

# Maintaining North Carolina's Healthy Forests



Forests make up approximately 20 million acres of land in North Carolina. About 60% of all land in North Carolina is timberland and 67% of this is privately owned. Timberland represent 18.7 million acres of land in North Carolina with hardwood forests occupying 53%, pine forest 33% and oak forest 14%. Lastly, North Carolina has over 60 different commercial species of trees. These include yellow and white pines, red and white oaks, hickory, soft maple, sweetgum, ash, black gum, and yellow poplar. This information was taken from NC Cooperative Extension Service located at

[http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wood/old\\_stuff/forestr.html](http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/wood/old_stuff/forestr.html).

Deforestation is occurring in southeastern United States including in North Carolina. **Just imagine what life would be like without North Carolina's healthy forests!** For that reason, the Cypress Group of the Sierra Club adopted *Maintaining North Carolina's Healthy Forests* as a conservation priority for 2015.

Through a partnership with [Dogwood Alliance](#), the Cypress Group is addressing this priority. Dogwood Alliance is leading the charge in addressing the industrial logging of the forests in the Southeastern, US with a number of campaigns including [Our Forests Aren't Fuel](#). On Aug. 26, 2015, they released a video highlighting the community concerns around a wood pellet facility Sampson County. They also released a community toolkit (*Our Forests. Our Strength.*) which is an essential tool for empowering communities to push back on the assaults on their local forests. (See *Box 1* below.)



## Box 1

### Dogwood Alliance

#### \* **Community Toolkit:**

<http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=rvvoCeo70QvyYXlIjkZ5Ogi%2BuOOrS4Ee>

#### \* **Selling Out Sampson CountyVideo**

<http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=thbCIuJtmO1Q3wRugEHzhgi%2BuOOrS4Ee>

#### \* **Website**

<http://www.dogwoodalliance.org>

**We encourage you** to become involved in *Maintaining North Carolina's Healthy Forests* and *Our Forests Aren't Fuel* campaigns by **first** watching the short video and downloading the Community Toolkit. **Then**, by being the eyes and ears of your community focusing on deforestation.

If you would like more information regarding Cypress Group of Sierra Club deforestation or *Maintaining North Carolina's Healthy Forests*, see contact information in the *Box 2*.

## Box 2 Cypress Group of Sierra Club

#### \* **Contact**

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#### \* **Website**

<http://www.sierraclub.org/north-carolina/cypress>