



STATE OF OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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January 30, 2002

John Greis
Southern Forest Resource Assessment
USDA – FS – Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30309

Via FAX 404-347-2776 (5 pages)

Dear John:

We were able to review several of the chapters of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment and wanted to provide our comments before the deadline. We especially want to complement you and David Wear for your outstanding work in coordinating the development of the Assessment. The compilation and analysis of all of this data will be an invaluable reference for the forestry community for years to come.

We have provided our comments on the pages that follow, and hope they will help make the final Assessment as accurate as possible. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Thanks once again for your efforts. We look forward to seeing the final report.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Davis, Director
Forestry Services

Kurt Atkinson, Assistant Director

Summary Report

In Figure 1.1 that shows the region, please show the entire states of Oklahoma and Texas. If you want to continue to delineate the areas that are actually under FIA in these states, that is fine, but please include the entire state as part of the assessment.

In Figure 1.2, the size of the font is different in the first block.

In Figure 2.6, counties in outbreak status for SPB, please show LeFlore, McCurtain and Pushmataha counties in southeastern Oklahoma in outbreak status for the 1-5 year period. We had severe SPB in the mid-1970s, and they did not stop at the state line as the map seems to indicate.

In Figure 3.1.6 change in urban land: there is no data shown for Oklahoma counties. Is data not available or just not shown?

In Figures 3.1.8 forest population density and 3.1.9 change in density: there is no data shown for Oklahoma counties. Surely this data is available.

In the paragraph below Figure 3.1.10: it appears that softwood production is also expected to increase significantly in eastern Oklahoma. If so, please include us in the paragraph.

In Figure 3.2.10 average annual growth to removals ratio: The chart would be enhanced by adding projected values at 2025 and 2040.

In Figure 3.3.2 counties in SPB outbreak status: see our comment for Figure 2.6.

In Figures 3.3.3 Various exotic diseases: the labels are awfully small.

In 3.3.4 Effects of forest management: "afforestation" is misspelled in the second paragraph.

In the bullet statement below Figure 3.4.3 Number of acres enrolled in WRP: insert a space before the word "largely."

TIMBR-1: Timbers Products Supply and Demand, by Prestemon and Abt

In part 2, Introduction, 4th sentence: "harvests" should be singular.

In part 3, Methods, second paragraph: "Figure 1" should be in parentheses.

In 5.1.3 Southern Supply and Demand History and Status, 9th paragraph: In the 3rd or 4th sentence, use "encourages" rather than "encouraging."

In Literature cited, U.S. Dept. of Commerce: include "Department" in the parentheses.

In Figure 7, the source reference is incomplete.

In Figure 12, the map of sawmill locations is incomplete for Oklahoma. We certainly have more than the seven mills shown. If there are mills in the Texas Panhandle that merit being mapped, then you should also show mills throughout the rest of Oklahoma. What do you need from us to make the map more complete?

In Figure 37, the year 2040 is missing on the x-axis label.

HLTH – 1: History, status and future of the South's forests by Conner and Hartsell

In 5.1 Changes in forest land area: In the 4th paragraph, you imply that CRP was created to reverse the trend of declining forest land. Actually, CRP was created to retire marginal agricultural land in order to reduce erosion and reduce crop production by establishing these lands in permanent vegetation. CRP proved a boon for tree planting in some states.

In 5.1.1 Diversions: In the 3rd paragraph, add a zero to 406,00.

In 5.2 Changes and trends: The last sentence of the second paragraph needs a period.

In 5.3.1 Trends in NIPF: In the 4th paragraph, insert a space before "a rise" in last sentence.

In 5.3.2 Ownership, tract size: In the first sentence, there are other reasons for fragmentation besides clearing and urban development. Estate tax laws often force heirs to break large tracts into smaller ones to generate funds to pay taxes. As children inherit large tracts from their parents, they are often split between them, resulting in smaller acreages that may ultimately be sold. Large landowners may choose to sell off parcels to generate income or pay taxes.

