



News Release

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GEORGIA FOREST DAMAGE CALCULATED FOLLOWING HURRICANE MICHAEL

The Georgia Forestry Commission has released a detailed analysis of the state's timber losses as a result of Hurricane Michael. A combination of geospatial analysis and aerial and field examinations show damage to more than two million acres of forestland impacted by the storm, with an estimated timber value of more than \$762 million.

"The most severe damage was documented in the southwest counties where the storm entered Georgia," said Georgia Forestry Commission Director Chuck Williams. "About 79,000 acres are a complete loss, and our foresters are assisting landowners with assessments and salvage options. Across the rest of the storm's path, the majority of damage is classified as moderate and below." See full report here: <https://bit.ly/2SbTBSu>

Williams said for recovery purposes, forestland damage is classified according to specific categories detailing conditions such as the percentage of uprooted trees, stem breakage and broken limbs. Those classifications help determine salvage and reforestation options. The Georgia Forestry Commission recommends landowners with damaged property utilize the services of a registered consulting forester to assist with loss analysis.

Hurricane Michael entered Georgia on October 11, after moving ashore near Mexico Beach, Florida. Winds measuring 125-150 miles per hour were recorded from southeast Georgia at Lake Seminole through Bainbridge to north of Albany. Emergency declarations were made by Governor Nathan Deal in 109 Georgia counties. Georgia Forestry Commission chainsaw strike teams and other trained GFC incident management professionals were immediately dispatched to aid in clearing downed trees and debris for storm cleanup. Teams remained on-site for more than a week following the storm.

"It's difficult for landowners to accurately gauge how well their forestland may recover after a catastrophic storm," said Williams. "The Georgia Forestry Commission has the resources to help with this challenging process."

For information about timber salvation and recovery, the Hurricane Michael Timber Impact Assessment, a list of registered foresters, detailed information about selling timber, and services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit GaTrees.org.

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