

# Timber Cruise with Prism at Fort Jackson, South Carolina

Case Study by Lim Geomatics



## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Jamie Greene, a forester with Southern Forestry Consultants (SFC), recently used Prism, a brand new application from Lim Geomatics, to plan and execute a timber cruise on a 30,000-acre pine forest for the American military. It took the team of four foresters three weeks to sample 1,930 plots near Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

### Background

Timber cruising is the cornerstone of forest management. Sampling a series of small areas to measure tree dimensions, record species, report wildlife and a host of other data points is a vital step for generating accurate forest inventories.

Lim Geomatics, a Canadian geospatial technology firm with a global reputation for innovation, and SFC, which has over three decades of forestry management experience in the southeastern U.S., formed a strategic partnership in the summer of 2018 to collaborate on a new generation of integrated digital tools for the forest industry.

Developing a tailor-made data-collection application for timber cruising was the first priority highlighted by the partnership. With input from veteran foresters, Lim Geomatics developers set about designing and building a cloud-based application that is user-friendly, highly configurable, and comes with built-in navigation tools.

## ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

### User Friendly

As an Esri business partner, Lim Geomatics builds applications on the ArcGIS platform so they are compatible with a variety of file formats and integrate seamlessly with third-party software. The development team also prioritizes user experience so foresters, regardless of their technology background, can hit the ground running with effective digital tools. “None of us had ever seen Prism before, but it was very easy to use,” Greene says, who describes the new app as self-explanatory. “The iPad is fitted to a harness so your hands are free to work and the data entry was very straight forward.”

### Highly Configurable

Greene appreciated the flexibility to customize data inputs for the project at Fort Jackson. For example, Greene’s team also used Prism to record observations about the red cockaded woodpecker, which plays an integral role in the ecosystem of pine forests in the southern United States.

### Built-in Navigation

Another feature that distinguishes Prism from the competition is how the application includes every tool, from navigation to data entry, that foresters need to execute a successful cruise. Greene found it helpful to not have to switch back and forth between applications or hardware. “It’s all there and packaged in one spot,” he says. “You navigate to the plot and take the data right there in one app—it’s so much easier and quicker.”

#### Business Benefits

19% increase in the number of plots surveyed per day

15% savings on COGs, which translated to a 10% ROI on the first use

\$3.20 gross savings per plot and \$0.30 net savings per plot on the 1,930-plot cruise

## Cloud-based service

The cloud-based dimension of Prism also improved the efficiency and security of the timber cruise at Fort Jackson. “You sync it to the cloud right there in the field and everybody can see what everybody else has done,” Greene says. “The next day we knew which plots we had already done without having to fumble around with paper maps.” The forester describes how other cruising applications required up to an hour at the end of every work day to transfer data to a computer from multiple devices.

## CONCLUSION

Prism empowered Greene and his team to focus on the task at hand—collecting high quality data about the forest—without getting bogged down by cumbersome information management tasks. “We would sit around at dinner at night and talk about Prism,” Greene says. “Everybody had positive feedback and everybody was excited about using it in the future.”

- Cruisers had a 19 per cent increase in the number of plots surveyed per day
- Prism delivered a 15 per cent dollar savings on COGs, which translated to a 10 per cent ROI on the first use
- There was \$3.20 gross savings per plot and \$0.30 net savings per plot on the 1,930-plot cruise near Fort Jackson, South Carolina

### Going forward

Based on the success of Prism right out of the gate, SFC foresters project an ROI of 121 per cent for their next cruise and then 231 per cent for the third project.

**Ready to learn more about Prism?  
We're always ready.**

Kim Tofin, Director of Sales  
sales@limgeomatics.com 1.800.686.8953 ext. 709 [www.limgeomatics.com](http://www.limgeomatics.com)