

2003 Annual Report

Southern Regional Extension Forestry

**Prepared by
William G. Hubbard
Southern Regional Extension Forester
Athens, Georgia**

Table of Contents

	Page
Introduction	3
2003 Priorities	5
Institutions Served	5
From the Regional Forester	6
Regional Programs	8
National Committees, Initiatives and Task Forces	11
Southern Regional Extension Forestry Publications and Articles	13
Internet Applications	14
Professional Presentations	14
Awards and Recognition	16
Regional Administration	16
Staff	17
Plans for 2004	18
Summary and Conclusions	19
Appendix A - SREF MOU	21



Introduction

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).

History:

This position was originally created in 1979 to serve a liaison role between the USDA Forest Service and the 13 1862 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 2003 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 today. Timber markets, property rights, the urban/wildland interface 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, particularly the state Extension forester and the state forestry agency professional 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 USDA FS/ASRED 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.



2003 Priorities

Priority 1 - Strengthen the communication among forestry community members, particularly those involved in Extension, education and technology.

Priority 2 - Increase the interest in regional programming among forestry community members, particularly those involved in Extension, education and technology.

Priority 3 - Ensure that Cooperative Extension and the importance of educational solutions are represented and involved in critical regional and national programs, policies and issue discussions.

Priority 4 - Coordinate focused regional programs and activities based on issues and needs.

Priority 5 - Provide support to state Extension staff upon request.

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 State and Private Forestry



What do we mean by "Extension forestry" today? Those of us who have been around for a few years will probably begin with the traditional response: It is the 3rd arm of the Land Grant University system, alongside teaching and research. We will continue by saying that part of our responsibility lies in working with our research colleagues to supply new research for users while reciprocally providing input for the land grant research engine. We may also say that there are great needs within various communities for basic education in addition to receiving information on these new technologies. We will also say that we work with those who need introductory forest and wildlife management information, youth education, natural resource-based community development options and a host of other areas. Eventually the discussion will focus on the fact that we accomplish all of this with relatively meager human and fiscal resources.

So...is that how one might define Extension forestry today?

Another way to view Extension forestry today is the tremendous diversity in programming we have in the South and how it has developed into a paradox of sorts. On one hand, we are doing cutting edge work as each specialist or agent develops one or more niches based on the myriad of issues they face. On the other hand, because of these specializations, it has become increasingly difficult to create a "critical mass" of specialists and agents with time, resources, interests and expertise necessary to develop regional programs. Regional issues in recent years have included fire management, wildland-urban interface issues, conservation planning, and small-scale forest management.

Things are looking up. Regional multiagency programs such as the Master Tree Farmer and Master Wildlifer Programs, the Wildland-Urban Interface Curriculum Development Committee, a regional peer-reviewed Extension publication process and a host of other efforts are underway to capitalize on strengths and overcome barriers. In addition, the internet has provided the tools necessary for educators to become more efficient communicators, and information and knowledge managers. The Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF) office has been particularly interested in creating "smart internet sites" that do more than simply display information. Examples include the online forest encyclopedias (forestencyclopedia.net) we are collaborating with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station on. These smart sites are designed to synthesize and summarize past and current research and technology in a multitude of areas. Another example is the recently enhanced SREF website (sref.info). Here you will find online databases and current events for today's forestry and natural resource educator. Please visit these sites and send us your feedback.

In closing, how do I define Extension forestry? That's a tough one! Being involved now with Extension for over 15 years, 10 on this job alone, I may be too

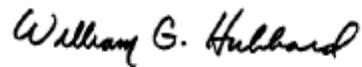


close to it to define it! Perhaps it is easier to define the characteristics I have observed from my Extension forestry colleagues around the south and the country. From these extraordinary people I have found it to be issue and user-driven, scientifically based, androgically (or pedagogically) sound, and outcome oriented. It also involves collaborative planning and inclusion of key stakeholders, partners and evaluation components. In addition it is fiscally responsible and efficient. Finally, it is perhaps the most exciting field that anyone could possibly choose to work in!

2004 and beyond appear to be very difficult budget years for everyone involved in Extension. I believe now, more than ever, that regional programming is paramount to solving some of our more pressing natural resource issues of the day. I pledge to work with each state Extension unit, forestry agency, county agent and other key partners to make the best of our limited resources and budgets.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office if we can be of service to you in any way. Our contact information is listed under the Staff section on page 16.

