BY THE NUMBERS
SC FORESTRY FACTS & FIGURES: FY2016-17

Wood Supply
- 12.9 million acres of forestland, composed of 52% hardwood and 48% softwood
- South Carolina’s forests now contain 26 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century
- There are 2 million more acres of forestland in SC than there were in 1936. The state’s forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing more wood than is being harvested

Fire Statistics
- 2,062 wildfires
- 25,709 acres burned
- 1,023 fires caused by debris burning, (49.6% of all wildfires in SC)
- 375,395 burn notifications handled by automated call center
- 5-year average: 1,620 fires / 11,488 acres burned

Fire Response
- The Commission’s three dispatch centers field between 26,000 and 55,000 calls every year
- The average dispatch time for wildfires in FY2016-17 was 2.37 minutes
- The average response time between report of wildfire and arrival of initial attack warden was 35.75 minutes

Ownership
- More than 200,000 forest landowners in SC
- 87% of SC forests are privately owned
- 61% 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
- Public agencies manage 13% of South Carolina’s forests

Enforcement
- 39 sworn officers
- 511 fire investigations
- 159 fire tickets, 2 litter/environmental cases, 7 violations of state forest regulations, 3 pine straw theft cases, 1 game and fish case, and 10 miscellaneous cases
- 96 timber theft/fraud cases
- $22,903.75 in fines collected
- 54% of timber theft/fraud losses recovered for victims

Investment
- $264 million in forestry capital projects announced in FY2016-17
- 97 primary mills
- 774 secondary mills
- 35,116 forest industry jobs
- $2.2 billion in labor income

*2014 FIA data