

## **The Google API - A Forestry GIS Data Distribution Platform**

Clarence Neese, Orbis GIS, Charlotte, NC

Geographic information systems (GIS) have become an integral part of many natural resource organizations. The use of these systems throughout the forest industry for a variety of managerial tasks has resulted in a greater need to distribute this information out into the field. The purpose of this paper will be to explore the use of the Google API as a spatial data distribution tool. In particular, the paper will concentrate on introducing and discussing the new tool and the integration of forestry GIS data. For years, GIS data distribution has been associated with larger more robust system. This is no longer the case. This paper will describe how use the Google API to distribute and maintain forestry GIS data sets and how to apply the use of the system across multiple departments. Examples will be provided that demonstrate the impact of how apply this type of forest GIS data distribution system will increase data usage and how distributed GIS data sets are having a positive impact on the management decisions.

**5th Southern Forestry and Natural Resources GIS Conference  
June 12-14, 2006  
Asheville, NC**