

Dr. Rachel Cook is an Assistant Professor of Silviculture and Forest Soils and Co-Director of the Forest Productivity Cooperative (FPC). She is interested in improving sustainable forest productivity in managed, plantation systems in the southeastern US and Latin America through a better understanding of forest soils and silvicultural techniques. Silviculture includes any practice that we may utilize to manage site resources (fertilization, vegetation control, planting density, thinning, harvesting methods, etc).

Potential projects for REUs could include soil, root, and forest floor sampling in loblolly pine plantations to better understand how forest management practices affect soil properties, connecting remote sensing data such as LiDAR to soil productivity information, or work in conjunction with other faculty to explore soil fungal relationships in the forest floor. If you are interested in forests and soils, then this is the place to be!

You can learn more about Rachel Cook at her website: www.rcsoils.com or more about the FPC at <http://forestproductivitycoop.net/about-fpc/fpc-research/>