

# **FOREST INDUSTRY LEADERS TO TACKLE FUTURE USE OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S FORESTS**

## **Economy, Energy, Employment & Environment to Drive Discussion**

(Columbia) A first-of-its-kind conference will be held on October 28 at Harbison State Forest in Columbia, SC. More than four-dozen leaders from government, academia, and the timber and forest products industries will meet to address the future of South Carolina's forest resource. Forestry stands as the state's #1 manufacturing industry and is a key component of the agribusiness and tourism economic clusters. Just as rainfall affects the individual tree, economic, political and environmental forces shape the future of South Carolina's forested landscape. Simply put, in our state whatever impacts the forests, impacts the economy.

This conference is bringing together South Carolina's leaders in forestry and economic development to advance a shared vision of growing forestry's total impact from \$17 billion to \$20 billion by the year 2015 ("20-by-15"). Leading the charge are Pete Stewart of the firm Forest2Market, Mac Lupold of Lupold Consulting, Bob Scott of the South Carolina Forestry Association and Gene Kodama, State Forester and agency head of the SC Forestry Commission. Dr. Doug Woodward, Director of the Division of Research at USC's Moore School of Business will help us understand how the industry's impact is actually measured. Also on the table are **energy** and the outlook for the state's burgeoning **biomass** industry. South Carolina's "wall of wood" positions us well to benefit from this growing market. Planning now places us on the cutting edge of the next revolution in global energy. Of course, the current economic climate has taken its toll on this state's frightfully high unemployment statistics. The "20-by-15" goal takes direct aim at this problem and will promote job retention and production. This conference has its work cut out for it.

The Forestry Commission and the South Carolina Forestry Association joined forces to draw these stakeholders together for the first time in history. **While the guest list is exclusive, the media are invited to attend (lunch included). Interview opportunities will be made available with forest industry experts.**

- **Who: More than 50 leaders/policy shapers from forest industry**
- **What: A conference at Harbison State Forest aimed at positioning our state's forest resource to meet tomorrow's demands for energy and timber production**
- **When: Oct. 28, 2009 at 9:30 am**
- **Where: Harbison State Forest Environmental Education Center (5600 Broad River Rd., Columbia)**
- **Why: Job creation and retention!**

For more information, contact Scott Hawkins or Tim Adams at the South Carolina Forestry Commission, (803) 896-8800.

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*The SC Forestry Commission's mission is to protect and develop South Carolina's forest resource. For every \$1.00 invested by SC in the Commission, the industry produces more than \$1,300.00 of economic impact.*