Proceedings of the 5th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources GIS Conference

Asheville, North Carolina
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PREFACE

The 5th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources GIS Conference provided ample illustration of the continuing widespread application of geospatial information technologies in the monitoring and management of the forests of the southern United States. Beginning with the keynote address, describing how GIS has become part of a statewide enterprise information system, to the posters and papers presented, we can see the crucial role that these information technologies play in understanding, measuring, monitoring, and managing a wide array of natural resources.

Sessions on remote sensing, and global positioning systems illustrated the applications and ongoing development of these core technologies. Sessions on GIS systems and geospatial service systems focused on the management and delivery of geospatial information. Other sessions provided examples of applications in the areas of aquatic resources, forest and land inventory, habitat modeling, disturbance modeling, and broad-scale analyses.

For the first time, this conference was held in Asheville, amid the mountains and forests of western North Carolina. But as in past conferences in this series, it was attended by an array of natural resource professionals from federal and state governments, universities, consulting firms, forest industries, and non-governmental organizations.

The conference was sponsored and supported by the Southern Regional Extension Forester, the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, the Center for Forest Business, and the Center for Continuing Education at the University of Georgia. In addition, the conference coordinating team was supported by the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University, the Department of Forestry at Virginia Tech, and Mississippi State University. The support of numerous other organizations, including vendors and exhibitors, is gratefully acknowledged.

Pete Bettinger served as conference chair, I-Kuai Hung was the program chair and developed the conference logo, Steve Prisley was the proceedings chair, and John Kushla served on the planning committee and assisted in editing the proceedings. Finally, the editors wish to express their appreciation to several individuals who helped to make the conference successful, including Ben Jackson and Holly Blanchard (Georgia Center for Continuing Education), and Bill Hubbard (Southern Region Extension Forester). The proceedings cover was designed by Ana Constantinescu of the Virginia Tech Center for Geospatial Information Technologies.

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