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Impact of Forestry Associations on Forest Productivity in the South

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Contents

The Forest Service, in collaboration with State forestry agencies, forestry schools, forest industries, and other forestry interests, has prepared a comprehensive analysis of the timber situation in the 12 Southern States. This analysis is published as Forest Resource Report 24, "The South's Fourth Forest: Alternatives for the Future." The present handbook is a supplement to that document.

"The South's Fourth Forest" is available for purchase from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161, in both paperbound and microfiche.

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Impact of Forestry Associations on Productivity of the South's Forests

by J. Walter Myers, Jr.¹

The Dawn of the Forestry Association Movement, 1875-1900

It is difficult to pinpoint the roots and genesis of the forestry association movement in the United States and the South. Immediately after the Revolutionary War, some local and intermittent interest was expressed in the new Nation's timber resources. It was not, however, until the American Forestry Association was formed in 1875 that any sustained effort became a reality. The American Forestry Association's origins can almost certainly be traced to Europe and the international congresses of forest managers held on the continent in the 1800's. Also it is possible to trace establishment of several Southern State forestry associations to impetus provided by the American Forestry Association. Other groups, though, seem to have been organized simply to meet a perceived need, and without outside influence.

Since the American Forestry Association is the oldest organization of its type in America, a few details on its origins should be noted. John Ashton Warder, of Cincinnati, OH, its founder, attended an international exhibition in Vienna, Austria, in 1873 as a U.S. commissioner and wrote the official report on forests and forestry. In it he listed the European schools of forestry, dating back to 1813, and also the European

associations of "forest managers." Dr. Warder had practiced medicine until 1855, when he bought a farm near North Bend, OH, so he could devote more time to his avocation, horticulture, and particularly to pomology. Apparently, he was also interested in forestry and forest conservation. It seems reasonable to believe he conceived the idea of forming a forestry association in the United States while attending this 1873 exhibition and writing his report. At that time in America, there was no single organization primarily concerned with forest conservation. Quotations from Warder's report suggest that he felt the Nation needed such an association.

In any event, Warder subsequently issued a call to interested horticulturists, nurserymen, botanists, and citizens at large to attend a conference in Chicago on September 10, 1875, to discuss formation of an American forestry association. The idea was endorsed, Dr. Warder elected president, and a constitution adopted with the objectives of "the protection of existing forests of the country from unnecessary waste, and the promotion of the propagation and planting of useful trees" (Clepper 1975).

In the decade after its founding, the American Forestry Association merged with a group known as the American Forestry Congress, which had been formed in 1882, and merged a second time with the Southern Forestry Congress at a meeting in Atlanta in 1888. The latter

¹J. Walter Myers, Jr., was executive vice president of the Forest Farmers Association in Atlanta until his retirement in 1982.

organization consisted of members from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, and South Carolina. Little beyond that is known about it. This merger, however, was one of the American Forestry Association's first real contacts with the southern forestry association movement.

Also in 1888, the American Forestry Association influenced the establishment of an apparently short-lived forestry association in Texas. (It was not until 1914 that a permanent and continuing association was formed in that State.) Ten years later, in 1898, a North Carolina forestry association was formed at New Bern with the encouragement of the North Carolina Geological Survey and State Geologist J.A. Holmes, an early member of the American Forestry Association. The stated purpose of the North Carolina association was to encourage better forest management in the State; however, like its predecessor in Texas, the association was short lived. In 1911 North Carolina established a permanent forestry association that has continued to the present.

Meanwhile, the Appalachian National Park Association, later the Appalachian Forest Reserve Association, was formed in 1889. Its primary objective was to encourage Congress to create a forest reserve in North Carolina. Despite strong support from State Geologist Holmes and other influential citizens, the movement failed; in 1905 the Reserve Association was dissolved and its efforts merged into those of the

American Forestry Association. The cause was finally successful, but not until 1911 with passage of the Weeks law.

While the American Forestry Association's efforts were getting under way in the East, totally unrelated forestry association activities began in the upper mid-South. The Missouri-Arkansas Lumber Association, organized in 1883 by sawmill operators in those two States, was one the earliest manifestations of cooperative effort by lumber manufacturers in the region (Horn 1951). It was succeeded in 1890 by the Southern Lumber Manufacturers Association and later the Yellow Pine Manufacturers Association in 1906. With formation of the Southern Pine Association in New Orleans in 1915, these local and regional associations were absorbed into and succeeded by the Southern Pine Association, now the Southern Forest Products Association. This group became the representative of the southern pine lumber industry and certain other wood-products manufacturers in the region.

The Mississippi Valley Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association was formed in 1898. It was concerned largely with development of industry grading rules. After a series of mergers, its work is now largely incorporated in that of the Southern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association, with headquarters in Memphis. In 1984, through a series of further mergers and consolidations, this organization

1900 to the Onset of World War II

became the national Hardwood Manufacturers Association.

The Hardwood Manufacturers Association provides its members with the only industrywide statistics on production shipments, available inventory, and past prices. In addition, its program includes wood promotion and legislative liaison with Congress. Since many of its members are also timberland owners, the Hardwood Manufacturers Association maintains an active interest in forest management and development, as did the Southern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association. (The latter organization was one of the four cosponsors of the Southern Forest Resource Analysis, which will be discussed later.) George E. Kelly, former executive vice president of the Southern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association, continues in that capacity with the Hardwood Manufacturers Association.

The National Hardwood Lumber Association, a separate entity also located in Memphis, is responsible for writing hardwood lumber rules and ensuring that sold lumber complies with those rules.

By 1900, the forestry association movement had begun to make itself felt in various other parts of the United States but had made only a very limited start in the South. It would be another 10 to 15 years before forestry and related associations would have any substantial impact on conservation activities in the South.

From the turn of the 20th century until the onset of the Great Depression in the late 1920's, the forestry association movement gained tremendous momentum. The result over the Nation and in the South was greatly increased attention to protection and management of forest resources.

Recognition of the importance of the Nation's vital natural resources, particularly its forest resources, seemed suddenly to come from all sides. The Society of American Foresters, a professional body, was established in 1900 with headquarters in Washington, DC, to advance the science, technology, teaching, and practice of professional forestry in America. The National Lumber Manufacturers Association (now the National Forest Products Association) was organized in 1902, with headquarters also in Washington. Its purpose was to improve the services and advance the interests of the lumber industry. Both the Society of American Foresters and the National Lumber Manufacturers Association were destined to play major roles in the future in formulating America's forestry policy.

In January 1905, the American Forestry Association convened a forest congress in Washington, DC, attended by nearly a thousand people, making it one of the largest and most important forestry meetings yet held in the United States. Its purpose was "to establish a broader understanding of the forest and its relation to the great industries depending upon it; to

advance the conservative use of forest resources for both the present and future needs of these industries, and to stimulate and unite all efforts to perpetuate the forests as a permanent resource of the Nation" (Clepper 1975).

