

A MESSAGE FROM . . .



BOB RILEY
Governor, State of Alabama



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

The hurricanes that have plagued our nation's Gulf Coast the past two summers have been unprecedented. This past summer was the greatest hurricane season on record and we experienced one of the most devastating national disasters our country has ever known, Hurricane Katrina.

I want to thank all of the citizens of our state who have taken even the smallest part in assisting not only our own in these times of need, but for also assisting those in other states who were victims of this tragedy. Alabamians have continually risen to the call and provided aid and comfort. Thousands of our citizens have contributed to relief efforts. Many traveled hundreds of miles to assist in whatever way they could, and many cities, counties, state agencies, private companies, churches, and organizations have donated money, supplies, equipment, and skills to help those in need.

Then there are those who stayed in Alabama and opened their homes, churches, businesses, schools, and hearts to evacuees who were displaced by these terrible tragedies.

The road to recovery will be long for many people in Alabama and other states. But I'm enormously proud that Alabamians will continue to be a beacon of hope and comfort through this time of tremendous need. ☝

In the past few months I have attended meetings across the United States through my involvement in the National Association of State Foresters and the Southern Group of State Foresters. It is evident to me that the face of forestry is changing.

Much more emphasis is being placed on non-traditional forestry issues such as forest health; carbon credits; invasive species; watersheds and water quality; endangered, threatened, and impaired species; wildlife habitat; and insect and disease control.

The Alabama Forestry Commission has taken steps to prepare for these changes, and I am confident that we will be one of the forerunners in the nation in some of these programs. This past summer we employed professional foresters to work in the areas of water quality, invasive species, and forest health enabling us to assist and educate landowners in these areas. We are working to provide southern pine beetle and invasive species contracts, and we have wildlife biologists available to provide technical assistance to forestland owners. Our southern pine beetle detection, mapping, and landowner notification program is second-to-none in the nation and provides landowners with valuable and timely information.

The Commission will continue to strive to provide the best quality technical assistance to Alabama's landowners that we can. Through knowledge, technology, and training we will ensure healthy forests, abundant wildlife, as well as clean air and water for all citizens of Alabama. ***We are Making Alabama a Better Place Through Forestry.*** ☝