Sincerely,



William G. Hubbard
Southern Regional Extension Forester



Regional Programs

The SREF was involved in a number of regional educational and technology transfer programs. This involvement ranged from providing technical or facilitative support to directing and organizing. In each case, it was the goal of the Regional Forester to involve as many Land Grant Extension specialists and agents as possible. The SREF remains committed to participating and supporting high quality Extension and technology transfer programs. A summary of these projects and programs are outlined below.

Master Wildlifer 2003

The Master Wildlifer program was developed in South Carolina by Dr. Greg Yarrow. Following the success of the regional Master Tree Farmer programming efforts of 2000 through 2002, Dr. Yarrow were approached by the SREF and Dr. George Kessler, Professor of Forestry at Clemson to conduct a regional Master Wildlifer program.



Dr. Yarrow agreed and enlisted the support of staff at Clemson to organize the course. The SREF office assisted with regionalizing this effort by organizing a planning meeting in the Spring of 2002. The SREF office worked with funding agencies and state Extension forestry and wildlife specialists to invite each state's participation. Monthly conference calls were attended by most states. The course was held live each Tuesday evening from February 4 to March 18, 2003. The results (as listed in Tables 1 and 2) were beyond our expectations. The program, participating speakers and state coordinators were recognized as 2003 Southern Forest Research Extension Specialists Award recipients for their efforts. In addition, this program and the Master Tree Farmer program were submitted to USDA for a Secretary of Agriculture Award. Plans are now underway to conduct an additional Master Wildlifer Course in the spring of 2005.

Land characteristics	921,367 acres owned by participants	3,858,504 acres managed but not owned by participants	1,132,032 acres land leased but not owned by participants	
Demographics	86% male	51% of participants were under 50 years of age	82% of participants were under 60 years of age	89% of participants owned a computer
Behavior change	92% plan to change how they manage their land	77% say they will save money as a result of the course	55% say they will earn money as a result of the course	90% would like to take another course like this
Impact	Participants estimate they will save \$2.45 million dollars as a result of the course	Participants estimate they will earn \$4.57 million dollars as a result of the course		

Table 1. Select Statistics from Master Wildlifer Course



State	Total Confirmed Downlink Sites (January, 2003)	Total Estimated Participants (January, 2003) - Numbers were higher due to late registrants
Alabama	33	680
Arkansas	8	124
Florida	20	398
Georgia	19	655
Kentucky	0	0
Louisiana	9	221
Missouri	31	760
Mississippi	3	65
North Carolina	4	111
Oklahoma	1	52
South Carolina	17	565
Tennessee	5	84
Texas	3	49
Virginia	0	0
Total	150	3764

Table 2. State Participation in the Master Wildlifer Program

Spanish Language Tree Planting Video

Dr. George Hernandez, Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics Program Specialist with the USDA Forest Service contacted the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office about the possibility of developing a tool for use by the reforestation community. The SREF worked with Dr. Hernandez to subcontract the work to a nonprofit Hispanic environmental group. Following this groups failure to complete the assignment, Dr. Hernandez proposed that SREF complete the project. After conferring with several specialists in the states and discussing time and resource issues, it was decided that the SREF office would complete the video project in association with Extension specialists (Dr. Ben Jackson and Dr. Dave Moorhead) at the University of Georgia. The video, approximately 20 minutes in length, has been completed and will be delivered to state forestry and Extension Service reforestation personnel in the Spring of 2004. The video covers the basics of hardwood and softwood tree seedling care and handling, tree planting, safety, and other issues. Copies are available on VHS or DVD through the SREF office.



Cooperative Extension Curriculum Project (CECP)



An Online Course System Sponsored by the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors and the Association of Extension Administrators

The SREF office provided oversight for developing introductory materials relating to forestry, urban forestry, wildlife and other natural resource information to the county-based delivery system. The woodlands correspondence course and the



USDA Forest Service urban forestry manual are being utilized to develop online introductory courses. The courses can be viewed at <http://cecp-online.org/>

Woodlands Correspondence Course - This regional effort, begun in the late 1990's by the Forest Landowners Association is in the final review stage. The SREF provided editorial support of the materials and is working with the Forest Landowners Association to determine chapter editors and how the final product will be presented (cd, print, internet, etc). The USDA Forest Service SPF, industry and others have provided sponsorship of this product.

