in trees or that much of the more than 200 million acres of forestland is privately held. This vast resource didn't appear over night. Millions of acres of forests have grown back slowly over the past 100 years as the trend to convert land to intensive agriculture has decreased. Foresters, landowners and others have provided much of the leadership for this change and today we have a fairly healthy and productive resource base. Problems however do persist and opportunities to enhance our forests do exist. From the land-grant and Extension Service perspective, the needs and opportunities are great. A recent USDA Forest Service study on the sustainability of our southern forests noted that urbanization and fragmentation are perhaps the greatest threat to our forests. Our land-grant scientists and technology transfer specialists must find solutions to these issues soon. We need ways to keep our forestlands productive and economic because if they are not, they will disappear rapidly as more and more urban and suburban residents move to the cheaper, more pristine country and forest. The forest productivity lies in not only timber products but wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, forest health and other amenities. Finding solutions for today's landowner, be they a 10 acre owner or a 1,000 acre owner must be tailored to suit their needs as well as society's. And, in our urban centers, where farms and forests have been cleared for towns and cities, a more naturally functioning urban ecosystem has been found to be a solution to many of our urban woes from clean air and water to economic development and quality of life.

The 13 Southern landgrant institutions, the USDA Forest Service and the state forestry agencies have a major responsibility in this area. These public service providers must provide the knowledge base and leadership for tomorrow's forests. The Regional Extension Forester is committed to working with these agencies on regional education, information dissemination, technology transfer and professional development programs and projects that lead to effective and efficient solutions. The enclosed report details some of the major activities and accomplishments of the Regional Extension Forester and his staff during the year 2001. I appreciate the support and guidance provided by all institutions involved in this cooperative effort and welcomes your thoughts and comments about the work being completed.

Sincerely,



William G. Hubbard

Mission and Scope of Programming

Goal:

To identify, prescribe and implement an optimum mix of education and technical services that will increase the efficiency of forestry programs in the South (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 to serve a liaison role between the USDA Forest Service and the 13 Extension Forest Resources Units in the South. It also has evolved into a regional programming, representation, promotion and communication role within the forestry and natural resource communities regionally and nationally. In 1979, a cooperative agreement between the 13 1862 Southern Land-Grant institutions and the USDA Forest Service was signed. This document, updated in 2000 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).

Scope of programming:

There are many issues and opportunities facing the forestry and natural resources communities in the new millennium. Timber markets, property rights, urban/wildland and forest fragmentation, wildlife protection and enhancement, capital gains and estate planning, forest health, timber supply and industry mergers and acquisitions, forestland certification, sustainable forestry, animal and municipal waste options on forestlands, conservation and youth education, forest-based economic development and alternative forestland enterprises, 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 professionals that work on these issues with information and tools that facilitate more efficient use of their time and resources. This assistance comes in many forms including accomplishment of the following goals and objectives (as outlined in the MOU):

- Improved communication and cooperation between Extension and other organizations interested in the management of the Region's forests;
- Assessment of technology transfer, information dissemination and educational programming needs of the forest resource professional and private landowner;
- Facilitation of the development of educational materials directed at regional audiences;
- Encouragement, where possible of multi-state and regional cooperation, collaboration and coordination of programs and activities;
- Initiation, planning and participation in educational and technology transfer activities in response to needs assessments;
- Special projects relevant to the goals and objectives of the SREF; and
- Acquisition of resources for regional programming.

Institutions served:

Auburn University – Alabama Cooperative Extension System

University of Arkansas – Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

University of Florida – Florida Cooperative Extension Service

University of Georgia – Georgia Cooperative Extension Service

University of Kentucky – Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

Louisiana State University – Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service

Mississippi State University – Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service

North Carolina – North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service

Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service

Clemson University – Clemson Cooperative Extension Service

University of Tennessee – Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service

Texas A & M University – Texas Cooperative Extension

Virginia Tech – Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

USDA Forest Service – Southern Region

Activities and Accomplishments

Regional Programming – Distance Education/Distance Learning:

1. Co-Coordination of the Regional Master Tree Farmer Program – A distance education program involving the coordination of state Extension Foresters, Forest Service, state forestry agencies, forest industry, NGO's and others in 14 states. Results included:
 - a. 21 hours of instruction by over 20 national and regional experts in various fields of study.
 - b. 132 sites receiving satellite transmission.
 - c. 2500 forest landowners received live transmission, countless others viewing videotapes throughout the year.
 - d. 200 natural resource professionals and Extension agents participating as site hosts.
 - e. Estimated dollar value of program as evaluated by participants of 16.4 million dollars.
 - f. A decision by the Regional Steering Committee to hold the course again in the fall of 2001 and to host an advance course in 2002 and a Wildlife Conservationist course in 2003.
 - g. Acquisition of \$65,000 in funds for the course (satellite costs, speaker travel, website development, undergraduate assistance, etc.).
 - h. Numerous spin-off impacts including field days, local associations, volunteer efforts, behavior change by participants, etc.
2. Co-Coordination of regional Urban & Community Forestry Professional Improvement Program – A distance education program involving Extension, USDA Forest Service, state forestry agencies and state urban forestry councils
 - a. 9 hours of instruction by 10 experts in various fields of urban forestry study.
 - b. 60 sites receiving satellite transmission.
 - c. 613 foresters, natural resource professionals and others participated.
 - d. Online urban forestry manual training completed with this course.
3. Co-Coordination of the regional Forest Certification Program – A distance education program involving Extension, USDA Forest Service, state forestry agencies and others.
 - a. 3 hour evening session by four experts in forest certification
 - b. live interaction with participants throughout the country
 - c. Estimated 30 sites and 200 participants.

