

# SAMAB NEWS

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## 13TH ANNUAL SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2002

HOLIDAY INN-  
GATLINBURG

MEASURING,  
MITIGATING, AND  
MANAGING HUMAN  
IMPACTS IN  
THE SOUTHERN  
APPALACHIANS

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Southern Appalachians Value Their National Forests .....	2
2003 Conference Registration Form .....	2
2003 Conference Agenda .....	3
Native Grasses Restored to Federal Lands .....	4



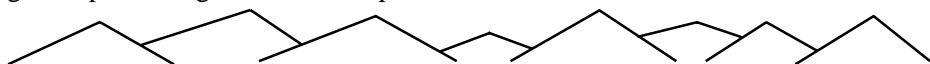
## Cleckley, Ross, and Hirschhorn Featured Speakers at SAMAB Fall Conference

Gene Cleckley (FHWA), Bill Ross (NC DENR), and Joel Hirschhorn (National Governors Association) are the featured speakers at SAMAB's 13th Annual Conference.

Cleckley is the Federal Highway Administration's Director of Field Services - South. His keynote address will be Tuesday, November 5 at 1:30. With Cleckley at the helm, the Federal Highway Administration Southern Resource Center has focused on community impact assessment, environmental justice, and achieving FHWA's "Vital Few" goal of environmental stewardship and streamlining, including regional solutions to habitat connectivity, airshed quality, and watershed-based mitigation.

Bill Ross and Joel Hirschhorn will deliver key plenary addresses Wednesday morning, November 6. Ross, as Secretary of North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is spearheading "One North Carolina Naturally," a statewide land and water protection planning initiative that will focus on maintaining functional ecosystems, biological diversity, and stewardship of North Carolina's resources as the state continues to grow.

Joel Hirschhorn is the National Governors Association's (NGA) Natural Resources Policy Director. At NGA, Hirschhorn has attended to growth management, environmental, energy, agriculture, and natural resource issues. He is currently leading an NGA Policy Academy guiding six states (including Tennessee) in their efforts to better integrate transportation and land use planning to address loss of green space, congestion, and air pollution. ■



## Changing Southern Forests

The broad findings of the Forest Service-led Southern Forest Resource Assessment indicate that southern forests are affected and will be affected by multiple, complex forces. Among them are

- Urban sprawl—31 million acres of forest developed between 1992 and 2040—especially in the eastern parts of the South;
- Population growth and social change that affect people's use and expectations of the forests;
- A westward shift in forest area in the South as urbanization occurs in the east and conversion of agricultural land to forest occurs in the western parts of the South.
- Expanded timber production—56% increase in softwood production and 47% increase in hardwood production. Investment in pine plantations will allow softwood inventories to gradually increase; hardwood removals will exceed growth regionally by 2025.

The assessment identifies the Southern Appalachians as one of three areas in the South where forces of change—and the implications of change—are concen-

*continued, page 2*

## Changing Southern Forests,

continued from p. 2

trated. In addition to population growth and land use changes, pressure occurs from forest-based recreation demands and "competition" among different recreation user groups. Also, forest health issues—including ozone pollution and exotic plants and animals—have the potential to restructure forest ecosystems.

The Assessment was initiated in May 1999 to address the sustainability of southern forests in light of increasing urbanization and timber harvests and the many other factors that influence the region's forests.

For more detailed information on the Southern Forest Resource Assessment see <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain/>. ■

## Southern Appalachians Value Their National Forests

The Forest Service recently surveyed 5200 people in the Southern Appalachian region, eliciting what they valued about the national forests. The Service conducted the survey as a way of involving the public in the development of the revisions to the management plans of national forests in the Southern Appalachians.

"We found that people in the region value the national forests in many ways," said project leader, Ken Cordell of the Service's Southern Research Station. "People give top value to protecting sources of clean water, followed by retaining natural forests for future generations, providing protection for wildlife and habitat, providing places that are natural in

appearance, and protecting rare and endangered species." Residents gave lower values to

managing national forests as sources of raw materials, as grazing ranges for livestock, and for tourism.

