

# STATE OF SC'S FORESTS

## BY THE NUMBERS: 2015

### Forest Area



- ▶ South Carolina has 13 million acres of forestland. This is 67% of the state's total land area.
- ▶ Hardwood timber types occupy over 52% of the state's forestland. Softwoods occupy 48%.
- ▶ South Carolina's forestland acreage remains stable, averaging 12.6 million acres since 1968.
- ▶ The 2012 forest inventory found that there are 2.3 million more acres of forestland than there were in the first inventory in 1936.

### Forest Health



- ▶ The state's forested watersheds fulfill a critical resource role as the primary supplier of clean public water. In addition to beautiful landscapes, forests provide clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation, carbon storage, and soil protection.
- ▶ South Carolina's forested watersheds are well managed as documented by a 93.4% compliance rating with state water quality guidelines.

### Forest Ownership



- ▶ 88% of South Carolina's forests are privately owned.
- ▶ 63% of private forests are family-owned.
- ▶ The average "family forest" is 80 acres. 56% of these owners have their primary residence on the land.
- ▶ Forest industries own 137,400 acres, down 93% since 2001 and continuing to decline.
- ▶ Public agencies manage 12% of South Carolina's forests.

### Economic Impact



- ▶ Forestry is #1 among manufacturing industries in jobs (90,320) and payroll (\$4.48 billion).
- ▶ The total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is \$18.6 billion annually.
- ▶ South Carolina exports \$1.5 billion in forest products each year.
- ▶ Timber is the state's #1 harvested crop at \$759 million annually.

### Forest Inventory

- ▶ South Carolina's forests now contain 25 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century.
- ▶ The state's forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing more wood than is being harvested.
- ▶ Net annual softwood growth is double pre-Hurricane Hugo growth rates. The present annual growth of 935 million cubic feet per year is the highest ever recorded.
- ▶ Net annual hardwood growth rates have recovered since Hurricane Hugo. The present net annual growth of 321 million cubic feet per year is 39% above pre-Hugo levels.