Internet Development and Electronic Extension:

Oversight of numerous regional and national websites that are designed to increase the efficiency of forestry programs in the South. Created a full-time position to manage regional websites including:

- a. Regional Extension Forestry Homepage – with links to all 13 Extension, state forestry, NAPFSC and association forestry pages and the USDA Forest Service. Publications such as the Managing the Family Forest in the South were scanned in and placed on this website. Enhancements included links to economic impact data and FIA

- information for each state were also provided (www.soforext.net)
- b. The Forestry Index Homepage – This website is the only topic-arranged regional forestry website in the South. Hundreds of links were added and main topics were updated to reflect suggestions by professionals (www.forestryindex.net). The Southern Group of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service as well as other natural resource service providers support and promote use of this site to their clientele.
 - c. Natural Resource and Environmental Management Programs of the Cooperative Extension System Homepage – This website (www.nrem.net) is the National Support Teams website and includes information on state and national support contacts, flagship programs, Programs of Excellence and other relevant information. The website features hundreds of programs, many southern-based for information sharing purposes. It is funded through a grant from USDA-CSREES.
 - d. Urban-Wildland Interface Homepage – This multi-agency website (www.interfacesouth.org) features a 1,000 plus reference literature database, links to information and websites that feature forest interface resources. It is funded by a grant from USDA Forest Service. It will be transferred to University of Florida Extension in 2002.
 - e. Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics Resources (RNGR) Homepages including websites for an on-line journal entitled Tree Planters Notes (www.treeplantersnotes.org), a nursery manager website for technology transfer (www.nurserymanager.com) and regional nursery association websites.
 - f. Southern Forestry GIS (www.soforgis.net) and Southern Forest Science Conference (www.southernforestsience.net) conference websites to house pertinent information on two major regional conferences including abstracts, venue information, etc.
 - g. Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Homepage. This website houses pertinent information for the fledgling organization and includes online membership databases, newsletters, links to other Extension organizations, conference information, etc. (www.anrep.org). Management of this website will be directed to an Executive Director in 2002.

Resource Acquisition:

1. Animal Waste/Silviculture Initiative - \$15,000 to North Carolina State University to host a regional conference, website and proceedings/guide on animal waste/silviculture interactions and opportunities.
2. Economic Development Initiative - \$20,000 to Mississippi State University to provide regional leadership on promoting the economic opportunities associated with forest-based resources.
3. Urban Forestry Technology Transfer - \$55,000 to Clemson University to coordinate regional urban forestry technology transfer including a satellite education course and a technology academy for urban natural resource professionals in 2001.
4. Reforestation, Regeneration, Genetics and Nursery Management Initiative - \$50,000 to the University of Georgia for managing of various on-line databases, journals and resources for nursery managers, reforestation professionals and related professions.

Conference organization, communication activities, promotional events:

Provided program leadership that resulted in enhanced communication and collaboration among Extension specialists, unit leaders, administrators, internal and external partners and others. Provided program leadership that resulted in increased recognition of exemplary programs of state Extension specialists.

1. Organized the Extension Forestry Unit Leaders Meeting, Athens, Georgia. The program resulted in information sharing, cross-agency interaction and collaboration, and Extension programming and planning that resulted in various regional activities.
2. Organized the Extension Foresters meeting preceding the Forest Landowners Association's Southern Forestry Conference.
3. Assisted with program development, moderation and facilitation of the National Extension Foresters meeting prior to the National Society of American Foresters meeting in Denver, CO. Although the program was cancelled due to 9/11 the group developed an agenda that will be useful in the planning of future meetings.
4. Updated and enhanced various electronic and hard copy mailing lists and listservs for efficient communication in the Extension and technology transfer communities.
5. Led regional Awards for Excellence Program resulting in recognition to over 25 Extension natural resource specialists. Specialists use this recognition and awards program for dossier and tenure and promotion functions. Highlighted programs are shared with the Forest Service and others.
6. Wrote numerous letters in support of promotion of faculty at land-grant institutions.
7. Invited to participate and provide Regional Extension Forestry Updates at:
 - i. Southern Group of State Foresters annual meeting (urban forestry coordinators, I&E chiefs meeting and management chiefs meeting) – Austin, TX.
 - ii. Southern NAPFSC – Alexandria, VA.
 - iii. Southern ANR Program Leaders Meeting, Southern CRD Program Leaders Meeting – Savannah, GA.
 - iv. USDA Forest Service Cooperative Forestry Planning Session, Macon, GA.
 - v. Auburn University Forestry/Wood Products/Wildlife Retreat

Professional Activities and Duties:

1. As Past President of the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP) in 2001, I oversaw or participated in the following activities:
 - i. National Awards Program for technology transfer (Extension) specialists.

