MORE THAN $2 BILLION IN TIMBER LOST DUE TO HURRICANE MICHAEL ALONE: Income from timber is an important revenue stream for landowners. But after a disaster destroys this, family forest owners, who are using their savings to rebuild their livelihoods, are left with little to no funds to replant and restore the land.

SELLING TIMBER TO A LOCAL MILL IS NOT AN OPTION FOR MOST AFTER A DISASTER: While mills in the region are open for business, they won’t be able to consume all the downed and damaged timber. In addition, limited logging capacity leaves small family properties—the majority of those affected—without access to professionals.

MOST FAMILY FOREST OWNERS CAN’T AFFORD INSURANCE: While caring for trees is a business like farming, insurance for trees is extremely cost-prohibitive. Government-backed insurance, such as crop insurance, is not available for forest owners.

WILDFIRE THREAT COULD MEAN SECOND DISASTER: With all the downed trees and piles of debris, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama are now facing extreme wildfire risk that could mean a second disaster.
Helping family forest owners recover after these natural disasters will keep our forests as forests. This will ensure the mills have trees in the future to maintain local economies. It will also ensure these forests, some of which are the most biologically diverse in the country, are able to continue supporting at-risk species, and the clean water supply for the Gulf communities.

CONGRESS CAN HELP BY PASSING A DISASTER PACKAGE THAT INCLUDES:

- **$480M FOR THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM** (EFRP) to provide funds to families to replant and restore their forests,
- **$12M FOR STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY PROGRAMS** (S&PF) to support capacity in the state forestry agencies to help with recovery,
- **$21M FOR HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS** to reduce wildfire risks, and
- **$3.005B FOR THE WILDFIRES AND HURRICANES INDEMNITY PROGRAM** (WHIP) to provide landowners, especially where insurance is cost-prohibitive, with some recovery of lost value
- **$1.0M FOR THE FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS PROGRAM** (FIA) enabling state forestry agencies to collect post-storm Forest Inventory and Analysis data in affected areas,
- **A CASUALTY LOSS FIX** to the tax code allowing forest owners to deduct more of their losses due to disasters

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Rita Hite, Executive Vice President | (202) 765-3486 | rhite@forestfoundation.org  
Natalie Alex, Policy Coordinator | (202) 765-3739 | nalex@forestfoundation.org