

## Alex Harvey's Bio

Alex Harvey comes to the 2017 Leadership Mississippi class with a wide breadth of experience in the state, federal and non-profit sectors. He began his career as a Forester with the Florida Division of Forestry in the spring of 2006 after graduating from the College of Forest Resources at Mississippi State. He next signed on with the US Forest Service in Northwestern Pennsylvania on the Allegheny National Forest where he worked on a myriad of policy related issues within the realm of natural resources management such as law enforcement, oil and gas development, public outreach and education and watershed management. After seven years with the US Forest Service, Alex had a strong desire to get back home to Mississippi to be near family. He completed a brief stint on the Desoto National Forest before deciding to assume the role of Service Forester briefly with the Mississippi Forestry Commission in Harrison and Hancock Counties where he supervised nine wildland firefighters.

Currently Alex works as the Sustainable Forestry Program Manager with an advocacy based non-profit called the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. In his current role, Alex works directly with private landowners in Mississippi and Alabama to provide technical assistance. He helps them meet their forest management objectives, he works with federal and state agency heads to identify and address barriers to Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged Landowner involvement in landowner assistance programs, and he spends time in the nation's capital meeting with government officials and other non-profits to advocate on behalf of natural resource policy and economic development in rural communities.

One of Alex's many future goals is to be able to help rural communities realize their revenue potential through their available natural resources. A large share of our state's economy is dependent upon our natural resources to employ those within the forestry industry which is typically the second largest industry in the state. Through outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hiking, hunting and fishing which is very important to local landowners as a vital revenue source to help hold family landholdings, we can begin to better capitalize on the fact that Mississippi is seen as a global jewel in terms of its natural resources. Getting these things to become a more popular dialogue amongst landowners is his goal.