Southern Region Agroforestry Technology Transfer Team - The SREF and others have formed a regional technology transfer team to understand the needs and develop educational products for various clientele groups in the area of agroforestry. The team includes national, state and private interests. They will meet for the first time in Orlando preceding the first International Symposium on Agroforestry (June, 2004).

Extension Forestry Triennial Conference - The SREF organized a meeting for Extension foresters and others interested in natural resource education. It was organized the week before the annual Forest Landowners Association meeting in Asheville, NC. USDA CSREES and USDA Forest Service (SPF and SRS) professionals were invited to participate and give presentations. Over 50 specialists, agents and guests participated, shared information and spent time strategizing on regional issues and opportunities. The participants agreed that a regional peer-reviewed publication process would be beneficial to all involved and charged the SREF to develop a protocol.



A major responsibility of the Southern Regional Extension Forester is to represent the 1862 (and to a lesser extent 1890) interests on regional, subregional and national efforts. These include committee work, regional/national program or conference planning, and other activities relating to education, technology transfer, professional development and technology transfer. The Southern Regional Extension Forester has been invited to participate on numerous efforts including:

American Tree Farm System National Operating Committee - This committee meets quarterly and is involved in providing oversight to the American Tree Farm System. In addition to providing landgrant and Extension input, the Southern Regional Extension Forester is a charter member of the Educational Subcommittee. This subcommittee is charged with working nationally to bring educational products to members of the Tree Farm System® and private landowners alike.

National Web-Based Center for Nonfederal Forest and Range Lands - USDA CSREES funded project designed to foster online learning for private forest and range owners. The SREF serves on the national steering committee and reviews the proposals for module development. Current modules are being developed. The Web-Based Center is located at www.forestandrange.org.

Southern Forest Research Partnership - The SREF has been invited to participate on this new partnership designed to become more efficient in the development and delivery of new forest science. The SREF will work closely with the interim Executive Director to incorporate technology transfer plans in all research proposals and programs.

Southern Forestry Geographical Information Systems Conference Planning Committee (SOFORGIS) - The SREF works on the committee to organize next years Sofor GIS conference. This conference attracts close to 200 GIS professionals and participants every other year. Past participants have included Forest Service, state forestry agency, university, NGO, industry, GIS vendors and others. The conference is scheduled for December, 2004 in Athens, GA.

Southern Forest Sustainability Working Group - The SREF has been invited to participate on the Working Group and assist with the organization of workshops to begin the dialogue related to sustainable forestry in the South.

Georgia Forestry/Wildlife Outreach Team - The SREF works with state of Georgia and USDA representatives including the Forest Service to develop ways to reach underserved landowners. Products include a survey and plans to develop a video and provide in-service training in early 2004.



Renewable Resources Extension Act Strategic Planning Team - The SREF is involved in national RREA programming, accountability and reporting and strategic planning. The SREF will provide oversight in the development of a national RREA programs website.

Wildland- Urban Interface Council - The SREF participates as a university and Extension representative on this Southern council.

Wildland-Urban Interface Council Curriculum Subcommittee -The SREF participants as a University and Extension representative on this curriculum committee. Products include materials for state-level training and train-the-trainer training revolving around the major issues concerning wildland-urban interface.

National Urban and Community Forestry Technology Transfer Committee - The SREF is a university and Extension representative on this national committee. The Committee was responsible for the development of a national Technology Transfer plan and received an award from the Chief of the USDA Forest Service.

Farm and Forestland Protection Committee - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Grant - This effort involved numerous public and private interests that included both farm and forest professionals. The committee was formed to provide oversight for three regional conferences and the development of a workbook.



