



InterfaceSouth: Providing Resources for a Changing Landscape

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Outline

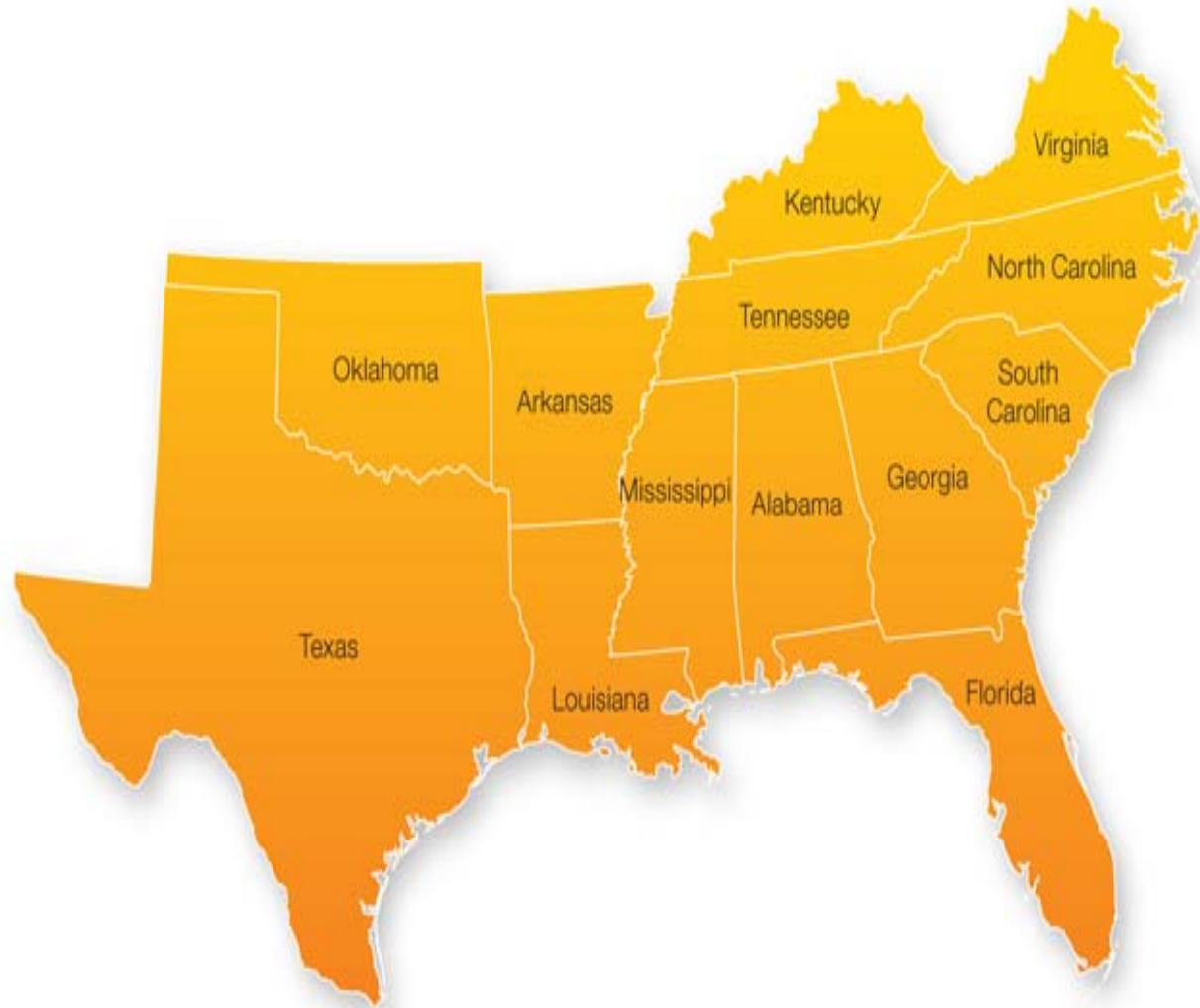


- History of InterfaceSouth
- Technology Transfer Formats
- How We Work

Changes in the South



- 43 percent projected increase (2000-2030).
- 65 of the 100 fastest growing counties in the U.S. (2000-2005).
- Minority populations increasing rapidly (e.g. Latinos)



