

WSRI UPDATE FOR SPRING OF 2015

Unlike the Northern Fir tree that enters dormancy in the winter of 2014 yet goes about a dormant metamorphic activity in preparation for growth in the Spring of 2015 and beyond, WSRI Management is actively preparing for the future. A recap, ring by ring, follows:

RESEARCH:

There are currently three Projects being completed and will be presented at the April Annual Meeting.

- FACTORS AFFECTING FUEL COST, Tom Gallagher, Auburn University
- VALADATING SOUTHERN LOGGING COST INDEX, Dale Greene, Shawn Baker, Richard Mei, University of Georgia
- DEVELOPING WESTERN LOGGING COST AS BASIS FOR COST INDICIES, Beth Dodson, Todd Morgan, Steve Hayes, Josh Meek, University of Montana

There is one new Project being introduced by the Technical Team Chaired by Crad Jaynes that addresses a review and expansion of the first WSRI Project, TRUCK TURN TIME STUDY. The new project will include all key factors in the supply chain that affect turn times / cost from the stump to the mill and return, Region by Region, not just at the mill and down South as in the first Project. This Project will be comprehensive and far reaching yet promises to be helpful to each segment of WSRI membership across the Country.

GROWTH:

The current marketing Program, led by Richard Lewis, is in full swing with the publication of WSRI NEWSLETTERS, Facebook Advertising and soon, WSRI Media Briefings with Hatton Brown and the Northern Logging publication to start with.

RESULTS: WSRI and its Research are becoming better known through these efforts and several new members have been signed up and inquiries about WSRI and research are increasing. These activities will be reported on by Lewis during the Business Session.

BUSINESS & ANNUAL MEETING PREP:

WSRI, like each of you, is proceeding with budget formation and a business Plan for 2015. An Annual dues survey is necessary to determine expected revenue and to determine how much research can be afforded in 2015 & beyond.

Preparation for the WSRI Annual Meeting on April 27th in Nashville is in the beginning stages as this is written on Thanksgiving Day. Rick Meyer is providing the liaison between FRA and WSRI to assure that there is a smooth flow of activity between the two groups. There were several attendees last year that indicated their preference that Presentations and WSRI business sessions be separated. Early planning will take this into consideration with separate sessions for the business portion for the WSRI Board in the early morning with three presentations after the business session before lunch. This takes into consideration the FRA Executive Committee meeting planned after lunch in which the WSRI Board has several members involved and the WSRI members that want to make it a one day meeting yet see the presentations that they paid for with their dues.

DEALING WITH A CHANGING WORLD:

The Forest Products business is constantly changing with personnel changes as well. The WSRI Board of Directors has many new members brought about by member company's personnel

changes. These new members will be introduced at the spring meeting and familiarized with the WSRI business at hand. Future WSRI business strategy and management will be discussed and voted on so good attendance by Board members is encouraged! WSRI Board meetings are open to the public and all interested parties are invited. Those that are just interested in the research presentations are invited to that portion of the meeting.

The WSRI Meeting precedes the Annual FRA meeting and WSRI members are encouraged to attend both meetings if possible. Full meeting details and registration materials for both groups will be forthcoming.

Jim Fendig
WSRI Executive Director