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Resource Review: Forest*A*Syst: A Tool for Forest Landowners in the Southeast: An interactive assessment to determine your forest management objectives

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Forest*A*Syst was developed at the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forest Resources and the Department of Biological & Agricultural Engineering to aid both new and experienced forest landowners. The program is contained on a single cd and combines video, audio, slideshows and pdf documents into an interactive session aimed at helping landowners determine and prioritize their land management objectives. Potential objectives include: Timber Management, Wildlife Management, and Recreation and Aesthetics. From there, general information is provided on how to attain these objectives. Discussions include the importance and elements of a forest management plan and how to go about developing one.



Two very useful aspects of Forest*A*Syst are the glossary and contact and resource list. The glossary contains definitions of technical terms used in discussions on the cd. State-specific forest and wildlife management contact information (from Virginia south through Florida, and west through Texas) is provided. These contacts include federal, state, and private agencies. A number of useful documents on topics ranging from how to choose quality seedlings to determining stocking levels for a poorly stocked loblolly pine plantation are available in Adobe PDF from the resource list.

Forest*A*Syst is interactive and easy to use. The videos and slideshows are clear and informative. If you are a new landowner, this is a fantastic place to begin to develop your management objectives, and to obtain information on how to meet these goals. If you're a veteran landowner, this program allows you to reevaluate your management objectives, and to determine how well your current management activities are meeting those goals. The information provided by Forest*A*Syst is general and cannot serve as a substitute for the advice of a professional forester, but it does provide important topics for landowners to consider beforehand and to discuss with their forester.

You need to have Quick Time video player installed on your computer for this program to run (free installation instructions are provided on the cd). Copies of Forest*A*Syst are available free of charge from one of our district extension agents (Adam Downing adowning@vt.edu or Dan Goerlich dalego@vt.edu).

Editor's note: Please feel free to send me your suggestions on books, magazines, videos, websites and other resources of interest to forest landowners for future Resource Reviews. reviews.