

# Human Influences on Forest Ecosystems



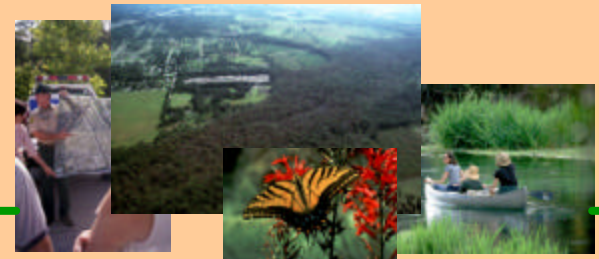
The Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment

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# Outline

- Background of the Assessment
- Purpose and Objectives
- Scope and Audience
- Focus Groups
- Assessment Outline
- Status



# Background of the Assessment

- 1998 Florida wildfire season
- Chief's review of SRS/Region 8
- Growing recognition of interface research and information needs
- Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Council



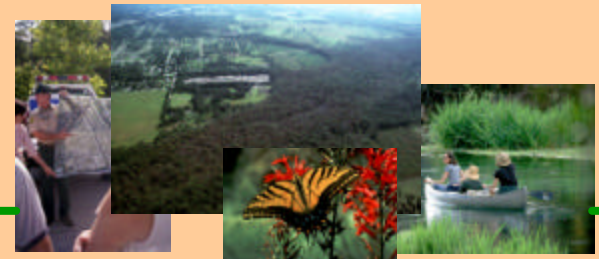


## Defining the Wildland-Urban Interface

Areas or zones where increased human influence and land conversion are changing natural resource goods, services, and management.

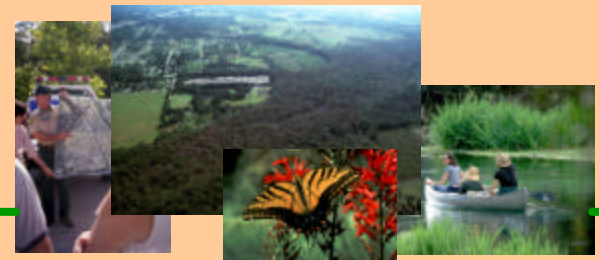
# Purpose

To provide a foundation for establishing an interdisciplinary program of research and technology transfer within the USDA FS Southern Research Station and Region



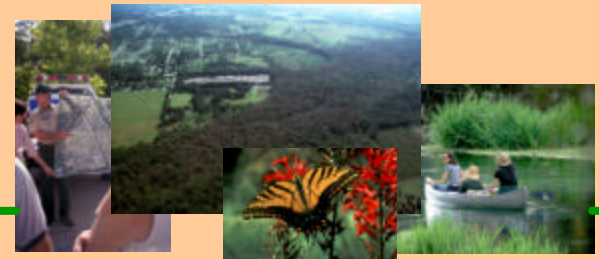
# Objectives

- Describe the southern wildland-urban interface from a multidisciplinary perspective
- Examine factors driving change in the interface
- Understand the effects to forest ecology, natural resource management, and social systems.