Delegates to this American Forestry Association Congress endorsed a resolution calling for unification of all forest work by the Federal Government, including administration of national forest reserves in the Department of Agriculture. This action had previously been advocated by several other groups. Just 1 month later, on February 1, 1905, Congress established what later became the USDA Forest Service as the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture. This was a giant step forward for the cause of forest conservation and management in America.

In May 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt called the first national conference on natural resources, to convene at the White House. It was officially designated as the Conference of Governors, and Henry Clepper (1971), former executive vice president of the Society of American Foresters, notes that "Conservation as a popular crusade can be said to date from this 1908 meeting." Delegates from the South included Louisiana Governor Newton C. Blanchard.

While the conference may have failed to produce immediate and direct results, Clepper (1971) observed that

it had notable indirect results. In his opinion, ". . . it was the single greatest stimulus to resource preservation and management, affecting Federal and State governments and private interests as well."

Henry E. Hardtner, subsequently hailed as "the father of forestry in the South," helped organize the Louisiana Forestry Association in 1909 and served as its first president. Over the next two decades this organization became a major supporter of Louisiana's forestry program and helped secure appointment of a nonpolitical professional, R. D. Forbes, as State Forester in 1917. Unfortunately, after a noteworthy start the Association ceased to operate in the 1930's and was not reactivated until 1947.

The Georgia Forestry Association was organized in 1907 at Athens, primarily to plan a State forestry program and to seek establishment of a school of forestry at the University of Georgia. Forestry instruction was first listed in the University catalog of 1906-07, but the teaching staff was limited and the resources meager. Nevertheless, this was the genesis of the university's George Foster Peabody School of Forestry. Shortly thereafter, the association went into a decline, only to be reorganized at Macon in 1922. It was successful in getting the general assembly to establish the State forestry department in 1925. The Georgia Forestry Association was also an important force in establishing

the Herty Pulp and Paper Laboratory at Savannah in 1931. Subsequently, the association became inactive, only to be reorganized again in 1945. It continues to be a strong force at present.

In 1911 the North Carolina Forestry Association was reactivated after the short-lived effort of 1897, and it has been in continuous operation since. The association has been active in (1) encouraging reforestation of several million acres of the State's idle lands, (2) supporting better fire protection and development of better timberland cutting practices, and (3) supporting and working with the State division of forest resources, the schools of forestry at North Carolina State and Duke Universities, the USDA Forest Service, and other groups concerned with forest resources.

Also in 1911, Congress passed and President William Howard Taft signed the Weeks law, which the American Forestry Association and a number of other cooperating groups had long advocated. This legislation authorized national forest acquisition in the Eastern States. But more importantly, it encouraged the various States to enter into cooperative forest-fire protection agreements with the Forest Service under authority given the Secretary of Agriculture. This was another giant step forward in protecting the resource. By 1924, when the Weeks law was amended by the Clark-McNary Act, 29 States were cooperating under these provisions. Land under fire protection, meanwhile, had jumped

from 60 million acres to 178 million acres (24.3 million ha to 72 million ha).

In 1914, the Texas Forestry Association was reestablished—26 years after the first effort in 1888. Largely through the new group's efforts, the Texas Forest Service was created in 1915 as a unit of Texas A. & M. College (now University). The association has been very active and effective in forestry legislation and forest policy matters, as well as in promotion of reforestation activities in the State.

The following year, 1915, saw another major development in southern forestry with the founding of the Southern Pine Association (now the Southern Forest Products Association) in New Orleans. For many years this organization served as the industry's only representative in the South engaged in forest conservation activities. Two of its primary purposes were publication of official grading rules for pine and maintenance of an inspection system. Subsequently, these activities were transferred to an autonomous Southern Pine Inspection Bureau. Even from the beginning, however, the Southern Pine Association was in the forefront of forest conservation work in the South.

One of the initial acts of the Southern Pine Association was to help organize the first Southern Forestry Conference, held at Asheville, NC, in 1916 under the leadership of Joseph Hyde Pratt, director of the North

Carolina Geological Survey. Pratt was active in organizing the South for forest-fire protection, along with R.D. Forbes, long-time secretary of the Southern Forestry Conference (Maunder 1977). At that time only 5 of the 12 Southern States had a forestry agency established by law. The Southern Forestry Conference was a loose-knit organization of leaders in the South who were interested in developing forestry State by State. Henry Hardtner, of Louisiana, was chairman of the Southern Pine Association forestry committee and also an active participant in the Southern Forestry Conference. Another leader was Tom Wallace, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal.

As lumber production continued to rise in the South toward its peak in 1909, when it accounted for almost half the Nation's production, the vast acreage of cut-over land left as a result was beginning to cause major concerns. In 1917 the Southern Pine Association joined with the Southern Settlement and Development Organization, a railroad and business group, to call a conference to explore what could be done with this vast cut-over area. By the 1920's the area included some 1 million devastated acres (404,700 ha) in the coastal plain from South Carolina to Texas, with 156 million cut-over acres (63.1 million ha) in the South overall (Fickle 1980). Conditions varied: some tracts were selectively cut and others totally denuded. In any event, the large, mature timber was basically gone. Almost no one saw

prospects for further timber production. Furthermore, the South was largely out of the mainstream of the developing interest in forest conservation, which was centered in the East at that time.

In calling the Cut-Over Land Conference in 1917, the Southern Pine Association became the first body to study this problem seriously. From the conference a Cut-Over Land Association was formed. Its duties were to serve primarily as a clearinghouse for information on cut-over lands based on data from the Southern Pine Association and State and Federal agencies. In the context of the times it is not surprising that most attention was given to possible agricultural uses for this land and virtually none to renewed timber production. The general public and even the lumbermen of that day were largely unconvinced of the economic feasibility of regenerating timber on the land. Much research and educational effort remained before reforestation could be attacked successfully, and any large-scale effort was to await the period following World War II. Nevertheless, the Southern Pine Association and its forestry committee should be recognized for making a beginning in addressing this gigantic problem. During this period, the Southern Pine Association also continued to be an important force in promoting fire control, in strengthening State forestry agencies, and in working for effective forestry legislation in the region.

In December 1920, the Association of State Foresters (now the National Association of State Foresters) was formally organized at a meeting in Harrisburg, PA. This body evolved from earlier organizations of State agencies formed in the East to address mutual problems such as nationwide attacks of white pine blister rust. More recently, the National Association of State Foresters has become a highly effective force in strengthening State and Federal forestry relations, plus providing the State Foresters with a strong voice in national legislation and policies affecting their interests. Regional organizations, such as the Southern Group of State Foresters, have been formed under the auspices of the National Association of State Foresters and have been very effective in addressing regional matters such as interstate fire and pest compacts, which provide guidelines and policies for cooperative assistance among States. The impact of such agreements in the South, as well as in other regions, has been very substantial. They outline procedures under which States can provide equipment and manpower assistance to one another across State lines in emergency situations. This effort has proved invaluable.

