Mid-south Projections: expectations for change

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Topics

• Note some key points on a set of related topics:
  • Land use change
  • Expected population change
  • Timber products and prices
Land Use Change

- Increasing timberland area in all states.
- Increase primarily from agriculture but rates decreasing
- Increase in developed land
- In Texas and Oklahoma the amount of agriculture land converting to timberland is less then the amount of timberland converting to developed uses
- Juniper expansion in west covered in next talk

Data source: NRI
Population

- Population density expected to increase under SSP 5 (highest population growth scenario)
- Under SSP 5 scenario major urban centers expand
  - OK City
  - Dallas
  - Austin
  - Houston
  - San Antonio
  - Little Rock
- Population density expected to increase in timber producing regions.
Timber products

- Total production is generally increasing across AR, OK, and TX
- Sawlog production 2013-2015
  - Softwood increased for AR and OK
  - Hardwood decreased for all states
  - Still below pre-recession levels
  - Potential building of sawtimber stocks
- Slight decrease in combined pulpwood in AR and TX (2013-2015)
- Increases observed in veneer logs and other industrial roundwood.
Timber Prices

• Hardwood sawtimber prices have risen
• Pine sawtimber prices have remained low.
• Pulpwood prices declining slightly since 2015
Key points

• Conversions from agriculture to timberland are slowing while development pressure on forest increases

• Population density expected to expand particularly in urban corridors (high population scenario).

• Timber production has increased over pre-recession levels however inventory outpacing increased demand.

• Timber prices have rebounded for some products but pine sawtimber prices continue to remain low.