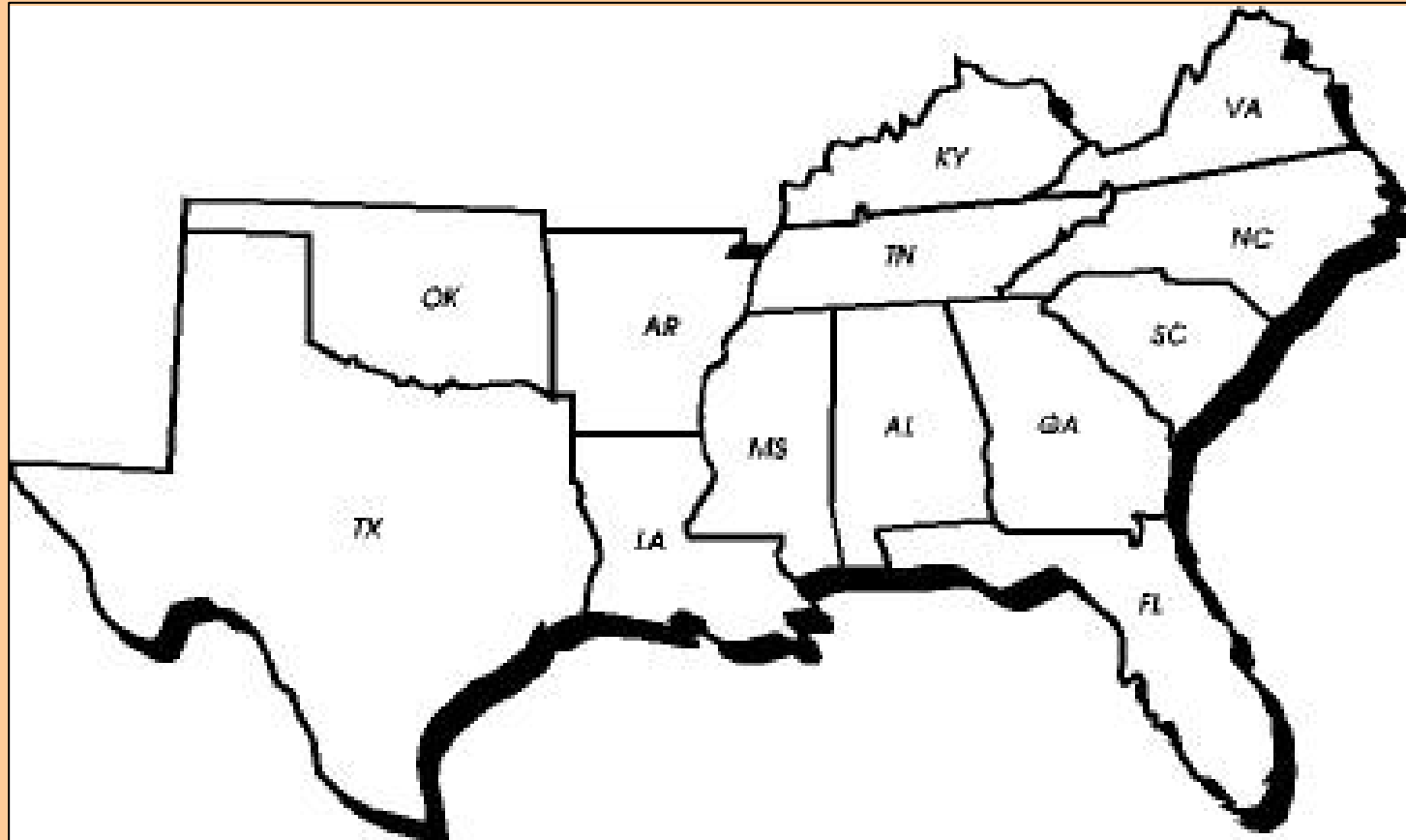


# Objectives

- Identify gaps in current knowledge of interface issues
- Address the growing need for new research, information, applications, skills, and tools
- Promote dialogue about interface issues among researchers, practitioners, and the public



# Scope

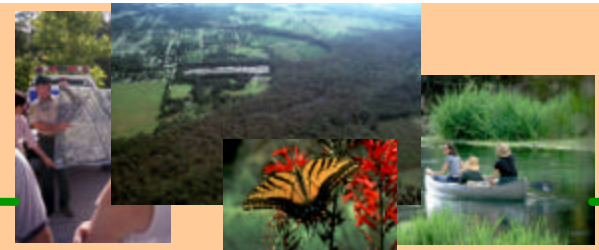


13 Southern States



# Focus Groups

- 12 sessions, May through June 2000
- 170 participants in 6 States
- Diverse audience
- Interface issues, challenges, opportunities, and needs
- Refine and validate assessment issues
- “The Moving Edge” Report



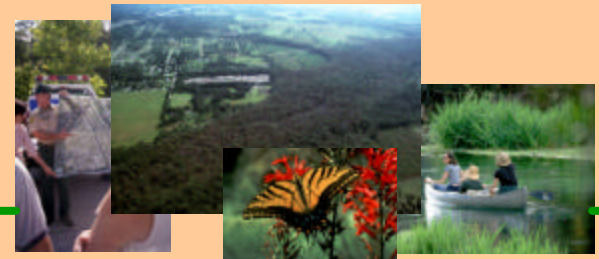
# Audience

## Primary

- USDA Forest Service and other Federal natural resource agencies (managers/researchers)
- State forestry and other natural resource agencies.
- Academic/Research/Extension Institutions

## Secondary

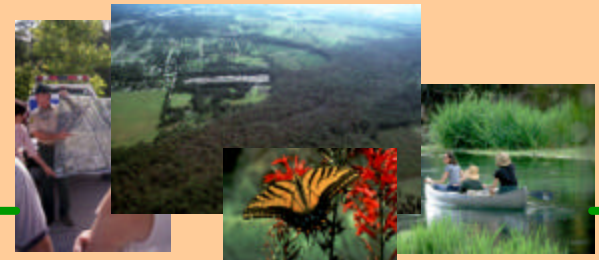
- Policymakers
- General public



The wildlife is being squeezed into smaller and smaller areas. VA

No one has a vision for the future. There is fragmentation of everything. FL

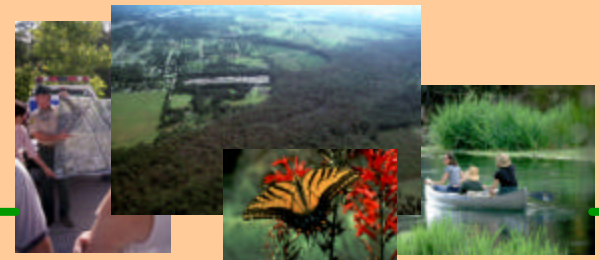
The interface is a mosaic of incompatible land uses. A zone of increased conflict. TX



The interface is overgrown due to a lack of fire. MS

One of the key things that tie all of these factors together is the lack of education. TX

What's lacking is a central agency to develop partnerships. VA



# Assessment Outline

- Introduction
- Population and Demographic Trends
- Economic and Taxation Issues
- Land Use Planning and Policy
- Urban Influences on Forest Ecosystems
- Challenges to Forest Resource Management and Cons.
- Social Consequences of Change
- Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface
- Summary Observations and Research and Information Needs

