



J Speed Rogers  
<speedrogers@citco  
m.net>

To: jgreis@fs.fed.us  
cc: scot@dogwoodalliance.org  
Subject: SFRA

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Dear Sirs, I have not read through the report or the SFRA but judging from news releases and summaries the principle conclusion of the study was that urban sprawl is the real threat to southern forests and that industrial forestry is "sustainable". Also you are reputed to have found that 25% of southern forests will be pine plantations by 2040, hardwood removals will exceed growth by 2025 and that 30 million acres of southern timberland had been destroyed by sprawl as compared to 250 million acres "heavily logged".

The term "sustainable" forestry needs careful definition. I believe you use the term to mean that industrial forestry allows sufficient regrowth of harvested forests to permit repeated cycles of removal/regeneration -- much like "sustainable" agriculture which allows repeated cycles of crop removal/replanting. I believe that the time has come in man's relationship to nature, in ecological science and wisdom, that the term "sustainable" forestry should mean forests in the wider sense of the entire forested ecosystem; not only timber trees but all the complex biotic and abiotic systems associated with the trees and other life in the forest. These values are almost completely incompatible with industrial forestry as it is now being practiced in the southern United States. Industrial forestry in general, and pine plantations in particular, have all but destroyed these forests and the life they once supported.

Thirty million acres destroyed by sprawl, but 250 million acres destroyed by "heavy logging" are both as destructive to our forests. Also the fact that we are losing our forests to sprawl is all the more reason to preserve and protect the remaining forests from the ravages of industrial forestry. Sprawl plus "forestry" begins to equal total destruction of our natural forest environment.

The fact that hardwood removals will surpass growth in about 20 years is a dramatic indictment of industrial forestry now being practiced in the southern United States. This is almost certainly secondary to over-cutting and/or "pine conversion" of our remaining hardwood forests. It seems incredible that the forestry profession, at this late date in human history, can allow this to happen, can support it instead of speaking out against it.

There has to be a better way of supplying paper and other wood products other than our current unsustainable methods. Let us hope the forestry profession will lead the way in helping us find a truly sustainable relationship to our southern forests.

Sincerely,

J.

Speed Rogers

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Purple Finch Lane

Brevard, North Carolina

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