

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**Association  
of Consulting  
Foresters**

EDUCATED, EXPERIENCED,  
ETHICAL PROFESSIONALS

**July 22, 2026**

**Florence Business Owner Elected Gulf Region Director for  
the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.**

[Lynchburg, VA] — [The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. \(ACF\)](#) is pleased to announce the election of Billy Rye, ACF, of Florence, Alabama, as Gulf Region Director. Rye began his three-year term on July 1, 2026, and will serve through June 30, 2029.

As Gulf Region Director, Rye will act as a liaison between ACF's national leadership and the chapters in the Gulf region, working to strengthen chapter engagement and represent the interests of members across the region. ACF is a national organization committed to serving independent consulting foresters who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners.

"Billy's dedication to consulting forestry, proven leadership within ACF, and commitment to serving landowners make him an outstanding choice for Gulf Region Director," said ACF President Gerald H. Grossman, ACF. "He has a deep understanding of the issues facing consulting foresters and a strong track record of building successful chapters and organizations. I look forward to the leadership and perspective he will bring to the Executive Committee."

Rye is Owner and President of [Forest Management Specialists, Inc. \(FMS\)](#), a consulting forestry firm based in Florence, Alabama. He founded the company in 1996 after eight years with the Alabama Forestry Commission and now brings more than 38 years of professional forestry experience to the practice of consulting forestry. Through FMS, he provides timber appraisals, forest investment analysis, management planning, wildlife habitat improvement, and other consulting services to private landowners across the Gulf region.

He has served ACF in numerous leadership roles, including as Chair of the Alabama Chapter, during which time the chapter was recognized as ACF's Large Chapter of the Year for two consecutive years. Rye has also served on the ACF Strategic Efforts Task Force and Marketing Committee and is a graduate of the ACF Business Academy. Beyond ACF, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Forestry Association and has held leadership positions within the Society of American Foresters.

"ACF is far more than a professional network to me," said Rye. "The relationships I've built through this organization are some of the most meaningful of my career. We understand each other because we've faced many of the same challenges, and there's a level of trust and respect that comes from those shared experiences. I'm honored to serve as Gulf Region Director and look forward to working

with chapters across the region to strengthen our profession and promote the value of ACF members as the gold standard in consulting forestry.”

“Billy is one of those members who consistently raises his hand to serve,” added Shannon McCabe, CAE, Executive Director of ACF. “Whether through chapter leadership, committee work, education, or advocacy, he has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to advancing the profession. His passion for consulting forestry and for helping fellow members succeed will make him a tremendous asset to the Executive Committee.”

Rye joins the 2026–2027 ACF Executive Committee alongside:

- President: Gerald H. Grossman, ACF, Green Timber Consulting Foresters, Inc., MI
- President-Elect: Christopher E. Adams, ACF, Vision Forestry, LLC, TX
- Past President: Rick N. Barnes, ACF (Ret.), OR
- Northern Region Director: Jennifer L. Boyle Warner, ACF, ArborTerra Consulting, Inc., IN
- Southern Region Director: Joseph A. Davison, ACF, Eastern Forest Management, NC
- Western Region Director: Christian Eggleton, ACF, TÜV SÜD America Inc., CA
- Treasurer: Thomas R. Clark, ACF, F&W Forestry Services, Inc., AL
- Secretary: Kenny J. Kane, ACF, Generations Forestry, Inc., PA

ACF provides professional development, networking opportunities, exclusive communications, tools, and resources to consulting foresters. ACF members are the gold standard of forestry consultants because they meet rigorous educational, experience, and reference requirements as well as adhere to a Code of Ethics ensuring loyalty to landowners and their land.

For more information about ACF, visit [www.acf-foresters.org](http://www.acf-foresters.org).

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**About the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF):**

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the practice of professional consulting forestry and promoting the highest standards of professionalism and ethics among its members. ACF members can benefit forest landowners by enhancing property value, optimizing timber growth through sustainable harvests, maximizing the value of timber, enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and protecting family forest legacy. Visit [www.acf-foresters.org](http://www.acf-foresters.org) to learn more.

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