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Heather Clark
Forisk Consulting
770.725.8447
hclark@forisk.com

Forisk Publishes Silviculture Survey of Forest Management Practices of Private Timberland Investors and Managers in the U.S. South

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – June 5, 2020 – As the forest industry faces economic turmoil and uncertainty, a survey of silvicultural practices by Forisk affirms the continued commitment and interest in active forest management, optimizing investment returns, and the application of new technologies as they become available. Large landowners and forest managers are achieving strong yields across the South through targeted management regimes employing improved genetic stock, competition control, and fertilization.

The [2020 Silviculture Survey of Silvicultural Practices of Southern Timberland Owners and Managers](#), published by Forisk, provides timberland owners and managers a way to evaluate and benchmark the performance of their silvicultural activities. In addition, the forest products industry benefits from understanding the intensity of management directed at maintaining a sustainable timber supply. The survey divided the South into four “regions” to distinguish potential differences in forest management practices across physiographic provinces. This report provides a comparison of silvicultural treatments including site preparation, planting, harvesting and fertilization across the four physiographic regions.

“The *2020 Silviculture Survey* is our fifth survey of southern timberland and represents one of the largest datasets available on forest management practices,” said Dr. Shawn Baker, VP Research of Forisk and lead author on the survey. “We expanded coverage this year to 28.3 million acres of Southern timberland managed by 35 firms.” The results highlight continued growth of advanced genetics planted across the region, targeted, strategic use of fertilization, and geographic variation in silvicultural practices. “Managed acres in the Lower Coastal Plain required more intensive silviculture,” Dr. Baker said, “with over 40% greater silviculture expenditure per acre per year than the South-wide average.”

In addition to forest management activities, the survey summarizes trends from past surveys for South-wide practices and their costs. This summary provides data to understand changes in silviculture for the Southern region over the past eight years. For more information about the Survey, visit www.forisk.com.

Contact: Shawn Baker, sbaker@forisk.com

About Forisk Consulting: Forisk delivers forecasts and analysis of forest industry markets and timberland investments. Firms participate in Forisk’s research program by subscribing to the Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ), Forisk Wood Fiber Review, or North American Forest Industry Capacity Database; supporting benchmarking studies related to forest operations and mill capacities; and attending educational workshops and the annual Wood Flows & Cash Flows conference. www.forisk.com

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