SCFC has 17 outreach foresters that provide general forestry advice to citizens who own forestland. They develop forest management plans to help landowners meet the objectives for their property, including timber management, wildlife habitat, soil and water quality protection, aesthetics and recreation.

Landowner assistance
Many landowners also contact SCFC for help selling their timber to ensure they get the best price for their commodity. Agency foresters refer many of these property owners to private consulting foresters for additional assistance. Other landowners seek advice on the best species of tree to plant, the financial return they can expect on their investment, when their trees need to be thinned, and other forest management information. For those needing a detailed plan, SCFC foresters develop Forest Stewardship plans that include a 10-year timeline of activities that helps them achieve their objectives. Our foresters recommend timber buyers and vendors such as tree planters and herbicide applicators and can help landowners implement their plans.

SCFC foresters also help landowners diagnose forest insect and disease problems, and can send samples to the agency’s lab if needed for diagnosis by specialists. SCFC monitors activity of pine beetles and other pests and participates in multi-state prevention efforts such as the “Don’t Move Firewood” campaign that hopes to slow the spread of Emerald Ash Borer.
Forestry services
The Forestry Commission offers forestry services such as prescribed burning, firebreak plowing and water bar construction for a fee. The agency provides standby assistance for landowners with an approved prescribed burn plan and also offers turnkey prescribed burning that is conducted by agency personnel. SCFC also rents forestry equipment such as drum choppers and tree planters for use by landowners or their contractors.

Urban forestry assistance
SCFC Urban Foresters assist communities across South Carolina as they care for the trees in cities, suburbs and towns. Agency experts help develop management plans and tree protection ordinances, select trees for planting and train those responsible for urban tree care.

Cost-share assistance
Cost-share programs are incentives programs to help landowners defray the cost of some common conservation and forestry practices by repaying a percentage of implementation costs. The most successful state-run cost-share program that SCFC administers is the Forest Renewal Program (FRP), which is matched by the forest industry’s wood-consuming mills at a four-to-one ratio. These funds are then distributed to forest landowners as an incentive for them to apply conservation practices they may not otherwise implement.

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