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Wet Weather and Scarce Trucking Push Southern Fiber Prices Higher

WATKINSVILLE, GEORGIA – October 5, 2021 – Wet ground from South Carolina to Texas hampered harvesting operations and pushed third quarter southern pulpwood prices higher. Hardwood, which often grows in wet areas, suffered the greatest impact as loggers struggled to maintain production. Southern hardwood roundwood prices in the Q3 2021 *Forisk Wood Fiber Review (FWFR)* increased 7-8% for the quarter, up 12-14% year-over-year. Constrained trucking capacity only added to the misery. “Mills are challenged to keep adequate supplies on hand due to the chaos in trucking,” said *FWFR* Editor Tim Gammell. Amidst a summer surge in southern Covid cases, southern operations were facing challenges on multiple fronts.

Outside the U.S. South, pulp-quality wood fiber prices in the Q3 2021 *Forisk Wood Fiber Review* remain low across much of North America. Robust sawmill production through the first half of 2021 generated abundant residual chip volumes that pushed prices lower in the Pacific Northwest, Lake States, Northeast, and Eastern Canada. Pacific Northwest chip prices increased in Q3 on the strength of growing wood chip export demand, but current prices remain near five-year lows across much of the region. In Western Canada, softwood chip prices are largely tied to market pulp prices for northern bleached softwood kraft (NBSK) pulp. Forisk V.P. of Research Shawn Baker noted, “While pulp prices declined in Q3, they remain high.” Softwood residual chip prices in Western Canada are up 10% year-over-year despite an 8% dip this quarter.

Wood fiber costs account for over half of total pulp manufacturing cost worldwide. The *Forisk Wood Fiber Review (FWFR)* includes prices and market commentary for all major North American regions, providing essential data for anyone that needs to track pulpwood, wood chips, and biomass prices in the world’s largest and most dynamic wood fiber markets. The *FWFR* provides updates of softwood and hardwood prices for all major markets in North America. Prices are reported for wood delivered to consuming plants as a range and average price. Each report also updates U.S. and Canada trade statistics for lumber, logs, wood pellets, wood chips and pulp.

For more information or to subscribe to the [Forisk Wood Fiber Review](#), visit www.forisk.com or contact: Heather Clark, hsclark@forisk.com, 770.725.8447.

About Forisk Consulting: Forisk delivers forecasts and analysis of forest industry markets and timberland investments. Firms participate in Forisk’s research program by subscribing to the *Forisk Research Quarterly (FRQ)*, *Forisk Wood Fiber Review*, *Forisk Market Bulletin*, or the North American Forest Industry Capacity Database; supporting benchmarking studies related to forest operations and mill capacities; and attending educational workshops and the annual “Wood Flows & Cash Flows” conference. www.forisk.com.