Forest Biometrics Research Institute
4033 SW Canyon Road
Portland, Oregon 97221

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

December 2, 2013

To FBRI Supporting Organizations:

I'm going to start this letter by thanking all the Supporting Organizations that sent representatives to the Annual Meeting that was held on November 12 in Portland. We had an excellent turnout. Forty-eight people registered for the event that was held at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel. The interest and participation in our Institute is going up. Perhaps the best metric that demonstrates FBRI's growth is the fact that we now have 79 Supporting Organizations. Ten organizations have become supporters in the last eighteen months, and several others are considering joining FBRI as I sit here and write this letter. I am pleased with our ability to attract supporters. It's rock solid evidence that we are on the right track. Forest managers throughout the West recognize the value in FPS and our Institute.

The highlight of the Annual Meeting was, by far, the release of FPS Version 7.1 along with documentation in the form of a User's Guide. Dr. Jim Arney handed out copies of the software on a CD and a spiral-bound copy of the User's Guide to all the attendees. As Jim was handing out copies of the book, Jim explained to the group that the User's Guide should be considered a <u>draft</u>. He urged everyone to read the book, test the work flows, and, most importantly, provide him with feedback that he can use to edit and improve the User's Guide. Jim told the group that he needs their feedback by the end of January so he can incorporate the comments and suggested edits into the <u>final</u> version of the Guide which will be published at the end of February. His goal is to have a finished product that he can use as the basis of the FPS workshop that will be held on March 5 and 6 in Portland. I urge you to crack open the draft and put it to the test. Jim has put a lot of time and effort into the draft and now it's up to us to provide him with the feedback he needs to take his User's Guide to the next level. I know that some of you have already responded to Jim's request for feedback. Thank you!

By now you should be aware of the fact that we have decided to restructure FBRI workshops. Only one workshop will be held next year and it will cover all three FPS modules: inventory, growth and yield, and planning. Computers will not be provided to workshop participants. Instead, the workshop will be taught from the User's Guide. This is a significant departure from the past. For as long as I can remember, Jim offered three or four workshops per year and each workshop focused on only one of the modules. As Jim explained this change at the Annual Meeting it generated a good discussion. One participant felt that two days are not enough time to cover all three modules. Another individual

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suggested that we should consider offering two workshops: one workshop might be for organizations that are new to FPS and need basic training that covers all the modules, and the second might be for experienced users where the focus is on in-depth training that covers some of the more complicated aspects of FPS. I think these are great suggestions. In any event, we are moving forward. Rooms have been booked, reservations made, and we planning to hold a comprehensive two-day workshop at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel on March 5 and 6. I'm going to attend, as well as two of my associates from Green Diamond's California Timberlands Division. Please consider attending this important workshop. This will be your first opportunity to obtain formal training on FPS Version 7.1 and to network with other resource professionals who have, or who are in the process of, implementing Version 7.1. I need to say that we are definitely open to considering changes to the format and frequency of the workshops. We'll learn a lot from this workshop in March which will guide our decision making regarding workshops in 2015 and beyond. I hope to see many of you at the DoubleTree in March.

There's another important piece of documentation that Jim reported on at the Annual Meeting—the calibration tutorial. Jim said that he will finish this tutorial by the end of December. That's good news for many reasons. First, for years our Supporting Organizations have asked Jim to make documentation a priority and he's delivering the goods – I am elated. Second, documentation is key to the Board's succession strategy regarding Jim and all the duties he performs for the Institute. We've got to have good documentation that can be provided to those individuals that follow in Jim's footsteps. Third, the Institute needs to grow its base of Supporting Organizations. High quality documentation will help encourage organizations to support the Institute and incorporate FPS into their forest management systems. Finally, we want to get FPS integrated into forestry education programs. All of us at FBRI think students can benefit tremendously by being exposed to FPS and its suite of tools. That said, to get into college classrooms FPS documentation has to be complete, comprehensive, and cutting edge. (No pressure, Jim!)

I know that some of our Supporting Organizations have already upgraded to FPS Version 7.1 and I know that others are in the process. Jim and Chuck have been receiving a lot of emails and are working very hard to answer questions, identify and fix bugs, and generally assist people with the upgrade. If your organization has not already done so, you should begin planning to make the transition to FPS Version 7.1. At FBRI we are putting a lot of time, money, and effort into the new version of FPS. At some point it will become a burden to support earlier versions of FPS. The Board of Directors has carefully considered this matter, and we decided that FBRI will no longer support FPS Version 6 after December 31, 2014. If you need the on-site assistance of Jim and/or Chuck to help you with the transition, don't hesitate to call them and schedule a date. As a Supporting Organization you are entitled to a one-day site visit each year. All we ask is that you reimburse FBRI for their travel expenses.

I started this letter by telling you about our Annual Meeting. Well, the Board of Directors met the day before on November 11. I have attached a copy of the agenda (see Attachment A) and, as usual, feel free to contact Dr. Jim Arney, me, or any Director if you have any questions or comments about our meeting (see Attachment B for contact information).

