

## **GROW IT AND THEY WILL COME**

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Forest industry is a leading driver of state economies across the South. In South Carolina, forestry is the number one manufacturing industry in terms of the number of jobs and labor income. Our 20/15 Initiative is focused on growing our \$17.4 billion economic impact to \$20 billion by 2015. To accomplish this aggressive goal, we must implement strategies that encourage landowners to reforest after harvest and afforest idle acres. Tree improvement programs have resulted in more alternatives in planting stock than ever before. Silvicultural treatments enhance the potential of advanced genetics to make dramatic improvements in site productivity on timberland. Active management on more acres will increase the amount of wood grown across the South and result in continuing growth of forest industry. The role of the South Carolina Forestry Commission and other state forestry agencies is to support tree improvement efforts and to promote tree planting and active management as a way to grow jobs and improve the overall economic impact of forestry in our state. Reliable sources predict global wood demand to exceed supply in the near future. Therefore, the South is in a favorable position to grow more wood and expand on its strong position as the world's wood basket.