



Alabama's **TREASURED Forests**

SUMMER 1993

SPECIAL EDITION

COST-SHARE & LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE

STATE FORESTER'S MESSAGE

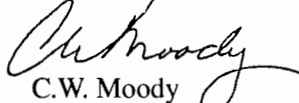
by C.W. Moody, State Forester



W elcome to our special cost-share and landowner assistance issue of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests*. The articles published here were compiled to offer information to landowners who want to obtain cost-share or other forestry assistance from agencies, consultants and forest industry. I think you will find it a valuable tool, as well as a handy reference to keep. Many thanks to the agencies who make up the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee for providing us with the information about their programs.

I'd also like to extend to you an invitation to attend the upcoming Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference. This year's conference, to be held in Lee and Macon Counties, promises to be one of the best. In addition to all the activities planned, some outstanding landowners will be recognized at the annual banquet. The Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award will be presented, as well as awards for the best county forestry planning committees. You will benefit greatly from attending this conference. A registration form is found on page 31. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,


C.W. Moody
State Forester

Alabama's TREASURED Forests

Volume XII. No. 2

Summer 1993

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- USDA—Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
- USDA—Farmer's Home Administration
- USDA—Forest Service, National Forests in Alabama
- USDA—Forest Service, Southeastern Area State and Private
- USDA—Soil Conservation Service

The Alabama Forestry Commission supports the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee's TREASURE Forest program. This magazine is intended to further encourage participation in and acceptance of this program by landowners in the state. Any of the agencies listed above may be contacted for further information about the TREASURE Forest program.

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A FOREST WITH A VIEW

by KIM GILLILAND, Editor

Landowners who come across information about government cost-share programs may think they've stumbled upon a secret language: CRP, FIP, ARCP, SIP, and the list goes on. How does one decipher all these "code names"? Dr. Robert Parker of Elmore County has found that the best way is to visit his Alabama Forestry Commission, Soil Conservation Service or Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service offices. They provide information on what programs he may be eligible for and how he can apply for assistance.

Over the past 10 years, the Millbrook veterinarian has taken advantage of all of these programs, most recently the SIP, or Stewardship Incentives Program. His SIP management plan is a comprehensive overview of his property's forest types and wildlife plantings. It also includes a wildlife habitat assessment and a long-range work plan, as well as detailed maps of the 420 acres. The plan, which was prepared by consultant forester Lock



In this view one can see where part of the cotton field has been planted in trees.

Hunter, is a requirement to receive cost-share money from the SIP program. Currently Dr. Parker is using SIP funds to plant pines and establish permanent wildlife food plots.

Cost-share for Multiple Use

Although Dr. Parker has received cost-share assistance to plant trees, he has done much more with the programs. "He's used almost every aspect of them," says Elmore County Ranger Lynn Justiss. The numerous wildlife food plots and a dike across a low-lying area are two examples of this.

The Parker TREASURE Forest borders the Tallapoosa River, so flooding is a potential problem. To stop and prevent future erosion, a dike was built in 1991 across an open field which borders the river. ARCP funds were used to build and stabilize the half-mile-long dike. Fescue was planted as a permanent cover. The dike encourages drainage into the river, and is used as a road from one side of the

property to the other. "It really works," said Parker. Water bars have also been placed on roads to prevent erosion.

Parker's TREASURE Forest is a diverse piece of property, not only because of the topography, but also because of its multiple-use aspects.

Parker believes one of the positive aspects of having cost-share programs available is that a landowner doesn't have to be extremely knowledgeable about forestry practices to use them—it just takes time and effort to carry out the work. "The best aspect of the program is that it encourages you to do something. If they have a program, why not use it?"

One of the lessons Robert Parker has learned from developing his TREASURE Forest is that a landowner needs to have long-range plans and realize that it may take a while to see those plans completed. "The fun—the enjoyment of it—comes from seeing it change day by day. I put in a lot of hard work, but to me that's the enjoyment of it."

Converting Cotton to Timber

The Parkers' property is made up of several different land types. A bluff which overlooks the lowland may be hard to get to, but the view is spectacular. Gradually descending from the bluff on the north end of the tract, the prominent timber type is a mixed stand of pine and upland hardwoods.

Part of a large open field continues to be leased for cotton production. Each year approximately 25 acres are being converted to trees and wildlife food plots. In addition to pines, hardwoods, such as ash, cherrybark oak, chestnut oak and water oak have been planted on what was once part of the cotton field. Right now, though, Parker says the cotton production is an important part of his overall plan. "It's what helps pay for all the other," he said.

During the last year Dr. Parker bought 60 acres of adjoining property, which includes some agricultural land, swamp bottomland and a clearcut area that will be reforested in the near future.

The river, which is lined with hardwoods, is the southern boundary of the property.

Part of his management plan calls for mowing in between the rows of pine trees and using Arsenal to kill unwanted vegetation. Parker does most of this mainte-

nance work himself. "It pays to do weed control," he says. In fact, what convinced him that herbaceous weed control makes a difference in tree growth were his own records. Over the years Parker has kept exact records on each of his stands and has monitored which ones have had weed control and which ones haven't. "It's been a good experience to see the difference."



Wildlife food plots are planted in strips.

Wildlife is a Priority

The primary objective for this TREASURE Forest is wildlife, with timber coming in a close second. With the assistance of wildlife biologist Stan Stewart, Parker is trying a technique that he hopes will increase the habitat for wildlife on his property. Instead of planting trees and food plots in square blocks, Stewart recommended planting in long, narrow or L-shaped strips. This will increase the edge effect and provide more wildlife corridors.

Using this strategy, alternating strips of wildlife plantings and trees have been established. For example, in one area there are successive strips of the following: clover, pine trees, ryegrass, and pine trees. Wildlife food plots also consist of strips of different plantings. Parker will continue this technique when converting more of the cotton field to forestland. Additional wildlife plantings include autumn olive, peas, crabapple trees, and sawtooth oak. Parker enjoys experimenting with different wildlife mixtures to see which ones do the best. "I plant every-

thing. The peas and the clover and the ryegrass do the best so far," he said. "I have 20 numbered food plots, and some other ones we call by names."

The population of deer and turkey on the property continues to increase, according to Parker. Family and friends are allowed to hunt, and watching wildlife is a favorite pastime of many visitors.

A small pond is also on the grounds. Although it was once stocked with catfish, it isn't quite deep enough to sustain a great number. It is an attractive area to birds and a few alligators, though, Parker says! He's considering putting up some wood duck boxes around the pond this year because it is an appealing place for them to nest.

A Forest with a View

Not only does the Parker TREASURE Forest offer diversity of forest types and an abundance of wildlife, it also offers what has to be the best view in Elmore County. One of the last hills in the Appalachian Chain is found on this TREASURE Forest. Looking out over his property from the bluff, there's no question why Dr. Parker enjoys spending so much of his time there. An unbelievable view allows you to see not only the Parkers' property, but for miles in several directions.

From up there the air is fresh, the shade is cool and the view is something to TREASURE. ♣

Editor's Understory

by KIM GILLILAND, Editor

There are over 900 landowners in Alabama who can claim to have developed a TREASURE Forest, but very few can say they've cultivated two. Dr. Robert Parker can, however.

The first TREASURE Forest he owned was on the western side of Elmore County. It was obtained by his family in 1957 and consisted of about 360 acres. Unfortunately, there were always problems with unwanted visitors fishing, hunting and dumping trash on the property. It was a personal tragedy, though, that became the deciding factor in parting with the property. A good friend of one of Dr. Parker's sons drowned in the pond one day, and it became difficult to associate the property with the happy times once spent there. Fortunately, Dr. Parker was able to locate some property on the other side of the county and it subsequently became certified as a TREASURE Forest as well.

There are several advantages to this second tract of land to the Parkers—the main one being that there is only one way in and one way out. Because of this, it is much easier to keep unwanted visitors away.

Parker's first association with cost-share programs came with the Forestry Incentives Program on his first TREASURE Forest. He also took advantage of the Woodlands Resource Analysis Program and was involved in Union Camp's landowner assistance program (PLUS) for a while. He began a reforestation program on that property, and was eventually able to harvest enough timber to reimburse what was originally paid for the tract. Parker laughs when he remembers his first expe-

riences with prescribed burning that tract, even though he had a fireline plowed around the boundaries. "I learned quickly that firelanes could be jumped by fire!"

He first heard about the TREASURE Forest program from Ray Carpenter, for-

er graduated from Lanier High School in 1958 and went to college at Auburn, majoring in chemistry. After college he landed a job in pipeline construction in Nashville, Tennessee, but decided his calling was really in veterinary medicine.

He then returned to Auburn to attend vet school and married his wife Betsy in 1965.

He practiced in Pensacola, Florida, for about nine years after becoming a vet, but moved back to Alabama in 1979. Dr. Parker said that part of the reason he returned was to be near family, but another part was the difficulty of being an absentee landowner. He now owns his own practice in Millbrook and runs his office from a log cabin he built. He spends a lot of his spare time working on his TREASURE Forest, claiming there's never been a wasted moment in his life. "I've never been bored in my life. I don't know the meaning of the word," he says.

He and his wife Betsy have five children: Tom, Sam and Bob, and twins Blake and Brittany. A former teacher, Betsy Parker is active in the community and with volunteer work.

Parker himself is an active volunteer. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Canan



Dr. Robert Parker

merly an Elmore County ranger with the Alabama Forestry Commission. Between Carpenter and a Kimberly-Clark forester, Parker was able to obtain certification in the late 1970s. His was the second TREASURE Forest certified in Elmore County, and for a long time he was the only one in his part of the county practicing consistently good forest management.

A native of Montgomery, Robert Park-

Land Boys Home in Autauga County, and also works closely with the Canan Land Girls Home there. In addition, he also works with the YMCA. Although the rewards he receives from his TREASURE Forest are many and significant, what he gets from working with young people is even more meaningful. "That has eternal rewards. That's the kind of thing that's important to me." ♣

THE ALABAMA FORESTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE

by LARKIN WADE, Coordinator, Extension Forestry Programs, School of Forestry, Auburn University and
C.W. MOODY, State Forester, Alabama Forestry Commission

Alabama is an outstanding state in many ways. The spirit of cooperation which exists among government agencies and private organizations with forestry interests is just one outstanding quality. In Alabama, as elsewhere, a large number of federal, state, and county agencies have authority to tackle forestry problems. It is important that these agencies cooperate with each other and with private forestry interests. The Alabama Forestry Planning Committee (AFPC) is uniquely successful in coordinating these cooperative efforts. The AFPC was organized on April 5, 1971.

Alabama's Forest Situation

Alabama's forestland covers about 22 million acres—68 percent of the state. Alabama currently enjoys a substantial surplus of hardwood growth over removals but is experiencing a small deficit in softwood volume.

Outstanding progress in Alabama's wildlife and forestry programs has been realized during the past 50 years. In 1940 there were an estimated 16,500 deer and 11,000 wild turkeys, while today the state has a deer herd in excess of 1.3 million and a turkey population above 300,000. More commercial trees are being planted than are being harvested, due in part to the fact that Alabama has one of the finest forest management programs in the country.

Forests constitute a renewable resource and can be biologically managed. Such management results in significantly improved benefits to the state. The great challenge in forestry is in the proper management of 15.4 million acres of commercial forestland in the non-industrial private sector. This acreage, the land held by



Current officers of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee: seated: Chairman John Yancy, U.S. Forest Service; standing l-r: Steve Guy, ALFA, Vice Chairman; C.W. Moody, State Forester, Secretary; and Charles Kelly, Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, past chairman of the AFPC and current chairman of the Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference Steering Committee.

thousands of private owners with small holdings, is producing only half its potential.

Forestland is the basis for water supply, soil stability, wildlife and fish habitat, recreation, clean air, and noise abatement—all important for a healthy environment. Thus, all Alabamians have a stake in the future of our renewable forest resources.

Objectives of the Planning Committee

The aim of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee is to seek the fullest and most appropriate development and use of the forest resources of the state, thereby helping Alabama's forests to meet the needs of the state's people.

To accomplish this, all member organizations of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee must become more effective in coordinating and delivering forestry programs being offered to the private landowner with small holdings.

Working Procedures

The AFPC is a "memorandum of understanding" which meets every six months. The committee believes this plan is better than a formal agreement.

The AFPC is the product of growth and evolution. It is designed to provide a healthy atmosphere where the public forestry agencies and private organizations—state, local, and federal—can examine and coordinate their service and educational programs.

The chief administrative officer for each agency or organization is the attending and voting member. The commitment of the various agencies and organizational heads has been mainly responsible for the success of the AFPC.