Southern Regional Extension Forestry Publications and Articles

- Hubbard, B. and Sather, I. (2003). Regional Technology Transfer Opportunities in Urban and Community Forestry. In C. Kollins. (Ed.), *Engineering Green: 2003 National Urban Forest Conference*. Washington, DC: American Forests.
- Hubbard B., Glover, G., Johnson, J., Jenkins, D., Ross, W., Kessler, G., and Hughes, G. (2003). Forest Landowner Education Programs: These aren't just your Daddy's farm field days! *Forest Landowner*. (62)2. 10-15.
- Hubbard, W.G. and D. Hoge. (2004). Managing Nonindustrial Private Forests at the Interface. In S. W. Vince, M. L. Duryea, E. A. Macie, and L. A. Hermansen (Eds.), *Forests at the Wildland-Urban Interface: Conservation and Management* CRC Press. (in press).
- Hubbard, W.G. (2003). News from the South. *National Woodlands* (quarterly updates).
- Jackson, B., Hubbard, B., Stringer, J., and Dillaway, D. (2003). A Look at County and Municipal Timber Harvesting Ordinances rules, regulations, and the landowner. *Forest Landowner*. (62)2. 42-45.
- Jackson, B., M. Habecker, M. Kroenke, S. Traaholt, V.S. Brown., W.G. Hubbard,. (2004). Members Evaluate their Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). *Journal of Extension* (accepted for publication, fall 2003).
- Jordin, J.B., Hubbard, W.G., Kennard, D.K., Milnor, W.H., Rauscher, H.M. and Veal, B.E. (2003). Using the Zope Web Application Framework to Build and Manage a Large Encyclopedia of Scientific Knowledge. In T. Innis (Ed.), *Natural Resource Information Management Forum: Putting Knowledge to Work*. Kamloops, BC: FORREX-Forest Research Extension Partnership
- Kennard, D. K., H. M. Rauscher, P. A. Fleebe, D. Schmoltdt, J. B. Jordin, W.G. Hubbard, and W. Milnor. (2003). A prototype of an online scientific knowledge management system. *Forest Ecology and Management*. (in press)
- Lawrence, Alyson and W.G. Hubbard. 2004. Benefits of Forestry in the South. SREF Brochure SREF-GNRL-2004-1.



Internet Applications

1. www.sref.info
 - a. Whole website redesigned and improved using the ZOPE® and PLONE® content management system software.
 - b. Contact database enhanced - over 500 southern and national forestry community contact information searchable by name, state, discipline, affiliation (ie SGSF, management chiefs, SNAPSC, Extension foresters, state association executives, etc).
 - c. Master Wildlifer videotapes streamed via Real® Audio Networks.
 - d. Master Wildlifer slideshows and presentation notes placed online.
 - e. Updated news, events and new educational topics provided on a weekly basis.
 - f. Automatic newsletter generator developed for monthly updates.
 - g. Slide show presentations, publications and other resources added online as they become available. Searchable and downloadable.
2. www.forestencyclopedia.net - Two encyclopedias developed; Southern Appalachian Ecosystems and Southern Fire Science. Both are still in the development stage.
3. plone.urbanforestrysouth.org - Working closely with the urban forestry coordinators in the South to upgrade and enhance the urban forestry webpage. Will be content rich and interactive.
4. www.rngr.net - Website is designed for use by those in the reforestation, nursery and genetics fields of forestry.
5. www.usabmp.net/www.forestrybmp.net - USDA Forest Service, NCASI and others are providing support and oversight into the development of this national website designed to assist the logging, forestry, environmental, conservation, decisionmaking and other communities with current information relating to water quality, best management practices and related materials. The current site: www.usabmp.net will be upgraded and enhanced to a new website www.forestrybmp.net.

Professional Presentations

1. **“Importance of urban and community forestry”** Mississippi Society of American Foresters meeting. March 4, 2003.
2. **“Trends of non-industrial forests”** Oklahoma Forest Utilization Conference. April 29, 2003.
3. **“Benefits of professional forestry assistance”** Oklahoma Forest Utilization Conference. April 30, 2003.



