



STATE FORESTER ISSUES FOREST DISASTER DECLARATION

Rare declaration last used in 2004 is a clarion call to landowners, timber harvesters, and mill operators to work together after major ice damage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2014

(Columbia, SC) After an intensive survey of timber stands impacted by the recent winter storm, State Forester Henry E. Kodama is issuing a Forest Disaster Declaration today.

A Forest Disaster Declaration by the State Forester is a "Call to action" to:

1. Ensure that all citizens and the forestry community are aware of the disaster and its importance to South Carolina.
2. Encourage forestry community members to assist in timber salvage and utilization to the fullest extent possible.

Commission surveys show a 170-mile-long, 70-mile-wide band of timber damage extending from the Savannah River to the North Carolina border. Immediate, direct timber losses are estimated to be more than \$360 million on 1.5 million acres of forestland. Other unmeasured costs include growth loss due to tree canopy damage and reduced residual tree value due to stem damage.

"The raw material supply chain for our state's largest manufacturing sector has suffered from this natural disaster," Kodama says. "The storm has impacted hundreds of thousands of individual forestland owners and multiple corporations. Forestland owners and forest product manufacturing is dependent on a consistent cycle of tree growth and harvests, and the storm has disturbed this cycle over much of the state."

The Forestry Commission estimates that 25,000 to 30,000 acres of timber will have to be salvaged and replanted.

South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley is echoing the State Forester's concerns. "Our forests suffered a major hit by the recent winter storm and therefore so did a major component of our state's strong and growing manufacturing economy. To help ensure the long-term success of this vital industry and the South Carolinians who depend on it, it's important that we all work together to salvage fallen timber and help landowners replant as efficiently and quickly as possible," the Governor said today shortly before the declaration.

South Carolina found itself in the path of a major weather event on February 11th. The winter storm carried heavy precipitation and cold temperatures which straddled the freezing mark. Rain, snow, and ice fell on most of the state, with the latter two forms of precipitation taking a heavy toll on trees.

Unfortunately, the storm did the most damage to pulpwood size trees between 15 to 25 years of age which is the type of trees that are in least supply. So, the ice storm compounded an already challenging timber supply issue.

On the positive side, the state still has the most wood ever recorded due to an abundance of larger sawtimber size trees.

MORE

State Forester Kodama says the state must focus on salvaging and utilizing damaged trees and getting these areas replanted quickly to retain economic return for landowners and a dependable timber supply for manufacturing and the many jobs dependent on this supply chain in the future.

Landowners with damage are encouraged to contact a registered forester immediately to assess their situation and begin the recovery process as needed. Forestry Commission foresters (www.trees.sc.gov) and private consulting foresters are available to assist landowners.

“The State Forester’s Disaster Declaration is a call for landowners, foresters, loggers, mill operators, and state leaders to work together to salvage as much damaged timber as possible in a fair and expeditious manner and to replant as many acres as possible,” Kodama added. “This cooperative effort and the amazing resilience of our state’s forests will optimize post-storm timber value today and ensure even more timber supply and jobs for future generations.”

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News editors, for more information, call Scott Hawkins at 803-896-8820.

Photo caption: *Three-year-old Josh Holt standing in what was his college fund in Williamsburg Co. after the 2014 ice storm*

Photos of damaged timber available on [SCFC’s facebook page](#):

Forest industry has an annual impact of more than \$17 billion on the state’s economy, provides 90,000 jobs, and can grow far beyond these levels of importance. Ten log trucks haul enough wood to support one forestry job for a year.

Timber Damage Corridor from Winter Storm



Timber Damage:

\$360 Million

1.5 Million Forestland Acres

24 Counties



March 5, 2014

Timber damage occurred across the state, however, the majority of timber damage occurred in the area indicated above.



