

2/21/2002

Via Fax:404-347-2776

The Honorable John G. Greis  
USDA Forest Service - Southern Region  
1720 Peachtree Rd. NW  
Atlanta, GA 30367

Dear Mr. Greis:

I am commenting about the draft report, "Southern Forest Resource Assessment."

You will no doubt receive form letters from people who have been misguided by the Dogwood Alliance and other supposedly pro-environment groups into confusing deforestation brought about by sprawl with forest management by landowners who actually have a stake in sustaining the forest. Here is a quote from one such form letter:

"The draft SFRA concludes that the real threat to Southern forests is sprawl. Yet it documents clearly that Southern forests are under tremendous pressure from the wood products industry to produce products such as paper. By 2040 270 million acres will be cut by the timber industry whereas 30 million acres will be lost to sprawl."

There is a huge difference between cutting forestland and replanting trees (providing habitat for many creatures in the process) and bulldozing forests to build suburban developments or shopping malls. If forced to abandon sustainable forest management, many landowners will have no alternative but to sell their land to developers. This is the real danger to the southern forest.

Sincerely,

Nehl Aldridge  
8516 Beaverwood Drive  
Germantown, TN 38138-7684