

Operational Guidelines
Forestland Resources
A Technical Committee of the Southeastern Association
of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Objectives:

The Forestland Resources Committee is responsible for advising the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Directors and making recommendations on issues and matters pertaining to or affecting fish and wildlife resources on Southeastern forest lands, including private, State and Federal ownerships. This Committee shall be the primary SEAFWA committee to address these issues with forest management agencies, as well as private forest entities. The Committee is responsible for coordinating its activities and recommendations closely with the Wildlife Resources, Fisheries Resources, and Wildlife Diversity Committees.

Standing Charges:

The Committee, formerly called the Forest Resources Technical Committee, has been in existence and active for over 30 years focusing on Southeastern forest management issues. Although the Committee has and will continue to work on forest management related issues with our federal partners; the US Forest Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the issues affecting forestry are often much broader than just federal lands often impacting State, private, and non-governmental organization lands.

The Committee is unique in that the focus is on managing forest systems and the potential impacts of forest management policies and actions on habitat for multiple wildlife species across the entirety of SEAFWA's charter states, regardless of land ownership. Our influence upon issues involving private lands is mainly addressed through involvement with Farm Bill programs and the Committee's interaction with the AFWA Farm Bill Coordinator. Other SEAFWA and The Wildlife Society (TWS) committees are species driven in their focus. With a broad focus on forest ecosystems, the committee depends on numerous cooperators throughout the region to be successful.

The Southeastern Forestry and Wildlife Working Group was established in 2008 by Charter from SEAFWA and the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF). This joint working group is co-chaired by the Chairman of the Forestland Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Forest Management Committee of SGSF. The first organizational meeting of this group was held in March of 2009. This group meets at least once annually if necessary or as specific need arises. The primary charge of the working group is to address and positively influence federal and regional public policy issues related to non-industrial, private, State and Federal forest resources (i.e. Farm Bill including Forestry and Energy Titles) in the Southeast. The group will operate under the premise of reaching consensus and only the issues upon which consensus is reached will be advanced as recommendations to the SEAFWA and SGSF leaderships. Activities of the SE Forestry and Wildlife Working Group will be reported at least annually to the Directors if any joint activity occurs.

Officer Roles

The **Committee Chair** shall be responsible for all activities and duties as outlined in the most recent version of the SEAFWA Committee Structure and Guidelines that is approved by the Directors. This will include maintaining files and other documents of historical or other significance to the committee and forwarding these to succeeding chairs.

The Committee will hold elections on a biannual basis to select the Committee member that the States members feel may best serve in the leadership roles of the Committee. These individuals will be submitted to the Directors for approval as outlined in the Committee Structure and Guidelines.

To assure continuity of leadership, the Committee will function with three leadership positions; Past Chair, Chairperson, and Chair-Elect. These positions will work together to assure that the charges of the Committee are acted upon accordingly.

The Past Chair will act in an advisory capacity to the current Chair of the Committee. This position will assure that functions of the Committee flow smoothly through transitions in leadership as the Directors approve changes in the Committee Chair position.

The Committee Chair term of office is a minimum of two years. This position will function within and assume the responsibilities consistent with the Committee Structure and Guidelines as stipulated by the Directors.

The **Chairman-elect** shall be responsible for assuming the duties of the Chair when the appointed Chair is temporarily unable or unavailable to carry out such duties as well as assisting the Chair in preparing minutes from committee meetings and preparing the report to the Directors.

Committee Cooperators

The Forestland Resources Cooperators include but are not limited to: USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy and Southern Group of State Foresters.