



# Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

*Center for Tropical Forest Science – Forest Global Earth Observatory*

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Dear Jim,

Following our recent discussion, I am pleased to endorse your proposal to add Trelease Woods to the Forest Global Earth Observatory (ForestGEO) forest dynamics plot network. Given the long-history of forest inventory work at Trelease Woods, this site provides a unique perspective on how forest composition and carbon storage have changed over nearly a century. The addition of the Trelease Woods site will also further expand the network of forest plots in eastern deciduous forests across the Midwest, strengthening our ability to detect how global environmental changes are affecting these forests.

The ForestGEO network, coordinated by the Smithsonian Institution, is a global network of research plots focused on forest dynamics and diversity. Over the past three decades, the CTFS-ForestGEO network, involving hundreds of scientists from dozens of institutions, has established 65 standardized large-scale long-term forest monitoring plots in 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. This international collaboration is now monitoring the growth and survival of 6 million trees in over 12,000 species

Joining the ForestGEO network provides many opportunities for collaboration and data-sharing across sites, both within the US, and internationally. ForestGEO provides opportunities for faculty, post-docs and graduate students to participate in data analysis workshops that take advantage of the collective ForestGEO datasets and provide a venue for researchers to propose additional network-wide research projects. We have recently developed a network-wide internship program which enables undergraduate students to gain experience at other ForestGEO network sites.

Your proposal for large plot in the Trelease Woods has my full support. Please let me know if you require further information.

With best wishes,

Stuart J. Davies  
Director, CTFS-ForestGEO  
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