Formation of the Florida Forestry Association in 1923 offers tangible evidence of how efforts of the Southern Pine Association and other supporters of the Southern Forestry Conference paid off. Two men from Florida, William L'Engle and S. Bryan Jennings, attended a Southern

Forestry Conference meeting in Montgomery, AL, in early 1923, where they met R. D. Forbes, Southern Forestry Conference secretary and by that time director of the Forest Service's Southern Forest Experiment Station. He urged them to form a State forestry association to alert the people of Florida and the legislature to the need for protecting and developing the great natural resource that lay in the vast forest acreage then covering two-thirds of their State. As a result, L'Engle and Jennings called a meeting in Jacksonville on March 1, 1923, where the Florida Forestry Association was organized. It was formally chartered in 1926.

A year later the Florida Forestry Association played a lead role in securing legislation to create the State Board of Forestry, which then organized the Florida Forest Service. In 1935, the Association spearheaded legislative activity that resulted in establishment of the University of Florida's school of forestry. Working with the school in 1953, the Association assisted in creation of a cooperative tree improvement program with strong industry support, one of the first research projects of this type in the South (Weddell 1960).

One reason the Florida Forestry Association was formed in 1923 was "to prepare effective testimony before a U.S. Congressional Committee investigating the necessity for conserving the forests of the Southeast." The report of this joint

committee subsequently recommended passage of the Clarke-McNary Act of 1924 and was an important factor in its enactment. This was a major milestone: real progress in State forestry in the South began with the passage of this legislation. It authorized funds that enable the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the States in forest-fire control, reforestation and improved management of private stands, and nursery production of forest seedlings. Under the Clarke-McNary programs, Federal funding and participation were more directly effective than under the Weeks law. National Forest land acquisition was also liberalized so that it was no longer limited to headwaters of navigable streams. The American Forestry Association, along with the Florida Forestry Association and others, strongly supported passage of this key legislation.

Shortly thereafter, in 1927, the American Forestry Association undertook a very ambitious program to educate rural people in the South away from a deeply ingrained tradition of burning the woods each year. Woods burning had been the custom for many years for a variety of reasons—some perhaps valid and others without foundation—and that added to the forest-fire problem. The American Forestry Association undertook this 3-year program with \$260,000 worth of cooperative funding from State forestry agencies, various citizens' organizations, and private individuals. It specifically targeted the States of Florida,

Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina and sought to reduce forest fires and losses in this hotspot of the Nation. (Between 1917 and 1926, 80 percent of all reported forest fires occurred in the South.)

This Southern Forestry Educational Project, as it was named, was manned by a team of "Dixie Crusaders," traveling in fleets of trucks, who gave talks and showed movies on fire prevention to rural backwoods groups at schools and churches in hamlets throughout the area. The American Forestry Association staff even wrote, produced, and acted in their own movies when suitable ones were not available. W.C. McCormick was the project leader, and Erle Kauffman, later editor of *American Forests* magazine, developed the movie scenarios. An estimated 3 million adults and children viewed the movies, and 2 million posters, leaflets, and bulletins were distributed (Clepper 1975).

State Foresters, such as Fred Merrill of Mississippi and H.A. Smith of South Carolina, and other key forestry leaders proclaimed the project a huge success and one that would have lasting effects on the fire problem. In this project, the American Forestry Association worked cooperatively with the Forest Service and State forestry agencies and associations.

Almost 30 years later, in 1956, the American Forestry Association cooperated with virtually the same

organizations plus industry, trade associations, and conservation groups to sponsor a Southern Forest Fire Prevention Conference in New Orleans. Again the aim was to stimulate greater action for forest-fire prevention and protection. The conference was highly successful and resulted in increased appropriations and better law enforcement in many Southern States.

In 1928, another monumental forestry bill, the McSweeney-McNary Forest Research Act, was passed with strong support from the American Forestry Association and a number of other national organizations. This bill provided for a comprehensive 10-year research program by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including range management and timber survey as well as forestry. The Act set in motion the 1930 Forest Service timber survey, which pointed out the great reproductive potential of the southern forests and was responsible in no small measure for the pulp and paper industry's migration to the area. Within 15 years after the start of the survey, 30 plants with an investment of \$200 million were in operation in the Deep South (Eldredge 1947).

In the midst of the Great Depression, the American Pulpwood Association was formed in 1934 by representatives of the pulp and paper industry. Headquarters, originally in New York City, were moved to Washington, DC, in the mid-1970's. Much of the association's early work centered on investigations and reports

of national legislation affecting the industry, including wage and hour provisions and stream pollution. In later years it has concentrated more on development of pulpwood production projections, evaluation of different types of harvesting equipment, safety, training of harvesting equipment operators, and better logging procedures. In this regard the American Pulpwood Association has put out several valuable equipment and training publications in recent years. The association currently maintains southern offices at Jackson, MS, and North Charleston, SC; and much of its work exerts a strong impact on forest productivity in the South, which currently produces almost two-thirds of industry's wood requirements.

One of the oldest segments of the forest industry organized a southern association in 1935, when the American Turpentine Farmers Association Cooperative was established in Valdosta, GA. Judge Harley Langdale, Sr., a prominent landowner and large gum turpentine operator, was one of the leaders in founding the group and served for many years as its president. The American Turpentine Farmers Association has long administered the Commodity Credit Corporation's turpentine farmers' loan program, cooperated closely with the Federal Government in the Naval Stores Conservation Program, and worked to secure technical assistance for operators from various forestry agencies. It strongly supports forest

research related to production of gum naval stores and development of new products from them.

During this period, the conservation movement began to take root in Mississippi, resulting in the formation of the Mississippi Forestry Chemurgic Association in 1938. Former State Senator Frank B. Pittman was named association executive, and headquarters were located in Jackson. This was to become a highly effective organization of individuals and companies interested in development of the State's forest and related resources. While in the legislature, Frank Pittman had served as secretary of a joint committee to study forestry conditions of the State. This committee held numerous hearings all over Mississippi seeking proposals on legislative remedies to the State's forestry problems. When the committee finally filed its report in 1940, it recommended 12 bills, most of which were enacted and have subsequently aided greatly in strengthening Mississippi's forestry program.

As the pulp and paper industry expanded rapidly in the South in the 1930's, it became apparent that a highly visible education and conservation program should be undertaken. Industry leaders felt that the alternative would be a strict program of government regulation of their woods operations. The result was formation of Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association.