In 1976, The Planning Committee initiated efforts to coordinate its educational and service programs. It appointed two special committees, one for service and one for educational efforts. In 1983 it appointed a Productivity Subcommittee to concentrate on coordinating various programs intended to increase forest growth and development. These committees meet quarterly.

In 1981, a decade after its beginning, the AFPC requested that its agency counterparts with county offices meet on a needs basis to identify and handle important forestry problems and issues. The purpose of County Forestry Planning Committees, like that of their parent com-



Tours like this one are usually part of the Annual Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference, which is sponsored by the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee.

mittee, is to facilitate cooperation and coordination of efforts that require input from several agencies. County Forestry Planning Committees include agency, industry, forestry consultant, and landowner representatives. Meetings are conducted either quarterly or monthly, in which a variety of service and educational programs are planned and organized. Each county committee coordinates services and implements educational programs that are unique to that county.

Programs

Since its creation in 1971, the AFPC has sponsored many programs. Perhaps the most visible of these are the TREASURE Forest Program and the Annual Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference.

In July 1975, the first four TREASURE Forests were certified. The goal of the TREASURE Forest Program is to encourage landowners to manage their forests for timber, wildlife, outdoor recreation, aesthetics, and environmental enhancement. The Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Awards were initiated in 1978. Criteria which guide the selection of the recipients are the same as those which govern the TREASURE Forest Program. One additional criterion is the educational value and use of the TREASURE Forest.

In 1984, the first Annual Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference was

held. Features of the conference include the recognition of outstanding TREASURE Forest landowners and county committees, technology updates, tours, and other events of interest.

Record of Achievement

In 1981 the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture presented a certificate of appreciation to members of the AFPC. The Secretary's representative lauded the Alabama group for its innovative and coordinated leadership in effectively delivering service and educational programs in forestry to the people of Alabama. The Secretary praised the committee for its high standards, and said it had set a model for other forestry planning committees in the nation.

The AFPC and county committees represent voluntary efforts that exist for the purpose of achieving better cooperation, minimizing program overlap, and supporting mutually satisfactory undertakings. Total resources dedicated to forestry work are inadequate; cooperative efforts are, therefore, imperative.

The center-stage controversy in forestry is how to use forest resources and subsequently renew them. Both use and renewal are critical for all our resources. The Alabama and County Forestry Planning Committees are helping.

Nationally, and in the states, the American people have demanded action to perpetuate forest resources. This demand has

been reflected not only in the establishment of agencies, but also in the great body of legislation which permits or requires cooperation among federal, state, local, and private landowners.

In 1990, the National Stewardship Program was initiated and funded by Congress. The Stewardship Program is modeled after Alabama's TREASURE Forest Program, and the methods for implementing the Stewardship Program are modeled after Alabama's Forestry Planning Committee.

Members

Originally, the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee was composed of the 13 state and federal agencies responsible for forestry work in Alabama. It has since been expanded to include 18 member groups.

Many of Alabama's nonindustrial private landowners have good intentions of managing their forest resources, but are unaware of the forestry services, both public and private, which are available. Published by the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee, this edition of *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* is designed for use by landowners and representatives of the AFPC member agencies in their work with forest landowners.

A brief description of the purpose, goals, objectives, etc. as provided by each organization that makes up the AFPC is as follows:

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources is a diverse agency composed of five major divisions: Lands, Marine Police, Marine Resources, Parks, and Game and Fish. Each division has a unique area of responsibility.

The Game and Fish Division represents the department on the AFPC. It is the responsibility of this division to manage the wildlife resources of the state. This is accomplished by combining the efforts of technical and enforcement staff to develop and implement necessary policies and regulations, by providing technical assistance to land managers, and by providing education programs to better inform and educate the public.

Technical assistance is provided on request to individuals, industry, and other

government agencies. Two assistance programs that receive numerous requests are the Farm Pond Program and the Deer Management Assistance Program. Request for technical assistance can be initiated with any Game and Fish employee.

The division has three formal educational programs. They are Hunter Education, Fisheries Education, and Project Wild. The Hunter Education Program teaches wildlife conservation and hunter ethics as well as firearms safety. This program is now mandatory for all first-time purchasers of hunting licenses born after August 1, 1977.

The Fisheries Education Program teaches about the aquatic world including ecology and fish identification. Project Wild is directed towards teachers of grades K-12. The goal is to provide a factual background upon which teachers will be better equipped to assist their students to learn and to make decisions regarding wildlife conservation issues.

The Game and Fish Division manages public fishing lakes and wildlife management areas that are located throughout the state. Each area offers Alabama citizens an opportunity to enjoy wildlife resources by actively participating in hunting or fishing or through other means such as hiking, camping, photography, etc.

Alabama Department of Education, Vocational Division, Agribusiness Education

Agribusiness Education programs prepare high school students for challenging careers on the farm, in agribusinesses that support modern farmers, as well as forestry, horticulture, marketing, agricultural mechanics, and natural resources occupations. A unique feature of Agribusiness Education is that learning does not end in the classroom. Students use knowledge gained through classroom instruction as a foundation for supervised agricultural experience programs on farms, in local agribusiness establishments, and in activities of the FFA.

FFA activities are specifically designed to be a part of the instructional program. FFA members share a deep concern for the environment and a sense of responsibility to their local communities. Programs such as Building Our American Communities encourage members to meet local needs through projects such as recycling, land reclamation and reforestation.

Members develop skills in leadership, problem-solving, and communication as they actively improve the world around them.

ALFA Farmers Federation

The Alabama Farmers Federation (ALFA Farmers) is an independent voluntary organization of farm, forestry and ranch families associated to safeguard and promote their enlightened self-interest in a manner that is consistent with the general good. People join and pay dues voluntarily to finance the program. The affairs of ALFA Farmers are kept in the hand of the "active" or voting members who derive all or a portion of their income from farming and forestry. Through ALFA Farmers, farmers are given an opportunity to come together and discuss their mutual problems and agree upon a solution.

Much of ALFA Farmers agricultural and forestry policy development and implementation takes place through 12 commodity divisions, one for each of the major agricultural commodities produced in Alabama. Forestry is one of those commodity divisions. These divisions operate under the auspices of the county and state ALFA Farmers structure. This allows producers to be more effective by having the ability to deal with specific commodity issues while at the same time maintaining the unity and strength gained from uniting all commodity producers together under one organization.

Alabama Forestry Association Forest Industries' Landowner Assistance Programs

The AFA, organized in 1949 as the "voice of forestry in Alabama," is actively engaged in working with the legislature and other areas of government in promoting forestry education, increased productivity and communications.

The AFA publishes *Alabama Forests*, a bimonthly magazine; an annual directory of forest industries; and a weekly bulletin during legislative sessions about issues affecting forestry. The AFA sponsors the "Logger of the Year Award," which recognizes achievement and promotes a positive image of logging; the Tree Farm Program; and seminars and training in forest management, safety, trucking, laws and regulations. The Association also represents its members before the Alabama

Legislature, the U.S. Congress and federal and state agencies.

Many forest industry firms offer forestry assistance to nonindustrial private landowners; however, these programs vary considerably from company to company. Some corporations verbally request an opportunity to purchase any forest products sold from the land. Others ask for a formal agreement, often called "first right of refusal." This first right of refusal may vary in duration and specific provisions may differ. Generally, under first right of refusal, the landowner is contractually obligated to sell his timber to the corporation, provided the corporation is able to match the highest stumpage price the landowner has been offered for his timber from an independent third party when the landowner decides to sell. A few offer forestry assistance with no obligation to the landowner.

Here are some types of forestry assistance offered by forest industries:

- Long-term leasing
- Timber Inventories
- Management Recommendations
- Written Forest Management Plans
- Tax Guidance
- Boundary Surveys and Maintenance
- Firelane Construction
- Prescribed Burning
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Site Preparation
- Planting or Seeding
- Timber Marketing
- Timber Harvesting

Alabama Forestry Commission

The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) is a state agency with its main office in Montgomery. Duties of the AFC are to protect, conserve and increase the timber and forest resources of Alabama and to administer all laws relating to timber and forestry. The AFC also carries on a program of education and public enlightenment with respect to the state's timber and forest resources.

Forest landowners can inquire and receive AFC services at any of the organization's 67 county offices. A county supervisor is assigned to each county and is supported by staff employees in each of 11 district offices around the state.

Specific AFC county services include fireline construction, limited prescribed burning, written forest management plans, forest law enforcement and tree seedlings

CALENDAR

July 13-15—Auburn, Ala. "Urban Forest Management," an Auburn University short course. For more information contact the School of Forestry, 122 M. White Smith Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418.

September 9—Montgomery, AL. Second Annual Litter Law Enforcement Conference at the Madison Hotel; sponsored by Alabama PALS. The law, legal procedure and penalties involving the offense of litter will be discussed, as well as information on developing litter enforcement programs for municipal, county and state agencies. For more information call 1-800-ALA-PALS.

September 20-21—Tuscaloosa, Ala. "Estate Planning for Forest Landowners," an Auburn University short course. For more information contact the School of Forestry, 122 M. White Smith Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418.

October 3-9—Fire Prevention Week.

October 6—Auburn, Ala. "Forest Roads for Forest Landowners," a workshop sponsored by the Auburn School of Forestry, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Registration form and more information can be found on page 30.

October 7-9—Auburn, Ala. Tenth Annual Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference. Indoor and outdoor sessions. See article on page 30 and registration form on page 31 for more information.

October 12-13—Auburn, Ala. "Forest Roads," an Auburn University short course. For more information contact the School of Forestry, 122 M. White Smith Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5418.

October 17-23—Forest Products Week.

from state nurseries. Also, recommendations are given in forest insects and diseases, timber stand improvement, planting or seeding, natural regeneration, site preparation, timber marketing, timber harvesting, forest taxation, wood utilization, wildlife habitat management, water and soil quality, hardwood culture, wildfire control, plus other forest management related practices.

Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee

The duties of the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee are to carry out preventive and control measures within each district, but not limited to, engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, changes in use of land and other erosion control measures on lands owned or controlled by Alabama or any of its agencies with their consent and cooperation.

The Committee also conducts surveys, investigations and research related to soil erosion and the preventive and control measures needed, publishes survey results, and disseminates information concerning such preventive and control measures.

Demonstration projects are also conducted by the Committee. Landowners within the district are assisted by the Committee in carrying out operations upon their lands for the conservation of soil resources under prescribed terms.

In addition, the Soil and Water Conservation Committee develops comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil resources.

Alabama TREASURE Forest Landowners Association

The Alabama TREASURE Forest Landowners Association is a private non-profit corporation whose purposes are the following:

1. Educate present and future TREASURE Forest landowners.
2. Act as a voice for TREASURE Forest landowners concerning programs and issues which may affect landowners.
3. Provide a forum for presentation, discussion and exchange of ideas, concepts and perspectives of interest to forest landowners.

The Association was formed October 11, 1990, and became incorporated May 31, 1991. Membership is open to TREASURE Forest landowners, TREASURE Forest commitment form and creed signers and all others who have goals and purposes consistent with those of the Association and are deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.

The concerns and ideas of TREASURE Forest landowners are heard directly by the state forester of Alabama because the Board of Directors also acts as the TREASURE Forest Landowners Advisory Committee by approval of the governor.

Alabama Wildlife Federation

The Alabama Wildlife Federation (AWF) is the state's oldest and largest citizens' conservation organization. It is an organization of people who share a mutual concern for wildlife and natural resources. The AWF philosophy toward natural resources has always been "wise use" and "responsible stewardship." The AWF gets its strength from its members and their involvement in conservation issues on the local level. Their annual dues help support the ongoing work of AWF.

Educational efforts of the AWF include: publication of *Alabama Wildlife* magazine; publication of wildlife art; distribution of educational materials in the public and private school systems; providing on-line computer based data access about pending conservation legislation; and responding to numerous conservation questions from its members.

Conservation actions include: maintaining files on numerous conservation issues; advocating the Federation's position on public policies affecting wildlife and the environment; mobilizing members on a local level to educate key people about important issues; providing testimony before legislative committees; and much more.

AWF philosophy embraces the proposition that responsible stewardship of wildlife, forests, fish, waters and soils is directly related to life and beauty, prosperity and progress.

Alabama Chapter Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. Consulting Forester Services

Consulting Foresters offer services to the general public and other organizations in

the management of forestlands for a fee. In Alabama these professionals must be licensed by the State Board of Registration for Foresters. This ensures that they have the education and knowledge to provide services to landowners. A number of the consulting foresters in Alabama belong to the Association of Consulting Foresters of America Inc., a national group which enforces strict professional standards.

