

Technical Assistance Available to CRP Forest Landowners

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Introduction

Forest landowners with CRP timber stands have invested ten years in their growth and development. Soon their lands will be out from under CRP contract. Landowners have available to them professional forestry assistance in the form of advice, answering technical questions, and other services landowners may desire concerning their forest lands.

A Forest Stewardship plan designed to incorporate landowner's objectives of management for multiple resources (timber, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, soil & water conservation, historical and cultural resources) may be desired. Plans are available from several sources in cooperation with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Cooperative Extension Service (CES), to provide a comprehensive and detailed prescription which balances the management of these resources.

This leaflet will provide CRP and other forest landowners with information about the wide variety of technical assistance, both public and private, available to them in Georgia. Landowners are encouraged to utilize professional assistance in providing accurate and timely information capable of fulfilling the landowner's needs and objectives for their forest land.

Public Assistance

Several state and federal agencies offer technical assistance dealing with CRP forest lands.

Georgia Forestry Commission

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC), a state agency, can provide numerous services through a network of professionals located throughout the state:

- Forest Stewardship Plans
- Timber Marking
- Pre-suppression Firebreak Plowing
- Prescribed Burning Plan Development
- Forest Products Marketing Advice
- General Forest Management Advice (i.e., insects & disease, site preparation and tree planting, thinning, growth yield analysis, etc).
- Forest Seedling Sales
- Forest Seedling Survival Checks
- Rental or Loan of Various Forestry Equipment and Tools (i.e., tree planters, drum choppers, dibbles, backpack sprayers, etc.)
- Various forestry literature and videos

¹1998. Technical Assistance Available to CRP Forest Landowners. Georgia Forestry Commission, Macon, GA 31202 U.S.A.

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<http://www.bugwood.caes.uga.edu>

GFC maintains a statewide toll free phone number for those landowners interested in additional information; 1-800 GA TREES (1-800-428-7337).

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

DNR can assist forest landowners through their 20 game and 3 non-game wildlife biologists and their 15 fisheries biologists. Assistance includes information on hunting leases, wildlife and fisheries habitat management, wildlife management plans, threatened and endangered species, wildlife population management, and wildlife nuisance advice. There is no limit on the number of acres necessary to qualify for assistance. Wildlife literature and videos are also available.

DNR's *Non-Game & Endangered Wildlife Office* is located in Forsyth, Georgia; *Game Management Offices* are located in Armuchee, Gainesville, Thomson, Fort Valley, Albany and Fitzgerald; *Fisheries Management Offices* are located in Calhoun, Gainesville, Social Circle, Fort Valley, Albany, Waycross, and Richmond Hill. DNR's State Headquarters Office can provide additional information upon request (Phone: (404) 918-6400).

UGA Cooperative Extension Service

The CES maintains offices in counties throughout Georgia. County Extension Agents can provide literature on forestry and initial contact with landowners. The CES also maintains a staff of seven Forest Resource specialists in Athens and Tifton who can provide information on a variety of forest related subjects. In Athens, call (706) 542-7602 and in Tifton, call (912) 386-3418.

Natural Resources Conversation Service

A federal agency with state headquarters in Athens, NRCS (formerly the Soil Conservation Service - SCS) maintains local offices in nearly every

county in Georgia. NRCS Soil Conservationists can provide assistance and information on soils identification & management, pond establishment and renovation, critical area planting on badly eroded sites, road design and establishment, and green tree reservoirs. NRCS personnel can delineate wetlands and should be contacted whenever any land use conversions (forest to agriculture, etc.) are considered.

Private Assistance

Private technical forestry assistance and service are available from several sources throughout Georgia.

Consulting Foresters

There are approximately 120 consulting foresters registered in Georgia. Some only will work within a certain radius of a community or county; others will work anywhere in the state and some are registered in other states for landowners whose land is contiguous into adjoining states.

Many consultants are licensed to provide additional services related to forestry such as real estate appraisal, surveying, and pesticide application. When selecting a consulting forester, insist on acquiring their various license numbers for reference. The Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF) is a private association which maintains a listing of their members registered to do business in Georgia. Contact David T. Foil with Forest Resource Consultants, Inc. (912) 745-4910 about obtaining the ACF list. The Georgia Forestry Commission also maintains a listing of consulting foresters and the services they offer.

Forest Industry

Several forest industry companies in Georgia offer some type of landowner assistance program. Services vary from company to company but can include free or at cost tree seedlings, at cost site preparation and tree planting, free forester consultation, management plan development, burning, timber stand improvement, marking, and other practices. Some companies require stipulations for their services. Landowners should determine what stipulations, if any, are acceptable to them in securing assistance. Below is a list of companies providing various services in Georgia to private forest landowners:

Georgia Pacific Corporation

GP's program is entitled Forest MAP (Forest Management Assistance Program). Services include a five or ten year forest management plan, site preparation and tree planting vendor solicitation and negotiation and free forester consultation. Landowner assistance covers most all of Georgia. Contact Ben Schwanda in Watkinsville at (706) 769-4737 for additional information.

Union Camp Corporation

Union Camp's program is entitled PLUS (Private Land Utilization Service). Services include limited forester consultation in southeast Georgia. Contact Dave Norris at (912) 238-7610.

Stone Container Corporation

Stone's landowner assistance program is entitled LOA (Land Owner Assistance). Services include free forester consultation, long range management plans, free seedlings, loan of company tree planters, and advice in site preparation and tree planting. Contact John Johnson (southwest Georgia) or Roger Weaver (mid-east Georgia) at

(912) 823-9200 for more information. ***Louisiana-Pacific Corporation*** LP's program is entitled TEP (Tree Enterprise Program). Services include free forester consultation, detailed forest management plans, site preparation and tree planting vendor solicitation, and growth analysis. LP offers assistance in south central and southeast Georgia. Contact Roy Blackwood in Statesboro at (912) 681-2048.

Rayonier Inc.

Rayonier's program is entitled LAMP (Landowner Assistance Management Program). Services offered include free forester consultation, detailed forest management plans, short term leasing, growth & yield analyses, at cost seedlings, site preparation, and tree planting. Rayonier's LAMP covers most of Georgia south of Atlanta. Contact Elizabeth Van Tilborg at Rayonier, P.O. Box 2070, Jesup, GA 31545 at 912-427-5144.

Bowater Incorporated

Bowater's landowner assistance program is entitled WIP (Woodland Improvement Program). Services include a detailed forest management plan, free forester consultation, free seedlings, at cost site preparation and tree planting, and a one year membership to Georgia Forestry Association. Coverage includes northwest Georgia. Contact David Smith in Calhoun at (706) 629-8634.

Columbia Timber Company

Columbia Timber's landowner assistance program available to qualified forest landowners includes free forester consultation, free seedlings, at cost site preparation and tree planting, timber taxation advice, financial planning, and detailed forest management plans. Area coverage includes south central and southeast Georgia. Contact Jib Davidson in Gainesville, Florida at (800) 344-1473 (toll free).

Tolleson Lumber Company

Landowners providing timber to Tolleson are provided free forester consultation, at cost site preparation, tree planting, and seedlings. Coverage area includes west central Georgia. Contact Steve Carter in Perry at (912) 987-2105.