



drmarti@mindspring.com

02/27/02 07:27 PM

To: jgreis@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Southern Forest Resource Assessment Comments

Mr. John Greis

Dear Mr. John Greis,

Dear Sir:

I am writing with regard to the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). The current state and future of the forests throughout the south are of immense importance to me and my family. These issues directly affect the futures of our children, wildlife, water quality, as well as many other ecological implications. Urban and suburban development is devouring so many of the precious resources left, and the projections for timber harvesting and increasing industrialization in the near future are staggering to me.

My family, and friends with whom I share similar concerns about our natural environment, feel very strongly that more information as well as a greater vision is needed on forest sustainability with regard to the above-mentioned issues. Also, it seems that recreational demands in these areas is growing significantly, but what plans are being made to accomodate those? The forested land is shrinking, not expanding. What can be done to not only protect these resources, but PLAN for future public usage, wildlife protection, and other ecological and socioeconomic needs?

I strongly believe that the SFRA leaves too many questions unanswered. I hope that the final report will better address these "holes." I am particularly concerned about the expansion of industrial forestry, without looking more comprehensively at the BIG PICTURE. We can't be limited and just look at the areas that are "critically endangered-" we must look at the entire region as a whole, as well as the ecological and socioeconomic connectedness.

I hope that these missing pieces will be better addressed in the completed report.

Sincerely,

Dr. Martha Costello
455 Riverbend Drive

McDonough, Georgia 30252