For information on the public values survey see <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/sanfrpt.html>. ■

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS AT THE SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE.**

## Register Now! SAMAB Conference

November 5 - 7, 2002

Holiday Inn - SunSpree, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

520 Airport Road; Hotel Reservations: 1-800-435-9201; mention SAMAB

Mail registration form and payment to

SAMAB; 314 Conf. Center Bldg.; Knoxville, TN 37996-4138



Name:		Affiliation:		phone:	
Address:			email:		fax:
		COST		AMOUNT DUE	
Registration	Full conference rate		\$85 (\$75 SAMAB Foundation members)		
	Student/Senior/Retiree rate		\$65 (\$55 for members)		
	One day rate - Nov 5 (includes Aquarium)		\$60 (\$45 for members)		
	One day rate - Nov 6 or 7		\$50 (\$45 for members)		
	Spouse to attend social at Aquarium		\$20.00		
Luncheon Roundtables	NEPA in the Region - Tues. Nov. 5		\$10.00		
	Gateway Communities - Wed. Nov. 6		\$10.00		
	Boxed lunch for fieldtrips, Wed. Nov. 6 Circle One: Native Grasses    Transportation    Restoring Sturgeon		\$10.00		
*Foundation Membership (optional)	Individual \$35; Family \$50; Student/Senior \$25; Patron \$500; Lifetime \$1000				
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED					
___ Check or government purchase order payable to SAMAB Foundation enclosed					
___ Credit card    ___ VISA    ___ Master Card    Card number: _____ Exp date _____					
Cardholder name: _____ Authorized Signature: _____					
* Foundation membership is fully tax deductible as allowed by law.					

## Measuring, Mitigating, and Managing Human Impacts in the Southern Appalachians Agenda for the SAMAB Fall Conference, November 5-7, 2002

### Tuesday, November 5

8:30	National Forest Foundation Partners Meeting (by invitation)	Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining in Transportation Planning and Project Decision-making
12:00	Lunch on your own or "NEPA in the Region" Roundtable	
1:30	Keynote: Gene Cleckley, Director of Field Services - South, U.S. DOT, FHWA	
3:00	The 2002 Farm Bill - Land and Resource Conservation Opportunities	Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining in Transportation Planning (continued)
6:00	Reception at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies	

### Wednesday, November 6

8:30	Keynote: Bill Ross, Secretary, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Joel Hirschhorn, Director, Natural Resource Policy Studies, National Governors Association		
9:45	Challenges and Progress in Gateway Communities	Supporting State & Local Efforts to Manage Ecological Integrity	Restoring Warm Season Native Grasses
12:00	Gateway communities luncheon; or pick up box lunch for field trip; or lunch on your own		
1:30	Challenges and Progress in Gateway Communities (cont'd)	Supporting State & Local Efforts to Manage Ecological Integrity (cont'd)	Field Trips: a. Native Grass Restoration; b. Transportation Planning in Cades Cove; c. Restoring Lake Sturgeon
5:30	Poster Session with light hors d'oeuvres; SAMAB Awards		

### Thursday, November 7

8:00	Invasive Species - Impending Change to Forest Ecosystems	Enhancing Imperiled Aquatic Populations
12:00	Lunch on your own	
1:30	Southern Forest Resource Assessment - Implications for the Southern Appalachians	Biotic Integrity and the TMDL Process



**See [www.samab.org](http://www.samab.org)  
for a more detailed  
conference agenda.**

# Native Grasses Restored to Federal Lands

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is restoring native grasses and wildflowers to the western end of Cades Cove. This is in contrast to other open areas of the Cove that are dominated by meadow fescue that is mowed for hay twice a year.


About 2,400 acres of open fields surrounded by forests, and a collection of nineteenth century buildings—homes, barns, churches and a mill—make up the Cove. The Cove is visited by two million people annually.

The one native meadow that remained in the Cove provided the seeds for the restoration. These native grasses are bunch grasses that are suitable for nesting spots and allow easier travel for small mammals. A native meadow has more plant species diversity than a fescue field and in turn supports more diversity of other native organisms. The native grasses also provide more suitable cover for wildlife.

Visitors accustomed to the more-manicured look of mowed fields view the taller grasses with concern. They have written Park management and congressional representatives with worries that the Park will let trees and shrubs take over the Cove. “The truth of the matter,” says Jenny Beeler, formerly a vegetation specialist with the GSMNP and now with Big South Fork NRA, “is that the park will continue to maintain the open spaces in the cove. Most visitors don’t realize that the manicured field can actually be detrimental to wildlife.” ■



*The Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park, like the Smokies, is restoring native grasses for demonstration and land management purposes. Here, prescribed burning is used to prepare a restoration site for native grass seed planting. For information about the Oak Ridge restoration see [www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/nativegrass.html](http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/nativegrass.html). Learn more about these activities at the SAMAB Fall Conference.*

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## SAMAB Fall Conference, November 5-7, 2002

**Federal Members**  
 National Park Service  
 USDA Forest Service  
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Economic Development Administration  
 Appalachian Regional Commission  
 US Environmental Protection Agency  
 US Fish and Wildlife Service  
 US Army Corps of Engineers  
 US Geological Survey Water Resources Division and Biological Resources Division  
 Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory

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