



Virginia Forestry Association

8810B Patterson Avenue - Richmond, Virginia 23229-6322

Phone 804/741-0836 - FAX 804/741-0838

E-mail vafa@erols.com

www.veforestry.org

PAUL R. HOWE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. John Greis
Dr. David Wear
SFRA Program Managers
USDA Forest Service
Southern Region
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30367

February 19, 2002

Dear Dave and John:

The Virginia Forestry Association commends you on your extraordinary work that resulted in the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). It was a mammoth undertaking!

Our organization, which represents 1300 forest landowners and forestry businesses in Virginia, has been and will continue to work with state natural resource organizations, agencies, and our universities to conduct highly effective forestry training for timber harvesters and landowners. At the same time, we will continue to promote the economic benefits of owning and managing forest land for profitable timber consumed by the forest industry. We have been successful in protecting our forests environmental functions, particularly water quality, while supporting a \$30 billion industry that depends on wood products and forest uses. We encourage the USFS to look for practical ways to participate with us.

The SFRA calls for additional research, but VFA recommends instead that the USFS focus on rapid Forest Inventory Analysis instead. The forestry community in Virginia is extremely frustrated with the tardiness of data analysis and report publication. The Virginia Department of Forestry has worked hard to establish a more timely process for collecting FIA-required field data, but we have yet to see any results from the USFS. Would you please pass this great concern on to the appropriate departments and agency managers, and ask someone to respond to me?

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the SFRA and forestry needs in Virginia.

Cordially,

Paul R. Howe
Executive Vice President

c: Marvin Tinsley, President, VFA
James Garner, State Forester

President
Marvin Q. Tinsley Amherst

Vice President & President-elect
Anitra B. Webster Lynchburg

Treasurer
David C. Froggatt, Jr. Prince George