- ii. Planning for the 3rd National Extension Natural Resources Conference.
 - iii. Continued inclusion of ANREP into JCEP, the Joint Council of Extension Professionals.
 - iv. Election of 2002 officers.
 - v. JCEP and ANREP liaison to the national Public Issues & Leadership Development (PILD) conference.
 - vi. Conductance of ANREP's involvement in the regional JCEP leadership meetings planned for 2001. Development of PowerPoint presentations that were used at four regional JCEP meetings (NREM presentation and ANREP presentation)
 - b. Served as a 4-H State Forestry Judge – Georgia. Judged Junior and senior final projects/presentations.
 - c. Society of American Foresters (SAF) National Communications Committee.
2. Invited participant on numerous national, regional and state planning committees and task forces. The SREF plays an integral role in assisting these committees and task forces achieve their objectives – more information on these roles is available upon request:
- a. Southern Forest Science Conference
 - i. Publicity Chair – responsible for electronic and hardcopy communication, website and call for papers. Co-editor of conference proceedings.
 - b. National Urban & Community Forestry Technology Transfer Task Force
 - i. Extension and land grant representative in multi-agency effort.
 - c. National Forest Fragmentation Curriculum Development Team
 - i. Assist with development of national curriculum for use by county agents, etc.
 - d. National Natural Resources & Environmental Management Base Program Support Team.
 - i. Communications, awards program, website oversight, Program of Excellence author (Coverts Program of Excellence).
 - e. Regional Conservation Education Strategic Planning Committee
 - f. Regional Master Tree Farmer Steering Committee
 - g. Georgia Master Tree Farmer Steering Committee
 - h. National Fire Plan Educational Response Committee
 - i. Southern Forest Resources GIS Conference Committee

Invited presentations:

1. **Forestry Issues**, Ark-La-Tex Forestry Forum, Louisiana, March 2001. Attendance: 200 natural resource professionals and landowners.
2. **Using Economics in Urban Forestry Decisionmaking**, Arkansas Urban Forestry Conference, Hot Springs, AR. July, 2001.

Attendance: 100 urban forestry professionals and others.

3. **Key Partners and Players in Urban Forestry**. Presentation to urban forestry professionals and others as part of the urban forestry satellite program across the southern region.
4. **Fire Research Needs in the South** – Presentation to SRS fire researchers. Athens, GA. 35 fire researchers in attendance.
5. **NREM Update** – Regional JCEP meeting – 10 Extension professionals in attendance. Athens, GA. February 2001.
6. **ANREP Update** – Regional JCEP meeting – 10 Extension professionals in attendance. Athens, GA. February 2001.
7. **Extension Forestry in the South** – Auburn University forestry retreat. February 2001.
8. **Forestry Services for Forest Landowners** – Master Tree Farmer Session 7. Clemson University satellite to 132 sites and 2400 landowners.
9. **New computer technology for forest landowners** – Southern Forestry Conference. Alexandria, VA. 100 landowners in attendance.
10. **The Future of Forestry** – Texas A & M University annual Spring Awards Banquet. 100 students, parents and guests in attendance.
11. **Internet-based information sharing for Extension professionals** – NE NREM meeting. Burlington, VT. 75 professionals in attendance.
12. **Private Nonindustrial Forest Management at the Interface** – Gainesville, Florida. Wildland Urban Interface Conference. 190 professionals in attendance.
13. **Forestry Situation in the South** – Atlanta, Georgia. Presentation at the Southern Outlook Conference, September, 2001. 80 agriculture economists in attendance.

Publications, papers and reports:

1. **CD ROM – Southern Forest Science Conference Abstracts and Papers**, Atlanta, Georgia November 2001.
2. **Quarterly News from the South Update** – National Woodlands Magazine
3. **Biannual Southern Extension Forestry Update** – NAPFSC Newsletter
4. **Extension Forestry Update South Newsletters**.
5. **Forest Landowners Magazine article**, Hubbard, B. and B. Jackson. 2001. Extension Forestry: Knowledge at Work in the 21st century. Forest Landowner. Vol 6 (3):5-10.

Summary and Analysis of Activities and Accomplishments:

2001 programs, activities and accomplishments of the Regional Extension Forestry office can be summed up in one word: partnerships. Through partnerships with Extension units in all 13 states as well as USDA Forest Service, Forest Landowner Association, state forestry association and state forestry agency partnerships more was accomplished in 2001 than in any previous year. The high level of enthusiasm and interest by my colleagues to work together resulted in numerous exciting products. The Master Tree Farmer program was no doubt among the highlights. This program continues to build momentum and a successful history. The real success with this program lies in the interest and ability of local foresters and county agents to make it work. In 2001, 2500 landowners at 132 sites participated. These landowners showed that they are interested in more than “sound-bite” forestry and although this number represents a fraction of the total potential audience, they are now local, regional and national promoters, communicators and organizers. More than one landowner for instance has communicated to either Dr. Kessler or myself that they are working to get a local county forestry association going and more than one landowner has commented on articles written for local newspapers or field tours held on their lands. Although, the battle to “educate and inform for better stewardship” won’t be won overnight, some major headway is being made with this program.

