

# BYTHENUMBERS

SC FORESTRY FACTS & FIGURES: FY2018-19

#### **Forest Management**

- ▶ 1,937 landowners assisted
- 1,062 cost-share, stewardship and/ or woodland exams performed, covering 67,940 acres
- SCFC personnel conducted 13,093 acres of prescribed burns, plowed 910 miles of firebreaks, performed 3,389 acres of prescribed-burn standbys and installed 135 waterbars



#### **Fire Statistics**

- 995 wildfires
- 4,127.8 forested acres burned
- 709 non-forested acres burned
- 543 fires caused by debris burning, the no. 1 cause in SC (54.6% of all wildfires in SC in FY2018-19)
- 322,978 burn notifications handled by automated call center
- 10-year average: 1,764 fires / 12,045.6 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 FY2018-19 was 2 minutes, 22 seconds
- The average response time between report of wildfire and arrival of initial attack warden was 37.87 minutes

#### Investment

- ▶ \$104 million in forestry capital projects announced in FY2018-19
- 98 primary mills
- Approximately 800 secondary mills
- 47,047 forest industry jobs
- \$2.58 billion in labor income



#### **Ownership**

- More than 200,000 forest landowners in SC
- 87% of SC 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 330,000 acres. down 84% since 2001
- Public agencies manage 13% of South Carolina's forests

#### **Enforcement**

- 38 sworn officers
- 223 fire investigations
- 43 fire tickets, 12 violations of state forest regulations, 2 pine straw theft cases, 11 game and fish cases, and 5 miscellaneous cases
- \$7,234 in fines collected
- 3 arrests made for woods arson
- 112 timber theft/fraud cases
- > 78% or \$272,313 of timber theft/ fraud losses recovered for victims



## **Wood Supply**

▶ 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



- 12.9 million acres of forestland, composed of 52% hardwood and 48% softwood
- SC's forests now contain 26.6 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century

