



# News Release

For more information, contact:  
Sharon Dolliver  
Phone: 478-751-3535  
Fax: 478-751-3559  
Email: [dolliver@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:dolliver@gfc.state.ga.us)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...January 3, 2007**

## **VETERAN FORESTER ASSUMES GFC LEADERSHIP**

Robert Farris has been named Interim Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission. Farris steps into the role following Governor Sonny Perdue's nomination of GFC Director Ken Stewart to become Georgia's Commissioner of Economic Development.

"It is an honor to serve our customers through this position," said Farris, who has worked with the GFC for more than 20 years. "Director Stewart helped organize a team of Professionals that is dedicated to keeping Georgia's forestry community thriving. I look forward to helping that momentum grow even stronger." As Interim Director of the GFC, Farris will oversee the state agency's leadership, service, and education in the stewardship of Georgia's forest resources.

Prior to being named to this position, Farris served as the Commission's Director of Field Operations, in which he supervised the state's ten district foresters and associated forest protection, education, and management activities. Since joining the GFC in 1985, Farris has served as District Forester in Milledgeville, Statewide Training Coordinator, and Associate Chief of Protection. He has earned the GFC Director's Award for Outstanding Leadership and the Governor's Award for Outstanding Service.

Farris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia, where he was a member of Xi Sigma Pi Forestry Honor Society. He is a Georgia Registered Lobbyist, a Georgia Registered Forester, a Georgia Certified Prescribed Burner and a Georgia Certified Pesticide Applicator. He is a member of the Society of American Foresters, in which he has served a number of leadership positions, and is a member of the Georgia Forestry Association.

Robert and his wife, Beverly, live in Gray, Georgia. They have four children.

# # #