The Endowment and the Forest Resources Association co-hosted a meeting that brought together two dozen industry leaders to identify opportunities to strengthen the timber harvest and transportation sectors. The goal of the meeting was to determine what additional research is needed and what actions are necessary to keep all the links in the wood fiber supply chain financially healthy and functioning.

Four discussion panels addressed issues including markets, operating environment, public policy and regulation, attitudes and culture, workforce, technology, and systems from their different perspectives. Participants were specifically asked to:

- Determine what types of information are needed to make a systemic, transformative, and sustainable contribution to the timber harvest and transportation sectors;
- Determine what additional research is needed and what actions are necessary to keep all the links in the wood fiber supply chain financially healthy and functioning; and
- Find consensus on the importance of gaining up-to-date facts on the status of the U.S. wood harvesting and transportation sectors.

A number of the workshop’s participants formed a steering committee to review opportunities and identify specific action steps important to the broader wood fiber supply chain sector. That follow-on step ultimately failed to generate specific plans and actions. Three specific approaches were identified:

1. Applying Wood Supply Research Institute results on the ground;
2. Knowing where the next generation’s workforce will come from; and
3. Defining a catalytic role in driving culture change among the three “legs” by working together in a mutually respectful partnership, so that the players are excited about change rather than concerned with protecting their turf.