The initiative for forming this regional association came from certain southern members of American Pulpwood Association, including C.O. Brown, International Paper Company; Charles Luke, West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company (now Westvaco Corporation); Walter J. Damtoft, Champion Paper & Fibre Company (now Champion International Corporation); and James Allen, Union Bag and Paper Company (now Union Camp Corporation).

After a series of meetings with other key leaders from industry and the State and Federal Government beginning in 1937, the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association was formed in February 1939, with headquarters in Atlanta. Frank Heyward, Jr., former Georgia State Forester, was named first general manager.

The formation of this association, with its aim toward a constructive forestry program, was widely hailed. The association directed its work primarily toward helping the individual grow wood on his or her land through a program of information, demonstration, and assistance. One of the first actions of the association was to proclaim a statement of minimum cutting standards. This was a voluntary guide for landowners and wood operators to help assure future growing stock on the land. The results, while far from perfect, proved quite satisfactory in encouraging better management practices.

The Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association's program of direct assistance to individual timberland owners was largely handled by using company conservation foresters. Starting with only a handful of pioneers in this field in 1940, the program grew to include 126 conservation foresters in 1953, or 17 percent of the 753 foresters employed by the industry at that time (Earle ca. 1954). Over the years this program provided assistance to thousands of individuals owning millions of acres, with tremendous impact on forest management in the South. Needless to say, it greatly enhanced the image of the pulp and paper industry in the region.

Henry J. Malsberger succeeded Frank Heyward, Jr., as general manager in 1945 and served in that position until the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association was merged with the southern office of the American Forest Institute in 1968. The new group is known as the Southern Forest Institute, with headquarters remaining in Atlanta.

In 1941 another regional forestry association, the Forest Farmers Association, was formed with headquarters in Valdosta, GA. Its founder, W.M. Oettmeier, of Fargo, GA, conceived it as a unique group of southern private, individual timberland owners banded together to provide themselves a greater voice in matters, local and national, affecting their interests. Later, companies and larger members were accepted, but this has remained primarily a

nonindustrial association, always with the smaller members in the majority. Through the years the Forest Farmers Association has provided an important forum for bringing together the small owner, forest industry, the forestry profession, and government to consider key forestry issues and actions. As a result, its well-thought-out and balanced views have made it a particularly strong force in legislative and governmental matters.

Its monthly Forest Farmer magazine and biannual "Manual" are highly respected publications, edited primarily as how-to-do-it publications for private timberland owners. The highly regarded "Manual" has been adopted as a supplemental text for preforestry and farm forestry courses by over a dozen southern colleges and universities.

In addition, the Forest Farmers Association has been very progressive in planning for the South's forestry future. It has continued to be highly effective, working with various members of Congress, including Representative Jamie Whitten, of Mississippi, and former Senators Herman Talmadge and Richard Russell, of Georgia, in expanding forestry programs, particularly research, protection, management, and more equitable taxation. It was also one of the original cosponsors with the Southern Pine Association (now the Southern Forest Products Association) of the Southern Forest Resource Analysis project in 1966, which resulted in The South's Third Forest report.

Wayne Miller, a former newspaperman, was first association executive secretary, serving from 1941 until his death in 1945. Paul W. Schoen followed from 1945 to 1951, when J. Walter Myers, Jr., assumed the position. Myers stayed in office until he retired in 1982 as executive vice president. B. Jack Warren is the current association executive.

What was to become the American Tree Farm System started in 1941, when a 120,000-acre (48,563-ha) tract in Washington State, owned by Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, was designated Tree Farm No. 1. Later that year the National Lumber Manufacturers Association (now the National Forest Products Association) resolved to establish a voluntary, nationwide tree-farm system to be administered by a subsidiary, American Forest Products Industries, Inc. (now the American Forest Council). The primary goal of this industry-sponsored program is to encourage timber production for the future, principally by recognizing good management of privately owned timberland.

The tree farm program came south in 1942 with the first dedication service at Brewton, AL, on April 4. In attendance were such notables as Governor Frank M. Dixon and prominent local lumbermen, including W.T. Neal and Earl M. McGowin. The concept debuted with strong support from editor Stanley F. Horn of the Southern Lumberman magazine and from the National Lumber Manufacturers Association. That same

month, the Arkansas Forestry Commission sponsored a program, and that State's first tree farm was certified on June 6 (Lewis 1981).

Initially, recognition as a tree farm was conferred on large company holdings where scientific forest management was being practiced. It proved an excellent public relations program and served to demonstrate the forest industry's ability to regulate itself effectively. This movement—initiated at a time when Federal regulation of private timberlands was being widely advocated—proved a valuable tool in blunting the effort.

Over the years since its inception, the tree farm program has been expanded to all 50 States. Moreover, the program now includes large areas of nonindustrial lands in recognition of the importance of their proper management to the Nation's timber production. The impact of the tree farm program on timber production in the South has been substantial, although difficult to measure. As of 1985, there were approximately 50,000 certified tree farms nationwide, totalling 86 million acres (34.8 million ha), with 55 percent on nonindustrial tracts of less than 100 acres (40 ha). In the 12 Southern States, there were 30,351 tree farms in 1985, totalling 50,318,262 acres (20.3 million ha), with 95 percent of the nonindustrial acreage in tracts of more than 100 acres.

Participants in the program receive valuable educational information on

The War Years

forest-management techniques, including protection from fire and pests, as well as the prestige afforded by the certificate and prominently displayed tree farm sign. Currently, the tree farm program in the South is cosponsored by the State forestry associations, together with forest industry and State tree farm committees.

At the onset of World War II, association activities in the South, and to a certain extent nationally, went into a period of near dormancy with certain important exceptions. In response to a serious tax development, aggravated by the war and the increased demand for timber, lumber interests together with pulp and paper representatives established the Forest Industries Committee on Timber Valuation and Taxation (FICTVT) in 1942. These owners felt that taxes on timber owned and harvested by themselves were both discriminatory and confiscatory.

In 1944, with encouragement and support from the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, Forest Farmers Association, and other concerned groups, Congress amended the Internal Revenue Code to extend capital gains treatment to profits earned by timber owners and operators. Prior to enactment of the amendment, then Section 117(k), owners selling standing timber outright or in a lump sum sale could treat their profit as capital gain. However, owners harvesting their timber themselves or selling it little by little over a period of years not only were taxed at higher rates but also were subject to wartime excess profit taxes in the case of a corporation. The result: owners were encouraged to liquidate their timber, and efforts toward long-term scientific forest management were strongly discouraged. The 1944 amendment changed the law so that the increased value of timber held for 6 months or more would be treated

as a capital gain, rather than ordinary income, for the tax year in which it was cut or sold.

Although it is difficult to measure the impact of this change, it is generally felt by forestry authorities to have encouraged partial cutting and sustained-yield management and discouraged indiscriminate clearcutting. This is true in the South, as well as in the rest of the United States.