4. **"The case for multi-state and regional forestry programs"** Oklahoma Oklahoma Forestry Department Seminar. May 1, 2003.
5. **"Skating to where the puck will be: Extension programming for the new millennium"** Extension Foresters' Triennial Meeting, May 13, 2003 (presentation with Dr. Robert Daniels, Mississippi State Univeristy).
6. **"Reaching people where they live, work and play: Opportunities with the Cooperative Extension Service."** Presentation to the National Urban and Community Forestry Technology Transfer Committee. May 21, 2003.
7. **"Southern region Extension forestry programs"** Virginia Extension Forestry Retreat, May 28, 2003.
8. **"RREA Opportunities with 1890 Specialists"** 1890's Administrators Meeting, June 24, 2003. (presentation with Dr. Eric Norland, USDA CSREES).
9. **"Status and trends of southern forestlands"** Farm and Forestland Protection Workshop. August 13, 2003.
10. **"A vision for knowledge management in forestry"**. Presentation to the staff at the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station. July, 17, 2003.
11. **"The encyclopedia of southern Appalachian forest ecosystems: A prototype of an online scientific knowledge management system."** Southern Forest Insect Work Committee, July 29, 2003.
12. **"What motivates landowners to practice forestry"**. Tennessee Division of Forestry Training, August 28, 2003
13. **"Remember to do technology transfer!!!"** National Urban Forests Conference. September 16, 2003.
14. **"The changing face of forestry Extension"**. Southeastern Society of American Foresters Meeting. October 7, 2003.
15. **"Understanding and overcoming barriers to effective bioenergy research technology transfer"**. International Energy Agency - Bioenergy/Biomass Working Group Conference. October 9, 2003.
16. **"Educational technology: What's hot...what's not"**. National Extension Foresters Meeting. October 25, 2003.
17. **"Successful approaches to sustainable forest management on small forestlands"**. National Society of American Foresters Conference, October 26,2003.
18. **"Using Internet technologies to bridge the gap between science and practice"**. National Society of American Foresters Conference, October 28, 2003.



Awards and Recognition

1. **USDA Forest Service Chief's Award for Technology Transfer** - "National Urban and Community Forestry Technology Transfer Team" - July 2003.
2. **Award for Excellence - Southern Regional Extension Forest Resource Specialists** - "Master Wildlifer Program". March 2003.

Regional Administration

1. Oversight of **Southern Regional Extension Forest Resource Awards Program**. Over 30 awards provided to specialists and partners.
2. Provide oversight to a staff of 4 professionals and 3 students.
3. Wrote 8 letters for colleagues regarding promotion and/or tenure and/or job applications.
4. Reviewed 8 papers for proceedings and/or peer-reviewed journals.



Staff

5.

The Southern Regional Extension Forestry Office would not function without the dedicated support of the following individuals:

Name: Ms. Sarah Martin, smartin@smokey.forestry.uga.edu (706) 542-9022

Title: Administrative Assistant - SREF Office

Job duties: Office management, grant administration, budgets, payroll, travel paperwork, equipment and supplies purchase, various administrative duties.

Name: Mr. Bryan Jordin, bjordin@soforext.net (404) 347-3353

Title: Management Information Specialist

Job duties: Project management for Internet and software-based solutions including contractual work with the USDA Forest Service and USDA CSREES. Current projects include ZOPE programming, Encyclopedia of Appalachian Hardwood Management, Fire Programs of the US, Encyclopedia of Fire Ecology and Management, and Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics Internet activities.

Name: Ms. Allyson Lawrence alawrence@smokey.forestry.uga.edu. (706) 542-1965)

Title: Educational Program Specialist

Job duties: Project management for educational programs including contractual work with the USDA Forest Service and USDA CSREES. Current projects include a Spanish language tree planting video, urban forestry internet website imagery additions and preliminary content development and forestry curriculum development for county Extension agents and others.

Name: Mr. Matt Howell mhowell@sref.info (706) 542-1978

Title: Computer Specialist IV

Job duties: Assists with Internet and software-based solutions. Current projects include ZOPE programming, Urban Forestry South webpage enhancement, Encyclopedia of Appalachian Hardwood Management and Encyclopedia of Fire Ecology and Management.

Name(s): Mr. Adam Greis, Ms. Alana Smith and Ms. Amy Ellers

Title: Student Assistants

Job duties: Assist with scanning documents, entering data and miscellaneous office duties.

Thanks also to Mr. Willie Milnor and Mr. Bryan Veal who provided assistance throughout the year. These two fine individuals are now pursuing graduate degrees in the Computer Science department.



