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Question1:

Question2: Farm Bill discussions to promote the retention and sustainable management of forests should consider policies that enhance market opportunities, expand access to foreign and domestic markets, and explore innovations for developing marketplace potential for a wide range of multiple use purposes. The role of the free market may be the most powerful force in the foreseeable future that will impact the distribution of forestland and perhaps the existence of manageable forest cover in some regions. Competing land values associated with urban expansion, rural land development, and the transfer of extensive forest industry lands to management entities with relatively short-term investment objectives will also contribute to a trend of reduced and increasingly fragmented forestland in the South. Likewise, international markets and trade policies will be more dynamic and have an expanded influence on landowner decisions.

Question3:

Question4: Considering the range of issues and influencing factors, the SGSF suggests that the 2007 Farm Bill should advance policies that (1) encourage the retention of forestland and minimize the impacts of forest fragmentation and parcelization, and (2) promote measures that achieve effective protection, restoration, and enhancement of sustainable forest conditions and health. The SGSF considers these policies to be central to any public or private sector strategy that would advocate the long-term durability and management of the South's forest resources.

The SGSF recognizes that there are several options and approaches for addressing national priorities and program direction for private forestland within the Farm Bill. While several different Titles have the potential to carry forest policy components, the SGSF is persuaded that an independent or separate forestry Title would be warranted particularly in the event of significant adjustments or program formulation. Such identity or profile within the Farm Bill gives emphasis to its purpose and the resolve of congress to address such matters.

Question5:

Question6: Farm Bill discussions to promote the retention and sustainable management of forests should consider policies that enhance market opportunities, expand access to foreign and domestic markets, and explore innovations for developing marketplace potential for a wide range of multiple use purposes. The role of the free market may be the most powerful force in the foreseeable future that will impact the distribution of forestland and perhaps the existence of manageable forest cover in some regions. Competing land values associated with urban expansion, rural land development, and the transfer of extensive forest industry lands to management entities with relatively short-term investment objectives will also contribute to a trend of reduced and increasingly fragmented forestland in the South. Likewise,

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