Consulting foresters offer many kinds of services. Such services might be making management plans for their clients, making inventories of timber, helping with economic decisions involving the forest stands, maintaining boundary lines, making timber inventories, planting trees, helping their clients sell timber, supervising the harvesting of timber, marking timber sales for landowners, and helping landowners accomplish their objectives in the management of their forestland. Many consultants can help manage the property for other objectives, such as wildlife management for hunting or for enjoyment, the development of hiking trails and uses other than wood production.

Consulting foresters work for the landowner and provide representation in a professional way. They will advise and counsel a landowner to accomplish his or her objectives. Just as an attorney or accountant does in legal or financial affairs, a consultant can advise in the management of forestlands, and then the consultant can implement the activities to accomplish the objectives.

Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station

The mission of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station is to conduct both applied and basic scientific research programs bearing, directly and indirectly, on the establishment and maintenance of permanent and effective agricultural and forest industries in Alabama; on development and improvement of the rural home and of rural life; on advances in agricultural and forestry technologies which contribute to the welfare of the people of Alabama and the nation and to improvements in the quality of our environment; and on promotion of global human welfare and world peace through such advances.

A secondary but important role of the Experiment Station is to help train agricultural and forest scientists for tomorrow by

providing support and opportunities for research for graduate research assistants.

Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

The mission of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service is to extend the benefits of land-grant university research to the people of Alabama through informal, out-of-school education. The Extension Service provides practical and useful information to the public about multiple-use forest management, Christmas tree production and marketing, forest products marketing, forest economics and taxation, urban forestry, forest protection, fisheries management and marketing, wildlife habitat management, animal damage control, and other related topics. It provides educational opportunities through meetings, seminars, video and satellite workshops, field tours, forest management demonstrations, and communications such as publications, computer-assisted learning modules, and mass media. This information and education helps people and communities to help themselves solve problems, take advantage of opportunities and achieve their highest potentials.

The programs of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service are available through the County Extension agent's office in the 67 counties. County programs are supported by subject matter specialists in Auburn, and are provided program and administrative leadership by district and state offices.

Auburn University College of Agriculture

The primary missions of the College of Agriculture are teaching, research and extension. Specifically the mission is as follows: to prepare students for careers in agriculture and broadly related areas and professions to meet the needs of our modern-day society for high quality human expertise; to carry out basic and applied research that addresses problems of agriculture and agribusiness for the purpose of maintaining and improving an effective agricultural industry, developing and improving the rural home and family life and contributing to the welfare of consumers; and to gather and extend the knowledge gained through research to individuals, firms and organizations so they can make sound decisions about their

farming, agribusiness operations, families, and communities.

Most of the over 200 faculty in the College of Agriculture have expertise that will benefit the forestry interests in the state. Obvious examples would be found in the departments of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Agronomy and Soils, Agricultural Engineering (Forest Engineering), Entomology, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and Plant Pathology. This expertise is readily available to the forestry community through the County Agents office or through INTERNET, AGNET or ACENET.

Auburn University School of Forestry

Auburn's School of Forestry provides comprehensive education, research, extension, and continuing education programs involving all facets of forestry and forest products. The School offers undergraduate degrees in forest resources, forestry operations, and forest engineering. The latter program is in cooperation with the Department of Agricultural Engineering. The education foundation for all of the school's undergraduate professional courses is a summer field practicum held at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center near Andalusia. All undergraduate students attend this practicum in the summer prior to their junior year.

Graduate programs leading to the Master of Forestry, Master of Science, and PhD degrees are offered in the general areas of forest biology, forest biometrics, forest economics, forest engineering, and wood science. The graduate program is closely associated with the school's research activities, which are also conducted in these same basic areas.

The school's programs include a broad range of forestry extension activities designed to transfer information from research at Auburn and other sources to a wide variety of clientele, including landowners, natural resource professionals, and the general public.

A recent addition to the school's programs has been the development of a comprehensive continuing education program aimed at providing up-to-date information to foresters and other natural resource professionals.

The school's facilities include M. White Smith Hall (the main forestry building), a forest products laboratory, and the facili-

ties at the Solon Dixon Forestry Education Center. The school has an undergraduate micro-computer laboratory for undergraduate instruction, which contains both computing and GIS capability. The University library has ample reference materials on all aspects of forestry and forest products.

Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a regional resource development agency with responsibilities within portions of the seven states that make up the Tennessee River drainage basin. TVA's Resource Group, Land Management, is responsible for ensuring multidisciplinary land use planning on TVA lands and directs the management of TVA's dam reservations and reservoir lands. The division also works directly with public, professional, and commercial forestry organizations to identify current forestry needs and develop solutions, technical information, and programs to help meet these needs.

Assistance is provided to forest industry firms to make the harvesting and processing of their products more efficient and environmentally sound, and information on natural and human resources is provided to evaluate the suitability for industrial locations or expansions. The division works with public and private foresters to increase their effectiveness in forest resource analysis and planning.

USDA-Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offers cost-share assistance to landowners to carry out needed conservation measures through the Agriculture Conservation Programs (ACP) and Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) through annual appropriations provided by Congress.

In Alabama, cost-sharing under the ACP is limited to 60 percent of cost and FIP is limited to 65 percent of cost. The maximum payment limitation is \$3,500 per person per year under ACP and \$10,000 per person per year under FIP.

The programs of the ASCS are available through the county ASCS office in each of the 67 counties in Alabama and are administered by the local county ASC Committees. The county committees work closely with the Alabama Forestry Com-

mission, Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service, consulting foresters and others in providing forestry assistance to landowners.

USDA-Farmers Home Administration

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) may provide either direct loans or guarantees on loans made by a local lender for purchase and/or development of forestland. To be eligible for FmHA assistance, applicants for these loans must be unable to obtain the credit needed at reasonable terms and rates without an FmHA guarantee. Applicants must be operators of not larger than a family size farm and meet other eligibility requirements.

Forestry and other farming practices must be in compliance with USDA conservation regulations regarding highly erodible and wetland acreage. Establishment and implementation of forestry improvement practices are coordinated when appropriate with the Alabama Forestry Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

FmHA administers its loan programs through 44 county supervisors and county committees throughout the state.

USDA-Forest Service

The Forest Service is responsible for participating, both locally and nationally, in designating land use priorities; for mulating programs that carry out broad management objectives; and establishing a pattern of policies and cooperative forestry programs with the states to assure the optimum benefits of forest resources for present and future generations.

The phrase, "CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE," captures the Forest Service's mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

This includes the following: advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands; listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions; protecting and managing the National Forests and Grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustain-

able multiple-use management concept; providing technical and financial assistance to state and private forest landowners, encouraging them to practice good stewardship and quality land management in meeting their specific objectives; providing technical and financial assistance to cities and communities to improve their natural environment by planting trees and caring for their forests; providing international technical assistance and scientific exchanges to sustain and enhance global resources and to encourage quality land management; helping states and communities to wisely use the forests to promote rural economic development and a quality rural environment; developing and providing scientific and technical knowledge aimed at improving our capability to protect, manage, and use forests and rangelands; providing work, training, and education to the unemployed, underemployed, elderly, youth, and disadvantaged in pursuit of our mission.

Alabama's four national forests—the Bankhead, Talladega, Tuskegee and Conecuh—total 658,124 acres in 17 counties.

USDA-Soil Conservation Service

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) provides technical assistance to landowners in the management of their soil, water and related natural resources. Conservationists help landowners inventory resource problems on their land and provide them with conservation alternatives that best meet their objectives. This assistance leads to conservation plans that provide a logical framework for landowners to manage their soil, water, forests, wildlife and other resources.

The basis of SCS conservation plans is the soil survey. Soil surveys and interpretations help landowners decide which land use is best for each soil type and give them the productivity ratings of the soils for producing timber, crops or wildlife. Site index information is valuable for forest landowners in making management decisions based on the productivity of the land. Soil interpretations also give ratings for management problems such as erosion hazards, equipment limitations, and seedling mortality.

SCS assistance is provided through local soil and water conservation districts. ♣

ALABAMA FORESTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

Some of the agencies listed below have an office in your county.
Please contact the headquarters office below or consult your local telephone directory for the address
and phone number of the county office.

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 N. Union St.
Montgomery, AL 36130 |205-242-3465 | Alabama Cooperative Extension Service
111 Duncan Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849 |205-844-4444 |
| Alabama Department of Education, Vocational Division, Agribusiness Education
5227 Gordon Persons Bldg.
50 N. Ripley St.
Montgomery, AL 36130 |205-242-9114 | College of Agriculture, Auburn University
107 Comer Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849 |205-844-2345 |
| Alabama Farmers Federation
P.O. Box 11000
Montgomery, AL 36198 |205-288-3900 | School of Forestry, Auburn University
108 M. White Smith Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849 |205-844-1007 |
| Alabama Forestry Association
555 Alabama St.
Montgomery, AL 36104 |205-265-8733 | Tennessee Valley Authority
Forest Resources Development
17 Ridgeway Rd.
Norris, TN 37828 |615-632-1631 |
| Alabama Forestry Commission
513 Madison Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36130 |205-240-9300 | USDA-Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
P.O. Box 235013
Montgomery, AL 36123 |205-279-3500 |
| Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee
Hillwood Office Center
2800 Zelda Rd.
Bldg. 200, Suite 200-9
Montgomery, AL 36106 |205-242-2620 | USDA-Farmer's Home Administration
474 South Court St.
Montgomery, AL 36104 |205-223-7077 |
| Alabama TREASURE Forest Landowners Association
P.O. Box 210476
Montgomery, AL 36121 |205-242-5585 | USDA-Forest Service National Forests in Alabama
1765 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36107 |205-832-4470 |
| Alabama Wildlife Federation
46 Commerce St.
Montgomery, AL 36104 |205-832-9453 | USDA-Forest Service State and Private Forestry
1720 Peachtree Rd. N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30309 |404-347-7930 |
| Association of Consulting Foresters, Inc. Alabama Chapter
P.O. Box 21
Selma, AL 36702 |205-874-9648 | USDA-Soil Conservation Service
P.O. Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830 |205-887-4535 |
| Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station
308 Samford Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849 |205-844-2237 | | |

Comparison of Cost-share Programs

PROGRAM INFORMATION	SIP	FIP	ACP	AACDCP
Administering Agency	AFC	ASCS	ASCS	AACDC
Sign-Up Location	ASCS	ASCS	ASCS	SWCD
Cost-Share Rate	60%	65%	60%	60%
Minimum Ownership (Ac.).....	10	10	—	20
Maximum Forest Ownership (Ac.).....	1000	1000	—	—
Minimum Work Area (Ac.).....	—	10	1	1
Maximum Annual Payment (\$\$).....	10,000	10,000	3,500	3,500
Minimum Forest Productivity.....	no	yes	no	no
Minimum Erosion Rate.....	no	no	yes ¹	yes ¹
FORESTRY PRACTICES				
Pine Tree Planting	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hardwood Tree Planting	yes	yes	yes	yes
Christmas Tree Planting	no	no	no	no
Ornamental/Orchard Planting	no	no	no	no
Natural Regeneration.....	yes	yes	yes	yes
Direct Seeding	yes	no	no	no
Mechanical Site Prep.....	yes	yes	yes	yes
Chemical Site Prep.....	yes	yes	yes	yes
Burning for Site Prep.....	yes	yes	yes	yes
Subsoiling	yes	yes	yes	yes
Post-Planting Herbicide	yes	yes	yes	yes
Cull Tree Removal	yes	no	no	yes
Non-Commercial Thinning	yes	yes	yes	no
Pruning.....	yes	yes	yes	no
Release.....	yes	yes	yes	yes
Stand Improvement Burning	yes	yes	yes	yes
Permanent Firelanes.....	no	no	no	yes
WILDLIFE PRACTICES				
Permanent Forest Openings.....	yes	no	no	no
Permanent Wildlife Plantings	yes	no	yes ¹	no
Wildlife Watering Facilities	yes	no	no	no
Shallow Water Areas	yes	no	yes	no
Wildlife Corridors.....	yes	no	no	no
Habitat Improvement Thinning.....	yes	no	no	no
Habitat Improvement Burning	yes	no	no	no
Hedgerow Establishment	yes	no	no	no
Enhancing Native Fish Habitat.....	yes	no	no	no
Protecting Critical Habitat	yes	no	no	no
SOIL AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES				
Critical Area Treatment.....	yes	no	yes	yes
Streambank Stabilization	yes	no	yes	no
Water Diversions.....	yes	no	yes	yes
Forest Buffer Strips	yes	no	yes	no
RECREATION AND AESTHETIC PRACTICES				
Permanent Vegetative Cover.....	yes	no	no	no
Historic Site Protection.....	yes	no	no	no
Non-Commercial Thinning	yes	no	no	no
Pruning.....	yes	no	no	no

¹ When erosion control is the primary practice purpose

COST SHARE ACTIVITIES AND SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE

by JIM HYLAND, Chief, Forest Health, Alabama Forestry Commission

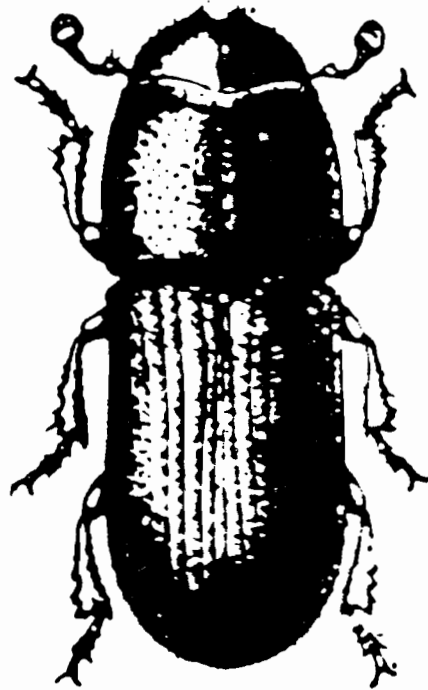
Southern Pine Beetle infestations and the pine mortality caused by the beetles result in large monetary losses to forest landowners. In Alabama, when Southern Pine Beetle infestations begin, the Alabama Forestry Commission becomes proactive in their assistance to landowners. These activities are cost-shared with landowners. These activities include: aerial detection, notifying landowners with infestations, and assisting landowners in control measures.