**Plans for FY2004
William G. Hubbard
Southern Regional Extension Forester**

Regional Initiative and Conference Coordination

1. Assist with conducting the Master Tree Farmer Program.
2. Begin planning the Advanced Master Wildlifer Program.
3. Coordinate Regional Agroforestry Team efforts; hold first meeting preceding International Agroforestry Symposium in June 2004.
4. Assist with coordination of the 4th Southern Forestry GIS Conference in Athens.
5. Investigate holding a regional conference on Communication and Education Applications in Natural Resources.
6. Investigate holding a regional workshop on Reaching Underserved Audiences.
7. Begin coordination of regional Southern Forest and Wood Utilization Conference to be held in 2005.

Regional Projects

8. Work closely with Staff Directors, SPF Deputy Regional Forester and SPF staff on critical regional issues (FLEP, Wood Utilization, CRD, Cons. Ed., Forest Legacy, fire, forest health, outreach, urban forestry, taxes, water quality, etc).
9. Assume editorship of new Regional Extension Forestry publication series; publish at least two regional publications.
10. Work with Forest Landowners Association on numerous projects including finalizing the Woodland Owners Reference Guide.
11. Finalize tree planting video and materials - distribute to the states.
12. Finalize regional Economic Importance of Forestry brochure and distribute.

Administration, Representation and Communication

13. Continue to provide oversight to office staff.
14. Continue to enhance websites.
15. Publish quarterly National Woodlands updates.
16. Create a display for better marketing of Southern Regional Extension Forestry products and activities.



17. Develop a Southern Regional Extension Forestry brochure.
18. Work to improve communication efforts with state and county forestry personnel.
19. Work to improve communication efforts with state and county Extension personnel.
20. Attend and provide input at critical regional/national meetings (SAF, FLA, SGSF, SNAPFSC, Extension Foresters, Tree Farm, etc).
21. Assist with critical regional efforts (WUI Council and Curriculum Committees, Southern Forest Sustainability Working Group, Southern Forest Research Partnership).
22. Work more closely with the Southern Research Station on their needs and interests in the areas of improving technology transfer of research.

Summary and Conclusions

The forestry community in the South includes a diverse mix of critical partners and players. The USDA Forest Service, state Extension, forestry and natural resource agencies, private industry, association and environmental interests and many others each play a critical role within our natural resource community. It is the objective of the Southern Regional Extension Forestry office to provide an efficient mix of regional education, information and technology transfer products and processes to this diverse group. This is achieved by coordinating experts and technologies with the needs and issues that concern this community. These efforts cannot be accomplished in a vacuum. We must work together to provide our clientele with the educational resources to allow them to understand, practice and use the land and resources in an environmentally, economically and socially efficient way. Many opportunities exist to work more closely across agency lines to address the critical needs of our clients. Recent surveys of state forestry agencies, for example, have highlighted a number of educational needs including:

- urbanization, sprawl and forest land fragmentation
- hardwood management
- timber products marketing
- outreach/civil rights
- forest management
- urban interface management
- nurseries/tree improvement
- leadership training
- forest taxes
- new technologies and information

The American Tree Farm System similarly surveyed their membership to determine the major issues of their clientele. These included:



- markets for timber, pulp, and/or low grade wood
- urban sprawl and loss of working forests
- generation to generation interest/commitment to forest stewardship and management
- conservation easements
- timber and estate taxes
- regulation of land use
- forestry information and learning opportunities

In summary, the SREF staff is committed to high quality regional educational programs and activities. We believe that no single agency can successfully develop these programs and that shared leadership among the key partners in the Southern region is critical.



Appendix A: USDA FS - CES Memorandum of Understanding

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-I 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
 - f) (NAPFSC) Extension Chair.
 - g) USDA Forest Service - Deputy Regional Forester for State and Private Forestry
 - h) Southern Region (Region 8).
 - i) 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.
- d) Encourage where possible multi-state and regional extension cooperation and coordination of programs and activities.
- e) Initiate, plan, and participate in educational and technology transfer activities designed to reach regional audiences of natural resource professionals and landowners.
- f) Maintain current lists of available Extension and Forest Service educational materials and forestry/natural resources Extension personnel.
- g) 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.
- h) Provide leadership and assist states with resource acquisition for southern regional natural resources technology transfer programs.
- i) Prepare plan of work, budget and annual report.

