

CANADA/U.S. FOREST HEALTH SUMMIT



One Continent; One Forest; One Threat
Report and Recommendations

Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summit

ONE CONTINENT; ONE FOREST; ONE THREAT: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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This report was developed by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities on behalf of the USDA Forest Service and the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

www.usendowment.org

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The What: The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) of Natural Resources Canada an invitation only "summit" examining ways to enhance border collaboration and improve response to forest health crises. The only event hosted at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC was convened by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment).

Key leaders with an interest and a role to play in the future of North American forests were assembled to establish a vision that will build on past and continuing collaboration between the two countries. The Summit first step in establishing a strategic direction with the details for implementation to be subsequently developed by scientists and other key leaders from the respective organizations and other interested stakeholders. Two government, nonprofit and private sector officials with roles and responsibilities that complemented each other participated.

The Why: We inhabit a continent with rich and diverse forests. They are the source of the greenest of building life-giving water, abundant fish and wildlife, recreation that leads to spiritual enrichment, and so much more. We cannot sustain those forests in healthy and productive conditions unless we take immediate action.

The mountain pine beetle, a native forest pest, has seriously impacted forest stands across the western half of North America. Disturbances of this type occur independent of sovereign borders and generate tens of billions of dollars in direct loss and community and societal disruptions in the United States and Canada. The exotic Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) identified just over a decade ago near Detroit, MI, and Windsor, ON, has in short order eliminated millions of ash trees from urban, suburban, and native forests. The costs and losses that will be generated over the next 10 years by this single pest have been estimated at \$2 billion (US) per year. These costs will be borne by municipal governments, property owners, nursery operators, and forest products companies. The reality is that mountain pine beetle and EAB are just two examples of a growing list of threats to North America's forests.



One Continent; One Forest; One Threat. This satellite image showing North America with political boundaries served as backdrop for the entire Summit.

In reporting the intent of convening the group, USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said, "The borders that separate the United States and Canada don't segregate threats to our natural resources. The countries share common environmental concerns. It is critical that we continue to collaborate and address current and future land management challenges as partners."

Canada's Minister of Natural Resources highlighted that "by identifying and working together, we aim to maximize the value of the critical work that scientists and researchers are doing on both sides of the border to ensure the health of our forest sector."

The How: Participants in the Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summit agree that foundationally:

- < The forests of the two countries are among the most important and valuable natural assets in the world;
- < Insects, diseases and pests, whether endemic or exotic, move irrespective of political boundaries;
- < The changing climate evidenced by warming temperatures and longer freeze periods exacerbated by longer periods of drought is resulting in levels of forest loss and associated wildfires that far exceed the past several decades;
- < The challenges are of such magnitude and the speed of occurrence, such a pace as to overwhelm traditional methods of detection and response; and,
- < Canada and the U.S., as well as our rich forests and our collective citizens will be well served by a more open, collaborative, shared holistic approach to the situation.

Therefore, the respective leaders from the public and private sectors assembled agree that:

- < Past collaboration between and among our scientists and organizations provides a sound footing upon which to build a more strategic and holistic approach using the expertise and resources of respective organizations to respond to the continent's burgeoning forest health challenges;
- < Such response will be further fleshed out with specific plans and actions that start with perhaps a small pilot project to help establish a model for broad application;
- < Sound information that is readily available to all who need it is vital to success;
- < We must, using this sound data, establish early detection and responses to limit the number of issues at the level of continental threat;
- < Such work will be founded on a systems approach with a commitment to reduce duplication by increasing collaboration and taking advantage of differing capabilities, skills, and talents to segment problems to facilitate learning and response;
- < We will include funders, performers and users of scientific information in planning;
- < We will to the maximum extent practical seek to develop a "one plan, one voice" approach to persistence and clear prioritization of need;
- < We will use a common sense of urgency;
- < We will acknowledge the importance of applying adaptive management approaches that recognize we learn by and while doing, thereby adjusting as we learn; and
- < We must draw lessons from the human health sector in focusing on prevention versus treatment.

OVERVIEW

The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) of Natural Resources Canada hosted only "summit" examinations to enhance border collaboration and improve response to the continent's health crises. The day event hosted at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC, was convened by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment).

Key leaders with an interest and a role to play in the future of North American forests were assembled to establish a vision that will build on past and continuing collaboration between the two countries. The Summit is the first step in establishing a strategic direction with the details for implementation to be developed subsequently by scientists and other key leaders from the respective organizations and other interested stakeholders. Federal and private sector officials with roles and responsibilities that converge around forests participated.

Context

Canada and the U.S. have a long and successful history of collaborating on varied natural resource and resource issues. Much of this work has occurred at the individual researcher or project level. In an era of increasing threats that span the continent and the globe and in a time of growing resource limitation (human and financial), that we use this foundation of collaboration to build effective, efficient and results that can better address current challenges, employing what has been called "One Continent; One Forest; One Threat"

One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

For example, the mountain pine beetle, a native forest pest, has seriously impacted forest stands across the continent. Disturbances of this type occur without respect for sovereign borders and generate tens of billions in direct losses and community and societal disruptions. The exotic Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) identified just over a decade ago near Detroit, MI, and Windsor, ON, has in short order eliminated millions of ash trees from suburban, and native forests. The costs and losses that will be generated over the next 10 years by this species have been estimated without accounting for environmental impacts at \$2 billion (US) per year. These costs will be borne by municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest products companies. The reality is that mountain pine beetle and EAB are just two examples of a growing list of threats to North American forests.

