

FORM LETTER # 6



"Roger Johnson"
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To: <jgreis@fs.fed.us>, <dwear@fs.fed.us>
cc: "Listserv" <hike@cellbio.emory.edu>
Subject: SFRA

Dear Mr. Greis and Mr. Wear,

It has recently come to my attention that in response to growing concern about rapidly expanding pressures for timber harvesting in the South, the US Forest Service has initiated an interagency study, the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA), to evaluate the impact of projected timber harvesting trends.

I am responding on behalf of Ens and Outs, a 125 member environmental and outdoor recreation organization in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Our membership is very much concerned that the many important uses for forestlands (and in particular the National Forests) be taken into account in planning for the future of this region.

The SFRA estimates that 30 million acres of forest will be lost by sprawl development and an additional 270 million acres will succumb to the demand for timber by the year 2040. To its credit the Forest Service has in this study made a careful assessment of timber sustainability under this projection. Unfortunately, the SFRA has been narrowly focused and has largely failed to give thoughtful consideration to the impact on other important and increasing demands on the forests, such as water quality, outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat and local economies (with significant incomes from tourism).

We urge you to correct this oversight and make a serious assessment of the impacts of your projection in the other areas mentioned above.

Roger Johnson
Issues Coordinator, Ens & Outs