The Wildland-Urban Interface



History of InterfaceSouth



- 1998- Florida wildfires
- Southern Wildland-Urban Interface Assessment
- 2002 - Establishment of Southern Center for WUI Research and Information
- Southern WUI Council
- 2007- Joined with Southern Center for Urban Forestry Research and Information

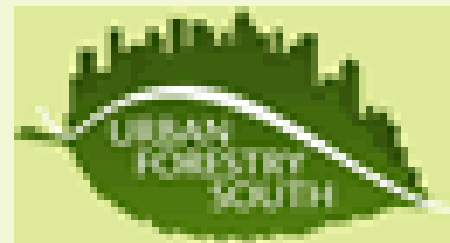
Centers for Urban & Interface Forestry



- InterfaceSouth (Gainesville, FL) and Urban Forestry South (Athens, GA)
- Technology transfer component of *SRS-4952: Integrating Human and Natural Systems in Urban and Urbanizing Environments*



www.interfacesouth.org



www.urbanforestrysouth.org



Key Research Areas

- Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface
- Effects of Urbanization
- Human Dimensions
- Recreation



Integrating Human and Natural Systems

- Unit location
- Tech Transfer Centers
- 🌲 Experimental Forests

SRS 4952

INTEGRATING HUMAN & NATURAL SYSTEMS

in Urban and Urbanizing Environments

HOME

ABOUT US

RESEARCH

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

PRODUCTS

SEARCH



USDA Forest
Service Research
and Development

Athens, Georgia
and Gainesville,
Florida

Welcome to SRS 4952

We are a research work unit of the U.S. Forest Service, Southern Research Station and consist of eight employees spread out over two locations - five in Athens, Georgia and three in Gainesville, Florida.

Our research program seeks to improve the understanding of how people living in urban and urbanizing landscapes both influence and are influenced by natural environments. Our technology transfer centers aim to develop and communicate guidelines, models, and tools for natural resource professionals, policymakers, planners and citizens.



WHAT'S NEW

Fall 2008 Leaves of Change

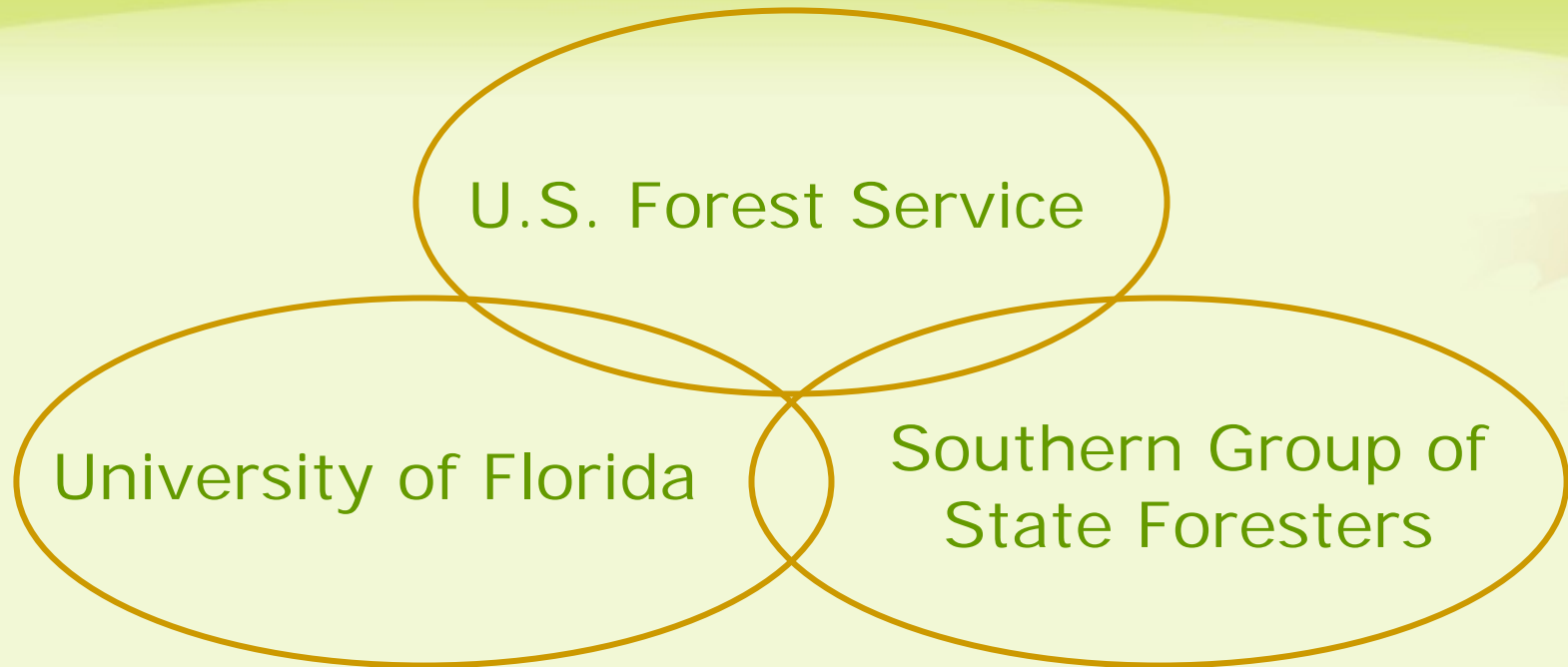
[Click here](#) to read the latest issue

