



WSRI UPDATE

“Improving wood supply operations through research”

Winter 2015-2016

Dear WSRI Members, FRA Members, and Friends:

Welcome to this issue of the **WSRI UPDATE**, an E-Newsletter designed to keep you up to date on what’s happening at the Wood Supply Research Institute – where we are “*improving wood supply operations through research.*” Foresters and loggers who would like to be added to the mailing list to directly receive the WSRI quarterly e-newsletter should contact WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig at fendig@bellsouth.net

New WSRI Research Project Started

WSRI has entered into an Agreement with Auburn University for a Project titled “Total Trucking Analysis from the Woods to the Mill Woodyard and Return” with researchers Tom Gallagher, Mathew Smidt & Tim McDonald. This Project, as the name implies, will be an expansion of the “Truck Turn Time” Project taking into account each segment of the supply chain and analyzing the cost & time elements, by region, and determining how forest products transportation operations might be improved.

WSRI Issues Request for Proposals (RFP) for a New Project

The WSRI Technical Team has sent out an RFP for a new project titled “Pay & Benefits Index: Loggers and Truckers Compared to Competition.” The objective of this Project is to compare total compensation by region paid to logging and trucking employees with comparable jobs from other industries that compete for the same labor pool.

The comparison should include wages, insurance and all employee benefits. The Research Study objective is to determine if the perceived logging capacity shortage is the result of logging employee compensation packages not being competitive, and if yes, in what areas and by what margin, in four forested regions across the Country. This might be best accomplished by using an index approach. The WSRI Technical Team will assist, if needed, in determining relevant logging worker classifications and comparable local industry worker classifications. Final approval by the WSRI Legal Counsel will be obtained to assure no antitrust risk.

The deliverables include the following:

- Produce two Total Logging Employee Compensation Cost Indices in four forested regions. One index for production & one index for trucking. Each index should be comprised of the key cost components that make up total employee compensation.
- Produce an additional Total Compensation Cost Index in each region for a composite of industries that compete for the same labor force as the logging & trucking industries.

- Provide an analysis of the variances in compensation, by benefit, and convert all into a monetary value or cost per ton basis and total cost.
- Provide detailed recommended actions that if implemented might result in a more competitive logging & trucking employee total compensation package.

WSRI Executive Director Search Update

WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig has announced his retirement effective at the end of the WSRI 2016 Annual Meeting. WSRI Chair Crad Jaynes is leading a nationwide search for the next WSRI Executive Director. The WSRI Executive Director job description and employment application were widely distributed in September 2015. The Search Committee will be reviewing applications in November and early December to develop a list of final interviewees.

WSRI Facebook Page Update

Since its launch in October 2014 the WSRI Facebook Page has received 170+ likes (followers). We encourage all foresters and loggers with an interest in the wood supply chain to check out the WSRI Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/woodsupplyresearchinstitute>

and to click the “like” and “follow” buttons so you can keep abreast of the latest wood supply research developments.

New WSRI Technical Team Chair

We are pleased to report that Sean Bennett with Broad Arrow Timber Company is the new WSRI Technical Team Chair. Congratulations and thank you for stepping in to fill this important WSRI leadership position Sean.

WSRI Research Project Report - FUEL CONSUMPTION ON LOGGING OPERATIONS

Over much of the past decade, fluctuating oil prices have increased the importance of fuel consumption estimates for cost control as well as cost forecasting in logging. Fuel costs are a significant component of variable cost and are directly linked to a number of other costs (tires, lubricants, etc.) While a number of fuel consumption rules of thumb are available, changing equipment technology and highly variable production rates create considerable doubt about the accuracy of current estimates.

The purpose of this study was to estimate fuel consumption rates and determine if differences in fuel consumption due to tract characteristics could be detected.

The study was funded by the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI) and the Wood Supply Research Institute (WSRI).

Click here to view a Technical Release on this research study. <http://wsri.org/tech-papers/15r23.pdf>.

WSRI Ads

The WSRI Board again offers special thanks to DK Knight of Hatton-Brown Publications for developing two WSRI public service advertisements. Also for volunteering to run the WSRI adds for three months (complimentary) in ***Timber Harvesting*** and ***Southern Loggin'*** ***Times***.

 <p>Wood Supply Research Institute <i>"Improving wood supply operations through research"</i></p> <p>Are you interested in taking part to improve the efficiency, productivity and profitability of your forest management or timber harvesting and transportation operations?</p> <p>WE CAN HELP!</p> <p>Please visit: www.wsri.org or contact: WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig fendig@bellsouth.net 912-598-8023</p>	 <p>Wood Supply Research Institute <i>"Improving wood supply operations through research"</i></p> <p>Are you interested in improving the efficiency, productivity and profitability of forest management, timber harvesting and/or transportation operations?</p> <p>WE CAN HELP: IT'S EASY & IT'S FREE</p> <p>Submit a one-page proposal for a Research Project to fendig@bellsouth.net describing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Name of Project and background of need for the Project2) Deliverables desired from Project3) How final Project Report data might be used <p>Visit www.WSRI.org for research examples.</p> <p>Please visit: www.wsri.org or contact: WSRI Executive Director Jim Fendig fendig@bellsouth.net 912-598-8023</p>
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We also are grateful and offer thanks to other WSRI partners who have also run these WSRI "public service" ads in their publications. Please help us out by running the WSRI public service ads in your publications or newsletters.....contact Richard Lewis at rlewis7575@aol.com for camera ready copies of the ads.

Research Project Selection Process

- WSRI receives proposals from anyone year round. **We encourage you to submit a research proposal that will improve wood supply chain operations!**
- Proposals format is a brief three part email communication. 1 - Name of Project & background of need, 2 - Expected deliverables, and 3 - How Project data might be used. Send proposal to fendig@bellsouth.net .
- Proposal will be reviewed by WSRI Technical Team. Selected proposal will be sent to potential researchers with request for RFP's. A final research project selection will be made by the Technical Team and sent to WSRI Board for approval.

- Completed research Project is made available on the WSRI web site—<http://wsri.org/> and through a Technical Release published by FRA.

With best wishes,

Crad

Crad Jaynes, WSRI Board of Directors Chair.

Jim

Jim Fendig, WSRI Executive Director

The Wood Supply Research Institute (WSRI) is a joint project of professional loggers, forest landowners, wood consuming mills, educators, and manufacturers that facilitates and funds research to promote and improve efficiency in the wood supply system.