During infestation periods the AFC aerial detects Southern Pine Beetle spots. Each infested county is flown and the beetle spots are mapped six times (January/February, May, June, July, August, and September). The location and the estimated number of infested trees in each spot is mapped, and the landowner of the property where these spots occur is then determined. Most landowners could not afford to rent airplanes and hire qualified observers to fly their land. The AFC does this for the landowner.

After determining who owns each infestation, the AFC contacts the landowner and gives them the proper control measures. In larger merchantable timber it is recommended that the landowner contact a logger and salvage the infested pines and a green buffer around each spot. Each county keeps a list of loggers who can cut SPB spots. In active spots that are composed of small pines not yet merchantable or areas that are too small or too far from a road to economically salvage, it is recommended to use the cut and leave method. All infested pines and a green buffer are cut into the center of a spot. This method works during hotter months. There are contractors who will do this cut and leave for a fee.

Since the landowner will have a loss either entirely or a reduction in the stumpage pine paid for his timber, the AFC has developed incentive contracts. These contracts offset some of the loss and encourage the landowner to quickly

get the infested spots controlled. Contracts now in effect are Salvage, Cut and Leave, and Premerchantable. The availability of contracts depends on available funding.



The Salvage Contract is signed with the logger or cutter. The contractor is encouraged to pay the landowner full stumpage for the wood. The contracts are signed on each qualifying infested spot. Each contract pays an incentive of \$10 per cord and \$30 per MBF up to a maximum of \$350 per contract. To qualify, the spot must be an infested spot in which commercial salvage is not practical or attractive in the judgment of an AFC agent due to: (1) being too small in area; (2) the area being too distant from established dealers of their operating facilities; or (3) the area is considered a poor logging chance due to remoteness, topography, or lack of roads. The contract is signed and dated. All infested timber and a green buffer strip is to be cut and removed within 30 calendar days.

Sometimes the landowner cannot find someone to salvage his infestation in a

timely manner. In such cases a Cut and Leave Contract may be used. The Cut and Leave Contract is signed with the landowner. The landowner or his agent may do the actual cutting. A contract is signed for each qualifying spot. Each contract pays \$10 per cord up to a maximum of \$150 per contract. In order to qualify, the spot must be an active infested spot in which commercial salvage is not practical or attractive in the judgment of an agent of AFC due to: (1) being too small in area; (2) the area is too distant from an established dealer or their operating facilities; (3) or the area is considered a poor logging chance due to remoteness, topography, or lack of roads. All infested trees and a green buffer strip are felled into the center of the spot. All infested trees and buffer strip will be cut within 30 calendar days of the date of the signing of the contract.

There are times when the infested pines are not large enough to be of any commercial value. The Premerchantable Contract is designed to be used to control these infestations in young trees. The Premerchantable Contract is signed with the landowner or his agent. A contract is signed for each qualifying spot. Each contract pays \$1 per tree up to a maximum of \$500 per contract. To qualify, the spot must be an active infested spot in which commercial salvage is not practical or attractive in the judgment of an agent of AFC due to: (1) being too small in area; (2) the area being too distant from established dealers on their operating facilities; (3) the area is considered a poor logging chance due to remoteness, topography, or lack of roads; or (4) the area is comprised of premerchantable size infested trees. All infested trees and a green buffer are felled or pushed into the center of the spot. All work must be completed within 30 calendar days of signing of each contract.

For more information, contact your county Alabama Forestry Commission office. ♣

INDUSTRY/ LANDOWNER ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIPS

by SUE SHADDEAU,
American Forest Foundation,
Atlanta, Georgia

Marriages made in heaven? Perhaps not, but industry-sponsored landowner assistance programs are partnerships in the very best sense of the word. Each partner has the opportunity to benefit from the relationship in accordance with its own needs.

While the programs themselves are as varied as the companies which provide them, or the names by which they are called, every landowner assistance program has as its primary goal the assurance of a future wood supply. In the South particularly, where private non-industrial landowners own three-fourths of the region's forestland, industry depends heavily upon those private lands for its raw material.

As demand for wood products escalates, it becomes more and more important for the individual landowner to practice good forest management. Many forest products companies believe that it is also incumbent upon them to provide the technical assistance needed to produce fast-growing, healthy stands of trees.

What's in It for the Landowner Partner?

Most woodland owners already know that good forestry practices will yield higher and faster returns on their invest-

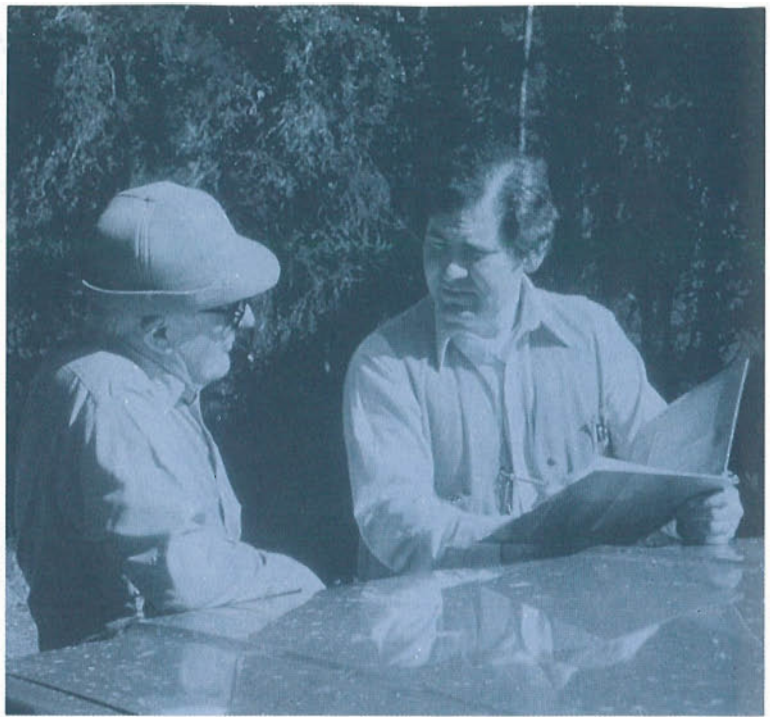
ments. Yet forest management requires expertise and time—commodities that many landowners do not have.

Programs vary from company to company, but virtually all of them provide knowledge of what is needed to grow a productive forest, and some assistance in achieving that growth at the lowest possible cost to the landowner.

Carefully crafted management plans are basic to the landowner assistance partnership, as is the professional help needed to achieve the specifications of the plans. Management plans provide a blueprint for reaching the landowners' goals for their forests. Landowner assistance foresters then provide the necessary skill to translate the blueprint into action.

These foresters work for the landowner every bit as much as they do for their companies. Whether they are accomplishing site preparation, planting, thinning, marking, or burning, they work in cooperation with the landowner, keeping his or her best interests in mind.

Forest products companies often provide their services at no charge to the landowner partner, but even in the cases where there is a fee involved, it is minimal compared to the cost of hiring someone to do the work. And, the partnership is ongoing, with the company usually providing assistance from



Forest products companies often provide their services at no charge to the landowner partner.

planting through harvest.

Services can range from free or at-cost seedlings, to insect and disease control, to resource materials. Some companies require a right of first refusal clause when timber is marketed, while others do not. Landowners can choose programs which best fit their individual needs.

Frequently, program managers represent the interests of private landowners through leadership in local forestry associations, the Forest Farmers Association, the American Tree Farm System, or the TREASURE Forest program. These organizations and programs work to affect legislation that is beneficial to woodland owners. They also provide valuable forestry information through brochures, newsletters and magazines.

Time saved; money saved; professional expertise; improved timber stands; representation; information. Quite an impressive list of benefits which the landowner partner can accrue.

What's in It for the Industrial Partner?

The return for industry is, again, a sustained supply of affordable raw material. For the participating company, the cost of the program is just pennies per wood unit for future stumpage.

With the continuing rise in demand for

wood products, it becomes increasingly important for industry to assist in the management of private forests as a hedge against its own future. The huge investments made by industry in personnel, equipment and mill sites make no sense unless those investments are protected by an adequate future wood supply.

A company sponsored landowner assistance program also provides a viable alternative to investing in the capital to purchase and manage fee land. Plus, it establishes a public demonstration of the company's commitment to development of the forest resource.

Gerald Freeman, vice president and general manager of the wood products division of Stone Container, speaks from an industry viewpoint:

"Since Stone does not own any appreciable amount of timberland, we purchased tonnage on the open market. We are the largest company dependent upon timber grown by private landowners.

"One of the first facts we learned

[in researching landowner assistance programs] is that the only thing private landowners have in common is that they each own land. Owners come from all walks of life with different vocations, interests and varying degrees of knowledge about timberlands. One can't categorize a landowner as one can a consumer of, let's say, yogurt.

"Our foresters are expected to be able to build formal management plans for landowners who may have vastly differing situations. They are well versed in taxation, finance, marketing of forest products, and the ability to communicate. We must help the landowner learn about his or her forest and do this in a way that is easily digestible."

The essence of the industry/landowner mutual benefit partnership is capsulized in this statement. Of course there is a third, but silent, partner in this relationship, and that is the general public. We all benefit from carefully managed, productive forests.

How to Choose Your Partner

Be as selective in choosing a landowner assistance program as you would be in picking a partner for any other business venture. Protect your assets by:

- Shopping around. Don't take the first deal that comes along. Check out reputations and credentials.
- Contacting other landowners in the program. Find out if they have been satisfied with all aspects of the program. Visit one or two if possible to learn if you like what you see.
- Getting specifics on what services are provided and what is expected of you in return. A written agreement covering both aspects is your best bet.
- Selecting a plan that allows you some management options to meet your own current and future goals.

A good landowner assistance program, carefully chosen, can be your ticket to reduced cost and increased profits for your forestland. ♣

Companies That Offer Landowner Assistance

There is probably a forest products company in your area operating a landowner assistance program. It would definitely benefit you to do a little research to find out. The following list is designed to help in your quest for a program that may be right for you; however, it is by no means a complete list of landowner assistance programs in the South. Many companies do not advertise their programs for various reasons, and the only way to find out if the lumber or paper company located in your area has one is to ask.

