



"Patrice Cole"
<pcole2@utk.edu>

01/28/02 11:22 AM

To: <dwear@fs.fed.us>, <jgreis@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject:

Dear Mr. Greis and Mr. Wear:

The draft Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA) correctly identified urban sprawl as a significant threat to southern forests. However, failing to acknowledge the threat posed by the continued expansion of industrial forestry is misleading and must be corrected in the final version of the report. The SFRA documents that at least 250 million acres of forests will be heavily logged through 2040 to produce products such as paper. This compares to an estimated 30 million acres of forest that will be lost to sprawl through that same time period.

No one would argue that the loss of forests to sprawl does not pose a serious threat to forests. But, the impacts of big timber companies are exacerbated, not diminished, by increased urbanization, as remaining natural forests become even more important to sustaining wildlife populations, water quality, scenic beauty, recreation, tourism and value-added, quality wood products businesses.

Extensive stands of intensively managed pulp wood do not constitute a forest in an ecological or recreational sense, and the public that you serve is becoming increasingly sophisticated in recognizing that. I hope you will ensure that the final version of the report accurately and appropriately considers the true impact of industrial forestry on forest ecosystems in the south.

Sincerely,
Patrice Cole
The University of Tennessee
Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
569 Dabney Hall
Knoxville, TN 37996