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Contact: Charlene Nelson
(301) 897-8720 ext. 110
(202) 487-7946

Comprehensive View of America's Forestland

Professional Society Releases "The State of America's Forests" Report

Washington, DC (May 1, 2007) – The Society of American Foresters has published the most comprehensive, definitive report of facts and data about US forestlands. This report is available online at www.safnet.org and is a free resource to the public.

"We believe one of our responsibilities as a professional society is to make credible forestry information available to the public in an understandable and readable format," says Michael Goergen, Executive Vice-President of the Society of American Foresters. "We all have a responsibility for the future of our forests."

The report states that the United States ranks fourth on the list of most forest-rich countries, following the Russian Federation, Brazil, and Canada, with 8 percent of the world's primary forest.

- The number of acres of forestland in the United States has remained essentially the same during the past century.
- An estimated 25 percent of US private forestland is managed in accordance with one of the three major forest certification schemes in the US (the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Forest Stewardship Council, and the American Tree Farm System), and conservation initiatives on private land, such as easements, are becoming increasingly common.
- On average, 11 percent of the world's forestland benefits from some type of conservation effort. In the United States, 20 percent is protected by conservation initiatives.
- Assessments of biodiversity on the nation's forests have found that the annual rate at which species are listed as threatened or endangered has declined five-fold.

This authoritative, 68-page report uses more than 50 sources of facts and figures from a broad range of sources, including the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service. The report was also peer-reviewed by researchers from non-governmental organizations and federal agencies.



Dale Bosworth, former chief of the USDA Forest Service, says in the report's introduction, "The purpose of this report is to provide a complete and realistic assessment of the nation's forests that can help stakeholders as they consider the issues and trends affecting forest management and use."

The report was authored by forestry expert Mila Alvarez, a professor at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute's College of Natural Resources and principal of Solutions for Nature, a natural resources management consulting firm. Members of the Abundance Forest Alliance provided a grant to aid in the compilation and production of this study.

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***About the Society of American Foresters.** The Society of American Foresters (SAF), founded in 1900, is the oldest and largest non-profit forestry association dedicated to promoting forest stewardship through science and education. The Society's award winning publications – The Journal of Forestry and Forest Science – cover the most significant developments in forest management and science. The Society encourages professional growth through conferences, certification, working groups, and peer-reviewed publications. The SAF membership comprises more than 15,000 forestry professionals involved in conserving forests across all forestry sectors: colleges and universities, local, state and federal government, private industry, and as consultants. For more information about SAF, visit us on the web at www.safnet.org.*