Charles W. Briggs, of Minneapolis, a prominent timber tax attorney, participated in drafting the amendment and served for many years as chairman of FICTVT. William K. Condrell is the present FICTVT general counsel.

While initially established as a committee, the Forest Industries Committee on Timber Valuation and Taxation has become for all intents and purposes an association, with large and small participating members in all parts of the United States. In addition, it has expanded its activities to include all phases of taxation affecting timberland owners—in such areas as estate, inheritance, State ad valorem, etc.—as well as retention of the important timber capital gains provisions. Headquarters are in Washington, DC.

During the remainder of the World War II years, forestry associations in the South and nationwide devoted the bulk of their energies toward expanded production of lumber, pulp and paper, and other timber products to bolster the war effort.

One State association, however, was formed during this period: Virginia Forests, Inc., in 1943, with headquarters at Richmond. Its stated purpose was “to protect, preserve and rehabilitate the forests in this commonwealth for the benefit of this generation and the generations to come.” One of its first activities was to work for statewide fire protection, which goal was finally achieved in 1945.

The association also successfully supported enactment of a timber severance tax to provide funds for the State’s Division of Forestry. Over the years, the work of Virginia Forests, Inc., has included sponsorship of an aggressive educational program aimed at school children, vocational agriculture students, landowners, forest industry, and the public at large. It has sponsored a very effective bookcover program aimed at school children, and it has inaugurated an active, statewide “plant more trees” project.

William C. Cooper was the association’s executive director from its establishment until his retirement, when he was succeeded by Charles F. Finley, Jr. In recent years Virginia Forests, Inc., has taken an increasingly active role in State and national legislative affairs affecting forestry and forest owners.

In early 1944 the American Forestry Association, anticipating the end of World War II, undertook a 3-year national survey to determine the effects of the war on the Nation’s

forest resources as a contribution to postwar reconstruction. The survey was underwritten for \$250,000 by private contributors with cooperative services from the States. The American Forestry Association's objective was to obtain factual data on which national and State policies relating to forest management could be formulated. Montgomery A. Payne, Ed. R. Linn, and Arthur M. Emmerling worked as consultants in gathering most of the data for the South. A summary of the findings was published in the September 1946 issue of American Forests magazine.

That fall, an American forest congress was held in Washington, DC, to consider the report's findings and recommendations developed by an American Forestry Association committee on dealing with principal forest and conservation problems of postwar reconstruction. Unfortunately, general agreement could not be reached on the issue of government regulation of timberlands and forest practices, one of the most controversial of the day.

Nevertheless, the American Forestry Association went on to publish its comprehensive recommendations in "A Program for American Forestry," which became a charter for action by the originating organization and other conservation groups. The American Forestry Association's initiative also influenced publication by the Forest Service of a 1948 report, "Forests and National Prosperity," which set forth recommendations on cutting standards

for the major regions of the United States. Meanwhile, the issue of Federal regulation gradually diminished as timber growing on a long-term basis became more profitable (Clepper 1975).

The End of World War II to the Present

With the end of World War II the forestry association movement in the South accelerated into high gear once again. The dormant Georgia Forestry Association was reorganized in 1945, the Louisiana Forestry Association was revived in 1947, the Arkansas Wood Products Association was formed in 1947, and the Alabama Forest Products Association, in 1949. The Arkansas and Alabama groups were later redesignated as forestry associations and their membership broadened. All of these bodies were created, primarily, to advance the cause of forestry in their respective States. Each directed at least a portion of its efforts toward strengthening its State forestry agency. Another important goal was to provide members with a united voice in local and national affairs affecting their interests as timber growers and producers of wood products, a major industry in every Southern State.

Meanwhile, other Southern State forestry associations were being revitalized with the return of war veterans and the general beefing up of forestry activities. The Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association resumed its conservation activities, with Henry J. Malsberger, former Florida State Forester, taking the general manager's job in 1945. By 1948, programs of the Southern Pulpwood Conference Association had regained their former impetus, and conservation foresters in the South employed by member companies had increased from 12 in 1946 to 126 in 1953 (Malsberger

1955 unpubl.) The work of these company representatives, plus that of the Southern Pulpwood Conference Association's field staff, was to have a major impact on forestry education and adoption of better management practices in the region over the next several decades. In addition, the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association resumed publication of its very informative magazine, *The Unit*, and produced numerous excellent forestry educational movies. One of these movies captured a top award at the sixth World Forestry Congress in Madrid, Spain, in 1966.

In 1961, a large group of Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association company members, together with several nonmember companies, established the Southern Forest Disease and Insect Research Council. In 1967, the similar Hardwood Forestry Research Committee was formed. Both groups were funded independently by the participating companies but were administered by the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association.

The primary purpose of these two bodies was to foster broader research and encourage the training of additional scientists in the fields of forest entomology and pathology and southern-hardwood management for possible employment by private industry.

Goals of the two groups were implemented principally through programs of competitive grants and fellowships to southern universities.

Approximately \$270,000 was expended by the Southern Forest Disease and Insect Research Council and \$85,000 by the Hardwood Forestry Research Committee, for a total of \$355,000. The hardwood committee was disbanded in 1972 and the disease and insect group in 1977. Companies participating in these two programs felt they were successful and justified the expenditures.

By 1946, W.M. Oettmeier, founder and first president of the Forest Farmers Association, had returned from military service and resumed the presidency of that organization. Shortly thereafter, Paul W. Schoen, former chief of forest management for the Texas Forest Service, was named executive secretary. The Forest Farmers Association quickly undertook an effort to strengthen Federal forest research activities in the South. Among the results was establishment of local research centers over the region.

Programs at these local research centers were designed to address local needs in topics such as genetics and tree improvement, regeneration of southern pines, the feasibility of combining timber and cattle production, etc. This was only the beginning of Forest Farmers Association efforts that later played an important role in establishment of the Forest Service's Southern Forest Genetics Institute at Gulfport, MS; the Forest Fire and Seed Testing Laboratories at Macon, GA; and major insect and disease activities and forest-management and forest-

utilization programs at Alexandria, LA. Much of the South's subsequent increased timber production can be related to these research efforts and the resultant scientific breakthroughs.

The executive secretary of the Forest Farmers Association, Paul Schoen, originated and edited the Forest Farmer Manual, which has continued to be published and has come to be accepted as a layman's guidebook to forestry in practice. He and Walter Myers, who followed him as the association's executive officer and editor in 1951, also expanded Forest Farmer magazine, begun by the first executive, Wayne Miller. It is a widely read and highly respected publication for the nonprofessional timber grower in the South, and a major force in forestry education.

The Forest Farmers Association was also destined to play a major role as one of the original cosponsors (with the Southern Pine Association) of the Southern Forest Resource Analysis. This study is best known for the resulting report, The South's Third Forest. Further details on this and the Forest Farmers Association's role in national legislative activities will be covered later.

