

# **SOUTHERN CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE FORESTS**

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**DUKE UNIVERSITY**

**NORTH CAROLINA'S DIVISION OF FOREST RESOURCES**

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## **Southern Center for Sustainable Forests: 1998 Status Report**

### **Center Objectives**

The Southern Center for Sustainable Forests was established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among North Carolina State University, Duke University, and the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. The Center was established to provide leadership for research, education, and extension to promote economically and ecologically sustainable management of forests in the South. The Center will:

- Foster research and applications on the productivity and sustainability of forest management practices on private forests and evaluate the effects of intensive and extensive forestry at the landscape scale.
- Improve state, regional, and interdisciplinary cooperation in technology transfer of existing and new research efforts to forestry professionals and to private landowners.
- Promote balanced discussion about and cooperation among interest groups in achieving sustainable forest management.
- Assist in development and use of appropriate guidelines for sustainable forest management that incorporate economic and ecological principles.

### **Center Activities**

An organizing conference for the Center was held on July 17, 1997 in High Point, North Carolina. Individuals representing government, nongovernment, and private organizations attended that meeting. They helped identify important issues regarding North Carolina and southern forests, and proposed actions that the Southern Center could consider to address those issues. Eleven broad themes were identified by the participants at the Southern Center organizational forum. These ranged from ecological to traditional forest management, and from education to incentives for such management. Suggestions for developing an advisory board to seeking funding for the Center were made by participants at the organizing forum.

Leadership for the Center continues to be shared among three co-directors from each organizing institution. We have not yet developed a formal advisory board or named an individual director for the Southern Center, as recommended in High Point. Our efforts to date have focused on identifying research or education efforts that could be undertaken by the Center and seeking external funding for the Center. We have submitted proposals for funding the Center to various sources, and will continue these endeavors. The Southern Center served as the sponsor for the November 1998 conference in Charlotte on "Perspectives on Sustainable Forestry for the South", and stands ready to cooperate on related symposia or other educational activities.

Most importantly, the Southern Center for Sustainable Forests is serving as the unifying organization that is performing the current study on the “Economic and Ecologic Effects Associated with Wood Chip Production in North Carolina.” This study will be a major examination of the expanding wood products harvesting and processing sector in the state, and its effects on related economic sectors and the environment. This study involves researchers and experts at each of the Southern Center founding organizations, and is receiving advice from a formal advisory board. The issues identified in the wood chip study and that study advisory board can facilitate achievement of the Southern Center goals.

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