Alabama River Woodlands, Inc.
P.O. Box 99
Claiborne, AL 36470

Boise Cascade Group
307 Industrial Rd.
Jackson, AL 36545

Bowater, Inc.
Southern Division Woodlands
Calhoun, TN 37309

Cedar Creek Land & Timber, Inc.
P.O. Box 1769
Brewton, AL 36427

Champion International Corp.
P.O. Box 250
Courtland, AL 35618

Container Corp. of America
P.O. Box 1469
Brewton, AL 36427

Georgia Pacific
Forest Resources Division
P.O. Box 9576
Columbus, GA 31908

Gulf Lumber Co., Inc.
Box 1663
Mobile, AL 36601

Gulf States Paper Corp.
Demopolis, AL 36732

International Paper Co.
Paper Mill Road
Mobile, AL 36652

James River Corp.
P.O. Box 130
Pennington, AL 36916

Kimberly-Clark Corp.
U.S. Pulp & Newsprint
Coosa Pines, AL 35044

MacMillan Bloedel, Inc.
P.O. Box 336
Pine Hill, AL 36769

Mead Coated Board, Inc.
Cottonton, AL 36851

Packaging Corp. of America
Woodlands Division Southern Region
Box 33
Counce, TN 38326

Scotch Lumber Co.
Box 99
Fulton, AL 36446

Scott Paper Co.
P.O. Box 2447
Mobile, AL 36652

Stone Container Corp.
P.O. Box 21607
Columbia, SC 29221

Tolleson Lumber Co.
Drawer E
Perry, GA 31069

Union Camp Corp.
200 Jensen Rd.
Prattville, AL 36067



Landowners should visit their local ASCS office to obtain information on ACP and FIP.

USDA-ASCS COST-SHARE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN ALABAMA

Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)

For nearly 50 years the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has fostered the wise use of the nation's agricultural land and water resources in partnership with farmers and ranchers.

ASCS conservation programs protect soil against erosion and waterways from pollution, encourage development of private forests, enhance wildlife habitat, and provide emergency assistance in the

wake of natural disasters. In these ways ASCS conservation programs help preserve and improve the wealth and promise of America's farmlands.

The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) is the principal channel through which ASCS helps farmers and ranchers carry out conservation and environmental protection practices.

ASCS carries out its conservation programs in cooperation with other federal and state agencies and organizations.

ACP is a cooperative endeavor by farmers, ranchers, government agencies, and other groups to solve soil, water, and related resource problems through cost-sharing and exchange of technical expertise. The program is nationwide in scope,

and emphasizes enduring conservation practices of long-term benefit to the public. Practices that are primarily production oriented or have little or no conservation or pollution abatement benefits are not eligible for ACP cost-sharing.

Under the regular ACP, cost-share levels are set by local committees and are fixed for each practice. In Alabama, these levels are set at 60 percent. A departure from this method uses variable levels of cost-sharing. Variable cost-share levels are based on the severity of the erosion, and the percent reduction in soil loss obtained by installation of the practice. With emphasis on the most serious erosion problems, the cost-share per ton of soil saved is substantially less.

Among soil-saving practices, ACP assistance is available for establishing terraces on land with steep slopes; planting trees, grasses, and legumes to anchor the soil; installing sod waterways and structures to divert runoff water; practicing minimum tillage and no-till farming; and adopting other measures intended to control erosion, conserve water, or reduce pollution on agricultural land.

ACP funds help farmers reduce sediment, chemicals, and livestock wastes that contaminate streams and lakes by managing the flow of these pollutants at their source, by catching them in sediment basins, and by filtering them through grass and other plants.

ACP also provides assistance in establishing and improving timber stands with owners of small woodland tracts to reduce soil erosion, conserve water, improve wildlife habitat, and develop timber resources.

Programs to solve soil loss, water conservation, and water pollution problems justify government support through cost-sharing and technical assistance by maintaining agricultural productivity and protecting the natural environment.

ASCS conservation programs are administered through local ASCS offices. A farmer-elected Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee works with people within the community to assess conservation problems and determine which measures should be offered to landowners in their areas to solve these problems.

The maximum cost-share payment that a person can earn annually under ACP is \$3,500.

To obtain cost-share help, contact your county ASCS office. The first step you must take is to contact your county ASCS office and apply for the program. ASCS will then ask the proper technical agency (Soil Conservation Service or Alabama Forestry Commission) to examine your property and certify the need for the practice you have in mind. If the practice is approved by the county Agricultural Stabilization Conservation committee, you will be notified in writing.

Upon approval, the appropriate technical agency will provide technical advice to you and help you find approved vendors (if needed) for getting the work accomplished.

Finally, the technical agency must cer-

tify that the practice has been satisfactorily completed so your cost-share payments can be made by the county ASCS office.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) was authorized by Congress in 1973 to share the cost of tree planting and timber stand improvement with private landowners. The federal share of these costs in Alabama is 65 percent as set by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee.

The Forestry Incentives Program is available in all counties which are designated eligible for FIP on the basis of a Forest Service survey of total eligible private timber acreage and acreage potentially suitable for production of timber products.

The demand for sawtimber, plywood logs and quality hardwood logs in this country is expected to exceed the supply unless many more trees are planted each year and much more forestland is placed under good forest management. Lands owned by the forest industry and by the public are being planted and improved at the fastest rate possible. But smaller private owners, who control the majority of forestland in the nation, do not have the funds to make such long-term investments. Therefore, the Forestry Incentives Program is designed to share this expense with these private, eligible owners.

To be eligible for cost-share assistance under FIP, a landowner must:

1. Own no more than 1,000 acres of eligible forestland (unless the Secretary of Agriculture determines it is in the public interest to grant an exception for a larger acreage not to exceed 5,000 acres).
2. Be a private forest landowner. Any individual, group, association, or corporation whose stocks are not publicly traded may be eligible provided they are not primarily engaged in the business of manufacturing forest products or providing public utility services of any type.
3. Have land that is suitable for foresta-

tion if presently not in trees; for reforestation; or for improved forest management.

4. Have land that is capable of producing marketable timber crops and meets minimum productivity standards of 50 cubic feet per acre per year. At least 10 acres of eligible forestland is required for FIP.

Eligible forestry practices are:

- FP1 - Planting Trees
- FP2 - Improving a Stand of Forest Trees
- FP3 - Site Preparation for Natural Regeneration.

The maximum cost-share payment that a person can earn annually for forestry practices under FIP is \$10,000.

To obtain cost-share help, contact your county ASCS office. The first step you must take is to contact your county ASCS office and apply for the program. ASCS will then ask the state forestry agency to examine your property and certify the need for the practice you have in mind. The state forestry agency will return their findings to the county ASC committee. If the practice is found to be needed, a forest management plan must be developed through consultations between you and the state forester or the forester's representative. In order to be approved for cost sharing by the county ASC committee, a copy of the management plan must be on file with the county ASCS office, and each participant must agree to follow the plan.

If approved by the county ASC committee, a forest management plan must be developed through consultations between you and the state forester to qualify for cost sharing. When completed, the plan must be approved by the state forester or the forester's representative and a copy provided to the county ASC committee.

The state forestry agency will provide technical advice to you and help you find approved vendors (if needed) for getting the work accomplished.

Finally, the state forestry agency must certify that the project has been completed satisfactorily so your cost-share payments can be made by the county ASCS office.

Contact your local ASCS office for more details. They are listed in your phone book under United States Government, Department of Agriculture. ☎

Passive, Active, or Just Confused?

Tax Fundamentals for Forest Owners

by JOHN C. BLISS, Assistant Professor and Extension Forester, and
WARREN A. FLICK, Associate Professor, School of Forestry, Auburn University

If you're an Alabama forest owner, perhaps you've gained income from a timber harvest, or incurred some expense planting trees this year. How does the IRS view your forestry enterprise? Are you an investor? Or are you in the forestry business? If your activities constitute a business, are you considered a material participant in the business? To a large extent, the answers to these questions determine your responsibilities under the federal income tax laws. Understanding this area of tax law, the Passive Loss Rules, is essential to forest owners who wish to incorporate tax planning into their forest management plans.

This article introduces the most important aspects of the passive loss rules for forest owners; however, it is no substitute for personal professional tax advice. If you have significant costs or income related to your forestry enterprise, you should seek professional tax counseling.

Tax Classification of Forestry Activities: The Passive Loss Rules

Timber may be held for a variety of reasons, but three are recognized in the tax law: business, investment, or personal use. Unfortunately, the distinctions among these terms are not clearly drawn in law. In fact, the Code nowhere defines trade or business, nor do the regulations. The distinction between trade or business and investment is a question of fact, so a careful answer to the question would need to be couched in the actual language of court cases and would therefore run for several pages. And even if that were done, the Supreme Court itself has said its case law gives "little general guidance" on the issue.

Perhaps the easiest way of thinking of the difference between them is to think in terms of level of activity in relation to the nature of the enterprise. A trade or business involves a higher level of activity

than managing an investment. The management of personal investments—keeping records, receiving interest or dividends, and deciding which securities to purchase and sell—is generally not considered to rise to the level of a business. Applying the idea to forestland management, an owner who owned land, left the management to others, received money from timber harvests, and decided occasionally to sell or buy some land may well have a hard time on audit convincing the IRS that his forestry activities are a business.

Some of the specific factors considered in determining if an activity is a trade or business include regularity and continuity of activity, prospect of profit, number of transactions, time devoted to the activity, and the gross amount of business. In addition, taxpayers who want business status might bolster their positions by seeking growth in their timberland enterprises and by maintaining high levels of activities such as planning, managing, planting, harvesting, road maintenance, firebreak maintenance, and so on. The more active the forestry operation, the more likely it will be considered a business.

For taxpayers seeking investment status for their timberland, there is little need to worry about the level of activity except to be able to verify that the property is held and transactions are entered into for profit. For most timberland ownerships, that is an easy test.

While these distinctions are difficult to make, they are central to the tax treatment of forest-related income. The classification influences the deductibility of expenses and the tax treatment of timber sale income.

In addition to the question of whether the activity itself rises to the level of a trade or business, there are now, since 1986, important questions about the level of each taxpayer's participation in the activity.

ITEM	CLASSIFICATION		
	Trade or Business "Active"	"Passive"	Investment
Use of timber asset	Timber held in trade or business, taxpayer materially participates.	Timber held in trade or business, taxpayer does not materially participate.	Timber held to realize profit, activities neither regular nor frequent.
Management expenses	Deductible against income from any source. Excess deductions may be carried back 3 or forward 15 years.	Deductible against income from passive activities only. Excess deductions or credits may be carried forward.	Deductible as miscellaneous itemized deductions, subject to 2% adjusted gross income threshold.
Property and other deductible taxes	Deductible against income from any source, or may be capitalized.	Deductible against income from any source, or may be capitalized.	Deductible against income from any source (not as misc. itemized deductions), or may be capitalized.
Interest	Deductible against income from any source.	Deductible against income from passive activities.	Deduction limited.
Timber sale gains subject to self-employment tax?	Maybe.	Maybe.	No.
Qualify for Reforestation tax credit and amortization?	Yes.	Maybe.	Yes. Not subject to 2% AGI threshold.
Reporting	Schedule F, Form 1040 if farm-related. Schedule C, Form 1040 if non-farm.	Form 8582.	Schedule A, Form 1040.

Table 1. Federal income tax treatment of forestry operations under the passive loss rules.

Timber Held as Part of a Trade or Business in Which You Materially Participate

Taxpayers who materially participate in their forest-related trade or business may deduct all relevant operating and carrying costs from income from any source in the year in which they occur. They may also apply appropriate tax credits (such as the reforestation tax credit) to taxes arising from income from any source. Deductions in excess of gross income from all sources ("net operating loss") may be carried back 3 tax years or carried forward 15 tax years.

Material participation is determined by six tests. If a taxpayer meets any one of these tests, that taxpayer will be considered to be materially participating in the trade or business (see box).

The material participation tests make it difficult for many forest owners to qualify as material participants in their forestry activities. This suggests the importance of maintaining detailed records of hours spent in management-related activities, and other evidence of material participation.

Timber Held in a Trade or Business in Which You Do Not Materially Participate

A trade or business in which the taxpayer does not meet the requirements for material participation is commonly referred to as a passive activity. In general, deductions attributable to passive activities can offset income only from passive activities. Similarly, tax credits attributable to passive activities can only offset taxes associated with income from passive activities.

Losses from passive business activities can be carried forward indefinitely and used to offset income from passive activities in years in which it occurs.

Losses that are carried forward can also be used to offset proceeds from the sale of the entire interest in the passive activity. When a forest owner sells all of his holdings that comprise one activity, he can offset any gain from the sale with suspended passive losses.

Net income from a passive activity can be offset by passive losses from prior years and then from any losses from active trade or business.

The passive loss rules were designed to prevent losses from passive business activities being used to offset income

from regular, active businesses. Because of this distinction now in law, it can be important to forest owners to be more active in their timber business. If a landowner does not meet the material participation test, most of his forestry-related expenses can not reduce income except in years when he has passive income. If, however, a taxpayer has other passive activities or has enough timberland to support frequent sales, active classification may not be important.

Forest owners who receive substantial passive income (such as Conservation Reserve Program payments) may find the nonmaterial participation classification appropriate for their forestry activities.

