

GEORGIA FORESTRY
COMMISSION



News Release

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RENEWABLE FORESTS RECOGNIZED FOR ESSENTIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

From paper, pencils, lumber and bath tissue to lipstick, clothing, paint and football helmets, forestry touches the daily lives of everyone. In recognition of National Forest Products Week, October 21-27, Georgia citizens can be proud that our 24 million acres of timberland has a positive impact on the economy and the ecosystems that make our state the ideal place to call home.

“Georgia’s forest products industry is a huge economic driver for the state,” said Georgia Forestry Commission Director Chuck Williams. “With more than \$35 billion in output and employing nearly 145,000 people, National Forest Products Week is the perfect time to acknowledge the positive impact the industry has on all of us.”

Williams noted that Georgia has more commercially available timberland than any other state in the nation, and that 91 percent of it is privately owned. The most recent Georgia Forest Industry Economic Impact report shows among all industries in the state, the forest products industry ranks first in wages and salaries and second in employment (to food processing). Ecosystem services provided by Georgia’s forests are valued at \$37 billion.

“Forests play an enormous role in filtering our drinking water and retaining storm water. Forests clean the air and store carbon, provide homes for wildlife, and give us remarkable aesthetic opportunities for recreation and respite,” said Williams. “And the best part is that this is a renewable resource. We have more trees today than we had 100 years ago, and our forests are being managed sustainably for citizens today and the generations of tomorrow.”

Passed into law in 1960, National Forest Products Week is observed annually, beginning on the third Sunday of October.

For more information about the forest industry, Georgia’s forests and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org.

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