

Introduction

The Southern Forest Research Partnership, Inc. (SFRP) is a new model in cooperative



forestry research that builds on the strengths of existing cooperative research programs by

reaching across organizational boundaries to attract support from broader segments of the forestry community.

Mission

Its mission is to foster collaborative relationships that provide new and revised research knowledge that will enable the southeast to remain competitive in the global forestry market while enhancing the forest landscape and assuring that this natural resource will be sustained indefinitely.

Background

The southern forests of the U. S. are under increasing pressure to balance the economic, social, and ecological aspects of forest resources. Traditional cooperative research programs have been successful due in large part to a narrow technical focus and a stable funding base. As resource management becomes more complex, traditional funding sources shift, and new stakeholders emerge. This shift requires new approaches to support and conduct

research that are essential for developing integrated forest management strategies that are environmentally sound, socially acceptable, and economically viable.

The imperative is clear: Meeting the demand for forest products and healthy forests will depend on increasing productivity and efficiencies while protecting the environment and sustainability of the forests. A recent report from the National



Photo courtesy of MeadWestvaco

Research Council entitled “National Capacity in Forestry Research” stated, “The forestry research sector is indeed at a crossroad. If left unchanged, its future will entail a steady erosion of intellectual and institutional capacity, and dwindling impact.”

In response, a diverse group of university, nongovernment organizations, Government and industry representatives formulated a plan to bring change to this vital aspect of research. The Southern Forest Research Partnership, Inc. (SFRP) will coordinate research by attracting funding, private and public, and using those funds to support research and technology transfer that furthers the mission of the SFRP. We face complex issues that cross property lines and political boundaries. The issues are beyond the scope of any one organization and require the focused attention of a team of scientists with diverse backgrounds and capabilities.

Operation

The SFRP will operate through an executive director under the guidance of a broad-based Board of Directors. The Board determines the overall direction of the Partnership. The director serves as the point person for the Partnership, and provides leadership for fund raising activities and competitive grants. The director manages the daily business of the Partnership and is the person to contact regarding membership or other matters of operation. Supporting the Board are important operating committees, including the Science Committee and Resource Development Committee. The Science Committee is comprised of outstanding scholars in a broad range of natural resource disciplines from leading institutions represented by Partnership members. The depth and diversity of technical expertise enables the Partnership to assemble scientific teams to address complex forest resources questions.

The Partnership operates from the premise that a research and technology transfer model that transcends organizational barriers and generates excitement and involvement from a wide-range of scientists and organizations can better serve the South’s forest resource base, including its multitude of stakeholders, and research funding sources. The SFRP is a new model for research and technology transfer in forest resources that is well positioned to address the needs of the future, building on the success of past programs. We enlist your support and participation.

Partners

University

*Alabama A&M University
Auburn University
Clemson University
Mississippi State University
North Carolina State University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Texas A&M University
University of Arkansas - Monticello
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Tennessee
Virginia Tech*

Corporate

*International Paper
MeadWestvaco
Plum Creek
Rayonier
Weyerhaeuser*

State/Federal

USDA - Forest Service Southern Research Station

Associations

*American Forest and Paper Association
National Council for Air and Stream Improvement
Southern Group of State Foresters
The Nature Conservancy*

Affiliate

*American Tree Farm System
Association of Consulting Foresters
Southern Group of State Forestry Assoc. Execs.
Southern Regional Extension Forester
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey*

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**Southern Forest
Research Partnership, Inc.**

<http://sfrponline.net>

Broadening support for collaborative forest
resources research that is economically
viable, environmentally sound,
and socially acceptable