Timber Held as an Investment

If you hold timberland to realize a profit, your forestry activity is likely classified as an investment. Accountants who are unfamiliar with forest taxation may inadvertently classify their forest-owning clients as investors unless advised otherwise.

Tests of Material Participation

1. You and your spouse participate in the activity for more than 500 hours during the tax year.
2. You and your spouse's personal participation in the activity constitutes substantially all of the participation (including that of all other individuals) for the tax year.
3. You and your spouse participate in the activity for more than 100 hours during the tax year and no other individual participates more.
4. You and your spouse's aggregate participation in all of your "significant participation activities," including your timber activity, exceeds 500 hours during the tax year.
5. You and your spouse materially participated in the activity for any 5 of the preceding 10 tax years.
6. All of the facts and circumstances of the situation indicate that you and your spouse participated in the activity on a regular, continuous, and substantial basis during the tax year. Under this "facts and circumstances" test, your participation must be more than 100 hours for the tax year, and must be more than anyone else's participation.

Management costs attributable to investment property are deductible against income from any source as miscellaneous itemized deductions, and are listed on Schedule A of Form 1040. As such, only the total amount of itemized deductions in excess of 2 percent of adjusted gross income is deductible. Property taxes are fully deductible against income from any source, and are not subject to the 2 percent floor. No deduction is allowable on investment interest in excess of net investment income.

The relative advantage of investment, passive business, or active business classifications will vary among taxpayers. If a taxpayer has plenty of other deductions so that the 2 percent floor is not important, then investment status may be perfectly adequate. The taxpayer would not need to worry about documenting material participation nor about the level of activity associated with timberland ownership. Passive business activity may be preferable to investment status if timber income and expenses can be balanced with income and expenses from other passive activities. Active business status may be best to ensure continued deductibility of all expenses. It must be kept in mind, of course, that taxpayers cannot simply decide which classification they want. The classification is a product of the factual circumstances surrounding timberland ownership. But those factual circumstances can be altered by the taxpayer. Taxpayers who want active business status must create forestry operations that have sufficient activity to rise to the level of trade or business, and must materially participate in that business.

Conclusion

Determining the classification of your forestry activities under the passive loss rules is the first step toward effective tax planning. You'll want to discuss your specific tax situation with your tax counselor. For more information on federal income taxation of forestry activities, see the "Forest owners guide to timber investments, the federal income tax, and tax recordkeeping," Agriculture Handbook No. 681, by William Hoover, William Siegel, George Myles, and Harry Haney. The handbook can be ordered from the U.S. Government Bookstore, P.O. Box 56445, Atlanta, Georgia, 30343, or by calling (404) 331-6947. ☎

Stewardship Incentives Program

Managing All of the Forest Resources

by CHRIS V. ISAACSON, Coordinator of Continuing Education,
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Steward—"one who acts as custodian, administrator, or supervisor" of another's property. Stewardship, then, is management of and care for property that ultimately belongs to another. This is a concept that has governed the attitudes and actions of many forest landowners in Alabama for years. They realize that their land is a part of their legacy. They also realize there is more to the forest besides the trees. Now, there is a federal program that promotes these two ideas.

With the passage of the 1990 Food and Security Act (Farm Bill), Congress established the *Forest Stewardship Program*, modeled after Alabama's highly successful *TREASURE Forest Program*. The Forest Stewardship Program seeks to encourage long-term stewardship of nonindustrial private forestland by providing forest landowners with information, education, and technical assistance. Alabama's *Forest Stewardship Program* is the *TREASURE Forest Program* and seeks to encourage landowners to manage all of the forest resources, including timber, wildlife, soil, water, and aesthetics.

Congress recognized, however, that even though most landowners would like to manage their forestland for multiple resources, some don't have the necessary funds to accomplish these objectives. As a result, a companion cost-share program, the *Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)*, was also established in the 1990 Farm Bill.

In Alabama, SIP is administered by the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) with assistance from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (USFS). The intent of SIP is to:

- (1) bring new acres under management, and
- (2) to improve acres currently managed.

Eligibility

Who is eligible?

- individual and joint owners
- American Indian tribes or other native American groups
- groups and associations
- corporations without publicly traded stock

Who is not eligible?

- federal, state, or local government agencies
- corporations with publicly traded stock
- entities that are principally engaged in manufacturing forest products or providing utility services of any type

Program Requirements

1. Minimum of 10 forested acres or 10 acres which will be converted to forest.
2. Maximum of 1,000 forested acres (ownership of 1,001-5,000 acres may be eligible under a special exemption from the state forester).
3. Landowner must have or obtain an approved forest stewardship plan.
4. Landowner must sign a statement of intent agreeing to manage all forestland under the forest stewardship plan.
5. Landowner must maintain practices cost-shared under SIP for a minimum of 10 years.

Application Approval Criteria

Initially, all applications will be grouped into two categories:

- (1) those with an approved forest stewardship plan
- (2) those without an approved forest stewardship plan

All applications with an approved plan will be considered first. If any funds remain after applications in category 1 are satisfied, then category 2 applications will be considered. Within each category, the

following criteria are used to establish funding priority:

1st Priority—Applications containing multiple stewardship practices. Applications must contain at least two practices of any combination except:

- It may not have a combination of SIP 2 - Reforestation and Afforestation *and* SIP 3 - Forest and Agroforest Improvement

2nd Priority—Any of the following:

- SIP 3 - Forest and Agroforest Improvement
- SIP 5 - Soil and Water Protection and Improvement
- SIP 8 - Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

3rd Priority

- SIP 6 - Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement

4th Priority—Any of the following:

- SIP 2 - Reforestation and Afforestation
- SIP 4 - Windbreak and Hedgerow Establishment and Renovation
- SIP 7 - Fisheries Habitat Enhancement

5th Priority

- SIP 9 - Forest Recreation Enhancement

Application And Approval Process

Step 1

- Landowner applies at county ASCS office
- ASCS collects all applications and forwards to Alabama Forestry Commission's county supervisor at the end of the batching period

Step 2

- County supervisor, with input from the County Stewardship Committee, determines preliminary eligibility and prioritizes applications
- County supervisor tentatively approves applications based on available cost-share funds
- For applications tentatively approved,

the county supervisor contacts the landowner to:

- a) obtain the landowner's signature on the Pledge of Intent
 - b) make preliminary needs determination
- County supervisor refers the application to the appropriate technical service representative who will make a determination whether the practice is needed and, if so, will prepare a Project Specification describing the treatments necessary and the estimated costs
 - County supervisor notifies the county ASCS office of eligibility determination

Step 3

- County ASCS office provides written notification to applicants concerning the status of their application (*approved, deferred, or disapproved*).

NOTE: Landowner must receive written notification of approval before performing any cost-shared practice.

Step 4

- Landowner performs the practice according to the Project Specification
- Upon completion, landowner notifies county supervisor of project completion and submits all cost documentation

Step 5

- County supervisor notifies the technical service representative of project completion
- Technical service representative inspects the site for approval and notifies county supervisor
- County supervisor notifies county ASCS office of approval for payment

Step 6

- County ASCS office initiates payment

procedure and the landowner is paid within 30 days.

The Stewardship Incentives Program is the first cost-share program to recognize and encourage management of *all* forest resources. SIP provides assistance to many landowners who in the past have been unable to implement management practices that would result in a healthy and more productive forest environment. There are, however, requirements that landowners should consider when accepting funds from SIP or any federal cost-share program.

Advice on applying for cost-share assistance, management recommendations and assistance, and management plans can be obtained from a consulting forester or wildlife biologist. If you are interested in further information about *SIP*, contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission or ASCS office. ☎

APPROVED PRACTICES TO QUALIFY FOR COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE

While restrictions may apply to certain practices, following is a listing of practices that qualify for cost-share assistance (cost-share rate of 60 percent):

SIP 1 - Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Development

- Not cost-shared in Alabama.

SIP 2 - Reforestation and Afforestation

- Plant material purchase and installation
- Site preparation
- Prescribed burning
- Competition control
- Tree shelters

Technical Responsibility:
Alabama Forestry Commission

SIP 3 - Forest and Agroforest Improvement

- Non-commercial thinning
- Pruning
- Release of desirable tree species
- Prescribed burning
- Removal of competing vines

Technical Responsibility:
Alabama Forestry Commission

SIP 4 - Windbreak and Hedgerow Establishment, Maintenance, and Renovation

- Plant material purchase and installation
- Site preparation
- Prescribed burning
- Tree shelters
- Use of chemical and mechanical

methods to control competition

- Mulch
- Fertilizer
- Erosion control measures incidental to and performed as a part of site preparation

Technical Responsibility:
Soil Conservation Service

SIP 5 - Soil and Water Protection and Improvement

- Establish permanent vegetative cover
- Fertilizer
- Water diversion

Technical Responsibility:
Soil Conservation Service

SIP 6 - Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement

- Forest buffer
- Fencing
- Restoration of original hydrology
- Establish permanent vegetative cover
- Fertilizer
- Streambank stabilization

Technical Responsibility:
Soil Conservation Service

SIP 7 - Fisheries Habitat Enhancement

- Fencing
- Increase or decrease in-stream woody debris
- Modification of habitat for threatened and endangered aquatic species

Technical Responsibility: Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

SIP 8 - Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

- Prescribed burning
- Spring development
- Create permanent forest openings
- Fertilizer
- Permanent wildlife planting
- Wildlife water facilities
- Develop green tree reservoir
- Fencing related to threatened and endangered species
- Wildlife corridors
- Wildlife thinning
- Establishment of threatened and endangered species of flora
- Modification of habitat for threatened and endangered species of flora or fauna

Technical Responsibility: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Soil Conservation Service

SIP 9 - Forest Recreation Enhancement

- Establish permanent vegetative cover
- Reduce stand density
- Pruning
- Fencing

Technical Responsibility:
U.S. Forest Service

Federal Forestry Cost-Share Programs Outlook

by TERRI BATES, Washington Representative, National Association of State Foresters

Cost-share and technical assistance for a range of forestry and related activities is available through several federal resource agencies. These programs are discussed in detail throughout this publication. The future outlook for conservation and forestry cost-share assistance programs is impacted by a number of factors including the annual federal appropriations process of the presidential administration and Congress.

At press time, Congress was in the early stages of reviewing President Clinton's budget recommendations for the next fiscal year which begins October 1. Most programs will remain stable if Congress enacts the administration's budget request. However, the many new members of Congress, the ever-growing federal budget deficit and reorganization of the mammoth U.S. Department of Agriculture are unknown variables which may alter that picture for next year and the immediate years thereafter.

Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)

The oldest federal program that provides assistance to landowners for conservation practices including forestry, ACP has been championed since its establishment in 1936 by the venerable Congressman Jamie Whitten of Mississippi. Whitten chaired the powerful House Appropriations Committee for more than 3 decades until this year when poor health forced him to hand over his chairmanship.

Although forestry activities are a small component of the ACP program, forested lands represent some of the most substantial and enduring gains in soil and water conservation. Federal funding for this program has been relatively stable in recent years at approximately \$180 million. However, due perhaps to Congressman Whitten's passing of power and

fresh interest in newer kinds of conservation programs, proposed funding for this program is down by \$33 million from last year's level—\$150 million is proposed for the next fiscal year.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Authorized in the 1985 Farm Bill, about 36.5 million acres have been enrolled in the program after twelve CRP signups—more than 2.4 million of these acres have been planted in trees. Despite the goal to enroll 39 million acres in CRP by 1995, skyrocketing enrollment and maintenance costs and an apparent ebbing interest by landowners in an improved farm economy, there has been limited effort to enroll the additional acres. The last signup was held in June, 1992 and no signups are currently scheduled for 1993.

However, the Clinton Administration has shown renewed interest in CRP and is committed to meeting the 1995 enrollment goal. President Clinton has recommended an increase in funding for the program for each of next two years. To achieve the 39 million acre goal, the president's budget assumes a one million acre signup in 1994 and 1.5 million acres in 1995. More than \$1.8 billion has been proposed for the next fiscal year to fund new acres enrolled in the program as well as provide for the rental and cover costs associated with previous year CRP signups.

Authorization for CRP ends in 1995, at which time Congress will likely enact a new Farm Bill. Rather than continue to enroll large numbers of new acres into the CRP, Congress is expected to focus attention on ten-year CRP contracts that begin expiring in 1996. The new Farm Bill will likely provide incentives for landowners to maintain existing CRP acres in sound conservation use which might also include opportunities for landowners to convert grass acres to trees.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)

Like ACP, the Forestry Incentives Program has enjoyed strong support from Congressman Jamie Whitten over the years. Until this year, FIP has been funded at about \$12.5 million annually—half its authorized spending level of \$25 million. However, President Clinton's budget proposes a decrease to \$11.5 million—about \$1 million below the current year level.

