



Virginia Tech College of Natural Resources and Environment

Center for Natural Resources Assessment and Decision Support

Quarterly
Report

June 2016

Summary

Revisions to the Spatial Wood Supply Simulator have brought that program to version 1.5. Presentations on Center activities have been given in Florida, Wisconsin, and Virginia. A final report of our Wisconsin analysis has been completed and sent to sponsors.

Administrative & Communications

Steve Prisley announced that he would be leaving Virginia Tech June 1 to take a position with the National Council on Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI). NCASI has joined CeNRADS, and Dr. Prisley will be the NCASI representative to CeNRADS. He will share office space with CeNRADS and the Conservation Management Institute (CMI) at the Virginia Tech Corporate Center. Scott Klopfer, director of CMI, will assume the position of director of CeNRADS. Scott has been to many of the partner meetings and has substantial GIS experience in natural resources management.

Data Development & Analysis

Joby Kauffman has completed a forest age-class map of the entire state of

Virginia, a critical component of a more detailed forest inventory dataset for modeling wood supply in the state. His approach to enhancing the Vegetation Change Tracker (VCT) product is being described in a manuscript for publication. His enhancements can distinguish between clearcut harvests, partial harvests, and non-harvest disturbances in VCT data. Some preliminary analysis has enabled us to determine how many years since harvest it takes for the Landsat sensor to recognize regenerating forest, and to analyze changes in average clearcut harvest size over time. These metrics are important to understanding forest harvest dynamics as detected by satellite sensors.

Research

Will Saulnier's article on the Virginia Landowner Survey has been accepted for publication by the Forest Products Journal.

Revisions to the SWSS model have enabled us to conduct a study of the potential impacts of forest parcelization in Virginia (the splitting of larger ownership





parcels into smaller ones as land is either developed or passed to succeeding generations within a family). Results from these analyses will be summarized at the fall partners meeting.

An analysis project is underway to compare results in road network distances (crucial to the SWSS model for computing transportation costs during the bidding process) obtained from the ESRI StreetMap premium dataset and the OpenStreetMap data. If results are comparable, we could potentially save \$6,000 annually on data subscription costs.

What's next

In the coming months, we will be wrapping up a series of supply projections for Virginia and summarizing information in a report. We will be contacting partners to schedule a fall partners meeting in October.

CeNRADS contact:

Scott Klopfer, Director
Corporate Research Center
1900 Kraft Drive, Suite 250
Moss Building (Mail Code 0534)
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Phone: 540-231-8825
e-mail: cenrads@vt.edu
<http://cenrads.cnre.vt.edu/>