The success with the satellite videoconference technique was carried over into two other regional extension forestry programs. Both utilized extensive partnerships. The first was a nine-hour professional development course on urban and community forestry. This course was funded by the USDA Forest Service and served as a training opportunity for the online Urban Forestry Field Manual. Ten states participated and approximately 600 participants attended at more than 60 sites. This regional project was more challenging due to the fact that the topical area was more difficult to grasp and covered everything from basic arboriculture to policy, growth and planning. A further complication was the fact that each state does not have an extension urban forester. This lack of capacity and the uncertain audience detracted from an otherwise successful program. All in all, the feedback has been positive and the USDA Forest Service, Southern Group of State Foresters and Extension were exposed to some excellent training at little to no cost. The training will be available via videotape and online streamed video (www.urbanforestrysatellite.net). The training is also being followed up by a hands-on “academy” at Clemson. Extension, state forestry and ngo’s will be invited to this conference in the summer of 2002.

A final regionally coordinated event broadcast via satellite was the forest certification evening session for landowners. This program was designed to provide introductory level, fact-based information on a somewhat contentious issue. The program, broadcast from Auburn University was delivered live to over 30 sites throughout the South and country. Approximately 200 people participated in the program live and listened to presentations on the history and status of forest certification and the various programs currently vying for market share. The information was critical not only for landowners but the natural resource and forestry professionals as well. Without engaging the landowners, the forestry and environmental communities will never resolve some of the conflicts

they are currently dealing with. The program will be made available via videotape and online streamed video (www.soforext.net/certification).

Other significant accomplishments in the year 2001 included oversight of numerous internet activities. Websites including www.soforext.net, and www.forestryindex.net were upgraded and enhanced. Conference websites were maintained including www.southernforestscience.net and www.soforgis.net. With the addition of a full time internet development expert, the capacity to assist Extension units, state forestry and USDA Forest Service/CSREES increased dramatically. Regionally coordinated websites went from less than a handful to over a dozen within the first few months of 2001. These internet sites meet the needs of various clientele groups from forest landowners and forestry professionals to urban audiences, forest nursery and regeneration specialists, hardwood silviculturists, fire managers and many others. Many of the websites now have the capacity to support video and Powerpoint training modules. These technologies will go along way in taking regional Extension forestry to the next level.

Other major activities included assisting the USDA Forest Service with hosting the Southern Forest Science Conference. Specifically, as a member of the Steering Committee and Chair of the Publicity/Communications Committee I assisted with oversight of website, electronic and hardcopy mailings of conference announcements, communication with speakers and oversight of A/V needs and equipment. Close to 300 scientists, managers, Extension agents, landowners and others participated in this exciting meeting in November. A book is forthcoming in 2002.

One other major initiative started in 2001 is the creation of a regional Forest Landowner Education Council to provide assistance and oversight at the regional level. This is a proposed multi-agency effort that will assess and support development of regional education programs, activities and products. It is designed to provide

Finally, 2001 was the first year operating under an updated MOU and Plan of Work matrix. This was useful in making the transition from a regional liaison (the original intent of the position) to one coordinating and collaborating on regional programs and products. While each state does not have the capacity, and for that matter the interest in participating in all regional Extension forestry programs and activities of the Southern Regional Extension Forester, a critical mass has participated in each and every program.

Travel Summary 2001

Total Travel to 13 States & Puerto Rico	58 days (%)
Alabama	8 days
Arkansas	4 days
Florida	14 days
Georgia (outside of Athens and Atlanta)	10 days
Kentucky	
Louisiana	5 days
Mississippi	
North Carolina	3 days
Oklahoma	
South Carolina	8 days
Tennessee	
Texas	6 days
Virginia	3 days
Total Travel to Atlanta (Forest Service, Forest Landowners Assoc., various meetings)	23 days (%)
Total Travel Outside Region	22 days (%)
Washington D.C.	8 days
Colorado	4 days
Maryland (Forest Fragmentation Meeting)	2 days
Kansas	3 days
Vermont	2 days
New Mexico	3 days
Total Travel	103 days (%)
Athens Office	127 days (%)
Annual Leave	20 days (%)
Total	250 days (%)

Monthly Activity Reports (MAR) January through December 2001

Monthly Activity Reports - January 2001

Activities for January:

- A strategic planning session was facilitated with the University of Georgia District ANR Program Leaders in Macon, Georgia
- Time was spent in the Athens office preparing for the Extension Forest Resources Unit Leader's meeting. Speakers were lined up, facilities were arranged and miscellaneous logistics were handled.
- Numerous conference calls were arranged and/or participated in including Master Tree Farmer 2001, Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Board of Directors, Natural Resource & Environmental Management, Southern Forest Science Conference, and the urban forestry satellite series.
- A Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) meeting was attended in New Orleans, LA.
- A Public Issues Leadership Development planning meeting was held via conference call.
- A planning meeting to begin organizing a joint Florida-Georgia Slash Pine meeting was organized and facilitated.
- A meeting to coordinate a southern fire conference was attended at the UGA Institute of Ecology.
- A presentation on research and technology needs of the South was developed and presented to Southern Research Station employees.
- Annual reviews were given to the SREF Administrative Secretary and the SREF Information Technology Specialist.
- Oversight was provided on a number of regional/national websites.
- 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 University and Extension authors for upcoming issues in 2001.
- Numerous tasks were undertaken as Publicity Chair, 2001 Southern Forest Science Conference (updating databases, websites, etc).
- A Spring 2001 National Woodland Owner Update was written.
- Other activities included:
 1. Updating the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Home Page.
 2. Carrying out duties as Past-President – Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals.
 3. Responded to various requests for information, publications, materials and referrals.

