

2025 COFE Annual Meeting: Presentation Agenda

Evening Reception: Monday

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM Welcome Reception @ River View Rooftop
Hors d'oeuvres and beverages

Day 1: Tuesday

Time	Room 1
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Talks
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome - Ben Spong, Conference Chair
8:45 - 9:30	WVU Forestry and Operations - Dean Jorge Atilies
9:30 - 10:00	Appalachian Forests and Industry - Dr. Joseph McNeel, Appalachian Hardwood Center
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Networking & Refreshment Break
10:30 - 11:15	Rethinking Forestry Roads: Designing for Sustainability, Resilience, and Evolving Operational Needs - <i>Matthew Dickie (Softree Technical Systems)</i>
11:15 - 12:00	Thirty-five Years of Monitoring Montana Forestry Best Management Practices: What Have We Learned? - <i>Jordan Buxton (Montana DNRC), Elizabeth Dodson (University of Montana), Marc Vessar (Montana DNRC)</i>

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch	
Time	Room 1	Room 2
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Session 1A: Forest Operations in a Changing World	Session 1B: Advances in Forest Operations & Logistics
1:00 - 1:30	Dynamic programming under complex forests: Optimizing Innovative business models and operations to restore secondary forests - <i>René Zamora-Cristales (Oregon State University)</i>	Updating the Machine Rate Costing Methodology for Selected Forest Harvesting Machines - <i>Chad Bolding (University of Georgia), Joe Conrad (University of Georgia), Thomas Black (University of Georgia)</i>
1:30 - 2:00	Long term development of logging costs in Sweden. - <i>Lars Eliasson (Skogforsk)</i>	Quantifying the influence of varying trail systems and harvesting intensities on soil quality - <i>Ben-amar amal (Laval University), Eric R. Labelle (Laval University), Évelyne Thiffault (Laval University)</i>
2:00 - 2:30	The Southeastern U.S. Wood Dealer Supply Chain: Understanding the Current Structure, Challenges, and Opportunities - <i>Timothy R. Miller (University of Georgia), M. Chad Bolding (University of Georgia), Joseph L. Conrad, IV (University of Georgia), Bruno K. da Silva (University of Georgia), Natascia Magagnotti (CNR Institute of Bioeconomy)</i>	Evaluating cost and carbon footprint of roundwood and wood chip production in the Adirondacks - <i>Ashish Alex (University of Maine), Anil Raj Kizha (University of Maine), Libin T. Louis (University of Maine at Fort Kent), Alex K. George (Paul Smith's College), Harikrishnan Soman (University of Maine)</i>
2:30 - 3:00	The Operational and Value Implications of Conservation Easements in Georgia: A Case Study - <i>Toby Welton (University of Georgia), Timothy Miller (University of Georgia), Joe Conrad (University of Georgia), Yanshu Li (University of Georgia), Chad Bolding (University of Georgia), Erin Lincoln (University of Georgia)</i>	Evaluating fuel consumption and productivity of hybrid harvesters operating in eastern Canada - <i>Eric R. Labelle (Université Laval), Mahsa Yadegari (Université Laval), Luc LeBel (Université Laval)</i>
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Networking & Refreshment Break	
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Session 2A: Environmental Impacts & Workforce	Session 2B: Mitigating Wildfire Risk & Restoration
3:30 - 4:00	Quantifying Streamside Management Zone Breakthroughs and Harvest-Related Disturbances on Tethered Versus Conventional Logging Sites in the Mountains of West Virginia - <i>Emmaline Clark (VA Tech), Scott Barrett (VA Tech), Brent Hawks (Weyerhaeuser Company), Adam Coates (VA Tech), Michael Berry (VA Tech)</i>	Simulating Forest Fuel Treatment Logistics: A Discrete-Event Modeling Approach to Biomass Utilization and Economic Viability - <i>Rafael O. Brown (ORISE, USDA Forest Service), Mathew F. Smidt (USDA Forest Service), Nathaniel M. Anderson (USDA Forest Service)</i>
4:00 - 4:30	A long-term assessment of the operational characteristics of Virginia Logging Businesses (2009-2024). - <i>Temitope E. Ogana (Virginia Tech), Scott M. Barrett (Virginia Tech), Michael D. Berry (Virginia Tech), Stella Schons (Virginia Tech), Jay Sullivan (Virginia Tech)</i>	Forest Restoration Strategy to Reduce Sediment Yield from Burned Areas in Republic of Korea - <i>Jun Park (Sangji University), Wonho Kim (Sangji University), Junpyo Seo (National Institute of Forest Science), Hakjun Rhee (Sangji University)</i>

