THE STATUS OF AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS CLUSTERING WITHIN THE FOREST PRODUCTS SECTOR IN THE U.S.

Appendix D
Online Database of Reviewed Scientific Articles, Assessments, and Industry Reports

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A review of scientific articles, business assessments and industry reports was conducted to examine business cluster models adopted in forest products and other industries. The goal of the review was to determine the status of business clustering within the U.S. forest sector and establish if there are opportunities for increasing clustering activities. The review focused on determining the most common types of adopted cluster models and identifying strategies for targeting and developing successful business clusters. The review collected information on factors leading to cluster development and its success, support from external institutions, interactions between business entities participating in the cluster, and potential benefits to cluster firms and local communities. The review together with case studies, online survey of forestry stakeholders, and statistical analysis of clustering within the forest products industry in the U.S. South served as basis for preparing recommendations for improved competitiveness of the U.S. forest sector through business clustering.

An online database containing summaries of over 100 scientific papers and reports is available at www.fwrc.msstate.edu/cluster/bibliography.asp. Each reviewed document is briefly summarized with respect to its key findings. Visitors to the website can view the entire list of document summaries or search the database by keywords and pre-defined terms. Examined papers and reports relate to the U.S. forest industry, adopted business cluster models, and benefits and challenges associated with business clustering. The goal of this database is to provide a broader access to information on clustering activities within the U.S. forest sector.