In 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters was founded by professionals in this specialized field. This is a national organization founded to "provide and maintain high standards of performance" by its members. The Association of Consulting Foresters has numerous State chapters and is particularly

strong in the South, which is quite understandable since the region has such a heavy concentration of private timberland owners.

The Association of Consulting Foresters has strict membership standards, including a professional forestry degree, substantial practical experience, and participation in a continuing education program. Edward Stuart, Jr., of Yorktown, VA, himself a consulting forester, served for many years as executive director until the association's headquarters was moved to Washington, DC, and he was succeeded by Arthur F. Ennis.

The Association of Consulting Foresters provides its members with an effective voice in national and local affairs, and it has been a strong advocate of State licensing of professional foresters. With over 200 consulting foresters practicing in the Southern States in 1985, and with many of them members of this organization, the Association of Consulting Foresters has become a strong positive force for increasing timber production in the region.

In assessing the impact of forestry associations on productivity of southern forests, an important perspective can be gained by looking at where the region stood as the Nation emerged from World War II. Much of the prewar initiative had languished during the conflict and was only now being resumed.

In 1948, some 82 percent of the Nation's forest wildfires occurred in

the 12 Southern States. Of the area's almost 200 million forested acres (81 million ha) needing fire protection, only 63 percent received it. In 1948 just two Southern States, South Carolina and Virginia, boasted statewide fire protection. Even more significant, however, fire-protection and -control expenditures in 1950 averaged only 47 percent of basic minimum requirements, even on the protected acres, Southwide. Progress in protecting the region's forests was being made, but at midcentury there remained a long way to go (Myers 1950).

It is also interesting to note the breakdown of harvests and drains from the southern forest, as reported by the Forest Service for 1947:

	<i>Percent</i>
Lumber	45
Fuelwood	18
Hewed crossties	3
Pulpwood	11
Fence posts	1
Other uses by people	10
Destructive mortality (Fire, insects, disease, etc.)	12

Most of the forestry and related trade associations formed nationwide and in the South were initially established to address the broad issues of conservation, forest development, and trade promotion, or merely to encourage establishment of a State forestry agency. As the movement matured in the post-World War II era, the aims of these groups became more sophisticated and selective.

In 1951, the Keep Tennessee Green Association was formed, with the encouragement of the Tennessee Conservation League, an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Impetus for its formation was a disastrous fire season in east Tennessee and the urgent need for greater State fire protection. Founding fathers included Louis Williams, Chattanooga businessman and prominent conservationist, and Tracy City weekly newspaper publisher Herman E. Baggenstoss. The latter also created the Keep Tennessee Green-affiliated Tennessee Forest Festival, now in its 35th year.

Keep Tennessee Green's principal role was to promote forestry education, to increase recognition of the present and potential value of the State's forest resources, and to work for statewide fire protection. Its activities included publication of a magazine and staging of the annual forest festival. In 1970, Keep Tennessee Green's efforts became more formal when it was reorganized as the Tennessee Forestry Association, with headquarters in Nashville and employment of a full-time paid executive secretary.

For the record, there was a feeble and short-lived effort to establish a Tennessee Forest Association in 1901, and in 1941 a Tennessee Timber Growers Association was formed which preceded creation of the Keep Tennessee Green Association. The Timber Growers' principal goal was to increase appropriations for the division of

forestry and to strengthen fire protection (Williams 1971).

Since 1970, the Tennessee Forestry Association has been very active in national and State forestry policy issues. In 1984 it led a successful effort to place the former State division of forestry under a newly created, seven-person forestry commission, which includes at least three professional foresters, and with members serving 5-year staggered terms. The commission is expected to strengthen the State's forestry program greatly.

Recognizing that North Carolina's hardwood forests and the industries they support are the backbone of the State's wood-using businesses, the North Carolina Forestry Association in 1953 created a Furniture, Plywood and Veneer Council. By 1963 it had grown to such an extent that it was incorporated as a separate entity, the Hardwood Research Council. Objectives of the council, which now numbers well over 100 members, are to promote research and education on hardwood species, including their regeneration, management, and utilization. Its headquarters were originally in Statesboro, and Howard J. Doyle was the first council forester. Upon Doyle's retirement, headquarters were moved to Asheville. Robert L. Scheer is the current executive director. While the furniture industry continues to provide the organization's major support, its membership base has been greatly broadened and now includes a wide variety of groups and

individuals, nationwide. The council's work continues to have important impact on increased productivity, particularly of the South's hardwood forests.

In 1954 the Southeastern Pine Marketing Institute was formed in Savannah, GA, primarily to give smaller, independent lumbermen a greater voice in local and national matters affecting their interests. William C. Hammerle, former State Forester of South Carolina and Georgia, was its first executive secretary. In 1961, this institute and several other groups with similar objectives were merged into the newly formed Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association, with headquarters in Atlanta. John C. Milliner, a former railroad official, has been the organization's executive vice president since its inception. Recently, the Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association has been very active in seeking more equitable arrangements for marketing Canadian lumber in the United States and the South in direct competition with lumber produced by its members.

During the 1950's, the wildfire problem and resulting heavy losses continued to plague the South. The fact that over one-third of these fires were incendiary, deliberately set, only served to underline the complexity of the problem. In 1956 the American Forestry Association, in cooperation with 10 other State, regional, and national associations, responded to the challenge by calling a Southern Forest Fire Prevention

Conference in New Orleans on April 13-14.

From 1950 to 1956, only one additional Southern State had approved statewide fire protection: Alabama. Almost a quarter of the southern forest needing protection was still unprotected, and funding on average over the South was only two-thirds of estimated basic minimum requirements. The New Orleans conference served to focus attention on the region's great need for better fire protection and the lack of acceptable progress. Moreover, it underscored the major cause of wildfires in the South—incendiarism.

Over 1,000 delegates attended the conference. Most of them were from the South; however, 25 States as well as Canada were represented. The delegates included representatives from agriculture, banking, business and industry, education, the press, Federal and State forestry agencies, State legislatures and law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary and the courts. The New Orleans meeting was a huge success and underscored the need for better law enforcement as a necessary tool in fighting incendiarism, especially when the preferred approach of education has failed. Fire's cost in jobs, payrolls, and raw materials was just too great to be tolerated. The conference sent a resounding message that was well received by top officials at the State, county, and community levels. It helped crystallize public opinion and stimulate action as never before (Clepper 1975).

A measure of the impact of the 1956 conference and followup activities by involved associations is that by 1963, the proportion of forest lands in the South unprotected against fire had shrunk from 24 percent to 13 percent. Meanwhile, total State and Federal funding for fire protection had gone up 60 percent in 8 years, from \$14,101,526 in 1955 to \$22,557,401 in 1963, with 83 percent of the increase coming from the States. During this same period, area burned on State and private lands had dropped by almost 600,000 acres (243,000 ha), or 25 percent. It is reasonable to assume that the roles of the various associations in encouraging greater forestry education, increased funding, and stricter law enforcement were the major factors in lessening the effects of fire in the South (Forest Farmers Association 1956, Forest Farmer 1964).

