

BYLAWS
Southern Forest Resource Assessment Consortium
(SOFAC)
North Carolina State University

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SCOPE

These Bylaws are made a part of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment Consortium (SOFAC) membership agreements and shall govern the organization and operation of the Consortium with respect to administration, membership, reports, confidentiality of information, and rights in research results. Any changes to these Bylaws shall be consistent with the University's policies for research contracting and must be approved by the SOFAC Faculty and two-thirds of the Consortium members in good standing at the time the proposal for change is made.

DEFINITIONS

University: North Carolina State University.

SOFAC: Southern Forest Resource Assessment Consortium.

Consortium: the organization in which the Member, University and SOFAC Faculty operate.

Member: individual Organization or other organization that has joined the consortium.

SOFAC Faculty: University faculty which is involved in SOFAC research activities and work within the framework of these bylaws.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Consortium is to promote knowledge about timber supply and demand in the U.S. South and the world, using advanced forest economics and modeling procedures integrated with expert opinions of regional conditions and economic trends. The Consortium's objectives include:

1. Provide Members with first access, without additional charge, to research results generated from SOFAC membership dues and from any related research stemming from state and federal funding sources.
2. Provide Members with opportunities to access University expertise, economic analyses, computer software and technology developed by the participating NCSU SOFAC Faculty groups.
3. Provide members with the opportunity to determine research priorities and projects that SOFAC should perform in each year.
4. Provide Members with opportunities of attending presentations on new research initiatives proposed by NCSU researchers involved in the Consortium. (Specific goals, milestones, funding and provisions to be covered by separate contract).

5. Provide Members with opportunities to propose research ideas to be carried out by SOFAC Faculty. (In some cases, specific goals, milestones, funding and provisions to be covered by separate contract).
6. Inform Members about new research proposals submitted for federal or state funding by NCSU Consortium Faculty.
7. Provide Members with opportunities of interaction with students, technicians, and postdoctoral associates and faculty in the Consortium program.
8. Provide Members with opportunities for first access to intellectual property generated by projects described in 3 and 4 above.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Consortium shall be open to all companies, consulting firms, government organizations, or nongovernment organizations on an annual basis. A Member may leave the Consortium at any time unless bound by specific contractual agreement or proprietary arrangement. Upon leaving the Consortium, the Member shall have no further right to share in the research results generated under the Consortium or in any intellectual property resulting therefrom. Members that leave the Consortium and subsequently rejoin will not have access to research results generated or in any intellectual property resulting therefrom while not a Member.

Members shall be entitled to use, for their own internal research purposes, all research results that have been made available to the members by way of oral or written presentation by the SOFAC Faculty.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

The cost of membership varies by size of the firm, and will be paid annually. Membership fees will be:

Large integrated forest products firms (pulp and paper)	\$8,000
Large forest land owners (TIMOs, REITs)	\$8,000
Federal research organizations and work units	\$8,000
Small forest products firms (sawmill, solid wood)	\$4,000
Small TIMOs (less than 1 million acres managed)	\$4,000
Forestry associations	\$4,000
Forestry consulting firms	\$2,000
State agencies	\$2,000
Non-governmental organizations	\$2,000

The annual dues, which are nonrefundable, shall be due and payable on or before July 1, preceding the annual meeting for the Fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). The annual dues will be used to (1) pay for graduate research assistantships, purchase equipment, software and supplies; attend travel and meetings; make subcontracts with the university of Georgia or other research organizations; and to cover the costs of annual meetings and operating costs associated with organization of the Consortium.

ADMINISTRATION

SOFAC will be administered through the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources in the College of Natural Resources of North Carolina State University. The functions and responsibilities of individuals and committees in the Consortium are as follows:

1. Consortium Directors

The principal officers of the Consortium will be the Consortium Co-Directors or Director. They will be appointed by the SOFAC Faculty and approved by the Associate Dean of Research of the College of Natural Resources and Head of the Department of Forestry. The primary responsibilities of the Director are to oversee the day-to-day administrative operations of the Consortium and to work with the SOFAC Faculty to implement research. The Director is responsible for oversight of research, for protection of intellectual property and for filing of invention disclosures and patents as required by University policies and contracts.

2. Consortium Executive Committee and Voting

At the beginning, SOFAC will probably be small, with less than 10 members, and shall conduct business as a committee of the whole. If membership exceeds 10 organizations, an Executive Committee will be formed, with a representative from each major membership class on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be chaired by the Director(s).

The members of the Committee as a whole or of the Executive Committee may recommend modifications of the Bylaws to the Consortium Director. Modifications to the Bylaws can only be proposed by the Director, and must be ratified by two thirds of the Organization Members, the Head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources the Associate Dean of Research of the College of Natural Resources. Voting may occur via email or electronic ballot as required.

All Consortium members will have the opportunity to review proposed projects and may provide advice on the relative merits and economic potential of the projects. Members may also recommend additional projects not originated by the SOFAC Faculty and provide advice regarding potential sources of funding for specific projects. They may also be collaborators providing resources such as “in kind support” for publicly funded projects.

3. SOFAC Faculty

All faculty members of the University are eligible to become SOFAC faculty. The Forest Economics faculty and any faculty members involved in any SOFAC projects as PI or Co-PI are automatic members of the SOFAC Faculty. In addition, the Director(s), in consultation with the faculty of the Executive Committee members may invite additional faculty to become SOFAC Faculty.

4. Graduate Students

A principal objective of SOFAC is to train the future economists and analysts that can assist with supply and demand analyses in the forestry sector upon graduation. SOFAC will provide an excellent opportunity for graduate students to become familiar with the technical skills and Member Organizations that have interests in forest sector analysis. The University's obligation to its graduate students is to provide the best training and research experience possible. The student's primary obligation is to carry out their academic programs leading to a Masters or Ph.D. Funding support for graduate education may come in part from Consortium membership dues or from other resources, as long as the academic objectives of graduate education at the University and the intellectual property rights of Member Organizations are respected.

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING

The annual review meeting will serve as a forum for Members to become familiar with the on-going SOFAC and publicly funded research projects of the SOFAC Faculty. Such projects provide Members access to novel non-proprietary technologies/protocols and the opportunity to extend results into new proprietary projects with SOFAC Faculty. Preliminary results generated from membership dues and their proposed use in new proposals will also be presented. Preliminary results may also lead to the initiation of new Members-specific projects.

REPORTING

A confidential written annual report detailing all activities and research results generated involving the use of Membership dues during the previous year will be furnished to all Consortium Members before the annual review meeting. Brief summaries may be prepared for public information and to publicize the accomplishments and merits of SOFAC.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications are the major evidence of productive work for academic scientists and students. Prompt publication of results in high quality peer reviewed journals is encouraged for all scientists in the Consortium. Members of SOFAC will receive copies of all speeches and PowerPoint talks given that are related to SOFAC research. They also will receive draft copies of papers prepared for submission to journals, and copies of any papers published in proceedings.