The primary focus of the Board of Directors meeting was to prepare for the Annual Meeting, and I've covered that in sufficient detail above. We also reviewed the entire list of ongoing projects (see Attachment C). I'd like to thank my fellow Director, Mr. Rob Taylor, for preparing and updating this spreadsheet. It's a great tool for quickly reviewing the status of all ongoing projects and tasks. If you see something on the list you want to talk about, feel free to give Jim or me a call or send one of us an email. Personally, I'd really appreciate hearing from you and learning about your concerns so I can better serve the Institute as one of its Directors.

In my June 12, 2013, letter to Supporting Organizations I reported that Jim was an invited speaker at two university-sponsored events earlier this year. He went to Yale University in February, and then to Redding, California, in April to attend a workshop sponsored by the University of California, Berkeley. In 2014 Jim plans to continue his marketing efforts with trips to (1) Coeur d'Alene in June to make a presentation at the Thirty-Eighth Annual National Indian Timber Symposium, and (2) Salt Lake City in October to make a presentation at the SAF National Convention/IUFRO World Congress. The theme of the World Congress is "Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research." In his presentation, Dr. Arney will provide attendees with an overview of FPS's inventory, growth and yield, and planning capabilities. The FBRI will also have an exhibit booth at the convention, which Directors Ken Borchert, Jim McWhorter, and I have volunteered to staff along with Dr. Arney. I am looking forward to the congress and helping Jim promote the Institute and our software.

The last item of business I want to cover is our elections. During the Board of Directors meeting Dr. Jim Arney was elected to serve another year as the Institute's President, and Mr. Richard Zabel was elected to serve another year as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Marc Vomocil and I were elected to serve as Directors for the three-year period 2014 thru 2016. Finally, the Board elected me to serve as Chairman of the Board in 2014. I must admit that I am honored that my peers asked me to serve another year as Chairman.

Thank you for your support of FBRI in 2013. This was our tenth year (August 14, 2003 – August 14, 2013) as an IRS-confirmed, non-profit research institute. It is rewarding to see the enthusiasm in attendance and dialogue at the Annual Meeting; but it also causes us to pause and recognize the level of commitment and dependence which our industry has placed in us! The Institute is unique in our industry—in terms of structure, breadth of services provided, and mission—and Supporting Organizations are confirming with their monetary support that FBRI fills critical needs within their organizations.

In closing I want to emphasize that it has been a good year for the Institute. FPS Version 7.1 was released, the draft User's Guide was distributed, we have many new Supporting Organizations, the Institute is financially sound, and, most importantly, we are positioned to make significant headway on many of our ongoing tasks and projects in 2014. As always, I invite you to give me or anyone else at the Institute a call if you have a strong interest in any of the items mentioned in this letter. Finally, I hope to see you at our comprehensive FPS Version 7.1 workshop on March 5 and 6. This is the only workshop we plan to conduct in 2014, so please put it on your calendar and make arrangements to attend.

Best regards and best wishes for the holidays,

Dan Opalach, PhD, RPF
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Attachment A

Forest Biometrics Research Institute (FBRI) – Board of Directors
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda – November 11, 2013
DoubleTree Hotel near Lloyd Center
Portland, Oregon

Agenda – November 11, 2013   Scheduled 9:00am – 5:00pm

Call to Order   9:00am   Dan Opalach

Minutes from previous meeting – Review and Approval

Financial Status – Profit & Loss Statements through October 30, 2013 – Richard Zabel
          New organizations joining the FBRI community

Technical Support Update and Review – Chuck Vopicka
          Kinds of Technical Services requested and provided (On site & email / phone)

Status of Mensurational Outreach & Education
          SAF – CIF – IUFRO World Congress – Salt Lake City, October 5 – 11, 2014
          FBRI Exhibit Hall booth – FPS software, Regional Libraries, Textbook, SiteGrid

Status of Software, Documentation and Regional Libraries – Jim Arney
          FPS Version 7.1.0 to be released November 12, 2013 via CD-ROM
          FPS Tutorial Textbook – Spiral bound handout – Final Draft for User Review
          Regional Libraries – Site, Taper and Growth components

Five-year FBRI Plan – Succession Planning, Goals and Budget (re-visit Sept agenda)

          Release of FPS Tutorial Workbook – November 2013 Members Meeting
          Release of FPS Version 7.10 – November 2013 Members Meeting
          On Site Technical Support versus FPS Workshops in 2014 – 2015 (Jim Arney)
          FPS 2014 Workshops (?) – Inventory, Silviculture & Planning – Teachers?
          Software Maintenance and Updates – replacing Jim Arney as programmer?
          Building, Updating and Verifying Non-Parametric Regional Libraries – Analyst?
          Designing, Measuring and Analyzing "Response Surface Mosaic" Research Trials?
          Continued Research Methods – Inventory, Growth, Silviculture and Planning?

