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To: jgreis@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: southern forest resource assessment

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a consulting forester and a private woodland owner I have followed the development of the southern forest resource assessment closely. I have reviewed the draft copy and have been very impressed by the depth of the evaluation.

My own experiences in the field lead me to concur with most of the findings of the report. Monthly I witness the loss of forestland as it is converted to other uses. As the report shows we are losing forestland in some regions of the southeast at an alarming rate.

Now that the problem has been clarified the next step, as I see it, is for the same coalition of scholars to address the question of what can be done. In other words, what steps, if taken, will slow or even reverse the present trends. Tax policies and cost-share incentives should be examined. Also, working forest allied with mixed development should be explored. The role of working forest conservation easements is another subject worthy of study.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thank you to all those who put many hours into developing the assessment.

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