OVERVIEW OF FOREST CONDITIONS IN COASTAL COUNTIES

Eunice A. Padley, Sonja N. Oswalt[1]

Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data were summarized for southeastern U.S. counties which had their centroids within coastal watersheds (8-digit HUCs). Coastlines from Texas through North Carolina were included in the analysis, and two time periods were compared (1997-2002 and 2011-2013). Forestland area within the coastal counties totaled 45.3 and 45.9 million acres at the two time periods, but the difference was not statistically significant. Among FIA forest type groups represented in the study area, only loblolly/shortleaf pine showed significant differences. Changes in the extent of wetland forest could not be determined from the FIA dataset.

[1]Eunice Padley, National Forester, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC 20250
Sonja Oswalt, Forest Resource Analyst, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Knoxville, TN 37919