

A Software Tool to Measure Forest Canopy/Tree Crown Transparency

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Researchers with the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station have developed computer software that can quickly estimate forest canopy transparency from below using digital photographs. The software, called **ForestCrowns**, can be used to measure forest canopy transparency from below on study sites where accurate information is needed. **ForestCrowns** uses range from estimating light transmission to monitoring health treatments in crowns(i.e., hemlock treatments). **ForestCrowns** can analyze pictures taken with fisheye or normal camera lenses. The pictures and results can be stored for comparing seasonal or multiple year evaluations of each site. **ForestCrowns** can provide accurate results while reducing time requirements in the field. The program is also capable of isolating individual tree crowns for single tree analysis. In the poster we will illustrate some **ForestCrowns** software program uses.



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