



## SOUTHWIDE INITIATIVES

*The health and competitiveness of Southern forests is being impacted by changing local and global markets, invasive species, shifting consumer demands, and declining economic viability of the private forest landowner. There are ways to both promote the conservation ethic, manage forests for a multitude of resources (traditional and nontraditional), and provide economic gains to the landowner.*

### Forest Parcelation and Fragmentation (Fractured Forests)

Urbanization, large-scale ownership changes, and related factors are fracturing the southern forest land base into more and smaller parcels. Parcelation in the context of forestry generally refers to division of ownerships that result in smaller holdings. Fragmentation refers to isolation of forest tracts from one another. If public forest policies and programs are to be responsive to the threats posed by parcelation and fragmentation, it will be necessary to meet several key challenges. Among them are, understanding where they are most likely to occur; which forest types and habitats are most vulnerable, how a fragmented landscape should best be managed; how owners of these forests can be effectively assisted; how public policymakers can be informed of consequences of land use decisions; and how public policy can be shaped.



**Fire Issues in the South**—Rapid fuel accumulation during wet cycles followed by intense dry periods over much of the South require improved management of fire risk, especially at the rapidly expanding wildland-urban interface. Predicting and delineating high fire risk areas, especially at the wild land urban interface, are critical since the population in region is supposed predicted to grow more rapidly than any other part of the country.

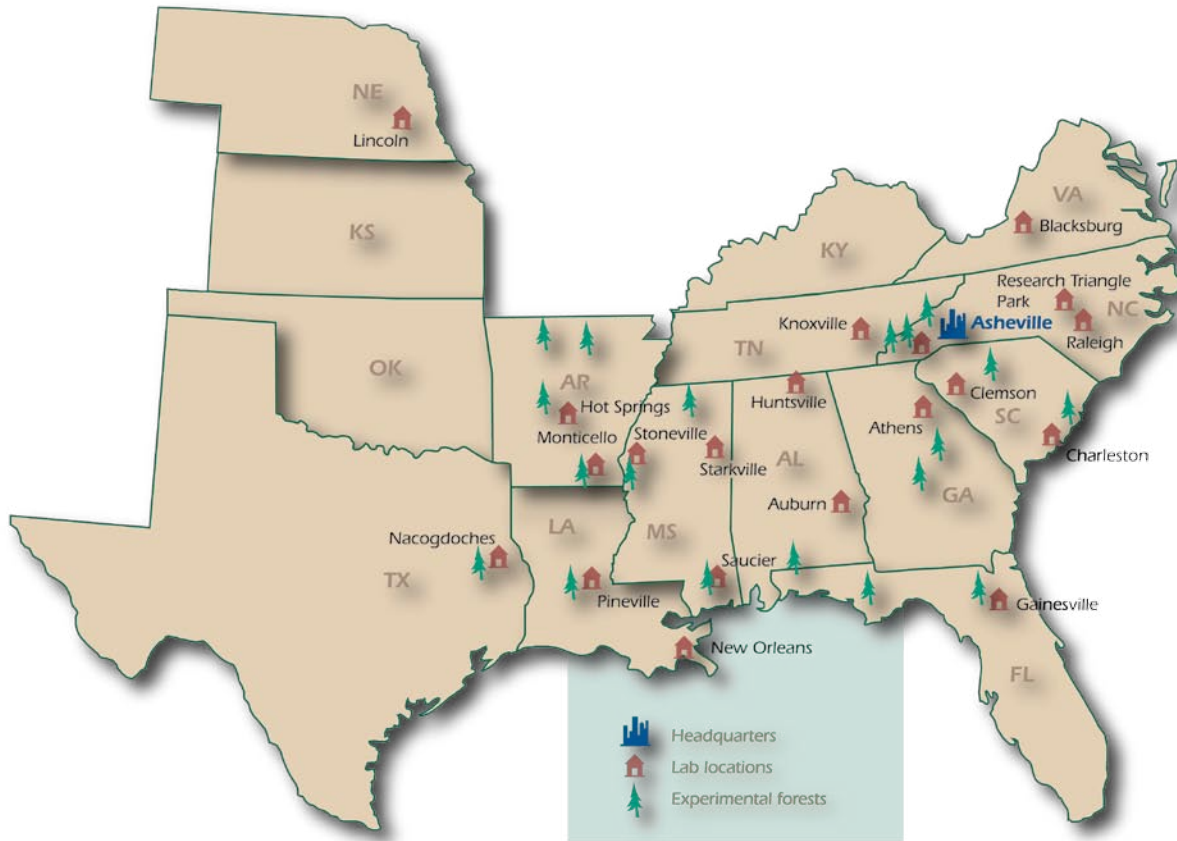
The exclusion of fire management has played a significant role in reducing the health and sustainability of many areas in the South, and negatively affects threatened and endangered species presence and abundance. Uncontrolled fires also have the potential for significant negative impacts on water quality, especially important in the South since many municipalities are water limited.



