

# Release

from the South Carolina Forestry Commission



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## Forestry has \$21 billion impact on South Carolina's economy

*'Forestry Day' celebrated updated economic news and Commission's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

**COMMERCE SECRETARY BOBBY HITT ALSO SPOKE ABOUT INDUSTRY'S SIZE AND IMPORTANCE**

COLUMBIA—South Carolina Forestry Commission officials announced the economic impact of the state's forestry sector in grand fashion today, unveiling a large backdrop depicting the industry's **\$21 billion contribution to the state's economy**.

The new economic impact figure, revealed in the findings of a Clemson University study commissioned by several forestry organizations, was disclosed at a press conference on the State House grounds as a part of "Forestry Day," as proclaimed by Gov. McMaster. The occasion was also a celebration of the Forestry Commission's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which was founded nine decades ago to the day. A tree-planting ceremony on the State House grounds was held after the press conference.

Other highlights of forestry's economic contributions include:

- **forestry is the state's #1 manufacturing sector in terms of jobs (84,000+) and labor income;**
- **forestry represents the #1 harvested crop in the state;**
- **forest products represent the #1 export commodity** from the Port of Charleston

Today's announcement was the culmination of a nearly decade-long initiative among forestry advocates called the 20-by-15 Project, whose goal was to increase forestry's economic impact from \$17 billion in 2008 to \$20 billion by 2015, which is the last study year reflected in the Clemson University analysis.

The full economic impact study can be found on the Forestry Commission's website at:

<http://www.state.sc.us/forest/economicimpactstudy2017.pdf>

A photo album of pictures from today's press conference and tree-planting ceremony can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ForestryCommish>



State Forester Gene Kodama, agency director of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, left, joined SCFC Chair Walt McPhail and The Forestry Association of South Carolina President & CEO Cam Crawford Wednesday in announcing forestry's \$21 billion contribution to the state's economy.

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