

Release

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SCFC launches “Learn Plan Act” campaign in Georgetown Co. *Initiative aims to engage forest landowners with professional management advice*

GEORGETOWN, S.C.— Seeking to give Georgetown County landowners more informational power to help manage their woods, two organizations announced today a statewide education and outreach plan for the county named Learn Plan Act.

The joint initiative by the South Carolina Forestry Commission and the Southern Group of State Foresters is designed to promote sound practices, providing educational materials and guidance to South Carolina’s landowners on the benefits of actively managing their woods.



“So many landowners in South Carolina don’t identify themselves as ‘forest owners’ and should be actively managing their woods in order to protect both their personal investment and the environment,” said SCFC Management Chief Russell Hubright. “The Learn Plan Act campaign seeks to break down the barriers for new and existing landowners so they can easily learn more about sound forest management principles, access resources to build their own forest management plan, and act on the plan.”

As part of Learn Plan Act, the South Carolina Forestry Commission and Southern Group of State Foresters have launched an interactive website where landowners can connect and conveniently access information about their woodlands, <http://southcarolina.learnplanact.org>.

The groups joined together to create this initiative because 87 percent of South Carolina’s woodlands are privately owned with only a small percent considered “engaged” landowners. This means the majority of woodlands across the state are at risk from wildfires, insect infestations and other environmental dangers.

The Learn Plan Act campaign focuses on helping South Carolina landowners understand how having a forest management plan will benefit them and what steps they need to take to properly manage their land. The campaign’s website, <http://southcarolina.learnplanact.org> has information about key components of active land management. In addition to serving as a community hub for the state’s woodland owners, the website will help guide landowners to events and workshops. It also provides the contact information for forest management professionals who can provide more in-person, direct assistance. The website went live today as part of the campaign launch.

For more information, landowners should visit the website above and/or speak to an SCFC forester by calling us at **(843) 638-7561**.

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In addition to being recreational hotspots for hiking, biking, hunting, camping and horseback riding, the Commission’s state lands are demonstration forests for ecological responsibility and productivity. The state’s second-largest manufacturing industry in terms of jobs and wages, forestry generates a \$21 billion impact on South Carolina’s economy.

