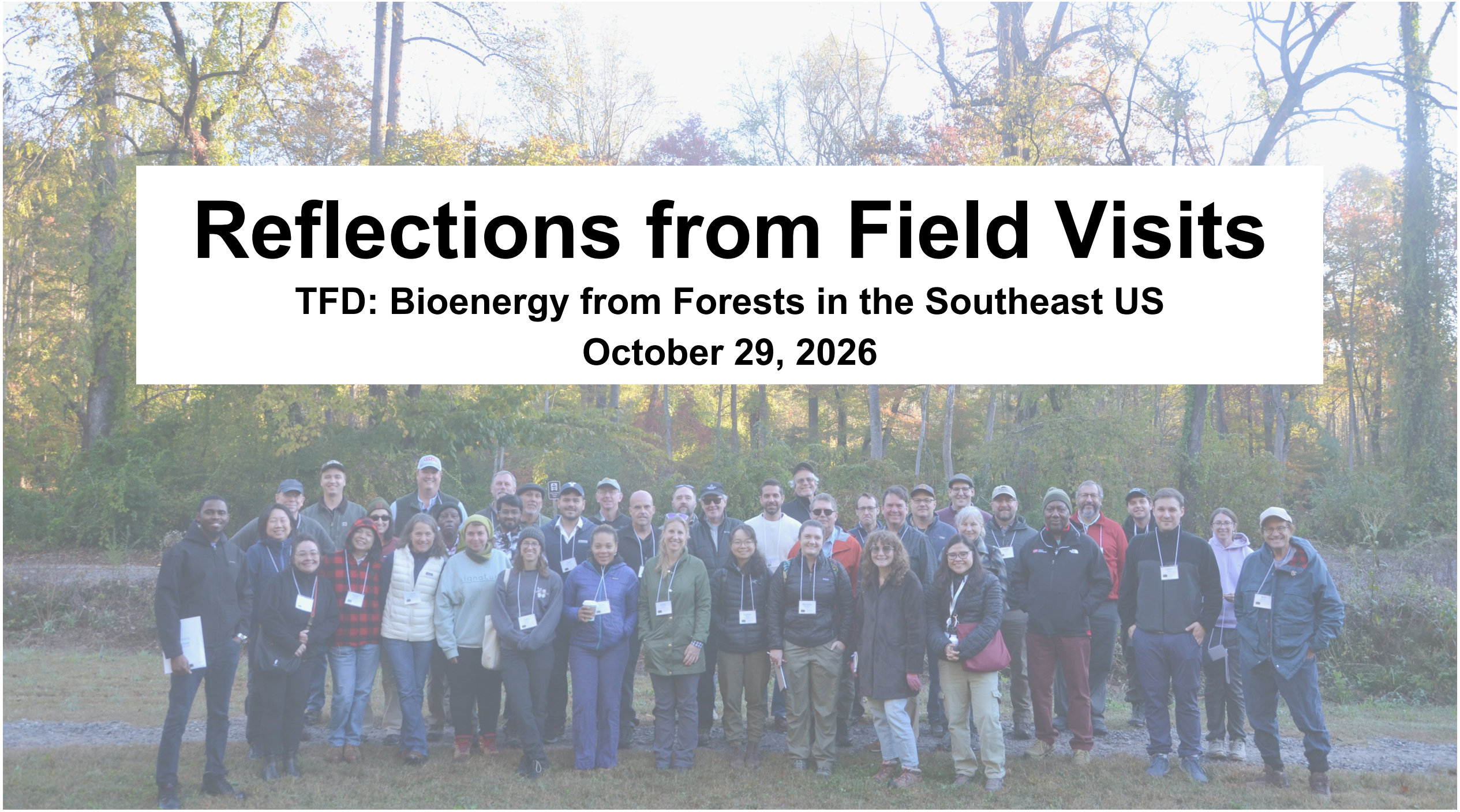
Reflections from Field Visits

TFD: Bioenergy from Forests in the Southeast US

October 29, 2026



Quick refresh:

Day 1 - Tuesday

- Pisgah National Forest
- Catawba County Resource Recovery Complex
- Sumner Family Private Forest

Day 2 - Wednesday

- Craven County Wood Energy
- Global Cellulose Fibers pulp mill
- Hofmann Forest

Pisgah National Forest

- Public forestland management
- First tract of land establishing national forests in the East under Weeks Act of 1911
- Oak-hickory hardwood forest
- Damage and aftermath of Hurricane Helene in 2024
- Public perception of recent management plan
- Mesophication: should we be concerned for hardwood regen?



Catawba County Resource Recovery Center

- Landfill and recycling programs
  - Methane ☾ RNG
  - Waste wood ☾ mulch and pallets
  - Cooking oil ☾ biodiesel
- Debris and impacts from Hurricane Helene
  - Disaster Plan B: air curtain burner
- Ecocomplex: What went wrong?
- Funding struggles



Sumner Family Private Forest

- 59-acre private farm and forestland
- Harvest and reforestation of 15 acres of grown-up pasture
- Impact of lack of pulp market
  - Pulpwood chipped or left
  - Revised management to delay thinnings
- Declining logging workforce
- Navigating the forestry world as a private landowner



Garrett's list of 5 things that determine how much a landowner gets paid

1. **Location:** How far are you from the mill?
2. **Quality:** How good is your timber?
3. **Ground conditions:** How easy is it to log your land?
4. **Access:** How easily can logging equipment get to your land?
5. **Hassle factor:** How much of a pain in the butt are you?





Craven County Wood Energy

- Wood-based electricity generation
- Produces 47-50 MW/day to power ~50,000 homes
  - 1500-1700 tons wood/day and 300 tons poultry waste/day
- Feedstock economics
- Production line recycling and waste
  - No host for heat
  - Poultry ash for nutrient reclamation
- Community involvement

Global Cellulose Fibers pulp mill

- Produce absorbent fluff pulp from roundwood and residual chip
- Detailed single-line mill process
- EUDR compliance
- Supply chain concerns
  - But not supply of pulpwood
- Co-located mills and energy facilities
  - Produce ~30 MW/day, but can't sell back in NC
  - Sell all byproducts to Craven County Wood Energy





Hofmann Forest

- 79,000 acres partner managed between NCSU and RMS
- TIMO perspective
- Economics of managing for pulpwood (or lack thereof)
- Management response to pulp mill closures
- Loblolly clearcuts on 25-year rotation
  - Logging and planting logistics
- Slash and debris management strategy


Now what?

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