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Dear Colleagues:

In the spirit of keeping interested individuals and groups informed of progress on the Southern Forest Resource Assessment, we offer the following brief report:

Work Plans Reviewed

As indicated in our last communication, the Assessment Questions were finalized during the Assessment Team meeting in February and work plans for each were drafted and placed on the Assessment web site: www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain. We invited and received public feedback on the work plans and the individual Question Managers have carefully considered each comment. They have begun to compile data and information necessary to address their assigned question(s).

Assessment Team Meeting Planned

The Assessment Team will meet for the second time in Nashville, Tennessee July 18-20, 2000 at the Union Station Hotel, 1001 Broadway Street, beginning at 10:00 AM, July 18 and will conclude at 12 noon July 20. This meeting will focus on several important items including progress on Assessment Questions, linking and coordinating information-gathering and analysis efforts, criteria for identifying sub-regional focus areas for additional analysis, and other logistical issues. Interested citizens are welcome to attend, and will be provided opportunities to interact with Team members at several points during the meeting. The meeting will be structured, however, to maximize Team interaction. The meeting agenda can be found on the Assessment web site. Hotel reservations can be made at (615) 726-1001 (Union Station Hotel) or at (615) 244-0150 (Clubhouse Inn - across the street from the Union Station). Additional information will be available on the Assessment web site. Blocks of rooms have been reserved until June 19 under the name "Southern Forest Resource Assessment".

Citizen Participation Plan Finalized

After soliciting public feedback on the Draft plan during April, the interagency Planning Team has finalized the Citizen Participation Plan and it is posted on the Assessment web site. A notable modification includes the plan to invite public feedback (during August) on criteria for identifying candidate sub-regional focus areas or smaller areas for potential further analysis. See the Plan on the web site for complete details.



Sustainability Conference Planned

Plans are being made for a conference to be held November 7-8, 2000 in the vicinity of Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, for the purpose of convening researchers, natural resource managers, and interested citizens to examine issues surrounding forest sustainability in the South. Sponsored by the Southern Forest Resource Assessment, the conference will consist of a series of technical workshops at which research on various aspects and scales of forest sustainability will be presented and discussed. Colloquia are also planned at which regional leaders in forest management, research, and policy will discuss their perspectives on critical issues facing southern forests. An announcement and call for papers will be distributed in the near future.

We hope this update is helpful to you, and as always, we encourage you to check the Assessment web site regularly to stay abreast of details. Thanks for your continued interest in southern forests.

Sincerely,

/s/John G. Greis
John G. Greis
Co-Leader

/s/David N. Wear
David. N. Wear
Co-Leader