SUMMARY OF ACRES OF DAMAGE AND VALUE BY COUNTY

COUNTY	Acres In Damage Areas		Acres by Damage Class				Value of Timber Damaged (\$)
	Total Acres	Forested Acres	Light	Moderate	Heavy*	Total	
Aiken	574,752	291,837	89,878	12,955	1,856	104,689	\$ 24,419,005
Allendale	260,068	130,034	42,999	6,198	888	50,085	\$ 11,682,381
Bamberg	251,603	148,446	58,980	8,501	1,218	68,699	\$ 16,024,200
Barnwell	350,601	238,408	74,953	10,803	1,548	87,305	\$ 20,364,064
Berkeley	487,644	331,598	103,642	14,938	2,141	120,721	\$ 28,158,514
Calhoun	231,551	101,882	41,337	5,958	854	48,149	\$ 11,230,814
Clarendon	388,215	174,697	54,540	7,861	1,126	63,528	\$ 14,818,078
Colleton	397,513	238,508	74,639	10,758	1,542	86,939	\$ 20,278,781
Darlington	198,138	77,274	25,736	3,710	532	29,977	\$ 6,992,311
Dillon	252,467	108,561	38,461	5,544	794	44,799	\$ 10,449,431
Dorchester	333,099	199,859	64,707	9,327	1,336	75,370	\$ 17,580,192
Edgefield	10,264	6,364	1,860	268	38	2,166	\$ 505,266
Florence	511,514	245,527	85,980	12,393	1,776	100,149	\$ 23,360,048
Georgetown	367,029	220,217	84,647	12,201	1,748	98,596	\$ 22,997,767
Hampton	180,365	110,023	35,475	5,113	733	41,321	\$ 9,638,317
Horry	509,541	239,484	82,877	11,946	1,712	96,535	\$ 22,516,976
Lee	55,449	18,853	5,509	794	114	6,417	\$ 1,496,853
Lexington	84,954	35,681	11,566	1,667	239	13,472	\$ 3,142,275
Marion	312,919	172,106	61,153	8,814	1,263	71,230	\$ 16,614,666
Marlboro	71,460	29,299	8,562	1,234	177	9,973	\$ 2,326,233
Orangeburg	708,650	325,979	105,855	15,257	2,186	123,299	\$ 28,759,725
Richland	56,480	31,064	24,771	3,570	512	28,853	\$ 6,730,074
Sumter	271,222	119,338	37,598	5,419	777	43,793	\$ 10,214,942
Williamsburg	597,019	298,510	122,890	17,713	2,538	143,141	\$ 33,388,074
Total:	7,462,516	3,893,546	1,338,614	192,942	27,648	1,559,205	\$ 363,688,989

* Acres in heavy damage class likely need reforestation

OFFICE OF THE STATE FORESTER
FOREST DISASTER DECLARATION

WHEREAS, an ice storm struck certain forestlands of South Carolina on February 11 through 13, 2014, *and*;

WHEREAS, the impacted area includes a 70-mile wide band extending from Edgefield, Aiken, Barnwell and Allendale Counties on the Savannah River to Dillon and Horry Counties on the North Carolina border, *and*;

WHEREAS, the timber damage is estimated above \$360 million on 1.5 million acres of forestland, *and*;

WHEREAS, many forest landowners in twenty-four South Carolina counties must now implement unscheduled harvests in an effort to salvage some value from their damaged forests, *and*;

WHEREAS, significantly damaged trees must be harvested promptly to avoid natural deterioration and market degradation, *and*;

WHEREAS, such harvests can only be achieved through active involvement and cooperation of South Carolina's entire forestry community, *now*;

THEREFORE, I, as State Forester of South Carolina, do declare a forest disaster in the affected counties, and call upon all forestry interests to work together to facilitate prompt salvage and regeneration of the damaged resource.

**Given under my hand and seal this
5th day of March, 2014.**



Henry E. Kodama
State Forester

Emergency Assistance for Landowners with Ice-Damaged Timber

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting applications for assistance through the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) now. Although funding is not yet approved, landowners need to begin the process now by contacting their county FSA office.

To be eligible for assistance, landowners must sign up with FSA and obtain advice from a registered forester who will confirm the damage and need for reforestation. Landowners are strongly encouraged to obtain registered forester advice before beginning salvage of damaged timber or planning reforestation activities to increase the likelihood of receiving funding assistance and having a successful salvage and replanting process.