The future of FIP will be significantly influenced by the reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 1995 and Representative Whitten's waning power. Established in 1978, FIP is the only federal program which is focused clearly and singularly on providing assistance to private landowners for timber production. Though FIP objectives differ significantly from those of the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) which was established in the 1990 Farm Bill, concerns of program duplication and limited funding led Congress to sunset FIP in 1995. This, it was believed, would force an analytical assessment and justification regarding the needs and services of these two programs. Many are convinced FIP is essential to meet the nation's future demand for timber products. Though it's possible that both programs will be continued, Congress has indicated that further justification is warranted before these decisions are finalized.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Financial and technical assistance is provided through this U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program to private landowners for wildlife habitat restoration. Habitats targeted for restoration include those with high natural resource values such as forested and emergent wetlands, coastal and inland prairie, riparian coordinators, vernal pools and small stream riffle and pool habitats. Though the program is funded through the U.S.



After 12 signups, over 2.4 million acres of trees have been planted under the Conservation Reserve Program.

Fish and Wildlife Service, it may be delivered through a number of different organizations including state wildlife agencies, conservation districts and The Nature Conservancy.

Funding levels have averaged about \$8 million annually since the late 1980s. In his "Economic Stimulus" proposal earlier this year, President Clinton recommended approximately \$18 million in funding for this program. This proposal was eventually defeated in the Senate, and significant increases above the \$8 million level are not anticipated in the immediate future. (For more information on this program, contact the Alabama Game and Fish Division.)

Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)

Authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill, SIP is in its second year of implementation. SIP differs from the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), which provides assistance to private landowners for timber production; SIP provides cost-share assistance to private landowners for a range of forestry related activities that are not typically or directly available through other programs. Eligible practices go beyond traditional FIP practices of reforestation, afforestation and timber stand improvement to include agroforest improvement, wind-break and hedgerow establishment, maintenance and renovation, soil and water protection and improvement, riparian and

wetlands, fisheries habitat enhancement, wildlife habitat enhancement and forest recreation or aesthetics.

Congress has made approximately \$20 million available for this program in each of the last three years including 1993. President Clinton has proposed modest increases to fund SIP at \$26 million next year. SIP's comprehensive approach to forest management and the many values it promotes has secured considerable Congressional and Administration support, which is expected to continue in the future. Funding levels are expected to remain steady if not increase as program awareness spreads.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

This program was also authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill for the voluntary restoration and protection of wetlands that have been converted to agricultural use. The program's goal is to enroll more than 1 million acres in conservation easements by 1995. Many of the acres that will ultimately be eligible are in the southeastern U.S. and are likely to be restored to forested wetlands.

Congress appropriated \$46 million two years ago for the program to be piloted in nine states (California, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, North Carolina and Wisconsin) with the target of enrolling a maximum 50,000 acres. A signup was held in 1992 from which 298 bids for 49,888 acres have been

tentatively accepted into the program.

Congress did not provide funding for this program in Fiscal Year 1993, deferring instead to wait on the results of the pilot program. With positive results in hand and major backing from the environmental community, President Clinton's proposed budget recommends an ambitious amount of \$370 million for next year to enroll 450,000 acres in a nationwide program. Though few expect that full amount to be appropriated, many expect the WRP to be funded in the \$200 million range. WRP is likely to be a high profile program in the future.

With Secretary Mike Espy only managing to put a team into place at USDA by early summer, debate on the department's reorganization is just beginning to warm up. It's too early to predict the consequences reorganization may have on USDA cost-share programs, other than to note that several of the administering agencies (e.g., Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization Service) are likely to be consolidated. An agency (or agencies) with a new and different mission and vision will surely influence the future of the programs it administers, but it's premature to judge how.

Please read the "Landowners Legislative Alert" in future issues of this magazine for the latest information on the state and federal outlook for forestry programs. ♣

On Being a Consulting Forester

by CHARLES S. WALSH, Registered Forester/Association of Consulting Foresters,
Larson & McGowin, Inc.

A consulting forester is in the private business of assisting landowners with the management of their forestland. Most consulting foresters are very knowledgeable about the variety of government forestry cost-share available to landowners. This knowledge is most beneficial in assuring the proper procedures are followed in performing cost-shared forestry practices.

It can be said without much fear of contradiction that “sooner or later everyone is going to need an undertaker.” With perhaps only slightly less certainty one might state that “sooner or later most everyone is going to need an accountant and a lawyer.” For those who own timberland, it’s highly likely that down the road they will also need a forester—maybe just for advice, perhaps for much more.

Like lawyers and accountants, foresters come in all ages, sexes, colors, sizes, and shapes. Their profession in this country came into being about the turn of the century and after World War II their numbers increased dramatically. Many of them work for federal and state agencies, industries, banks, insurance companies, consulting firms, and educational institutions, to name a few.

To be a forester in Alabama, offering advice and services to the public, one must have graduated from an approved forestry school, have at least two years of forestry experience following graduation, have passed an examination, have five persons attesting to his/her qualifications, and be licensed by the Alabama Board of Registration for Foresters. Alabama has about 1,000 registered foresters.

In the 1930s some foresters began organizing private consulting firms and offering forestry services to the public for a fee. As foresters became more numerous and timber more valuable, more forestry consulting firms came into

being. As foresters who graduated in the 1950s and earlier are retiring, many are hanging out their shingles as full- or part-time consultants. Well over 100 foresters in Alabama are listed as consultants. In addition, many foresters who are in the business of buying timber call themselves consultants.

*Like an accountant and
a lawyer—and yes,
an undertaker—
a full time independent
consulting forester is a
businessman or woman,
working solely for the
client and charging for
his services.*

So, whether one’s timberland acreage is totaled in the tens or in the thousands, there’s plenty of advice out there for it, from lots of foresters, many who call themselves consultants. Where’s the best place to get this forestry advice or work? Is it “free” or does it cost? There may be more than one answer.

What Services Do Foresters Offer?

Most of the foresters who might be advising the private landowner probably work for either state government, a wood buying organization or a consulting business. Let’s consider and compare some of the services foresters working for these three groups might be offering.

Let’s go a step further and follow the career of Joe, a forester, as he pursued his profession, and at one time or another was employed in each of the three groups. Many present-day consulting foresters have similar career steps.

As a forester in the Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry in the early 1950s, much of Joe’s work consisted of advising landowners about their timberlands, including inspecting the property, advising on fire, insects, disease, management, thinnings, harvesting, planting, etc. This was done at no cost to the landowner, who had contacted the state requesting advice and help. Often the job involved on-site inspections with the landowner. Joe was limited in the number of days he could devote to any one person. Unfortunately, Joe was not able to follow through on many recommendations. He could do only limited timber marking or management. He could not plant trees, do any cruising, or help sell the timber. He was just not able to offer the landowner all that was needed. His solution for many of his recommendations could only be to suggest the landowner seek further help elsewhere. Thus his role as a public forester was usually just a first step in leading the landowner toward his goal.

Later Joe worked for several years as a timber buyer. His primary job was to purchase timber on the open market for his employer as cheaply as possible. He did this by attempting to develop good relationships with as many timberland owners as possible, stressing honesty, integrity and service. Much of his job involved public relations with landowners, selectively marking trees that he had purchased, and cruising tracts that were being offered for sale on a lump sum basis. During the soil bank era he was also responsible for custom planting several million pine seedlings. On a few

occasions he handled competitive bid sawtimber sales for landowners, provided that he had refusal of the pulpwood involved. He purported to offer a sort of consulting service, but he did not do prescribed burns, write management plans, patrol property, appraise land, and seldom wrote reports of any kind. Often he did provide some services for no direct pay—perhaps just for an opportunity to purchase an owner's timber.

Although Joe always intended to pay the highest price to his landowner/clients, he also knew that negotiating directly with the landowner was the cheapest way to buy timber. When timber was scarce or hard to buy, Joe would bid on sales offered by consulting foresters. Naturally he was always glad to buy sales when his high bid was only slightly higher than the second high bid. When he was the low bidder, however, he wondered how many times in the past as a timber buyer had he really paid the top price to his landowner/client. Had his "free" services for the landowner really been free? The more Joe bid on competitive sales the more he began to see the advantage to landowners of using a consulting forester.

Some time later Joe began working as a full time, independent, consulting forester. His good experience and background in state government and in wood procurement served him well and he found he was constantly learning and improving his skills as his consulting business broadened. Besides cruising and marking he became involved in forest management, natural regeneration, land and timber appraisals, land sales, property divisions, expert witness in court testimony, studies and special projects. He attended seminars and workshops designed to help him be of more help to landowners. He became involved with records, timber sale contracts, taxes and estate planning. He purchased a computer and learned how to use it effectively in his business. Periodically he made airplane flights of a client's property to check for southern pine beetle activity during major outbreaks. He soon learned how important it was for him as a consultant to know as much as possible about environmental concerns and services, wetlands, best management practices, and endangered or threatened species.

In timber sales, Joe continued to appre-

ciate the advantage of offering his clients' timber for sale on a lump sum, sealed bid basis. He soon saw that on most sales the successful bidder usually paid more than enough above the other bidders to pay his consulting fee. He continued to wonder at the fact that occasionally the lowest bidder did not offer but about half as much as the high bidder. His observations were substantiated by published reports of a study showing that landowners receiving professional assistance often get as much as 50 percent more for their sawtimber than landowners not receiving assistance.

Choosing a Consultant

The landowner seeking advice and assistance does have a choice. What is he comfortable with? Does he need just a little advice or a lot of help? In the long run, most of the time he'll be better off with an independent consulting forester. Like an accountant and a lawyer—and yes, an undertaker—a full time independent consulting forester is a businessman or woman, working solely for the client and charging for his services. Not all consultants have similar backgrounds and experience, however, and the landowner should look around. In choosing a consultant one should consider the consultant's personal and business reputation as well as his experience. Does he have the staff to carry out the work? Is he located near enough to the land to handle the job economically? What does he charge? Some consultants work on a fixed fee or percentage arrangement, others work on a time charge basis. The client and consultant should have a clear understanding

of the work to be done and the fee involved.

Where can a consulting forester be found? Check with friends or neighbors who may have employed one. The Alabama Forestry Commission's county office and the Auburn University county Extension office will have lists of consultants. Lists of consulting foresters belonging to the ACF can be obtained by contacting the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc., 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Suite 205, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2194 (Tel. 301/530-6795).

Mickey Webb, in his article entitled "How a Consulting Forester Can Help You" (*Alabama's TREASURED Forests*, Summer 1992) very appropriately summarized the client/consultant relationship as follows:

"The relationship between a client and his consultant is built on trust. A client must have a trustworthy professional forester to represent his interest for timber sales and with contractors. At the same time, proper timing of activities is often dependent on other financial considerations of the client. To be effective, some of this information must be available to the consultant. Therefore, a consultant has an obligation of confidentiality and his files are closed to the public. The National Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. has set high standards of conduct, education, and experience for those of us who are members. Throughout the association, ethical responsibility for both the timberland owner and the resource is preached, and I believe, adhered to." ♣

Is Your Mailing Label Correct?

Are you receiving *Alabama's TREASURED Forests* at the correct address? If not, please complete the following form and return to:

Alabama's TREASURED Forests Magazine, 513 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36130

New Address

Name: _____

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Please check here if receiving duplicate copies and enclose both mailing labels.

THE TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

by DAVID HOGE, USDA-Forest Service, Atlanta, Georgia

TAP cost-share assistance is authorized for certain small- to medium-scale commercial tree growers.



The Tree Assistance Program (TAP) was created with the passage of the Disaster Assistance Act of 1988, as amended, to compensate tree growers for losses suffered as a result of natural disasters. TAP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) with the assistance of other USDA agencies, including the Forest Service. As local representatives of the Forest Service, state forestry agencies aid in program delivery. Funding for the program is provided through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

To be eligible for TAP assistance, the applicant must be an individual, joint venture, general partnership, corporation, association, trust, charitable organization, nongovernment entity or Native American tribe making less than \$2 million in gross revenue the preceding tax year; owning not more than 500 acres of orchards or 1,000 acres of commercial forestland; and suffering qualifying losses.