Monthly Activity Reports - February 2001

Activities for February:

- A one-day session was facilitated for the Southern Research Station on the creation of a new Cross-Cutting Theme.
- Assistance with initiating the Master Tree Farmer 2001 was completed as the session began February 6, 2001.
- Site assistance with MTF2001 in Athens was provided to the Clarke County Extension Agent. Two of the four evening sessions were attended.
- Atlanta meetings included working with the USDA Forest Service and Forest Landowners Association on various regional projects and programs (Woodlands Course, urban forestry, Sustainable Forestry, etc).
- Conference calls organized included Master Tree Farmer (Steering Committee and State Coordinators), urban forestry, NREM and Southern Forest Science Conference
- A two-day Unit Leaders meeting was organized and held in Athens involving Extension, Forest Service and others.
- Oversight was given on numerous websites (forestryindex, soforext, nurserymanager, nrem, anrep, etc).
- Information was gathered and sent to unit leaders and administrators electronically or via mail.
- Presentations for the months of February and March were researched and prepared.
- Annual report and 2001 plan of work developed.
- Master Tree Farmer program was coordinated with assistance of George Kessler.
- A meeting was arranged with SRS scientist John Stanturf to discuss regional technology transfer needs.
- A Presentation on forest finance was developed for MTF 2001 programming. Larry Tankersly, Extension Forester with the University of Tennessee gave the presentation.
- Urban forestry satellite telephone conference calls with state coordinators were coordinated.
- A Southern Region JCEP meeting was coordinated. An NREM and ANREP presentation were developed and delivered to members in attendance.
- An Extension Committee on Policy and Organization meeting was attended in Baltimore, MD. A presentation on ANREP was provided.

Monthly Activity Reports - March 2001

Activities for March:

- The annual Ark-La-Tex meeting in Shreveport was attended. A session was moderated for the meeting and a presentation on forestry issues was prepared and provided to 200 landowners and natural resource professionals.
- A presentation was given at the Auburn University's Extension Forestry Retreat.
- A quarterly update for the National Woodlands magazine was written and sent to the Editor.
- Conference calls were held concerning Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals. Conference call was also participated on concerning NREM activities. The Southern Forest Science Committee convened conference calls and numerous duties were carried out as communications/publicity chair.
- Calls were responded to and administrative aspects of the position were tended to.
- A regional Extension Forestry meeting was organized prior to Forest Landowners Association meeting in Virginia.
- A presentation on **Forestry Services for Forest Landowners** was developed and delivered to 2500 landowners via the Master Tree Farmer satellite program in Clemson, SC.
- Meetings were held with the SREF IT specialist to update and enhance miscellaneous websites.
- A presentation on Extension Forestry was developed for the UGA forestry club.
- A presentation and lab was presented to Auburn University forestry students.
- Performance review was conducted.
- An international meeting on private forestry was attended in Atlanta.
- A Landowner Assistance Program meeting was attended in Atlanta with members of USDA Forest Service and others.
- The Woodlands Correspondence Course was worked on with Forest Landowners Association.

Monthly Activity Reports - April 2001

Activities for April:

- Meetings were held in Atlanta and Athens on web-based technologies. Regional needs and capacities were discussed with USDA Forest Service personnel.
- The Regional Extension Forestry Budget was developed for FY 01. This budget will be presented at the Spring Southern Region Extension Director's Association meeting for discussion.
- The REF worked with University of Florida faculty on urban forestry, forest management, environmental education and other issues. A two-hour lecture and 3-hour lab was prepared and presented to 16 urban forestry students. Extension was promoted as a career opportunity. Many students asked for more information following the class.
- The regional homepage was updated to include relevant information and links.
- Numerous phone calls, email transmissions and other correspondence were participated in or answered. Materials were sent out to forestry and ANR Leaders. Materials were also sent out to Forestry School Deans.
- A presentation on computer resources for landowners was prepared and delivered to 100 forest landowners at the Southern Forestry Conference in Virginia.
- An Extension Forester's meeting was organized prior to the Southern Forestry Conference.
- A Southern Forestry Awards Program was conducted and Awards Committee coordinated to judge and deliver awards.
- The SAF/SFRC Spring Symposium was attended in Florida along with an Urban/Wildland Interface Committee meeting.
- A keynote banquet presentation was prepared and delivered to Texas A & M University students and their parents.
- A presentation to Southern NAFPSC was given at the Southern Forestry Conference in Virginia.
- A PILD breakout session for Extension was organized in Washington DC. Extension was exposed to Forest Service activities on rural-urban interface initiatives.
- The Natural Resource and Environmental Management Flagship Awards Program was conducted. The REF promoted southern regional nominees and served on the Awards Selection Committee.
- ANREP Awards were judged in South Georgia.
- Southern Forest Science Conference committee work including regional communication and publicity activities and webpage development.