In 1958, the Lumber Manufacturers' Association of Virginia was formed by individuals, firms, and corporations seeking to create a better understanding of the importance of the lumber industry in the State. It encourages and promotes all phases of securing and maintaining the State's timber and log supply, as well as more profitable production and distribution of native lumber. The association provides a unified voice to influence governmental programs and legislation on such issues as forest estate taxes, reforestation tax credits, herbicide restrictions, oak log exporting, and funding for Virginia's program to reforest cut-over

timberlands. It also disseminates information to its members on markets, machinery, methods, and laws. Among its more important projects are a biennial east coast sawmill and logging equipment exposition, cosponsored by the extension division of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a continuing education program featuring a hardwood lumber grading short course. The Lumber Manufacturers' Association of Virginia is headquartered at Sandston, VA, and J.R. Bush is its executive director.

As the southern forests continued to regain their productivity, a number of individuals and groups pondered why this was occurring, what were the key factors involved, and how the trend could be encouraged and fostered. No one seemed able to put a handle on a suitable approach to such an investigation until Harry E. Murphy, a prominent Birmingham, AL, consulting forester, wrote to J. Walter Myers, Jr., then executive vice president of the Forest Farmers Association, outlining an idea. In a letter dated November 13, 1965, Murphy wrote,

It seems to me that someone . . . should do a study or review of what are the reasons that brought about this great resource development—abundance of timber, growth, etc.—it just did not occur.

I think we should reflect on what are the things or

actions, etc., that have given us this great progress—it's more than just one action—but what were they, which were the most effective. Was it fire control, education, markets, monetary support? How much federal contribution helped to increase the resource? Was it laws or form of taxes or just population pressures.

Now what interests me so much in this question is that a logical answer would indicate the road we should take in the years ahead to continue this progress

In a chance meeting with George W. Stanley, a vice president of Kirby Lumber Company, and A.D. Folweiler, then Texas State Forester, Myers mentioned the idea to them. Both felt it merited further consideration. Stanley, who was chairman of the Southern Pine Association's forestry committee, discussed the idea with that group, who offered to put up \$15,000 toward the project if the Forest Farmers Association would do likewise. The association's board approved and provided its matching share with help from the pulp and paper industry and several forestry-related companies. From there the project was off and running with strong staff support from Southern Pine Association's executive vice president Stanley P. Deas, his successor, William R. Ganser, and the Forest Farmers Association.

A working committee met in Atlanta in 1967. The name "Southern Forest Resource Analysis" was adopted, and Philip R. Wheeler, a prominent consultant, was employed as project leader. The working committee and a subsequently selected advisory committee read like Who's Who in southern forestry. Five other nationally known consultants were selected to work with project leader Wheeler. They were James G. Yoho, Zebulon W. White, Leon A. Hargreaves, Jr., Joseph F. Kaylor, and William R. Sizemore. The Southern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association and the American Plywood Association joined in supporting the project.

In April 1969—2 years after its inception—the analysis was completed and The South's Third Forest report was published. Its findings and recommendations were widely discussed and quoted in the press and at professional forestry meetings and congressional hearings. The report was frequently referred to during 1969 House Ways and Means Committee hearings on timber capital gains. Shortly thereafter, the entire report was read into the record of the congressional hearings on the National Timber Supply Act of 1969.

The next month, in May 1969, a Southern Forest Resource Council was created by the four sponsoring organizations to work for implementation of the report's recommendations. Since then, this report has provided a blueprint for increasing productivity of the

southern forests in the 1970's and 1980's. The concept of a national forestry incentives program was greatly encouraged as a result of the report. Subsequent passage of the 1973 Federal Forestry Incentives Act resulted in over a million acres of timberland in the South being replanted or timber-stand-improved. Likewise, the revival of the pulp and paper industry's conservation forester program, now including vastly expanded landowner assistance programs, was stimulated by the report. The South's Third Forest also helped encourage amendments providing more equitable treatment of timberlands in the Federal Tax Code in regard to inheritance and estate taxes. It also fostered adoption of reforestation tax credit legislation, which has resulted in substantially more regeneration activity in the South.

Between 1974 and 1980, the Forest Industries Council, made up of a large number of the major national and regional forestry industry associations, completed a 25-State forest productivity study. In several ways this was similar to the Third Forest analysis but covered additional regions and was more State-intensive. Private industry, alone, contributed nearly \$400,000 to this project. Its primary goal was to describe the condition of the forest resource, assess current levels of management, and identify potentials for future investment. Eleven Southern States—Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina,

Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia—were among those studied.

The principal question addressed was whether the current rate of investment in forest productivity should be increased or decreased or remain unchanged. After the studies were completed, the National Forest Products Association used the data from them, along with the Forest Service's Resources Planning Act (RPA) supply-demand projections, to study the question. Following careful analysis, the forest industry developed a national longrun softwood timber goal with the aim of managing America's commercial forest land to (1) minimize real consumer cost impacts through an adequate domestic supply, and (2) build the potential for an international net trade surplus of forest products.

The study provided immensely valuable information on the resource and identified two major trends. First, it called for a substantial increase in harvests from the National Forests over the following 20 years, with accompanying investments as necessary. Second, it concluded that private lands would be increasingly relied on for timber, especially after the turn of the century. To achieve these two industry proposals would require an estimated investment rate of 83 percent of the investment opportunities on private ownerships as identified by the Forest Productivity project. This investment rate was viewed simply as a target, to be revised and refined in the years ahead.

Certain actions have subsequently been taken toward achieving these goals, primarily through the National Forest Products Association's private woodlands program, and specific State-level industry-association action. In 1982, the National Forest Products Association initiated a program of providing 3-year matching grants to State forestry associations to help support hiring of a full-time private woodland coordinator, or otherwise take direct actions to improve forest productivity. Alabama and South Carolina are two Southern States participating in the program, and the National Forest Products Association has committed over \$180,000 nationwide to date to this matching program with local forest industry. The Louisiana Forestry Association's Third Forest program, likewise, represents a private sector-association response to the need for increased forest productivity and has served as a model for the National Forest Products Association's private woodlands program, although not officially a part of it.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of the Southern Forest Resource Analysis and the Third Forest report was the opportunity it provided for representatives of all segments of the southern forest industry and their various associations to work in coordination for the first time in meeting the challenges affecting their future.

