

## *Editor's Note*

First, I would like to thank Marv Pyles of Oregon State University for his service as Technical Editor of the *International Journal of Forest Engineering*. He took over this task several years ago and did a fantastic job. Many thanks, Marv.

My name is Niels de Hoop. My background is in industry, government, and academia, having worked twelve years in the forest industry (mostly in logging supervision) in the United States and Canada, a year for the U.S. Forest Service, a year for the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and sixteen years at Louisiana State University Agricultural Center.

I am honored to assume the role of Technical Editor. I hold a great deal of admiration for this journal. I love forestry, timber harvesting, the engineering-type technical issues related to these topics, and the people who conduct these operations. Many people depend on these services, which must be done in an ethical and environmentally sound manner while remaining economically competitive. This journal provides a forum on these topics to disseminate scientifically sound research results from investigators around the world. In short, I just find it very interesting that we have our own journal in forest engineering.

I hope I can “fill the shoes” of the editors before me. I remember visiting Founding Editor Jeremy Rickards at the University of New Brunswick in 1994. We had a very pleasant conversation about common issues in timber harvesting. In particular, I remember a story he told about one of his students coming to him asking to check his numbers. This student had been working with a logging contractor to determine the loggers's profitability. The bottom line came out negative, and the student could not understand where his calculations went wrong. Dr. Rickards went over the numbers with him and determined that the numbers were correct. The logging company was losing money and temporarily surviving on its equity – an all-too-common scenario in logging everywhere.

Today, the need to be efficient and productive continues to intensify, and so do the environmental and human factors aspects. As timber harvesting and forest management operations improve, this journal assists in this progress by providing constructive criticisms of each other's research (through the peer-review process) and by disseminating information to other researchers and practitioners. I am thrilled to play some small role in this progress.

I thank the editorial board and other reviewers for their willingness, effort, and time in reviewing manuscripts and providing constructive criticism. A refereed journal cannot survive without them.

This issue contains a variety of interesting topics. Of the five articles in this issue, two directly consider the effects of work on human operators. Forest operations of all types depend on the people who conduct the operations, so their well-being and morale are clearly important. Three of the articles describe efficiency measurements of some relatively unique types of operations, and two of the articles describe some novel concepts (note that there is overlap here). This issue is late going into production, for which we apologize, but the articles are no less interesting for their tardiness. We promise more good articles for the next issue already in development.

Cornelis F. “Niels” de Hoop  
Technical Editor