Monthly Activity Reports - May 2001

Activities for May:

- Two days were spent in Atlanta at the Forest Service office and with Forest Landowners Staff updating them on regional Extension Forestry activities. Materials were distributed and gathered for distribution.
- A planning committee that will initiate a regional waste applications on forestlands conference was created with North Carolina Extension Forester Rick Hamilton.
- A meeting was arranged with Alabama State Forester, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service Extension Director and others to discuss partnerships.
- A conference call was coordinated with state continuing education coordinators to discuss regional continuing education opportunities.
- An AFLA call was participated in to discuss Forestryindex.net. This call is archived and can be accessed at www.soforext.net.
- A meeting was arranged to meet the new SGSF Executive Assistant.
- A committee to deliver a forest certification satellite program was created. A conference call was coordinated to discuss the program and included FS, state forestry, NGO's and Extension.
- A three-day Master Tree Farmer strategic planning session was coordinated and attended by key players in FS, state forestry, Extension, etc.
- A presentation was developed for an Agroforestry conference at Alabama A&M University.
- Activities relating to the urban forestry satellite program were worked on.
- An NREM conference call was participated in. The REF will assist with database and website development. A CSREES grant will provide the resources to hire a programmer. Southern natural resources and environmental management programs will be highlighted.
- A meeting with the USDA Forest Service was conducted and included Information Technology Specialist JB Jordin. Mr. Jordin will assist the Forest Service with various web-based projects.
- Publicity chair activities were completed for the Southern Forest Science Conference to be held in November of 2001.
- Conference calls, newsletters, committee work and a quarterly update for the National Woodland Owners Association were either participated in or worked on.

Monthly Activity Reports - June 2001

Activities for June

- Three days were spent at the Southern Group of State Foresters meeting in Austin, TX. Updates and presentations were made to the Management Chiefs, Information & Education Chiefs, Deputy State Foresters and Urban Forestry Coordinators. Specifically, updates on the Master Tree Farmer program, Forestryindex.net, the urban forestry satellite programming, forest certification and the proposed regional Forest Landowner Education Council were discussed.
- Various projects were reviewed and worked on including urban/wildland interface activities, Master Tree Farmer 2002, forestryindex.net, etc. Conference calls were arranged for MTF2001 state coordinators.
- A National Forest Fire Plan educational response call was participated in.
- Two days were spent in Washington DC reviewing 1994 proposals for USDA CSREES.
- 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.
- Numerous conference calls were participated in (MTF2002, Southern Forest Science Conference, ANREP, NREM, etc).
- I participated as a judge in the Georgia 4-H Forestry State Contest in Atlanta.
- An SREF strategic planning session was held with the SREF, Administrative Assistant and Information Technology Specialist participating. Plans were made for the remainder of the year.

Monthly Activity Reports - July 2001

Activities for July:

- Two days were spent in Atlanta working with Forest Service personnel, and Forest Landowner'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.
- Two days were spent in Denver, Colorado with a group of Extension, state forestry and USDA Forest Service personnel with the goal of preparing an educational component of the National Fire Plan. A draft document was developed and delivered by the NPL (Larry Biles) to the USDA Forest Service Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry (Michael Raines).
- A presentation on "Economic Values in the Urban Forest" was prepared and delivered to the Arkansas Urban Forestry Council at their annual conference in Hot Springs, AR.
- Regional projects such as the urban forestry satellite program, the forest certification program and the Master Tree Farmer program were worked on.
- 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.
- Conference calls were organized and participated in including ANREP, NREM and MTF2000.

Monthly Activity Reports - August 2001

Activities for August

- Time was spent with regional web administrator on a variety of web-based projects including www.soforext.net, www.forestryindex.net, www.nrem.net, www.anrep.org and others. All of these web-based products will serve Extension and land grant faculty as well as other key partners. Publications were scanned by students and the IT specialist and placed on-line.
- Three days were spent in Albuquerque, NM at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents (NACAA). A booth was manned to provide the Association with more information about natural resource opportunities within the system.
- One day was spent at Fort Valley State College with the Georgia Forestry Commission and Fort Valley Extension discussing hosting a Master Tree Farmer program in Fort Valley in the fall.
- Two days were spent in Atlanta with coordinators of the SFRA discussing rollout strategies and the possible interest in a regional satellite program announcing the results.
- Two days were spent in north Florida at an NRCS-FS sponsored meeting on silvopasture opportunities. The train-the-trainer workshop was designed to have spin-off events throughout the South.
- Three days were spent with the Cooperative Forestry Unit at their annual work planning meeting. A presentation was made to the Unit.
- Letters were written for colleagues around the south and nation for their promotion and tenure or career advancement.
- Four days were spent at the Southern Program Leadership Committee meeting in Savannah, GA. A Regional Extension Forestry Update was prepared and delivered to both the ANR Leaders and the CRD Leaders. Much interest was expressed in the Master Tree Farmer, urban forestry program and the upcoming forest certification program and the tremendous impact they are having.
- 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).
- Conference calls on ANREP, and the National Extension Forestry Leadership Team were participated in.