Day 2: Wednesday

Time	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM	Session 3A: Next-Gen Forest Management & Technology	Session 3B: Environmental Monitoring & Management	Session 3C: Student Research - Environmental & Site Impacts (Student Presentations)
8:30 - 9:00	Autonomous log loading using a stereoscopic camera - <i>Tobias Semberg (Skogforsk), Anders Nilsson (Skogforsk), Linnea Hansson (Skogforsk), Rolf Björheden (Skogforsk)</i>	Impacts of a storm event on stand growth following a timber harvest - <i>Ashish Alex (University of Maine), Anil Raj Kizha (University of Maine), Libin T. Louis (University of Maine at Fort Kent), Alex K. George (Paul Smith's College), Harikrishnan Soman (University of Maine)</i>	Forest Health and Fire Prevention by Mulching - <i>Hannah Mayo (Auburn University)</i>
9:00 - 9:30	Giving eyes to a mechanical tree planting machine - <i>Tobias Semberg (Skogforsk)</i>	Log Truck Weight Regulations and Operational Impacts: Perspectives from Alabama's Logging Industry - <i>Mandira Pokharel (Auburn University), Marissa "Jo" Daniel (Auburn University), Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Manisha Parajuli (Kentucky State University)</i>	Evaluating Machine Travel Patterns and Soil Impacts from Thinning and Regeneration Harvests in Loblolly Pine Plantations of the Southeastern US - <i>Haomin Huang (University of Georgia)</i>