A qualifying loss is defined as an individual stand of trees in which, as a result of the natural disaster, the total mortality rate exceeds the normal mortality rate by more than 35 percent. In addition to those completely dead, trees are considered lost if they have been damaged to the extent that their market value has been signifi-

cantly reduced. Trees planted under the Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Programs, Agricultural Conservation Program, Forestry Incentives Program and Stewardship Incentives Program are ineligible for TAP consideration.

TAP cost-share assistance is authorized for certain small- to medium-scale commercial tree growers who replant or rehabilitate eligible trees or seedlings including commercial nursery inventories. Total TAP payments can not exceed \$25,000 or an equivalent value in tree seedlings per applicant. Financial assistance is made available for reimbursement of 65 percent of the cost of replanting trees or seedlings in excess of the 35 percent mortality or at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture sufficient seedlings to reestablish the stand. Reimbursement is available for owners whose damaged trees were originally planted:

- in 1989-90 for commercial forestry purposes which were lost because of drought, earthquake, or related conditions in calendar year 1991;
- in 1990-91 for commercial forestry purposes which were lost because of drought, earthquake, or related conditions in calendar year 1991;
- in 1991-92 for commercial forestry purposes which were lost because of drought, earthquake, hurricane, typhoon, or related conditions

in calendar year 1992;

- in any year to produce annual commercial orchard crops which were lost because of freeze, earthquake or related conditions in calendar years 1990-92;
- in any year to produce annual commercial orchard crops which were lost because of hurricane, typhoon, or related conditions in calendar year 1992;
- in any year to produce nursery trees and plants which were lost because of hurricane, typhoon, or related conditions in calendar year 1992.

Through 1991, nearly 6,000 TAP participants nationwide had installed TAP practices on 135,200 acres at a cost of \$15 million. In Alabama, TAP has been a relatively small program. Over the same period, 46 participants in Alabama installed TAP practices on 1,760 acres at a cost of \$50,000. The average cost-share paid to reestablish commercial forest stands in Alabama is \$27.75 per acre.

Currently, seven TAP practices are available nationwide. They vary by tree type—forest, Christmas tree, orchard or nursery inventory—and by natural disaster—drought, freeze, hurricane or related condition.

For additional information concerning TAP and its availability in your area, contact your local ASCS office. ♣



The TREASURE Forest Program In Alabama

by TOMMY PATTERSON,
TREASURE Forest Section Chief

TREASURE . . . something very valuable in a place you might not expect to find it. TREASURE . . . something valuable that you believe exists and requires considerable effort to obtain. TREASURE . . . something everyone would like to have but few are willing to pursue. All of these interpretations can be applied to the valuable resources found in a well managed forest.

The TREASURE Forest Program was developed to make people aware of the many forest resources obtainable through multiple-use forest management and to inspire forestland owners to develop treasures in their forests. It is important to note that every Alabama landowner has the right to decide what benefits and objectives they want from their land. The TREASURE program assists and encourages the landowner to maximize the chosen objectives while providing for other multiple benefits that are compatible. The word TREASURE was chosen as an acronym to reflect the many resources that may be found in a forest. They include **T**imber, **R**ecreation, **E**nvironmental Education, **A**esthetics and a **S**ustained **U**seable **R**esource.

This program has been under the sponsorship of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee since 1975. The committee is made up of representatives from public



and private organizations interested in promoting multiple-use forest management.

The most visible part of the TREASURE Forest program is the public recognition given to private landowners who meet a high standard of forest management. This public recognition comes in the form of landowner award ceremonies, property signs, certificates and associated media coverage of a job well done. In addition, TREASURE Forest owners will receive information on a priority basis that will help them continue to improve their property. This information may relate to new forestry techniques, cost-share programs and landowner success stories.

How to Qualify

Private forestland owners may qualify for TREASURE Forest if they have at least 10 acres of forestland, have a written forest management plan and are managing all of their land in Alabama according to TREASURE Forest standards. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money to qualify. In contrast, many TREASURE owners spend their own time and energy in developing their property. This effort actually adds great value to the ownership.

To begin the formal qualification process, someone must submit the landown-

er's name to a local representative of one of the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee agencies. They will complete a simple nomination form and send it to the local TREASURE Forest district coordinator. The coordinator will arrange for a registered forester and certified wildlife biologist to inspect the property. Other local AFPC members are also given an opportunity to be involved in the inspection process. The inspection team does not certify or reject the property for TREASURE Forest. They describe and document the condition of the property and highlight the landowner's accomplishment towards his or her objectives. The inspection document is then reviewed by a state committee of forest resource professionals. The job of this committee is to maintain the standards of the TREASURE Forest program and certify the properties that meet those standards. Upon successful certification, the local county forestry planning committee will arrange a recognition ceremony to present the TREASURE Forest certificate and TREASURE sign to the landowner.

Being certified as a TREASURE Forest landowner, you join an elite group of Alabama citizens. TREASURE landowners display good stewardship of their land for present and future generations. ♣

Tours Highlight Tenth Landowner Conference

by KIM GILLILAND, Editor

A variety of tours will be the highlight of the Tenth Annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference. The conference will take place in Lee and Macon Counties Oct. 7-8, 1993. The two-day conference will consist of an indoor session and several tours for participants to choose from. A banquet where the best TREASURE Forests in the state will be recognized is scheduled during the evening of Oct. 7.

The first day's session will be held indoors at the Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center. The program will feature speakers on "Endangered Species and the Private Landowner"; "Forest Taxation and Marketing"; "Improving Wildlife Habitat"; and "Advanced Forestry Education for Private Landowners."

On the morning of Oct. 8, participants will be able to choose one of two concurrent tours to attend. One is of a demonstration TREASURE Forest, and the other is a fisheries tour.

The Auburn University Extension Ser-

vice, Auburn University School of Forestry, and the Lee County Forestry Planning Committee will conduct a tour at the 400-acre Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest just outside Auburn. The tour will allow landowners to become familiar with forest road best management practices and a variety of forest harvesting and regeneration techniques. The tour will include talks and result demonstrations on a new, environmentally friendly road system affordable to the average landowner; three different types of stream crossings; streamside management zones (SMZs); and the shelterwood, seed tree and total removal types of harvesting and related stand re-establishment methods.

The Auburn University Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures will conduct a tour at the North Auburn Fisheries Research Station. The tour will include talks aimed at landowners wanting to improve the management of ponds on their property or those who would want to utilize their ponds in an aquacul-

tural-type of business venture. Talks will include watershed and timber management; bass/bream pond management; fee fishing; live-fish marketing; pond and cage culture of fish; and other species for aquaculture.

Later in the morning of Oct. 8, everyone will tour White Oak Plantation, a TREASURE Forest in Macon County. Participants will view White Oak's fee hunting operation, rifle range, pine plantation, planted sawtooth oak, hay fields, water impoundment, mixed timber stands for wildlife and wildlife food plots. Lunch will also be served on the property.

Forest landowners, forest industry representatives and forest agency representatives are encouraged to attend the conference.

Pre-registration for the annual event is \$20. This includes a buffet dinner at the banquet on Thursday night and lunch on Friday. Registration after September 17 is \$40.

Please see the form on page 31 for information on how to register. ♣

FOREST ROADS FOR FOREST LANDOWNERS

Auburn University Conference Center • Auburn, Ala. • October 6, 1993

In conjunction with the 1993 Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference, the Auburn School of Forestry and the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service are sponsoring the workshop "Forest Roads for Forest Landowners."

The objective of this workshop is to familiarize landowners with a basic knowledge of forest roads and their impact on the forest. The forest road is no longer only a source of access to timberlands, but if improperly located and constructed can be an expensive prerequisite for intensive management, adequate protection and timber harvest operations. Forest roads and trails must be properly located and constructed to not only provide access, but also to minimize construction cost, maintenance and non-point source pollution problems.

In this workshop the basic requirements that are necessary to reduce future maintenance costs and minimize the pollution

resultant from road construction will be taught.

Speakers will discuss Road Classification; Best Management Practices; Location of Permanent Roads; Construction of Permanent Roads; Water Diversion Devices; and Stream Crossings.

Additionally, a demonstration of the construction of water diversion devices designed to enhance road effectiveness is planned.

This program is designed for the non-industrial private forest landowner, but is open to all landowners and forestry professionals. It is separate from the Tenth Annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference. Participants interested in this workshop must register separately using the registration form below. For further information, contact Dr. Richard Brinker at 205-844-1038.

REGISTRATION FORM

Forest Roads for Forest Landowners

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Registration Fee: \$15 per person

Make checks payable to Auburn University, School of Forestry

Send registration form and fees to:

Dr. Richard Brinker

122 M. White Smith Hall

Auburn University, AL 36849-5627

Tenth Annual Alabama Landowner and TREASURE Forest Conference

Auburn University Hotel & Conference Center • Auburn, Alabama • October 7-8, 1993

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) of Attendees:

#1 _____
 #2 _____
 #3 _____
 #4 _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY(IES) OF ATTENDEES (Check one category only)

#1	#2	#3	#4	
___	___	___	___	TREASURE Forest Landowner
___	___	___	___	Government Agency/TREASURE Forest Landowner
___	___	___	___	Landowner
___	___	___	___	Government Agency/Landowner
___	___	___	___	Government Agency
___	___	___	___	Private Forest Industry/Consultant
___	___	___	___	Other _____

Please choose ONE tour for each attendee to take on the morning of Oct. 8: (see article on p. 30 for tour descriptions)
 ___ Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest ___ Department of Fisheries Research Station

Following the early morning concurrent tours, everyone will tour and eat lunch at White Oak Plantation.

I am attending the conference and am enclosing
 \$20 preregistration x _____ attendees = \$ _____

I am attending the TREASURE Forest Landowner Luncheon and the conference, and am enclosing
 \$20 preregistration x _____ attendees, plus \$12.50 x _____ luncheon attendees = \$ _____

NOTE: The TREASURE Forest Luncheon is for TREASURE Forest landowners only. Luncheon is by preregistration only.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

- The first day of the conference is indoors. The second day will consist of outdoor tours, including several TREASURE Forests. **Please dress appropriately.**
- The registration fee includes both days' sessions, banquet and luncheon on second day. Registration will be from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Oct. 7. Preregistration fee for conference **per person if postmarked by Sept. 17 is \$20.**
- Preregistration fee for conference and TREASURE Forest Luncheon **per person if postmarked by Sept. 17 is \$32.50.**
- **NOTE:** The TREASURE Forest Luncheon is for TREASURE Forest landowners only. Luncheon is by preregistration only. Luncheon will begin at 11:30.
- Registration fee for the conference after Sept. 17 is \$40.
- Mail upper portion of form and fee payable to **Alabama Forestry Conference** to:
Betty Bozeman, Alabama Game & Fish Division, 64 N. Union St., Montgomery, AL 36130-1456; 205-242-3465

HOTEL INFORMATION

- You will need to make your own reservations.
- The AU Hotel & Conference Center is offering a special room rate of \$62 for up to 4 people. Please specify that you are attending the Alabama Landowner & TREASURE Forest Conference when you make reservations there.
Auburn Univ. Hotel & Conference Center, 241 South College St. Auburn, AL 36830-5400; 1-800-2-AUBURN
- A registration confirmation, map, agenda, and complete list of area hotels will be sent to everyone who preregisters.



Order Seedlings Now

The Alabama Forestry Commission began accepting seedling orders for the 1993-94 planting season on June 1. All loblolly and slash pines grown by the Commission are **SUPER TREES**, genetically improved for sites in Alabama. All seedlings are guaranteed to be of high quality, healthy and vigorous. Orders are being accepted now on a first-come, first-served basis.

PINES

	Per 1,000	Per 500
Loblolly Pine—SUPER TREES	\$27.50	\$18.00
Coastal Seed Source		
Piedmont Seed Source		
Slash Pine—SUPER TREES	\$27.50	\$18.00
Longleaf Pine (Benlate treated)....	\$36.50	\$25.00
Virginia Pine (Christmas Trees)....	\$42.50	\$28.00
Lespedeza Thunbergii	\$40.00	\$26.00

HARDWOODS

Oaks:

Cherrybark	Shumard
Northern Red	Swamp Chestnut
Nuttall	Water/Willow
Sawtooth	White

Other Hardwoods:

Autumn Olive
Dogwood
Redbud
Green Ash

Prices for all hardwood species:

Number of seedlings ordered	100-400	500-900	1,000 +
Price per 100 or 1,000	\$25/100	\$20/100	\$125/1,000

Minimum hardwood order is 100 per species.

For delivery information or to obtain an order form, contact your local Forestry Commission office or write:

Nursery Section
Alabama Forestry Commission
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130
205-240-9345



Alabama's TREASURED Forests
 513 Madison Avenue
 Montgomery, Alabama 36130

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