**Changing Markets**—Globalization of the forest products industry has led to declines in demand for southern pulpwood, a main product of Southern forests. Consumer demand and wood utilization opportunities have also shifted. Enhanced competitiveness of the US in both traditional and non-traditional forest products is possible by tracking these shifts and by expanding the portfolio of products and services received from forests. Biomass utilization would provide an outlet for needed intermediate treatments on forests and could reduce our dependency on the ever-changing world energy market.

*Maintaining healthy Southern forests requires an understanding of changing market conditions, rapidly evolving forest threats, and the socio-economic aspects associated with landowner decision making. Incentives and new markets for ecosystem services and biomass are encouraged to support keeping forest lands in working forests, thus preventing fragmentation and loss of habitat. The capacity of States to deliver training, science, and assistance to landowners is essential for success.*





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**Research Work Units:** (listed alphabetically by location by Science Area)

**Forest Ecosystem Restoration and Management**

**Asheville, NC** • Upland Hardwood Ecology & Management  
• 828-667-5261 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/bentcreek](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/bentcreek)

**Auburn, AL** • Restoring Longleaf Pine Ecosystems •  
334-826-8700 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4111](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4111)

**Monticello, AR** • Southern Pine Ecology • 870-367-3464  
• [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4106](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4106)

**Saucier, MS** • Genetics and Foundations of Productivity •  
228-832-2747 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/organization/unit/mississippi.htm#SRS-4153](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/organization/unit/mississippi.htm#SRS-4153)

**Forest Values, Uses, and Policies**

**Athens, GA** • Urban and Social Influences •  
706-559-4263 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/trends)

**Auburn, AL** • Forest Operations • 334-826-8700 •  
[www.srs.fs.usda.gov/forestops/](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/forestops/)

**Pineville, LA** • Characterization and Properties of Wood •  
318-473-7268 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4701](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4701)

**Research Triangle Park, NC** • Forest Economics and  
Policy • 919-549-4093 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/econ](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/econ)

**Threats to Forest Health**

**Asheville, NC** • Eastern Forest Environmental Threat  
Assessment Center • 828-257-4854 •  
[www.forestthreats.org](http://www.forestthreats.org)

**Athens, GA** • Disturbance Ecology • 706-559-4316 •  
<http://srs.fs.usda.gov/disturbance>

**Pineville, LA** • Insects, Diseases, and Invasive Plants of  
Southern Forests • 318-473-7232 •  
[www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4501](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/4501)

**Forest Watershed Science**

**Franklin, NC** • Forest Watershed Science •  
828-524-2128 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/coweeta](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/coweeta)

**Lincoln, NE** • National Agroforestry Center •  
402-437-5178 • [www.nac.gov](http://www.nac.gov)

**Stoneville, MS** • Bottomland Hardwoods •  
662-686-3154 • [www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cbhr](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/cbhr)

**Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring**

**Knoxville, TN** • Forest Inventory and Analysis •  
865-862-2000 • [www.srsfia2.fs.fed.us](http://www.srsfia2.fs.fed.us)