

Season's Greetings!
Warm wishes from InterfaceSouth for a wonderful
holiday season and happy new year.

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The InterfaceSouth Update is designed to provide timely information about interface forestry issues and our science delivery activities. Update content comes from a variety of sources and is not exclusively from InterfaceSouth.

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Featured Resources

Unplug and Discover the Forest

The U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council have joined forces to develop the *Unplug and Discover the Forest* campaigns to encourage families to unplug their televisions and electronics and take themselves and their children outside to reconnect with nature and become closer as a family by sharing in healthy activities. InterfaceSouth recently partnered with the [U.S. Forest Service Conservation Education Program](#) and the [Ad Council](#) to adapt *Unplug* materials for Gainesville, Florida. The materials can be distributed at schools, pediatrician offices, and local events to raise awareness about this critical issue. They are available in both English and Spanish and could potentially be adapted for use in other locations.

To locate and find information about local, state, and federal public lands and suggestions for outdoor activities visit *Discover the Forest* in [English](#) or in [Spanish](#).

To find more resources about the benefits of outdoor recreation for kids, programs and initiatives that strive to get more kids outdoors, organizations that promote outdoor recreation and nature exploration for children, or to view the *Unplug* materials visit InterfaceSouth's [Kids in the Woods](#) section.

Partner Spotlight

The Center for Forest Sustainability

Auburn University's [Center for Forest Sustainability](#) utilizes interdisciplinary research approaches to study interface forestry issues, including land-use change, urbanization, water, wildlife, economics, and social dimensions. The Center also engages in a variety of education and outreach efforts to reach stakeholders with timely and useful information to respond to urban expansion's effect on natural resources.

The Center for Forest Sustainability has a long-standing collaboration with InterfaceSouth to study the social, ecological, and economic effects of land-use change in the Florida Panhandle. The Center also worked with InterfaceSouth to co-sponsor the *Emerging Issues along Urban Rural Interfaces* conferences that took place in 2005, 2007, and 2010.

Upcoming Events

Conferences

Southern Forestry GIS 2011
December 11-13, 2011
Athens, GA
[More Information](#)

Southwest Fire Ecology
Conference
February 27-March 1, 2012
Santa Fe, NM
[More Information](#)

The Economics of Ecosystems
and Biodiversity Conference 2012
March 19-22, 2012
Leipzig, Germany
[More Information](#)

Webinars

Forestry Ethics
December 8, 8:30 a.m. Eastern
[More Information](#)

Introduction to the Interagency
Fuels Treatment Decision Support
System—IFTDSS
December 14, 12:00 p.m. Eastern
[More Information](#)

For more upcoming events visit
the InterfaceSouth [Events Page](#).

Training and Outreach Activities

Archived 2011 Changing Roles Webinar Series

The 2011 Changing Roles four-part webinar series took place in October and November and explored topics related to the role of natural resources in land-use planning. The sessions featured perspectives from natural resource managers, planners, and foresters, as well as information on how to become involved in land-use planning, be an effective contributor, and manage conflict between stakeholders. All four sessions were recorded and are available online. The archived sessions can be viewed for continuing education credits for up to one year.

Click on each title below to access the archived 2011 webinars:

["Why should we be at the table?"](#)
Natural Resource Managers' Perspectives

["Why are you needed at the table?" and "How do you get to the table?"](#)
Land-use Planners' Perspectives

["What happens when we are at the table together?"](#)
A Case Study from Sumner County, Tennessee

["What do you do when people start throwing food at the table?"](#)
A Conflict Management Perspective

News

One Million Acres of Southern Forests Protected From Destructive Insect

The U.S. Forest Service recently announced that the agency has protected one million acres of forest through its Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program.

The milestone was reached this fall, on private land in New Kent County, Va.

The Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program spans 13 states and crosses boundaries from privately owned land to state and national forests, aiming to prevent future outbreaks and losses. More than 13,000 individual landowners have participated in the program, together with hundreds of loggers and contractors across the South, to improve the health of southern forests.

View the full news release from the Southern Research Station [here](#).

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