SOUTHCENTRAL Region

Issues & Trends

Trucking

- Trucking shortages, and trucking insurance availability and rate increases. (Note: It is getting harder to find insurance companies willing to write “hired and non-owned” trucking insurance policies, and that type of coverage is extremely expensive.)

- It is estimated that the driver shortage is resulting in a 10-15% loss of logging production currently.

- Lots of competition for drivers across multiple industries.

- Louisiana recently passed a law adding an additional variance to log trucking gross vehicle weights, so that a log trucker employing on-board scales is allowed to haul 90,850 pounds gross, with the purchase of a $100 permit.

Infrastructure

- Inadequate infrastructure; posting of lower weights on roads and bridges; federal infrastructure funds going to the state are usually applied to cities instead of rural areas.

Markets

- The permanent closure of two pulp mills in the region will have far-reaching effects on pulpwood and fuelwood demand; and with several new sawmills coming into production in the SCR, it will be hard for all of them to find adequate outlets for their residuals, especially fuelwood.