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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FOREST ENGINEERING

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Editor's Note

Susan Stamm has been serving as copy editor of this Journal, even serving as acting managing editor during the time the Forest Products Society was between permanent executive vice presidents. She resigned from the Forest Products Society in October 2009 and is certainly missed. Many thanks for your work and diligence, Susan. We wish you the best in your endeavors.

The Forest Products Society has contracted with Debra Illingworth Greene to do our copy editing of the *IJFE*. So, welcome, Debra, to the *IJFE*. May we produce many successful issues together.

The shift in emphasis in forest operations research toward woody biomass utilization has been dramatic lately. This issue of *IJFE* is no exception. Every article, with one exception, relates directly to woody biomass for energy in some way. The exception is an article on roads; and I would be willing to wager money that the road used for testing will convey energy wood at some point in the future. Cubic meters, board feet, cords, and cunits are being replaced by tonnes, moisture content, kilojoules, kilowatthours, and BTUs. Loggers who once drove over small trees to access the big ones now ask themselves how they can harvest those small trees.

It is with good purpose that we shift our emphasis toward wood for energy. Two years ago, a consulting engineer from Houston, Texas, told me that his company had a dozen new types of biomass-utilizing plants designed, with funding lined up and ready to start building. The only holdup was location – they did not know where to locate these plants so that a steady long-term supply of raw material was confidently assured. Obviously, competent information about the long-term supplies of biomass, by geography, is critical in answering the engineer's questions.

Another piece of critical information is the cost of harvesting and transporting biomass. When one considers that roughly half of bioenergy costs lie in the harvesting and transportation of the raw material, it is obvious that this is the field of greatest potential for economic improvement. Not only would biomass become more cost-competitive with other sources of energy, but the issue of locating facilities precisely within plentiful raw material supplies becomes slightly less critical if raw material cost decreases.

So, once again, forest engineering and operations research are little-known but critical components in the economic engine that drives our society – this time, literally. As we (as a society) look to diversify our energy sources, the work that we (as forest engineers, loggers, foresters, researchers, etc.) do becomes essential.

Cornelis F. "Niels" de Hoop Technical Editor

Tell Us About Your Organization

One dimension of the mission of the *International Journal of Forest Engineering (IJFE)* is to help link the worldwide forest engineering community. There is a host of research institutions and groups, technology development units, and departments spread throughout most forested countries of the world. The *IJFE* would like to publish brief profiles of the research and development groups, institutes, and organizations whose activities overlap with *IJFE*'s technical scope.

The profiles should describe the technical and geographic scope of the organization, their location, a brief list of some publications and products that represent the work conducted, and a description of the organization itself (location, number of staff, affiliation with university or government institutions, and key personnel). In addition, complete contact information should be provided to allow further contact by readers.

Each profile should be no longer than one page in the *IJFE*. Text, artwork, logos, or icons used in the profile must be provided in electronic format. Submissions should include a contact person for editorial changes or questions.

Please submit profiles to:

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Scope

The *International Journal of Forest Engineering (IJFE)* is dedicated to the dissemination of scholarly writings in all aspects of forest operations, focusing on original research, but also including review, analysis, and synthesis articles. Article topics include: tree harvesting, processing, and transportation; stand establishment, protection, and tending; operations planning and control; machine design, management, and evaluation; forest access planning and construction; human factors engineering (ergonomics); and education and training.

An important role of the *IJFE* is to report on existing practices and innovations in forest engineering by scientists and professionals from around the world that promote environmentally sound forestry practices and contribute to sustainable forest management.

Published semiannually, the *IJFE* is committed to serving the international forest engineering community as the voice of new ideas and developments in forest engineering.

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Although its readership is international, the *International Journal of Forest Engineering (IJFE)* is published in English. Authors are requested to ensure that their papers have been carefully proofread, preferably by a fluent English speaker. Manuscripts that have been insufficiently proofread for English usage will be returned for improvement before review, leading to delays in the review process and eventual acceptance. Where substantial particularities exist in local technical terms, the U.S. version will be used.

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Manuscripts should be sent in at least two (2) files: the manuscript and an author file; because all manuscripts will be reviewed in a double-blind process.

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bered consecutively and the lines on each page numbered. The title page should only include the title of the manuscript, which should be as concise as possible. This will facilitate the insertion of authorships in the final version.

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Where tree or other biological species is an important feature of the results of the paper, the Latin names (without authorities) should be included in the keywords. This will aid people searching for papers about forest operations with specific species or ecosystems. In addition, the keywords should include the country where the field work was conducted or to which the results apply.

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Each figure should be included on a separate page at the end of the manuscript. For initial submissions, figures may be included as part of the MS Word file. However, figures in the final version should be submitted as separate files, where appropriate. Note details on figures, as described above, because quality problems with figures are common and sometimes frustrating.

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