



News Release

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RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR STORM-IMPACTED FOREST LANDOWNERS

As thousands of Georgia forest landowners and residents deal with the catastrophic aftermath of Hurricane Michael, the Georgia Forestry Commission continues to provide resources for recovery. A number of different options are available, depending on the level of damage sustained and the property owner's goals.

"We realize this is a challenging time for forest landowners impacted by the storm," said Georgia Forestry Commission Director Chuck Williams. "Our agency has people on the ground in every region providing assistance and helping landowners assess their recovery options."

The Georgia Forestry Commission offers a number of online resources providing contacts and salvage information to landowners at GaTrees.org. Materials include registered consulting forester and timber buyer databases, as well as guidelines on timber sales, tax implications, federal disaster assistance and safety.

"After any storm, owners of forested land should follow three steps," said Williams. "Assess. Salvage. Restore. Damage can be highly variable according to tree species, age, density and thinning history." Williams noted that landowner objectives for the property help determine recommended post-storm strategies. The assessment takes these factors into consideration and drives decisions regarding salvage and restoration.

The Georgia Forestry Commission's "Hurricane Michael Timber Impact Assessment" shows more than two million acres of forestland were impacted by the storm that crossed into southwest Georgia from Florida on October 11, 2018. The estimated value of timber loss is \$762,683,909.

"There are steps forest landowners can take right now that will determine salvage options and revenue implications," said Williams. "Despite demanding conditions for loggers, mills and others in the wood processing system, we're urging landowners to make contact with a

registered consulting forester or a local Georgia Forestry Commission office. There are people and processes that can help with recovery.”

Resources:

- [Storm Damage: Information for Landowners](#)
- [Registered Consulting Foresters](#)
- [Selling Storm Damaged Timber](#)

For links to additional resources and information about services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit [GaTrees.org](#).

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