Firewise Conference: Backyards & Beyond

November 6-8, 2008, in Tampa, FL.

For more information, visit: www.firewise.org/conference08

InterfaceSouth Key Partners



Auburn University, Southern Regional
Extension Forestry, National Institute of Standards
and Technology



Technology Transfer Formats

- Web Sites (www.interfacesouth.org)
- Publications
- Outreach & Training Programs
- Demonstration sites
- Conferences

InterfaceSouth

- Home
- About Us
- Literature
- Events
- Resources
- Fire

Our Products

- Decision Support Systems
- Fact Sheets & Brochures
- InterfaceSouth Posts
- InterfaceSouth Updates
- Leaves of Change
- Photo Gallery
- Presentations
- Publications
- Training & Outreach

FAQ

Research Projects

SWUINET Listserve

WUI in the News

Search

En Español

INTERFACESOUTH is the component of the USDA Forest Service, Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry (CUIF), that focuses on wildland-urban interface (WUI) issues. This website is dedicated to heightening awareness of and providing information about WUI issues.

CURRENT HIGHLIGHTS



Leaves of Change

Leaves of Change is a quarterly publication that focuses on our science delivery activities, research projects, and partner activities. This bulletin is sent out electronically through the SWUINET listserv.

[view »](#)



Leaves of Change



A quarterly bulletin of the Centers for Urban and Interface Forestry | Southern Research Station | USDA Forest Service

Fall 2007

In this issue

- 1 **Introduction:** Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface
- 1 **Research:** Shrub and Mulch Flammability
- 2 **Partnership Highlight:** The National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Florida
- 2 **Recommended Reading:** Fire in the Interface fact sheet series
- 3 **Training and Outreach Activities**
- 4 **Upcoming Events**

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Introduction

Fire in the Wildland-Urban Interface

ONE OF THE major issues in the southern wildland-urban interface is the loss of homes to wildfire. While fire control agencies play an important role in fire prevention and the protection of homes, there are actions that individual homeowners can take to reduce the vulnerability of their homes to wildfire. Creating an area of defensible space is one of the most important actions.

Recommendations for defensible space suggest maintaining an area extending at least 30 feet outward from a house with plants and mulches that are low in flammability. Selecting landscape plants based on their flammability is a challenge since there are few existing plant flammability studies and few plant guides that list firewise plants or rank them by flammability. Mulches have been little studied as well. This issue focuses on the work that InterfaceSouth has been doing to address this critical need for research and information related to fire in the wildland-urban interface.

Research

Shrub and Mulch Flammability

AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT of InterfaceSouth's WUI fire research efforts is related to shrub and mulch flammability. In a joint project with Alan Long of the University of Florida – School of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Alexander Maranghides and William Mell of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, USFS research forester **Wayne Zipperer** has been identifying firewise shrubs and mulch types that are safest to use around interface properties.

In 2004, 34 shrub species were tested under controlled conditions at NIST's Building and Fire Research Laboratory. Currently under investigation is the flammability of commonly used landscape mulches. In 2004, 34 shrub species were tested under controlled conditions at NIST's Building and Fire Research Laboratory. Currently under investigation is the flammability of commonly used landscape mulches.

