



Jad Daley
<amcccons@mindspring.com>

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

02/01/02 02:35 PM

Dear Mr. Greis and Mr. Wear,

I am writing to comment on the draft of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) on behalf of the Eastern Forest Partnership, a coalition of more than 140 environmental organizations from Mississippi to Maine that are working together to protect our eastern forests. We see the forests of the Southeast as our most endangered lands, and believe that these diverse and rich forests should be protected for the benefit of all Americans.

We are heartened that the SFRA correctly notes the severe threats to forests posed by sprawl development. In fact, sprawl is most likely the greatest single threat to the entirety of the eastern forests. Over 8 million acres of rural land were lost to sprawl in the East from 1992 to 1997, much of that in our forests. The Southeast has the nation's worst sprawl, and this is a severe threat to the forests of the region. Any steps that you can take to halt sprawl will be greatly appreciated.

However, we feel that the report failed to adequately acknowledge the threat posed by the continued expansion of industrial forestry in the South. The explosion of industrial forestry is putting our forests in a vise- squeezed for housing on one side by sprawl, squeezed for timber and pulp by the forest products industry on the other. The evidence to support our contention is throughout your report: the widespread and expanding use of chemically managed plantations is damaging forest ecosystems, wildlife, and water supplies; 2 million acres of forest per year are lost to clearcuts; widespread areas where removals exceed growth signal a unsustainable use of our forests.

We hope that the final report will adequately identify and address the severe impacts of industrial forestry on the forests of the South and the people that depend on them. The report is an extremely important step towards saving the forests of the South, one of America's most precious resources. We hope that you will enhance the SFRA with our broader perspective to maximize its effects.

Sincerely,

James A. Daley III, Coordinator
Eastern Forest Partnership
PO Box 118
Titusville, NJ 08648
609-818-9898