

May 19, 2014

SOFEW, ISFRE, WFE, and Beyond

Building Stronger Bonds among Forest Economists

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Outline

A. SOFEW – What have we gone through?

B. ISFRE – What is going on now?

C. Future – What is the road ahead?

A. SOFEW — What have we gone through?

Southern Forest Economics **Workshop** (official)

Southern Forest Economics **Workers** (informal)

It is an organization that brings together representatives of industry, consulting, academia, and federal and state agencies to discuss current issues in the economics of forestry, timber markets, timberland investments, and forest products trade.

SOFEW meeting in 1977

Location: Gulf Shores, Alabama

Date: April 6-7, 1977

Registrants: 123

When was the first meeting?

1960s; 6 southern forest economists

Meeting summary: 1977—2013

37 years between 1977 and 2013

Locations: 12 southern states

AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, TX, VA

Hosts: universities, agencies, industrial firms

Publications

Proceedings:

- Hard copy
- Hard copy and CD
- CD and online
- Online only

Special issues in journals; edited books

Online PDF copies: **1,027** papers or abstracts

Membership

461 active members as of May 2014

Email addresses:

.COM	210	(some academia)
.NET	16	
.EDU	165	
.US	32	
.CA	5	
Others	33	

Survey: evaluation on meetings

- First started in 2006
- Conducted annually since then
- Attitudes concerning the current meeting
- Suggestions for next year's meeting

Survey: a sample question

What is the single most important reason you attended this meeting?

- To present a paper
- To network and experience fellowship with my peers
- To have my graduate students present a paper
- Desirable meeting location
- Program content of a session
- Other

Survey: results and limitations

Results: positive; an average of 4.0 out of 5.0

Limitations:

- Meeting attendees only
- Participation rate less than 50%
- A small truncated sample

Conclusion:

A core group of strong supporters to SOFEW

Administration since 2000

Mississippi State University SOFEW Committee

Grado, Steve

Grala, Robert

Grebner, Don

Gordon, Jason

Henderson, James

Measells, Marc

Munn, Ian

Sun, Edwin

Administration: daily

Web site maintenance

<http://sofew.cfr.msstate.edu>

- Member directory
- Email listserv
- Job announcements
- Online proceedings

Administration: conference

- Identify and help a host for every annual meeting
- Meeting registration and financial account management
- Account balance: \$21,944 as of May 2014

Administration: business

SOFEW Steering Committee: six members

- Industry representatives (2)
- USDA Forest Service representatives (2)
- University representatives (2)

B. ISFRE – What is going on now?

International Society of
Forest Resource Economics

A new name since November 2013

Motivation for changes

Declining and fluctuating numbers of attendees

- 60 to 130 attendees
- 40 to 65 presentations

Cannot reach a breakeven point for some
(e.g., a loss of $>$ \$5,000 in one meeting)

How to have more attendees?

Two directions for a new organization:

- Expand the scope of forest economics
- Expand the geographical coverage

Benefits of a new name

- A more diverse group of attendees from different regions of the U.S. and other countries
- A more diverse audience
- A clearer identification of the focus and image
- New meeting locations in other regions or countries
- More interactions between academia, industry, and government

First voting by members

April 2013

Q: Do you approve for a name change on SOFEW?

Yes	101	75%
No	33	25%

Second voting by members

148		November 2013
52	35%	International Society of Forest Resource Economics (ISFRE)
36	24%	International Society of Forest Resources and Environmental Economics (ISFREE)
30	20%	International Society of Forest Resource Economics and Policy
20	14%	International Forest Resource Economic Association (IFREA)
10	7%	International Society of Forest Resource Economics, Policy, and Law

1st ISFRE Symposium

Forest Economics: Gateway to Sustainability

March 17 to 18, 2014

St. Louis, MO

University of Missouri

65 attendees; **much more diversified**

48 oral presentations

10 poster presentations by students

An official IUFRO event

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)

The 2014 ISFRE Symposium was supported by IUFRO Research Group 9.04.00 (Forest Resource Economics) and was an official IUFRO event.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF FOREST RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Monday, May 12, 2014

[Join ISFRE](#)[Meeting Info](#)[Contact Us](#)[Search Proceedings](#)[Past Meetings](#)[Links](#)[Job Postings](#)[Directory](#)[Photos](#)[Home](#)

Welcome

The International Society Of Forest Resource Economics, (formally SOFEW), is an organization that brings together representatives of industry, consulting, academia, and federal and state agencies to discuss current issues in the economics of forestry, timber markets, timberland investments, and forest products trade.

An annual meeting is held in the Spring with presentations on financial aspects of timber management and utilization, timber supply and demand, international trade, forest policy, law and many other current issues involved in the business of forestry. An electronic newsletter is distributed to keep members up-to-date on the activities of others within the organization.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to [contact us](#).

C. Future — What is the road ahead?

Scope

Expanding the **geographical coverage** of the organization is more appealing to most members.

Natural resources or environmental economics are not in the new name for a better focus.

Bylaws and board

Need to set up the organization infrastructure soon.

- Bylaws
- Board and members
- President
- Executive officers and committee

Benefits to members

Forest Science

- Declining articles in forest economics

Journal of Forest Economics (120 submissions in 2013)

Forest Policy and Economics (even more ...)

Q: Is there any room for a new journal in forest economics to attract members?

Integration and cooperation

Western Forest Economists (WFE)

European forest economists

Asian forest economists

- Over 400 professionals in China
- 5th Faustmann Symposium, Beijing, Oct. 2015
- A possible meeting of ISFRE at Beijing in 2016

Possible integration with WFE

Three scenarios:

- Complete integration and merge
- Separate as we have been
- Separate but hosting **a joint meeting** first
 - Need a decision by mid-summer
 - Location: Portland, Oregon?
 - Host

Thank you!