

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 90th 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 90th 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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