

**Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
Archaeological Dating Program
University of Arizona**

Notice to Southwestern Archaeologists: New Tree-ring Dating Pricing Structure

Approximately one year ago (July 2003), University budget cuts and other factors forced the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research to institute a new fee structure, the first change in more than a decade. In response to increasing costs and insufficient fee income, we initiated a minimum \$250 charge and \$25 per accessioned sample fee, with lower fees for non-accessioned samples. This change inadvertently complicated the submissions and budgeting processes for both the LTRR staff and Southwestern archaeologists. Because no one can determine the dating potential of samples until they are analyzed, many of our clients were unable to budget for the appropriate number of dateable, potentially dateable, and undateable samples.

Therefore, effective November 1, 2004, the following rate structure will be implemented. All samples will be assessed a flat \$20 sample fee and our minimum charge will decrease to \$240. There will be no differentiation between dated samples, undated samples with future dating potential that are accessioned into the collections, and samples with no dating potential that require only species identification and are discarded or returned to the submitter. This structure will allow principal investigators and project directors to more precisely plan for the costs of dendrochronological analysis.

As prior to July 2003, the most economical and efficient way to submit samples will be as a group, but they need not be from the same structure, or even site. The fee structure will be:

- an accession with a minimum of 12 samples will cost \$240 (12 x \$20) and is most cost efficient;
- 1-12 samples will cost \$240 (the minimum charge);
- 20 samples will cost \$400;
- 30 samples will cost \$600 (30 x \$20);
- And so forth

As in decades past, our policy will be to accept and process all submissions, funded or not. Without sufficient fee income, approximately \$50,000 per year, the archaeological dating program might have to be severely curtailed or even eliminated. We need to recover as much of the actual cost of analysis as possible, but also realize that certain specific circumstances (no or limited funding, an unusually large number of samples, etc.) may prohibit the full recovery of costs. Therefore, charges for individual accessions remain negotiable depending on available funds and other factors. Please contact us about financial arrangements before (or after) submitting samples for dendrochronological analysis.