



# Briefing Paper

**Date:** November 6, 2017

**Topic:** Module for logging decision support systems for presentation to SGSF SUM Committee

**Background:** On August 17 and 18, state foresters from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, along with their staffs and personnel from the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS), gathered in Biloxi, MS. This was the third [State Line Meeting](#) for state foresters Wade Dubea of Louisiana and Charlie Morgan of Mississippi, and the first for Alabama State Forester Rick Oates.

**Issue:** Project Leader, [Dana Mitchell](#), of the Forest Operations Research Unit in Auburn, AL presented a decision matrix that forest operations crews might use to determine the most efficient methods for road use, equipment ownership, and operations. A declining workforce in the timber industry continues to be a challenge for field crews and mills. Training modules and continuing education classes are available, but may not take into account decision support systems. One suggestion was for business and forestry schools to couple logging decision support systems with master logger training courses. Each state likely offers training modules differently, whether it's through State Agencies, Universities, and/or State Extension services.

**Current Situation:** In follow-up calls from the State Line meeting, we determined that the first step of this process should be a document that catalogs 1) what training courses are available in each state. Charlie Morgan agreed to champion this ask through the SGSF SUM committee and Dana Mitchell could provide a presentation of the state of knowledge presentation. The State Line group would suggest that the SUM committee help facilitate the creation of a matrix, highlighting:

- 1- What training modules (courses) are available state-by-state
- 2- Where are the knowledge gaps?
- 3- How do states measure effectiveness from training courses?

## Next Steps:

Feedback and follow up from the SGSF November meeting, and presentation to SUM committee.

## Other Suggestions?

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