Shortly after the Southern Forest Resource Analysis was launched, the

South Carolina Forestry Association was established in 1968, with headquarters in Columbia. Robert Scott was the first and, to date, the only executive vice president. The next year, 1969, the Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association merged with the southern office of the American Forest Institute (now the American Forest Council) to form the Southern Forest Institute (now the American Forest Council-South), with headquarters in Atlanta. George E. Kelly was named its chief executive, as well as a vice president of the American Forest Institute. He was succeeded by Benton H. Box, who served until James M. Montgomery, the current executive vice president, took over. The Southern Forest Council-South conducts important educational programs, principal of which is administration of the national tree farm program in the region, under the guidance of Donald W. Smith, director of forest resources.

Starting in the 1970's, southern associations have provided important input in the development of regulations implementing the Clean Water and Clean Air Acts and their amendments. These groups have played an important role in persuading the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Congress that the voluntary Best Management Practices (BMP) approach, under State supervision, is far superior in implementing the Clean Water Act to the originally advocated compulsory State forest practices act proposals,

especially for the South. Meanwhile, input from various southern associations has also been helpful in developing Clean Air Act regulations permitting continuation of much-needed prescribed burning under carefully supervised conditions.

In 1978, most national and Southern State forestry associations had strongly supported enactment of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, Renewable Resources Extension Act, and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act. While these were all Federal and therefore national measures, they were clearly going to exert major impact on the South and its forest productivity. These groups had also responded similarly in supporting the 1974 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and the 1976 National Forest Management Act (LeMaster 1984).

Beginning with Virginia in 1970, State forestry associations have played a major role in establishing State forestry incentives programs, which are enhancing reforestation and forest improvement practices through various cost-share arrangements. Mississippi and Louisiana inaugurated programs in 1974, North Carolina in 1977, Texas in 1980, Florida in 1981, and South Carolina in 1982. All of the preceding programs involve State as well as private funding, except for those in Florida, Louisiana and Texas, which are financed wholly by industry. The Florida program, however, is administered by the State division of forestry, whereas the Louisiana and Texas programs are directed through the State forestry association's offices. Indications are that other Southern States may undertake similar programs in the future.

Role of Southern Forestry Associations in the Future

Southern forestry associations have always been in the forefront of the region's forestry and conservation activities. When someone sets out to do something about issues involving forestry and conservation, the associations have provided the focal point around which concerned citizens and organizations could rally.

As the South and the Nation move into the 21st century, it is logical to assume that associations will continue in this role. The challenges will be different, often requiring more sophisticated actions, and calling for greater coordination of effort among groups sharing common concerns.

The State associations will almost certainly become stronger and more active as the timber economy continues to expand in the South. Furthermore, forestry issues will increasingly be State issues. The Federal cooperative role seems destined to diminish, particularly in such areas as forest protection, forestry incentives programs, and landowner assistance, thrusting greater responsibility on State agencies and State forestry associations. This trend has already started, and the States have indicated that they can respond to the challenge, given adequate time.

On national issues, several attempts have been made to provide more effective means for the Southern State associations to coordinate their efforts where they share a common interest. This could include such matters as capital gains treatment for timber,

retention of a reasonable level of Federal cooperative participation in forest protection, and much-needed input on Clean Water and Air legislation and regulations. Currently, no vehicle exists to present a true, Southwide consensus on such important national issues, except the Forest Farmers Association and the Southern Pine Association.

Attempts have been made to create a Southern Forest Council to serve as such a vehicle, but a suitable approach remains to be discovered. The South is such a vital timber-producing area that acceptable means must be found to make its unified voice heard more clearly in Washington. This is one of the principal challenges to the southern associations and one they should be capable of meeting. They have served the region well in the past, and there is every reason to believe they will continue to do so, even more effectively, in the future.

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List of Major Forestry Associations

Association	Founded	Present headquarters	Membership profile
National			
American Forestry Association	1875	Washington, DC	Citizens
American Forest Institute	1941	Washington, DC	Industry
Association of Consulting Foresters	1948	Bethesda, MD	Professional consulting foresters
American Pulpwood Association	1934	Washington, DC	Industry
Forest Industries Committee on Timber Valuation and Taxation	1942	Washington, DC	Industry and landowners group
Hardwood Manufacturers Association ¹	1984	Memphis, TN	Industry
Hardwood Research Council ²	1963	Asheville, NC	Industry, landowners, researchers, etc.
National Association of State Foresters	1920	Washington, DC	State Foresters
National Forest Products Association	1902	Washington, DC	Industry
Society of American Foresters	1900	Bethesda, MD	Professional foresters
Regional			
American Turpentine Farmers Association	1935	Valdosta, GA	Industry
Appalachian Hardwood Manufacturers Association	1927	High Point, NC	Industry
Forest Farmers Association	1941	Atlanta, GA	Timberland owners
Southeastern Lumber Manufacturers Association	1951	Forest Park, GA	Industry
Southern Forest Institute ³	1969	Atlanta, GA	Industry
Southern Forest Products Institute	1915	New Orleans, LA	Industry

State

Alabama Forestry Association	1949	Montgomery, AL	Citizens and industry
Arkansas Forestry Association	1947	Little Rock, AR	Citizens and industry
Florida Forestry Association ⁴	1926	Tallahassee, FL	Citizens and industry
Georgia Forestry Association ⁵	1945	Atlanta, GA	Citizens and industry
Louisiana Forestry Association ⁶	1947	Alexandria, LA	Citizens and industry
Lumber Manufacturers' Association of Virginia	1958	Sandston, VA	Industry
Mississippi Forestry Association	1938	Jackson, MS	Citizens and industry
North Carolina Forestry Association ⁷	1911	Raleigh, NC	Citizens and industry
Oklahoma Forestry Association	1971	Broken Bow, OK	Citizens and industry
South Carolina Forestry Association	1968	Columbia, SC	Citizens and industry
Tennessee Forestry Association ⁸	1970	Nashville, TN	Citizens and industry
Texas Forestry Association ⁹	1914	Lufkin, TX	Citizens and industry
Virginia Forestry Association	1943	Richmond, VA	Citizens and industry

¹Outgrowth of Southern Hardwood Lumber Manufacturers Association and predecessor groups dating back to 1898.

²Organized as Furniture, Plywood and Veneer Council of the North Carolina Forestry Association in 1953. Incorporated as Hardwood Research Council in 1963.

³With merger of Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association (1939) and branch office of American Forest Institute.

⁴Organized in 1923 but not chartered as nonprofit organization until 1926.

⁵First organized in 1907; reorganized in 1922 and continuous since 1945.

⁶Originally organized in 1909, became defunct in 1930's, reorganized in 1947.

⁷Earlier effort in 1898 was short lived, continuous only since 1911.

⁸A short-lived nine-member Tennessee Forestry Association was formed in 1901. The Keep Tennessee Green Association was established in 1951, from which the present Tennessee Forestry Association evolved.

⁹Originally organized in 1888, possibly first in the South; became defunct and reorganized on a permanent basis in 1914.

