

Forest Harvesting and Transport

WOODTRANS

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Geographic information systems have long been recognised as a valuable tool for the representation and analysis of transportation networks and related activities. GIS for Transportation (GIS-T) is a broad expression that encompasses all of the activities that involve the use of geographic information systems for some aspect of transportation planning, management, or science. Government agencies, research institutions, and members of private industry are just some of the entities that routinely build GIS-T applications. These applications can involve any mode of transportation (truck, automobile, train, ship, bus, airplane, etc.) or may consider other transportation-related objects such as pavements, stop signs, or construction equipment. GIS-T applications can be used to plan for changes in the transportation network design for the future. The breadth of the field of GIS-T provides ample opportunities for the development of new and innovative applications. Since much transportation research has historically been conducted without the benefit of a geographic information system, it is assumed that a GIS-T application can benefit in some way from the added capabilities of a GIS. These include both spatial-analytical and cartographic capabilities. Increasingly, transportation professionals are finding that the synthesis of traditional transportation research methods with the added value of GIS resources provides a robust platform for both traditional and innovative transportation activities. The projects in the WOODTRANS programme have arisen as a result of COFORD's mid-term review and recommendations in the Forest Industry Transport Group (FITG) Code of Practice for Timber Haulage.

The WOODTRANS programme comprises the following projects:

- **GPSTRACK:** Assessment of GPS tracking devices and associated software suitable for real time monitoring of timber haulage trucks.
- **LOADSENSOR:** Evaluation of air bag pressure sensors/gauges as load weighing devices for use on timber haulage trucks.

