



scott@appvoices.org

02/08/02 12:20 PM

To: <jgreis@fs.fed.us>, <dwear@fs.fed.us>

cc:

Subject: Acknowledge Unsustainable Timber Industry in SFRA

Dear Mr. Sargent,

Dear Mr. Greis and Mr. Wear,

Thank you for providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). Your failure to acknowledge devastating environmental impacts associated with the continued, unsustainable expansion of industrial forestry in the final version of the report, is an affront to the public's sensibilities and the integrity of the Forest Service. The SFRA documents that while 30 million acres of forest will be lost to sprawl through 2040, at least 250 million acres of forests will be heavily logged by big timber companies to produce products such as paper. These products can be readily produced through alternatives to cutting our forests! Removals of the South's hardwood forests will exceed growth by 2025. In addition, approximately one in every four acres of the South's "forest" will be a single-species pine plantation by 2040. Monoculture, pine plantations do not support biodiversity and threaten to sterilize the richness and diversity of the Southern Appalachians. The use of chemicals in pine plantations will more than double. This is unacceptable.

The primary conclusion that sprawl poses the single biggest threat to Southern forests is laughable and grossly misleading. You must rectify this disingenuous conclusion in the final version of the report. No one would argue that the loss of forests to sprawl does not pose a serious threat to forests. But, the impacts of big timber companies are exacerbated, not diminished, by increased urbanization, as remaining natural forests become even more important to sustaining wildlife populations, water quality, scenic beauty, recreation.

Sincerely,

Scott Gollwitzer

16 Charles Street
Asheville, NC 28801