Currently under investigation is the flammability of commonly used landscape mulches. Last spring Long and Zipperer led a study in which they constructed test beds about 13 feet in diameter of pine needles, small and large pieces of pine bark, and shredded cypress. They mimicked rainfall conditions for 15-day and 30-day drought, and then set the mulch on fire.

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Spring 2008

In this issue

- 1 **Introduction:** Minimizing the Impacts of Catastrophic Events
- 1 **Research:** Assessing the Urban Forest Following a Hurricane
- 1 **Training and Outreach Activities**
- 1 **Partnership Highlight:** Urban Forest Strike Teams
- 1 **Recommended Readings:** Assessing and Restoring Trees after a Hurricane, Storms over the Urban Forest
- 1 **Upcoming Events**

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Introduction

Minimizing the Impacts of Catastrophic Events

THE FOREST SERVICE'S Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program has recently begun to focus activities on five national program goals, which are to (1) reduce the impacts of land use change, fragmentation, and urbanization on forest landscapes; (2) minimize the impacts of catastrophic events; (3) protect and improve air and water quality; (4) mitigate climate change; and (5) conserve energy.

This issue of "Leaves of Change" focuses on Goal 2 of this program. Though catastrophic events can vary, including severe weather events (tornadoes, hurricanes, ice storms, and straight line winds), invasive plant species, disease and insect epidemics, and wildfire, we focus here exclusively on weather-related incidents. For a number of reasons, the impacts of these events seem to have become more extreme in recent years. Because of population growth, cities have spread into what were once rural and forested countryside. The southern coastal plain, in particular, has experienced tremendous population growth and resulting urbanization, bringing literally millions of Americans within harms way of devastating hurricanes. Additionally, the frequency, timing, and severity of recent weather events has taken on a certain randomness that makes even the most skeptical wonder if climate change might have a more immediate effect on our future than once thought.

Urban forests are increasingly valued for the ecological services that they provide, such as reduced energy demand, storm water control, and improved water and air quality. After natural disasters occur, remaining trees and urban forests are important for quick recovery of these services. Prompt urban forest recovery efforts can quickly restore the health-rendering benefits that the urban forests provide to society and hazard mitigation efforts can reduce long term risks. In this issue we highlight many of the activities that the Forest Service and partners in the Southern Region are undertaking to help make communities safer and minimize the impact of natural disasters on multiple fronts, through research, science delivery, training, and practical applications.

Research

Assessing the Urban Forest Following a Hurricane



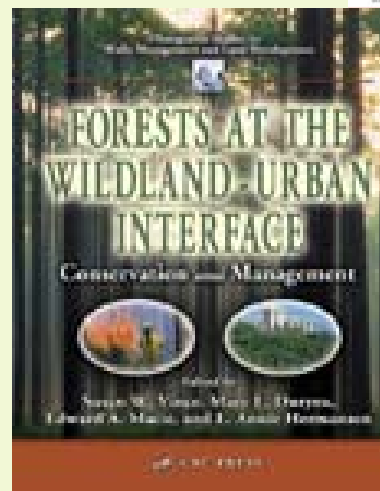
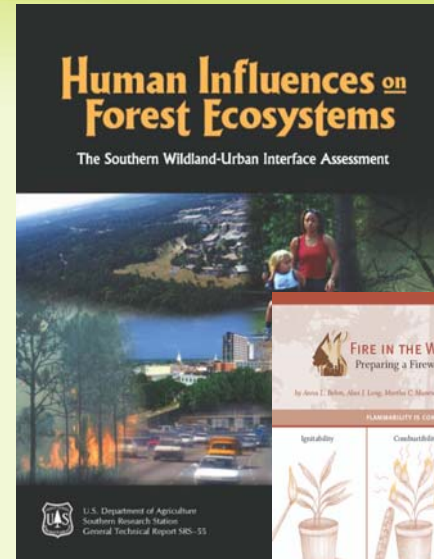
WINDSTORM EVENTS can have a dramatic effect on the structure and function of urban forests in the South. Trees can be broken, uprooted, defoliated, and severely damaged in a short period of time. Damage to urban forests threatens public safety and creates adverse economic consequences for state and local governments in both the short term (e.g. funding response efforts, emergency removal of tree debris) and long term (e.g. loss of ecosystem services).

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Publications



- Human Influences on Forest Ecosystems
- Fire in the Interface fact sheets
- Forests at the WUI: Conservation and Management



Translating many materials to Spanish

Outreach & Training



Changing Roles

Encourages the use of woody biomass for bioenergy production in communities at the wildland-urban interface in the thirteen southern states and Puerto Rico.