9:30 - 10:00	Robotic Sensing for Automated Volume Estimation of Long Logs in Forestry Operations - <i>Maxime Vaidis (CARVI/Université Laval)</i>	Temporal Changes in Infiltration Due to Forest Fire and Logging in Uljin-gun, Republic of Korea - <i>Wonho Kim (Sangji University), Jun Park (Sangji University), Junpyo Seo (National Institute of Forest Science), Jeong-An Jang (Sangji University), Hakjun Rhee (Sangji University)</i>	Long-term Site Productivity Impacts of Bladed Skid Trails in Mountainous Appalachian Terrain - <i>Ryan Chewning (Virginia Tech), Michael Berry (Virginia Tech), Corey Green (Virginia Tech), Scott Barrett (Virginia Tech)</i>
10:00 - 10:30	Evaluating Soil Erosion at Harvest Sites Using UAV Imagery, Deep Learning, and GIS - <i>Manisha Parajuli (Kentucky State University and Auburn University), Tom Gallagher (Auburn University), Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Marissa Jo Daniel (Auburn University), Arjun Rijal (Auburn University), Dana Mitchell (Department of Energy), Timothy McDonald (Auburn University)</i>	Productivity Analysis of Shotgun Cable Yarding - <i>Hunter Harrill (Cal Poly Humboldt)</i>	Soil Impacts from Winch-Assist Timber Harvesting in Central Appalachia - <i>Dylan Lang (West Virginia University), Ben Spong (West Virginia University)</i>
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Networking & Refreshment Break		
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Session 4A: Bioeconomy & Workforce Development	Session 4B: Advanced Harvesting & Salvage	Session 4C: Student Research - Operations & Technology (Student Presentations)
11:00 - 11:30	Timber-Safe Network (TSN) – Reduction of Central Appalachian Logging Hazards through the Implementation and Diffusion of a Community Based Logging Operations Safety and Health Resource Network - <i>Mark Fullen (West Virginia University)</i>	Productivity and costs of salvage logging using cut-to-length harvesting systems in the Southeastern US: A case study following Hurricane Helene - <i>Timothy Miller (University of Georgia), M.C. Bolding (University of Georgia), J.L. Conrad (University of Georgia), H.L.M. Mapatunage (University of Georgia), P. Bettinger (University of Georgia), R. Spinelli (CNR Institute of Bioeconomy)</i>	Impact of different trail systems on residual tree damage during mechanized harvesting in northern mixed hardwoods - <i>Bibek Bhandari (Université Laval), Eric R. Labelle (Université Laval), Shuva H. Gautam (Université Laval)</i>
11:30 - 12:00	Biofuel options for power in the eastern US - <i>Pat Donnelly (WVU Extension)</i>	Productivity and costs of salvage logging using cut-to-length harvesting systems in the Southeastern US: A case study following Hurricane Helene - <i>Hasini Mapatunage (University of Georgia), M.C. Bolding (University of Georgia), J.L. Conrad (University of Georgia), T.R. Miller (University of Georgia), P. Bettinger (University of Georgia), R. Spinelli (CNR Institute of Bioeconomy)</i>	Route Optimization for Log Truck Transportation: Analyzing Safety and Transportation Efficiency - <i>Puspa Raj Joshi (Auburn University), Dr. Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Dr. Marissa Jo Daniel (Auburn University), Dr. Adam Maggard (Auburn University), Dr. Lana Narine (Auburn University)</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Portable Sawmills: Productivity and Sawdust Inhalation - <i>Patrick Hiesl (Clemson University), John Visbisky (Clemson University), Trevor Stamey (Clemson Experimental Forest), Bart Swecker (Clemson University), Brunela Rodrigues (Clemson University), Janet Steele (Clemson Cooperative Extension Service)</i>	Harvesting productivity during burned timber salvage operations - <i>Jessica Solofonirina Ramaroson (Laval University)</i>	Optimization of Tethered Logging Layout Using Generative Design and Multi-Criteria Decision-Making - <i>Murat Ozmen (Oregon State University), Woodam Chung (Oregon State University)</i>
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch		
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Session 5A: Challenging Environments & Steep Slopes	Session 5B: Technology in Forest Operations	Session 5C: Student Research - Economics & Workforce (Student Presentations)
1:30 - 2:00	Assessing carbon emissions from harvesting and transportation in Alabama’s sawmills and paper mills - <i>Rapeepan Kantavichai (USDA FS), Tom Gallagher (Auburn University), Abubakar Tahiru (Auburn University), Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Jo Daniel (Auburn University), Lana Narine (Auburn University)</i>	Life cycle assessment of feedstocks for the major forest products industries in the Northeast United States - <i>Alex K. George (Paul Smith’s College), Anil Raj Kizha (University of Maine), Ashish Alex (University of Maine), Libin T. Louis (University of Maine at Fort Kent), Harikrishnan Soman (University of Maine)</i>	Examining the Barriers to Entry for Third Party Logging Truck Drivers in the Southeastern United States - <i>Dr. Marissa Jo Daniel (Auburn University), Dr. Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Dr. Adam Maggard (Auburn University)</i>