FBRI 10-year Anniversary – August 14, 2003 to August 14, 2013 – IRS non-profit status
          2013 Christmas card signing

Close of Meeting 5:00pm (target)

Attachment B

FBRI Contact Information

Name	Position	Phone	Email
Dr. Jim Arney	President/Biometrician	(406) 649-0040	jdarney@forestbiometrics.com
Mr. Ken Borchert	Director	(503) 231-6296	kenneth.borchert@bia.gov
Mr. Jim McWhorter	Director	(360) 263-0677	jmcwhorter@terraverdeinc.com
Dr. Dan Opalach	Director/Chairman	(707) 668-4418	dopalach@greendiamond.com
Mr. Rob Taylor	Director	(936) 829-6375	rmtaylor@campbellgroup.com
Mr. Marc Vomocil	Director	(541) 929-2477	marc@starkerforests.com
Mr. Chuck Vopicka	Technical Support	(406) 541-0054	support@forestbiometrics.com
Mr. Richard Zabel	Secretary/Treasurer	(503) 226-4562	richard@westernforestry.org

Attachment C
FBRI Projects

Plan Year	Category	Project Desc	Priority	Responsible	Status	% complete	Planned Start	Planned End
2012	ADMIN	Secure formal data sharing agreements or copyrights for legacy data to FBRI by region	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	20%	1/1/2012	12/31/2014
2012	DOCS - TUTORIAL	Tutorial for 3rd party calibration steps, methods, and data requirements incl. response surface mosaic plot methods, Nelder methods, and analysis (document); now dependent on continuous library process development	High	Jim	In-Progress	80%	1/1/2012	12/31/2013
2012	PROJECTS	SE Alaska deer model	Normal	Jim	Waiting on Someone Else	75%	1/1/2012	6/30/2014
2012	R&D - LIBRARY	SE Alaska library update, calibration	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	55%	1/1/2012	12/31/2013
2012	R&D - SITE	10-m site project (12 projects N Cal, W/E OR, SE AK, N/S ID); applying consistent methodolgy; multiple projects per region; integrate site grid	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	90%	1/1/2012	3/31/2014
2013	ADMIN	FBRI Chart of Accounts/Category clean-up	Normal	Jim/Richard/BOD	In-Progress	90%	9/9/2013	11/11/2013
2013	ADMIN	Plum Creek contributing org discussion	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	50%	9/9/2013	1/31/2014
2013	ADMIN	Hancock contributing org discussion	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	50%	9/9/2013	1/31/2014
2013	ADMIN	Columbia Resources contributing org discussion	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	50%	11/12/2013	1/31/2014
2013	DOCS - TECH	FPS source code documented within code (comments); also a separate data dictionary (external to code)	High	Jim	Not Started	0%	1/1/2013	12/31/2014
2013	DOCS - TUTORIAL	FPS COMBINED **TEXTBOOK**: inventory, **silviculture**, growth & yield, planning (FINAL document)	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	90%	1/1/2013	3/5/2014
2013	R&D - LIBRARY	Continuous library development and implementation (taper, site index, growth)	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	40%	1/1/2013	11/11/2014
2013	R&D - SITE	Regional site grid development	Normal	Chuck/Jim/Contractor	In-Progress	75%	5/15/2013	12/31/2013
2013	SUCCESSION	Candidate search - Biometrician/Programmer for source code modification	High	BOD/Jim	In-Progress	5%	1/1/2013	12/31/2014
2014	DOCS - TECH	FPS Application Developers' Guide: 3rd party FPS applications	Low	Jim/Chuck	In-Progress	5%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
2014	MARKETING	ITC Timber Symposium Conf	Normal	Jim/Ken	Not Started	0%	6/23/2014	6/26/2014
2014	MARKETING	SAF-CIF-IUFRO World Congress	Normal	Jim A / Dan / Ken / Jim M	Not Started	0%	10/5/2014	10/11/2014
2014	MARKETING	Endowment Committee Presentation	Normal	Jim/Dan	Not Started	0%		
2014	PROJECTS	Yakama Nation AAC	Normal	Jim/Ken	In-Progress	15%	10/28/2013	12/31/2014
2014	PROJECTS	Landowner Assistance	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
2014	R&D - PLOTS	Plot designs, remeasurements, response surface mosaic	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	1/1/2014	6/30/2014
2014	R&D - PLOTS	Ranking of existing installations	Normal	Jim	In-Progress	1%	1/1/2014	12/31/2014
2014	SUCCESSION	Contract library calibration using tutorial	Normal	Contractor	Not Started	0%	1/1/2014	6/30/2014
2014	WORKSHOP	FPS workshop - 2 day	Normal	Jim	Not Started	0%	3/5/2014	3/6/2014
2015	SUCCESSION	Contract programmer to modify FPS upgrade to 64-bit	Normal	Contractor	Not Started	0%	1/1/2015	12/31/2015