



Title: A Unique & Emerging Educational Tool: Forest*A*Syst CD

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Organization: Warnell School of Forest Resources, UGA

State: GA **Region:** Southwest States and Pacific Islands **Year of Funding:**

Theme: Water Conservation and Agricultural Water Management

Situation: With more than 5 million private forest landowners controlling around 89 percent of the forestland in the 13 Southern states alone, there is a significant need for education outreach programs. Needs span from identifying objectives to managing timber sales to wildlife habitat improvement. Empowering landowners to educate themselves will improve their ability to make wise decisions regarding the management of their land.

Objectives: The objectives behind the creation and development of the interactive Forest*A*Syst (FAS) CD are to provide: 1) landowners an easy-to-use educational product, 2) assistance in determining primary landownership objectives, 3) a method to conduct an assessment of current forest management practices, and 4) guidance for making future management and land use decisions.

Methods: The FAS CD is a self-executable program - put it in the computer and it runs. Based on the information generated and printable results (objective, self-assessment, and resource requests) the resource professional will have information from which they can expand discussions and lead the landowner towards a focused management plan. Thus, time is saved, the landowner has expanded their knowledge base, and the professional can focus their discussion.

Partnerships: State forestry agencies, land-grant universities, and landowners are involved in the development of this product. A new national product is under development based on the design of the Southeastern FAS CD.

Research: The FAS CD is an educational product. It employs current technical knowledge (based on research) and sound instructional technology theory. Delivery of the FAS CD will be accomplished utilizing the networks of extension and state agencies.

Resources: Funding for the FAS CD has come from state and federal sources including Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA), Cooperative State Research Education Extension Service (CSREES), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Results: This new educational tool has not been disseminated, but an evaluation is planned after one year of use in the field.



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