Provides state and federal natural resource agencies with a set of flexible resources to conduct their own training programs, aimed toward building skills and tools to successfully tackle WUI issues.



Demonstrations



Firewise Retrofit Home Project



Structure



Landscaping

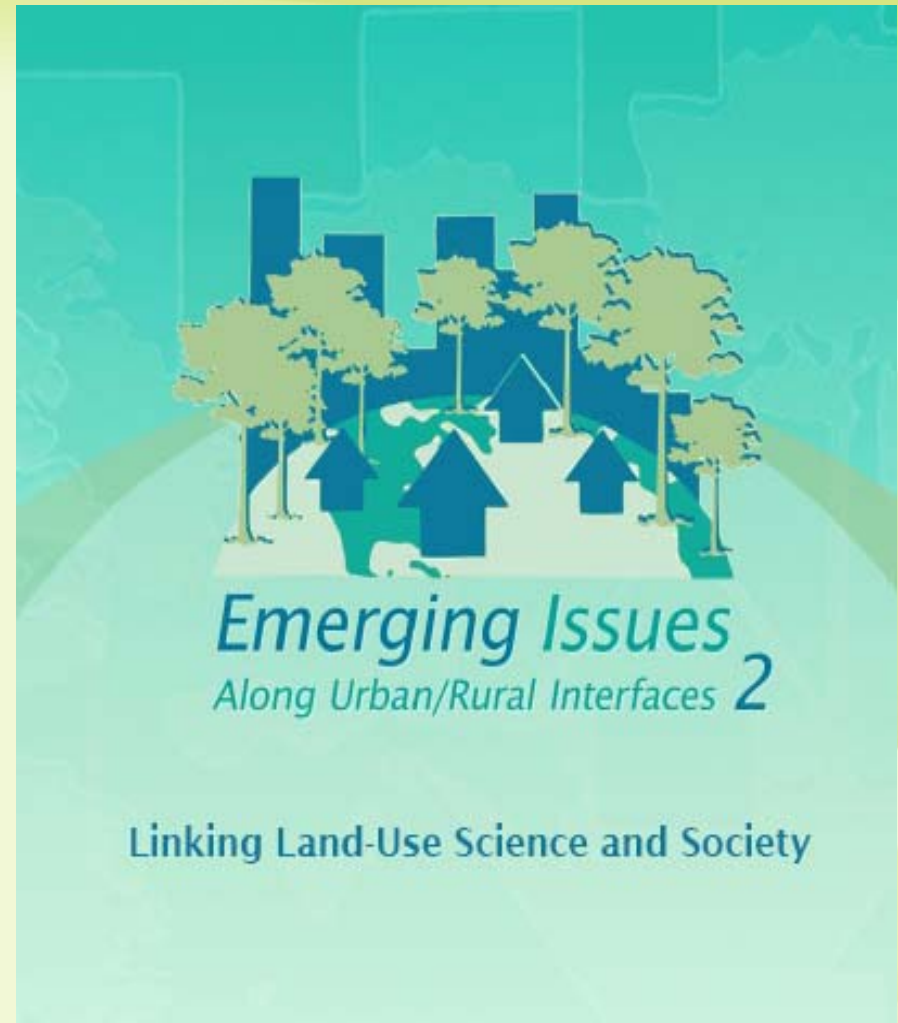


Community Outreach

Conferences



- Emerging Issues Along Urban/Rural Interfaces 1 & 2
 - Both held in Atlanta, GA
 - First one – March 2005
 - 2nd one – April 2007
 - Partnership with Auburn University
 - Will take place every 2 to 3 years
 - Topic areas:
 - Effects of urbanization
 - Land use policy and planning
 - Science delivery and exchange of information
 - Natural disturbances





How We Work

- Close link between research and technology transfer/science delivery
- Integrate feedback from stakeholders (e.g. SWUIC)
- Creative partnerships (e.g. University of Florida, Southern Group of State Foresters)
- Contracting out services – science writing, translating, editing, graphic design and layout
- Provide opportunities for student development

Recent Accomplishments



- 2008 Firewise Regional Leadership Award
- 2008 Southern Research Station Director's Award for Technology Transfer
- Summer 2008 – Sponsored intern from Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Questions?



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