



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

School of Forest Resources

December 24, 2009

To: Faculty and Staff

Re: Rural Technology Initiative and associated personnel

When Professor Bruce Lippke retired this Autumn and became an emeritus Professor, he suggested and I agreed that the Rural Technology Initiative and, more specifically the personnel associated with it, should find a new 'home' with an associated 'owner.' Professor David Briggs, using the umbrella of the Precision Forestry Cooperative, has assumed management leadership over the former Rural Technology Initiative and its associated personnel, specifically Kevin Ceder, Larry Mason, James McCarter, Matthew McLaughlin, and Luke Rogers.

Although the Rural Technology Initiative no longer has funding, its name will be carried forward into the future. It was and continues to be a model for engaging natural resource-based communities and interested people. It was initiated in January 2000 under Professor Lippke's leadership and thus became a model for how research and new technologies could be rapidly and effectively brought to forestry-based communities in Washington State. Funded by a Congressional Appropriation through the USDA – Forest Service Cooperative Programs, it brought together the University of Washington, Washington State University, Washington State University's Cooperative Extension Program, and USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry. Professor Lippke working with Professor Don Hanley initiated a whole series of workshops, presentations, events and research projects addressing the needs of communities and small private-forest landowners. From growing hardwoods to thinking about biodiversity, biofuels, fire, riparian corridors and wildlife, this group brought information and innovative analyzes and display tools to local communities and people through direct presentations or presentations at a wide variety of local to national meetings: 2008 Bioenergy Conference and Exhibition, Alder Symposium, Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals, Coastal Bio-Energy Forum, CFR Alumni Association, CFR Graduate Student Symposium, Denman Forestry Series, Family Foresters Workshop, Forest Products Society, House Committee on Resources, Intertribal Timber Council, IUFRO meetings, National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry, Northwest Environmental Forum, Pacific Logging Congress, the Washington Farm Forest Association, Washington Hardwoods Commission, Washington Society of American Foresters, Western Forest Economists. It was a major participant in the campus Arbor Day Fairs, scientists and staff associated with RTI conducted research and published technical reports and refereed publications, it provided web- and video-based copies of many of the major



presentations. It was a model system of how the University can effectively educate and interface with interested people. It developed an extraordinary external loyal following.

Forest Resources, with activities such as the RTI, UWBG: CUH & WPA, CSF at Pack Forest, ONRC, the PFI, the SMC, CINTRAFOR, NW Environmental Forum, Denman Forest Series, WRCC, etc., is a model for outreach for the College of the Environment. Hopefully in the near future, we will find ways to make outreach within the School and across the College truly efficient and effective.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas Hinckley
Interim Director
School of Forest Resources