Landowners are encouraged to sign up with FSA quickly, as there is a limited period of eligibility and funding. The Farm Service Agency Emergency Forest Restoration Program web page has more information about the program and eligibility:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=diap&topic=efrp>

Some landowners may qualify for additional programs which can help with recovery from ice damage.

The local FSA office can assist landowners with filling out the required **FSA-848** form, getting any information necessary, and referral to the local SC Forestry Commission office if a forest management plan is needed. It is helpful for landowners who are not already enrolled with FSA to bring a property deed, plat map, and forest management plan if available.

Farm Service Agency local offices can be located by selecting your county on the map at **<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=sc&agency=fsa>** or by calling the state FSA office at 803-806-3830.

Steps for Landowners:

1. Contact the local SC Forestry Commission office or a registered forester (which could be your consulting forester if you have one) to assess damage and determine forest management options.
2. Before beginning salvage or reforestation, contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to determine eligibility for the Emergency Forest Restoration Program. ***Important*** – if you have damaged forest land enrolled in the CRP program you ***must*** contact FSA before conducting any timber salvage harvesting!
3. Use qualified forestry professionals to carry out any needed forestry work on your property.

SOUTH CAROLINA FOREST INDUSTRY FACTS



FOREST FACTS

- 13.1 million acres of forestland. This is 68% of the state's total land area.
- Hardwood timber types occupy over 53% and softwood comprises 47% of the state's forestland.
- South Carolina's forestland acreage remains stable, averaging 12.6 million acres since 1968.
- The 2012 forest inventory found that there are 2.4 million more acres of forestland than in the first inventory in 1936.
- South Carolina's forests now contain 24.5 billion cubic feet of wood, more than at any time in the past century.
- The state's forests, both hardwood and softwood, are growing significantly more wood than is being harvested.
- 88% of SC's forestland is privately owned and contains some of the world's most productive land.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Forestry is #1 among manufacturing industries in jobs (90,624) and payroll (\$4.1 billion).
- The total economic impact of South Carolina's forest industry is around \$17 billion annually.
- South Carolina exports \$1.4 billion in forest products each year.
- Timber is the state's #1 rural commodity at \$759 million annually.
- Forest products is the #1 export by volume out of the Charleston Port.

FOREST ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

- The state's forests produce timber & jobs while providing a backdrop for a desirable quality of life. In addition to beautiful landscapes, forests provide clean water & air, wildlife habitat, recreation, carbon storage, and soil protection.

FOREST-RELATED INDUSTRY

- World class industry presence – International Paper, Sonoco, Domtar, Georgia Pacific, Canfor New South, Norbord
- Primary Industries – Pulp & Paper, Sawmills, Poles, & Panels (oriented-strand board & plywood).
- Secondary Industries – Value-added products (cabinetry, millwork, MDF & particleboard, flooring, furniture, log homes)
- Strong forestry supply chain, from loggers to specialized equipment fabricators.
- To find primary or secondary producers, visit www.trees.sc.gov/refind.htm.
- Tree improvement companies like ArborGen specialize in tree genetics, making SC a leader in forest tree genetics.

SOUTH CAROLINA LOCATION & INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTS FOREST INDUSTRY

- South Carolina is located on the East Coast, halfway between New York City, NY & Miami, FL
- The Port of Charleston is the busiest port in the Southeast & Gulf Coasts. It has one of the deepest shipping channels in the Southeast and can serve ships of 9,000 TEUs.
- Norfolk Southern, CSX, and 8 short-line railroads operate 2,300 miles of track in SC, carrying 40 MM tons of freight annually.
- South Carolina has five interstate highways that provide direct access to 60% of the US population within 1 day.

WORKFORCE

- Clemson University, ranked #21 in top public universities, boasts both a nationally-recognized forestry program and the Clemson Experimental Forest for teaching and research.
- The University of South Carolina's International MBA program was recently ranked 3rd in the international business specialty by US News & World Report. The undergraduate international business specialty was also ranked #1 in a survey by US News and World Report of "America's Best Colleges."
- More than 107,000 students are enrolled in technical colleges statewide
- South Carolina is a Right-To-Work state, and has the second lowest unionization rate in the nation at 1.9%.