



FOREST BIOMETRICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

334 East Broadway
Missoula, Montana 59802

A Non-Profit Research Corporation since 2002
For the advancement of research, education and service in forest biometrics

November 26, 2010

To All FBRI cooperating organizations and FPS Users:

As you may be aware, the FBRI has shifted to a contractual basis for providing ongoing technical support for organizations using FBRI methods, tools and FPS software. All services continue in 2010 and 2011 as previously provided – including technical support, workshops, software development and regional library updates.

From November 2006 to June 2010 we attempted to operate with three full-time staff. We opened an office in Western Oregon and established a Training Center in Philomath for our workshops in forest inventory, silviculture and planning. The goal was to find additional funding and staff to replace both Dr. Kelsey Milner and Dr. Jim Arney. Both Kelsey and Jim provided full-time biometrics expertise for those three-plus years for \$24,000 per year, each. They derived no other income from FBRI. New funding was being sought to hire Ph.D. biometricians whom could then be mentored in the biometrics of FBRI databases, libraries and software by Drs. Milner and Arney. However, the U.S. economy declined and neither additional funding nor qualified Ph.D. biometricians could be found.

The FBRI has returned to a more financially stable structure to ensure ongoing services and commitment to the forest industry. This includes ongoing contracts to provide the following:

- Jim Arney will continue to provide the primary biometrics support to the industry;
- Richard Zabel, Western Forestry & Conservation Association (WFCA) schedules and manages all FBRI workshops in inventory, growth, silviculture and planning;
- Chuck Vopicka provides all FBRI technical support by phone, email, correspondence and personal visits to forest manager tree farms, forests and reservations;
- Nora McDougall-Collins (“The Computer Gal.com”) maintains the FBRI web site which now includes PayPal services.
- Jeff Beck (Ameriprise Financial) maintains the FBRI endowment account.
- WFCA manages the financial accounts for FBRI including all operating contracts.
- A software programmer has been identified for ongoing software maintenance and enhancements of FPS tools and FBRI Regional Libraries.

This shift in structure provides a stable organizational structure and maintenance of a constant annual support level remaining at \$0.02/acre for 2011.

Over forty foresters from six western States participated in our Annual FBRI Meeting on November 11 in Portland, Oregon where we presented the transition in structure and confirmed the ongoing commitment to the mission of FBRI to serve the forest industry.

On November 10, 2010, the FBRI Board of Directors met to confirm the transition of two positions on the Board and begin the development of a five-year plan for the operation of FBRI for 2011 through 2015.

Each member of the Board serves for three years on a staggered cycle. The current Board includes:

James D. Arney	Forest Biometrics LLC	Saint Regis, Montana
Kim Iles	Kim Iles & Associates	Nanaimo, British Columbia
Jim McWhorter	Terra Verde, Inc.	La Center, Washington
Dan Opalach	Green Diamond Resource	Korbel, California
Rob Taylor	The Campbell Group	Diboll, Texas
Marc Vomocil	Starker Forests, Inc.	Corvallis, Oregon

Jim Arney will retire from the Board in the first quarter of 2011 to focus on expanded documentation of FPS methods and tools, software upgrades, regional library updates and biometric support to participating organizations. These activities will be conducted under contract to FBRI over the next one to five years at the discretion of the Board.

Over the past three years we found that neither adequate funding nor Ph.D.-level forest biometricians could be found to conduct a mentoring-type transition from Drs. Arney and Milner to two or three full-time FBRI professionals. Therefore, a more gradual and robust transition is occurring through distribution of functions to a team of contracted professionals. We found that it was not possible to find one or two persons who could or would take on all aspects of FBRI services (research, development, workshops, software and support).

Specific activities over the next six months include:

- Development and distribution of FPS Version 7.00 for Windows 7 and Office 2010.
- Separation of the FBRI textbook into a User's Tutorial Guide and a Biometrics textbook.
- Enhancements to the FBRI FPS Regional Libraries for additional functionality
- A documented "Standards for FBRI FPS Certified Libraries" guide.
- Continuation of forest inventory, silviculture and planning workshops on annual basis.
- Board interaction with the new fifteen-member FBRI Advisory Committee on development and implementation of a five-year funding and staffing plan.

To learn more, go to www.forestbiometrics.com web site to download the presentations at the FBRI Annual Meeting on November 11 and the SAF National Convention on October 28 (What Models Provide). If you manage a working forest, then you need the methods, tools and services of FBRI. This has been and continues to be the mission of FBRI as an IRS 501-c-3 non-profit research corporation since 2002. The commitment to and support of the forest industry has not changed.

James D. Arney, Ph.D., President