



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

PO BOX 12267  
COLUMBIA, SC 29211

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Joel Sawyer  
803-734-2100  
[jsawyer@gov.sc.gov](mailto:jsawyer@gov.sc.gov)

## **Governor Petitions to Keep Forest Areas Roadless** **REQUEST TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AIMED AT** **PRESERVING LARGE TRACTS OF FORESTLAND**

**Columbia, S.C. – April 19, 2006** – Gov. Mark Sanford today petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture to keep more than 7,600 acres of national forestland in South Carolina roadless, part of the administration’s ongoing effort to protect ecologically significant land in the state. The U.S. Forest Service recently revised its 2001 Roadless Area Rule, giving states the option to seek protection of those lands on an individual basis. After consulting with a variety of stakeholders in the process -- including the forest products industry, state agencies and organizations focused on environmental protection, outdoor recreation, and wildlife resources -- Gov. Sanford said filing the petition would be consistent with the state’s overall mission of conservation and environmental stewardship.

“The quality of life in our state is going to be an increasingly important part of South Carolina’s competitive edge when it comes to the global race for jobs and investment,” Gov. Sanford said. “Keeping these areas roadless -- along with our ongoing efforts to protect other ecologically significant land in the state -- is an important step toward preserving the way we look and feel as a state and preserve our competitive advantage with respect to our quality of life.”

The governor’s request to the Forest Service seeks to suspend any projects involving road construction, harvesting or other development in any of the covered areas while this petition is being considered and until a final state-specific protective rule is adopted. In addition, the petition states the governor’s support for an expedited rule-making process for states seeking to protect all inventoried roadless areas where there is broad-based support for such protection.

The petition is a continuation of the Sanford Administration’s efforts to preserve ecologically significant land in South Carolina. A recent partnership between the State of South Carolina, International Paper and two conservation groups will protect 39,000 acres in South Carolina. More land has been protected by the state under Gov. Sanford than under any other South Carolina governor.

-###-