



File Code: 3000

Date: March 16, 2011

Dear Friends and Partners:

We are very pleased to provide you a link to the report, *Planning for the Future of Southern Forests*. This report summarizes Statewide Forest Resource Assessments and Strategies for the Southern Region.

As you may know, each State forestry agency has recently completed individual assessments and strategies for their States under guidance in the 2008 Farm Bill. These documents provide a comprehensive analysis of conditions and trends of forest resources; identify threats to the abundance, health, and value of these resources; and set priorities and strategies for addressing these threats. A link to each individual state assessment and strategy can be found at http://www.stateforesters.org/issues_and_policy/forests_in_the_farm_bill or via each state forestry agency Website.

This regional report summarizes the State-level findings into a broader picture for the South. We believe this summary, complemented with each State's individual assessment and strategy and the soon-to-be-released *Southern Forest Futures* report, will provide a solid basis for guiding programs and engaging partners in conservation and management of Southern forests. I hope you will agree and that you will make full use of these resources.

Copies of this regional summary report can be found online at the Southern Region's Website: (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/>). This report will also be posted on the Southern Group of State Foresters Website in the near future.

You may follow progress of the Southern Forest Futures project by logging onto: (<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/futures/>).

For further information on this regional summary report, please contact Tim Mersmann at 404.347.1649 or at tmersmann@fs.fed.us.

Please forward to friends and partners who may have an interest.

Sincerely,

/s/ KEN ARNEY (for)

LIZ AGPAOA
Regional Forester