Monthly Activity Reports - September 2001

Activities for September:

- 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.
- The Forest Landowner's Association Office was visited to discuss Regional Extension Forestry activities.
- A quarterly National Woodland Owner's Report was written and sent to the Editor.
- Conference calls were organized and/or participated in (MTF2002, Southern Forest Science Conference, National Extension Foresters meeting, etc.).
- A meeting was attended with Clemson personnel who will be assisting the Regional Extension Forester with regional satellite and technology training on urban forestry.
- Work continued on the upcoming Southern Forest Science Conference Atlanta. A CD ROM will be developed as a conference proceedings. The SREF will be working with FS – SRS on this and other Conference products.
- Two days were spent with the SGSF Management Chiefs in Orlando Florida. The SREF briefed the group on regional Extension activities and in particular the creation of a Southern Forest Landowner Education Council and various activities of the council.
- Two days were spent at the National Urban Forestry Conference in Washington DC.
- The SREF organized a two-day session and invited Extension, state forestry, Forest Service and others to participate in an IMPLAN (input-output analysis) training session. Ten participants attended the session and agreed to pursue regional projects as a result.
- The SAF meeting in Denver was cancelled due to terrorist attacks.
- One day was spent videotaping for the upcoming urban forestry satellite program.
- A presentation was delivered on "The Outlook of Forestry in the South" at the annual Southern Forestry Outlook Conference in Atlanta.
- A regional proposal was collaborated on with the SRS (Mike Rauscher) dealing with incorporating fire risk management into private forest management planning (NED). Forest Service project successfully funded.
- Oversight was provided to the regional IT team on their work on various websites.

Monthly Activity Reports - October 2001

Activities for October:

- Time was spent in Atlanta at various meetings including a Conservation Education meeting, ANREP meeting and work with Forest Service and Forest Landowners Association.
- Various conference calls were organized and participated in (MTF2002, Southern Forest Science, ANREP, NREM, etc).
- An article for the Forest Landowner magazine was co-authored and sent to the editor.
- One day was spent at Auburn University preparing for the December forest certification satellite program.
- Two days were spent at the Southeastern Society of American Foresters meeting in Tallahassee, FL. A Slash Pine planning conference was coordinated. The SREF was nominated as Conference Chair.
- Two days were spent at the North East NREM meeting in Burlington, VT. The SREF prepared and delivered a presentation on internet-based information sharing of natural resource Extension programs.
- Final preparations were made for the Southern Forest Science Conference scheduled for Atlanta in November. Speakers were notified and logistics were finalized.
- A national NREM Base Program National Support Team meeting scheduled for California was cancelled due to the 9-11 terrorist attacks and uncertainty with travel.

Monthly Activity Reports - November 2001

Activities for November:

- Conference calls were participated in on a variety of projects (NREM, SFCC, MTF and ANREP).
- One day was spent in Macon, Georgia at a Slash Pine Symposium planning meeting.
- Four days were spent in Gainesville, Florida speaking and moderating at the Wildland-Urban Interface Conference. Time was spent assisting with the new Wildland-Urban Forest Service Unit in Gainesville. A Steering Committee meeting was attended.
- Three days were spent in Naples, Florida planning the 2002 Natural Resources Extension Conference to be held in June 2002.
- One day was spent at Clemson, SC working with Extension to develop and deliver regional distance learning projects (MTF and urban forestry).
- Three days were spent in Atlanta at the Southern Forest Science Conference. AV needs and other logistics were managed out of the SREF office.
- An electronic newsletter was updated and delivered.
- Time was spent in Atlanta working with Forest Service and Forest Landowners Association personnel on a variety of regional projects.
- An urban forestry Internet development project meeting was attended.
- The regional Extension Forestry Homepage was updated to include new information and materials of relevance to internal and external audiences.
- Various materials were distributed to Extension Forestry Unit Leaders and others in the forestry community.

Monthly Activity Reports - December 2001

Activities for December:

- Time was spent updating the monthly activity reports, the 2001 Annual Report, and the 2002 Plan of Work.
- Web material development and oversight continued.
- Two days were spent at Auburn University preparing and delivering the Forest Certification: An Update for Forest Landowners satellite program. Over 30 sites and 300 participants were estimated.
- Various regional initiatives were coordinated including a regional Continuing Education via distance learning initiative, Southern Forestry GIS 2002, Master Tree Farmer 2002 and others.
- One day was spent in Macon with the Slash Pine Symposium Steering Committee.
- Two days were spent in Denver, Colorado with the NREM National Support Team.
- A meeting with Forest Service personnel (Ken Arney and Jim Ehlers and new UGA administrators (Jim Sweeney) was organized. Duties and responsibilities of the Southern Regional Extension Forester were outlined and ways to cooperate were discussed.
- Conference calls were scheduled and/or participated in on the urban forestry technology transfer activities, Public Issues Leadership Development meeting, Master Tree Farmer 2002.
- Portions of the NREM annual report were written and delivered for inclusion into the national annual report developed by Elaine Andrews of Wisconsin.
- Numerous calls, requests for information, letters of reference, conference calls and other activities were answered throughout the rest of the month.

