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To: jgreis@fs.fed.us, dwear@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: SFRA Comment

US Forest Service

25 January 2002

Southern District, Atlanta

jgreis@fs.fed.us , dwear@fs.fed.us

Dear Mr. John Greis and Mr. David Wear,  
January 2002

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Thank you for providing me this opportunity to express my concerns with the draft Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). I know a lot of private tree growers in Georgia and I own stock in several Corporate Tree Growing Industries. Private and Corporate Growers are not having the same problems as are our National Forest tree plantation operations. It has nothing to do with difference in capability of tree farm managers and Forest Service personnel that are trying to manage our public forest to out produce private timber production. That is another issue for another time. The largest difference is that Private and Corporate timber producers have the best land for raising tree crops. The problem is that my National Forest Service is trying to grow pine as a crop on forest land that should be left for forests and wildlife habitat. I am writing this letter to urge you to stop trying to turn mountain forests into pine tree farms. There is an old joke about trying to teach a pig to sing. All you do in waste a lot of time and make the pig mad. If what you really want is more timber production, then help private and corporate growers plant better trees on their existing land and quit trying to make the public mountain land into pine tree farms. The wildlife in American needs some place to live besides city zoos. At the rate you are destroying National Forests, the only safe place left for them to exist will be city zoos.

The mountain's of Georgia are already being destroyed by second home sites. Now they have the problem of your trying to tree farm these same mountains.

Let the native Southern Pine Bark beetle have the few native trees as they become stressed. Stop killing ever insect in the forest with your chemicals.

It is no wonder wildlife is suffering. It is with your chemical program of poisoning everything that craws on a tree that is causing starvation to native wildlife.i.e. red wolf, et.

What the public forests in America need is not less management but better Forest management and less timber management. I know some people in your organization do not like the name of your service, but they are stuck with Forest management. That is what the public wants. Healthy forests not competitive tree farms. If they want to invest in tree farms they can buy stock. I offer that water is more important to the public that timber. Big timber operations destroy watersheds and stream quality, scenic beauty, tourism and outdoor recreation.

I am running out of place to take Cub Scouts because you are turning my old tree sites to tree stumps.

Sincerely,  
Sam Booher  
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Augusta, GA 30907  
706-863-2324