



rwsutherland@student  
s.wisc.edu  
02/21/02 10:21 AM

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

Mr. John Greis

Dear Mr. John Greis,

My name is Ron Sutherland and I am a graduate student in Conservation Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, although I'm a native of North Carolina and longtime fan of outdoor recreation and natural history in the southern national forests. I urge you to amend the SFRA to include a greater emphasis on the maintenance of high quality, diverse and old growth native forests throughout the region. Although we may have plenty of plantation grown pine monocultures and small acreage hardwoods, I am extremely dubious that anyone is planning on protecting sufficient amounts of forest in relatively undisturbed condition. I am not opposed to logging, but I am opposed to considering twenty-five year old pine plantations to be useful forests from the standpoint of native species and recreation. I also encourage you to place a much greater emphasis on buying private inholdings within and adjacent to the national forests, and on insisting that local governments zone national forest lands for forest and recreation uses only. Otherwise our national forests will end up severely pockmarked with development, and too small to support the increasing recreational demands placed upon them. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ron Sutherland  
502 Eagle Heights Apt D  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705