

CONTENTS

Editor's Note 3

Technical Papers

Equipping a Conventional Wheeled Forwarder for Peatland Operations
Jari Ala-Ilomäki, Tore Högnäs, Sami Lamminen, Matti Sirén 7

Prediction of Timber Quality Parameters of Forest Stands by Means of Small Footprint
Airborne Laser Scanner Data
Ole Martin Bollandsås, Matti Maltamo, Terje Gobakken, Vegard Lien, Erik Næsset 14

Estimating Within Tree Spatial Changes in Acoustic Velocity in Felled Douglas-fir Stems
Bodie Dowding, Glen Murphy 24

Seasonal Impacts on Bark Loss for Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine Harvested
on the Pacific Northwest Coast of the USA
Glen Murphy, Stephen J. Pilkerton 35

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Editor's Note

A continual problem in timber harvesting is cost; cost in this industry is generally handled by investing more heavily in machinery that is more productive while requiring less labor. Capital costs are recovered by working long hours and extending logging seasons. Meanwhile, concerns over collateral logging damage continually increase. Loggers must push the limits while doing less damage. So, in this issue, we see the results of a project that looks at peat bogs and how forwarders might be adapted to allow extended logging seasons in the bogs. Also, we want full utilization while transporting only those products we need. Thus, another paper looks at bark loss on logs. Depending on where you are in the market, bark loss can be good or bad. Either way, it is difficult to assess just what the bark loss is during harvesting and transport.

Tighter knowledge of inventory and quality translates into tighter control of investment costs, but collecting the data adds to investment costs. Two promising technologies are airborne laser scanning of forest stands and acoustic velocities in tree stems. Two of the papers in this issue look at how these technologies may be developed so that the industry can eventually benefit from near-real-time information that predicts wood quality with reasonable accuracy at low cost.

Cornelis F. "Niels" de Hoop
Technical Editor

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.

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