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To: dwear@fs.fed.us, jgreis@fs.fed.us  
cc:  
Subject: southern assessment

Dave and John,  
A job very well done. You both have my admiration for accomplishing an amazing task!

I'm quite concerned however about an important point that from my personal perspective is very much missing. I first noticed this omission when reading the executive summary, but it has been confirmed by a cursory reading of individual reports. Coming from me, you might guess that the omission pertains to soils. The word, I don't believe, is even mentioned once in the 12-page summary. As the "ultimate resource" of the forest ecosystem, I'm not sure how a forest assessment can be complete without an assessment of soils.

Over the history of forestry in the South, concerns about the sustainability of the region's soils have been very high priority scientific and management issues. I don't know how to propose a remedy to this situation but let's talk about it nonetheless.

Best regards on accomplishing a task that few others could have!  
Dan Richter