Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Southeast

The Forest Guild has developed forest biomass retention and harvesting guidelines at the regional level for the Northeast, Southeast, and Pacific Northwest. Our goal was to help our members as well as other forest managers, loggers, third party certifiers, and bioenergy producers understand how to produce renewable energy from the region’s forests while still protecting them for future generations. The guidelines cover rare forest types, retention of foliage and downed woody material, wildlife issues, water quality, and harvesting operations for four forest types in the Southeast. We relied on the professional judgment of on-the-ground foresters and also involved scientists from universities and agencies across the South to develop these regional guidelines. Wherever possible, we based our recommendations on peer-reviewed science summed up in the report *Ecology of Dead Wood in the Southeast*. However, in many cases research is inadequate to connect practices, stand-level outcomes, and ecological goals. Where the science remains inconclusive, we relied on field observation and professional experience. Since these guidelines are driven by science, they should be reviewed and updated as new information becomes available.