2:00 - 2:30	Evaluating GIS-based predictors of soil bearing capacity for forestry operations - <i>Ida Johansson (Skogforsk), Lars Eliasson (Skogforsk), Linnea Hansson (Skogforsk), Sima Mohtashami (Skogforsk)</i>	Evaluating Soil Erosion at Harvest Sites Using UAV Imagery, Deep Learning, and GIS - <i>Manisha Parajuli (Kentucky State University and Auburn University), Tom Gallagher (Auburn University), Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Marissa Jo Daniel (Auburn University), Arjun Rijal (Auburn University), Dana Mitchell (Department of Energy), Timothy McDonald (Auburn University)</i>	What does it cost to own and operate a log truck in the US South? - <i>Jack Derochers (University of Georgia), Joseph L. Conrad IV (University of Georgia), M. Chad Bolding (University of Georgia), Bruno Kanieski Da Silva (University of Georgia), Mathew Smidt (US Forest Service)</i>
2:30 - 3:00	An analysis of the process and attributes used in the Transaction Evidence Appraisal method for Forest Service timber sales in the US Southwest - <i>Tucker Herbert (Northern Arizona University), Han-Sup Han (Northern Arizona University), Mathew Smidt (US Forest Service), Jaechoul Lee (Northern Arizona University)</i>	Optimizing Biomass and Waste Feedstock Logistics with AI: An Integrated Multimodal Transport for Bioenergy and Bioproduct System in the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States - <i>Johanna Gonzalez (North Carolina State University)</i>	An Assessment of the California Logging Workforce - <i>Kendra Gerstenberg (Cal Poly Humboldt), Hunter Harrill (Cal Poly Humboldt), Erin Kelly (Cal Poly Humboldt), Mathew Smidt (USDA Forest Service)</i>
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Networking & Refreshment Break		
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Session 6A: Land Reclamation & Restoration Strategies	Session 6B: Data-Driven Forestry: GIS & Machine Learning	Session 6C: Student Research - Open Topics (Student Presentations)
3:30 - 4:00	Productivity Estimates for Whole-Tree Harvesting Equipment Under Operating Conditions Typical of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain Regions of the US South - <i>Joe Conrad (University of Georgia), Jared Beeler (University of Georgia), Chad Bolding (University of Georgia), Puneet Dwivedi (Clemson University)</i>	A Machine Learning-Based Integrated Modeling and Analysis Framework for Sustainable Biomass Supply Chain Management - <i>Jinghan Zhao (North Carolina State University), Jingxin Wang (North Carolina State University)</i>	Evaluating the Quality of Machine Operator Tree Selection Decisions When Thinning Pine Plantations in the Southeastern US - <i>Josh Mullins (University of Georgia), M. Chad Bolding (University of Georgia), Joseph L. Conrad IV (University of Georgia), Bruno K. Da Silva (University of Georgia), Stephen M. Kinane (University of Georgia)</i>
4:00 - 4:30	Soil nutrient management for energy crop production on legacy mine sites: A case study of Marion County, WV - <i>Debsree Mandal (West Virginia University)</i>	Investigating the Relationship between Nonindustrial Private Forest (NIPF) Landowners and Logging Businesses in the US South - <i>Onyinye P. Choko (University of Georgia), Joseph L. Conrad IV (University of Georgia), Puneet Dwivedi (Clemson University), Michael C. Bolding (University of Georgia), Pete Bettinger (University of Georgia), Bruno K. Da Silva (University of Georgia)</i>	Assessing Impacts of PM2.5 Emission Changes in Forest Industries of Alabama, USA - <i>Dr. Marissa “Jo” Daniel (Auburn University), Dr. Richard Cristan (Auburn University), Dr. Lana Narine (Auburn University), Manisha Subedi (Auburn University)</i>
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Awards Banquet @ WVU Natural Resource Center at the WVU Research Forest - Bus Transport		

Day 3: Thursday

Time	Field Tour	Location	
8:00 AM	Departure	WaterFront Place Marriott, Morgantown, WV	

8:45 AM - 10:45 AM	Our first stop is a specialized cooperage and stave mill. We will view high-quality Appalachian oak being transformed into precision-cut staves and then assembled into barrels—a critical component for the whiskey, wine, and spirits industries.	Wilson Forest Products (Cooperage & Stave Mill), Jefferson, PA
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Enjoy a catered lunch from the at the at the WV Botanic Garden. This break offers a chance to network with fellow attendees in a unique setting.	WV Botanic Garden
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Experience Appalachian timber harvesting firsthand at an active logging job. The site managers will discuss sustainable forestry practices and provide specific insights into the vital role of Amish contractors within the regional wood industry.	Local Harvesting Site (details to be provided on tour)
3:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Discover innovation in value-added wood products. This stop will showcase the process of converting hardwood waste into premium, reusable charcoal, highlighting a commitment to sustainability and full utilization of timber resources.	Prime 6, Fairmont, WV
5:00PM	The tour bus will return to the conference hotel, concluding the day's events.	WaterFront Place Marriott, Morgantown, WV