Plans for 2002

Regional Programming (MOU Objective c, d)

- Continue to assist with the coordination of the Master Tree Farmer Program (MTF 2 and Master Wildlifer – scheduled for 2003).
- Assist the regional Forestry Landowner Education Council with:
 - Regional internet website for forest landowners and professionals
 - Continuing education via satellite programming.

Professional Development (MOU Objective b, d)

- Assist a regionally assigned committee with development of a forestry curriculum for county agents. Develop distance education products.
- Conference chair – Slash Pine Symposium – Florida-Georgia SAF Spring Symposium (April 2002)
- Conference co-chair – Southern Forest Resources GIS Conference (November, 2002)
- Assist Clemson University with conducting a regional urban forestry training for Extension, state forestry and NGO's (Summer, 2002)
- Assist with program planning for 2003 triennial extension forestry meeting in Ashville, NC. (Spring 2003)

Administrative (MOU Objective h)

- Provide oversight to office staff including 3 web developers, 1 administrative assistance and undergraduate students.
- Manage numerous grants, respond to RFP's and other granting opportunities.

Communications (MOU Objective a,b,e)

- Provide liaison support between Extension and Forest Service/So. Group of State Foresters.
- Provide Extension Directors, ANR Program Leaders and forestry school deans/directors and others with updates on regional Extension forestry programs and projects.

Promotion/Recognition (MOU Objective a, g)

- Awards Chairman – Southern Extension Forest Resources Awards.

Research Technology Transfer (MOU Objective b,c,d,f)

- Work with USDA Forest Service research on the NED Fire project (case studies for testing new landowner decisionmaking software).
- Work with USDA Forest Service research to test usefulness of online hypertext encyclopedia (Appalachian Hardwoods).

Publications/Authorships (MOU Objective c,d,f)

- Write a chapter on forest management in the urban-rural interface for an upcoming book.

**APPENDIX A - Cooperative Agreement Regional Extension Forester –
As Amended November 1, 2000**

PART III: Program Narrative

This Cooperative Agreement is being implemented to fulfill the requirements of the USDA Interagency Agreement on Forestry executed on January 30, 1978. The Agreement called for the Extension Service, state forestry agencies and 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 – University of Georgia 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 at the University of Georgia.
- 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 \$35,000 in FY 1999 in payment of non-salary costs in support of the Regional Extension Forester such as travel, supplies, student assistance and the costs of preparing and printing publications. The remainder of the \$40,000 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 responsible to the parties to this Agreement through the Cooperative Extension Service Director, University of Georgia or his/her designee.
- 2) A Steering Committee shall be designated to review proposed Annual budgets and plans 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.
- 3) Membership of the Steering Committee shall consist of eight members* :
 - a) Southern Directors' Administrative Advisor for the Southern Extension Forest Resource Specialists (SEFRS).
 - b) Cooperative Extension Service Director, University of Georgia.
 - c) Two representative forestry or natural resource Extension specialists.
 - d) Southern Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Program Leader Forestry/Natural Resources Committee Chair.
 - e) Southern National Association of Professional Forestry Schools and Colleges (NAPFSC) Extension Chair.
 - f) USDA Forest Service – Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private Forestry Southern Region (Region 8).
 - g) National Program Leader for Forestry – USDA-CSREES.
- *Membership of the Steering Committee may also be designees assigned to represent said Member.
- 4) The members of the aforementioned Steering Committee shall elect one of their members as Chairman of the Steering Committee.

- 5) The Regional Extension Forester, among other things, will provide liaison with the 13 southern state Extension forestry units to facilitate the coordination of programs and educational materials among these units and the USDA Forest Service – Southern Region. This will be accomplished by achievement of the following goals and objectives:
- a) **Foster improved communications and cooperation between Extension (national, regional and state) and other organizations interested in the management of the Region’s forests (i.e., government agencies, forest industry, associations, conservation and environmental groups, etc).**
 - b) **Assess regional technology transfer, information dissemination and educational programming needs of the forest resource profession and private forest landowners.**
 - c) **Facilitate the development of educational materials directed at regional audiences, such materials to include publications, computer software, websites and other written, audio-visual or internet-based materials. Encourage where possible multi-state and regional extension cooperation and coordination of programs and activities.**
 - d) **Initiate, plan, and participate in educational and technology transfer activities designed to reach regional audiences of natural resource professionals and landowners.**
 - e) **Maintain current lists of available Extension and Forest Service educational materials and forestry/natural resources Extension personnel.**
 - f) **Work on special projects and initiatives relevant to the goals and objectives of the Regional Extension Forester as they arise. Utilize new information technologies where possible.**
 - g) **Provide leadership and assist states with resource acquisition for southern regional natural resources technology transfer programs.**
 - h) **Prepare plan of work, budget and annual report.**
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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 there from; but this provision shall not be construed to extend to this Agreement if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

- 8) This Agreement will extend through September 30, 2001, with funding to be renewed at the beginning of each Federal fiscal year subject to the availability of funds as covered in Section 7 above.