In 5.4.1 Distribution of timberland area by forest type: In the 4th paragraph, to be consistent, you need to add a sentence about trends in the white pine group.

In 5.4.2 Distribution of timberland by stand size: At the end of the first bullet, use a period instead of a colon.

In 5.5 Trends in stand origin: In the 5th paragraph, CRP was offered as an incentive to farmers/ranchers (not so much NIPF owners) to convert lands to trees.

5.5.1 Shifts: Move heading to the next page.

In 5.5.2 Stand age structure: In the second paragraph, use "50 years of age" instead of "50 years old."

In 5.6 Trends in growing-stock volume: In the first sentence, insert a comma after "produce."

In 5.7 Trends in growth: Insert a space before "7 percent." Also, hyphenate growingstock in last sentence.

In 5.7.1 Growth trends: In the second paragraph, delete "as" in first sentence.

In 5.10 Southwide growth: Spell out the number 1 in third sentence as you did in the second sentence.

In 5.11 The effects: There are two periods in the very last sentence of this section.

In 5.12.1 Distribution of timberland: In the next to last sentence of the last paragraph, insert a space after "percent."

In 6 Conclusions: In the 4th sentence, insert "much of" before "the South's." In the 3rd paragraph, "growing-stock" is run together in two places.

In the literature citations, W. Brad Smith listing, substitute a number for the "xxx." Another really interesting reference is a book titled "The Dawn of a New Constructive Era – Proceedings of the Cut-Over Land Conference of the South" held in 1917 in New Orleans. I don't know if you can access this anywhere, but the purpose of the conference was to discuss how best to utilize and restore the millions of acres of cut-over lands in the southern states.

Table 1: In footnote b, you reference using data from Smith for Oklahoma. Actually, we had a mid-cycle inventory done in 1981.

Table 2: In the Total Public heading, "total" is misspelled. In this and subsequent tables, it would be extremely helpful if the headings were repeated at the top of each page.

Table 4: In the heading, "Nonstocked" is a larger font and not spaced over the column of numbers. The data from several states are missing from this Table as it skips from Georgia to So. Carolina.

Table 7: The numbers shown in Alabama 1982 for All Classes, and in Arkansas 1999 for Softwood and Hardwood Sapling-Seedling is a different font size. Don't you just love MS Word? Also, the footnote for this table extended onto the page for Table 8.

Table 8: Several numbers are in a different font size (3432, 6672, 5326, 21889, 1839). Also, the layout of the first page of this table is different than the next few pages. Other large font numbers include 4627 in Florida, 6070 in Georgia, 2,16?? in Louisiana, 2,96?? in Mississippi, 2093 in North Carolina, 2672 in So. Carolina, and 1468 in Virginia.

Table 9: 51 and 160 in Alabama are different size fonts. Total lines are difficult to read when they fall on next page.

Table 10: Watch font size of 16137 in 8-12 class and 3441 in 18-22 class.

Table 12: Watch font size and spacing of 9305 in Florida and 6648 in Virginia.

Table 14: Font size of 14902 and 2151 in 1982.

Table 15: Font size of 2399 in 1963 and 18551 and 3827 in 1982.

Table 16: Font size of 13735 in 1963.

Table 20: Font size of 6851 in 1989.

Table 23: Font size of 336 in 1989.

Table 28: It would help to have some separation in the headings and columns between Natural and Plantation categories. Also, the species names all run together.

Figure 8: The symbols used for "over 501" and "under 10" are not clear.

Figure 30: Capitalize "percentage" on the y-axis heading.

AQUA-4: BMPs in the South by Prud'homme and Greis

In 5.2 Other Benefits: There are two periods at the end of the section.

In 5.4.1 on BMP monitoring: In Oklahoma, you could say that we are conducting our first sampling since the late 1970s. Oklahoma completed a BMP monitoring program in 1977-78 after we first started our water quality program.