

# The Benefits of Family Forests



## Forestry in South Carolina

**Landcover:** SC has 12 million acres of forests, accounting for 63% of total land area.

**Ownership:** Over 7.3 million acres of South Carolina’s forestland are owned by 262,000 family forest owners.

**Certified Tree Farms:** There are 2,137 certified tree farms in the state ATFS program for a total of 1,332,597 acres.

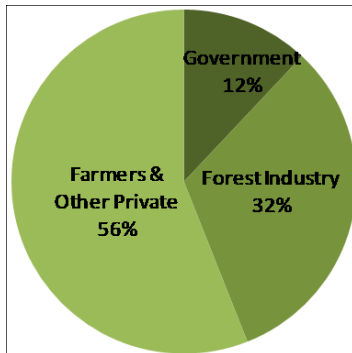
**Jobs:** Forestry is a critical piece of the state’s economy, contributing \$17.45 billion annually. Forestry has emerged as the leading manufacturing industry in terms of employment and labor income. Nearly 37,000 people, earning \$1.1 billion, are directly employed in the forestry sector.

**Wood:** There are 75 sawmills, pulpwood mills, and other primary wood-processing plants in the state.

**Wildlife:** South Carolina’s long-leaf pine savannas are host to the red-cockaded woodpecker, a very rare, endangered bird.

**Recreation:** There are 208,000 licensed hunters in South Carolina who benefit from well-managed forests and generate millions in sales to the state’s economy. Wildlife watching is also a significant form of outdoor recreation with 3.3 million participants spending \$550 million annually. A recent study by the US FWS indicates that wildlife associated recreation contributes \$1.97 billion.

State Timberland Ownership



Acreage & Ownership of Forestland by District

Congressional District	Total	Family Owned	Public	Private Industry
SC 01 Tim Scott (R)	1,050,915	419,652	143,997	487,266
SC 02 Joe Wilson (R)	1,981,674	1,120,823	237,484	623,367
SC 03 Jeff Duncan (R)	2,417,053	1,465,933	438,512	512,608
SC 04 Trey Gowdy (R)	743,830	470,666	108,794	164,370
SC 05 Mick Mulvaney (R)	3,143,923	1,955,349	189,634	998,940
SC 06 James E. Clyburn (D)	3,690,914	1,897,148	389,895	1,403,870

## National Statistics and Facts

**Landcover:** More than half (56%) of the nation’s forests are privately owned.

**Jobs:** Every 1,000 acres of private forests supports eight well-paying jobs.; each job created in private forests creates an additional 2.95 jobs.

**Carbon:** Wood building materials—the majority of which are from private forests—reduce energy use and carbon emissions in manufacturing from 70% to 88%.

**Wood:** Family forests are the economic lynchpin of small towns and rural areas around the nation.

**Water:** More than 25% of our drinking water originates in private forests.

**Wildlife:** 60% of all at-risk species rely on America’s private forests.



American Forest Foundation

*The American Forest Foundation is a non-profit organization that gives people the tools they need to be effective stewards of America’s natural heritage. We work with educators, family woodlands owners, and partners in every state to keep our forests healthy and our children well-prepared for the future they will inherit. We grow stewardship every day.*