Additional Examples of Insect and Pathogen Affecting North American Forests

Insects		Pathogens	
Native	Non-Native	Native	Non-Native
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Douglasfir Tussock Moth < Southern Pine Beetle < Eastern Spruce Budworm < Western Spruce Budworm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Asian Longhorned Beetle < Browntail Moth < European Gypsy Moth < Asian Gypsy Moth < Hemlock Woolly Adelgid < Nun Moth < Sirex Woodwasp < Gold Spotted Oak Borer < Mediterranean Pine Engraver < Walnut Twig Beetle < Redbay Ambrosia Beetle < Spruce Aphid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Dwarf Mistletoe < Root diseases < Fusiform Rust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < Chestnut blight < Sudden Oak Death < White Pine Blister Rust < Oak Wilt < Butternut Canker Disease < Dutch Elm Disease < Thousand Canker Disease < Laurel Wilt < Beech Bark Disease <p>*Assumed non native</p>

New threats are appearing with increasing frequency. New technologies and genetic studies offering the potential for enhanced prevention, detection, and treatment.

Movement of Goods: Threat and Opportunity

Native and introduced pests have a positive impact on this continent and abroad. Native pests disrupt domestic fiber supply chains and transform exports into a potential source of risk, threatening the forest estate of this continent and beyond. Access to export markets is key to the success of the North American forest sector. All acknowledged that enhanced understanding of these risks and opportunities would serve all well.

The Challenge: A Summit to Set a Vision and Course of Action

Understanding that climate change is compounding our need for timely and effective tools to respond to increasing risks of pests, diseases, and pollutants, the CFS and USFS sought participation in the exploration and development of a cooperative vision, and a plan for shared specific actions that could help meet the forest health challenges facing both nations.

Key Learnings

In her opening comment, Dr. Ann Bartus, Deputy Under Secretary, USDA Research, Education, and Economics, highlighted all of the importance of historical information to predict future events. As participants gathered in Washington, DC, one of the largest wildfires at this early stage of the season raged in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Forest scientists and forest health professionals are using datasets collected through the annual forest pest surveys and integrated with the FIA program information forecasts massive insect outbreaks and wildfires exacerbated by naturally thick stand conditions that many suspect have been driven by a changing climate.

In setting the context in Canada, Mr. Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, CFS, set forth the challenge for leaders to establish a common set of strategic goals to guide science investments. Pointing to the mountain pine beetle and ash borer examples, he noted that solutions for such complex problems are beyond the capacity of individual organizations and thus called for effective priority setting and collaboration.

If we are to successfully address growing needs and demands in a diminishing financial and human resources, it is imperative that we engage all interests in new collaboratives and models. Single examples from each country show the potential to work differently to yield greater results:

- < In the U.S., the Forest Health Initiative, a science-based program to explore the potential of modern biotechnology to address burgeoning forest health challenges, uses a braided approach to work the science, social, environmental, and regulatory dimensions concurrently. Using a leverage funding model and taking a holistic approach to the issue "at the speed of need" is a short timeline.
- < While most forest research organizations are either seeking basic science or new product innovations, FPInnovations might best be described as fragmented, uncoordinated, and unfunded. Under the forest sector in Canada has accomplished an unprecedented model that revolves around a singular vision. FPInnovations, at just five years young, was created as a merger of three independent forest products research organizations: Paprican, and Fealoc along with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre of CFS. FPInnovations has been a catalyst in creating an innovation ecosystem in the forest sector, including the industry, governments, universities, suppliers, and its own innovation capacity.

¹ The National Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (FIA) of the USDA Forest Service is a continuous operation since 1930 yielding a continuously updated comprehensive nationwide inventory of forest resources. Information collected and analyzed under this Program are the primary source of biological and social data on the conservation and sustainable management of forests across all ownerships in the United States.

BACKGROUND

Process and Motivation

More than one-third of the total land area of Canada and the U.S. is blanketed with forests. The two countries share many ecological, socioeconomic and other commonalities, and have similar needs with regard to forest science and products research. Historically the two countries have benefitted greatly from pooling their expertise on science. There is now a growing imperative for shared benefit in light of more complex challenges in and around our forests as well as comparatively fewer resources to deal with them.

In December 2011, the heads of the U.S. agencies gathered to identify a small package of opportunities to enhance bilateral collaboration in a way that would add value and be both cost-effective. Just a preliminary review and enumeration of existing initiatives revealed that, broadly speaking, pests, climate change, and fire management dominate an already extensive field of active bilateral collaboration. Additional work also falls in the area of mapping and analysis given the geographic link between Canada and the U.S. Outside of the basic science arena, there is notable collaboration in the area of forest products research.

Overall, however, it is clear that the nature of collaboration is varied and indicative of a range of drivers such as links, geographic proximity and professional interests. Much appears to be supply-driven because we can rather than demand-driven because we need to or should. The objective of this summit is to engage more strategically on a bilateral basis taking into account existing collaboration to advance to a more strategic and result-oriented path that would benefit the forests and peoples of both countries.

As the two federal authorities with lead responsibility for forests and forestry at their respective national levels in two countries, the Forest Services' understand that the two countries have a shared interest in forest health. Therefore, we are seeking to gather top leaders from each of the primary public and private perspectives with a national scope and vision, to determine if the time is right to take a more holistic look at threats, opportunities and solutions to a more strategic and coordinated approach to forest issues at the continental level. While we know there are areas of interest and engagement, we have chosen as a starting point to limit this initial survey and plan to focus on areas directly related to forest health.

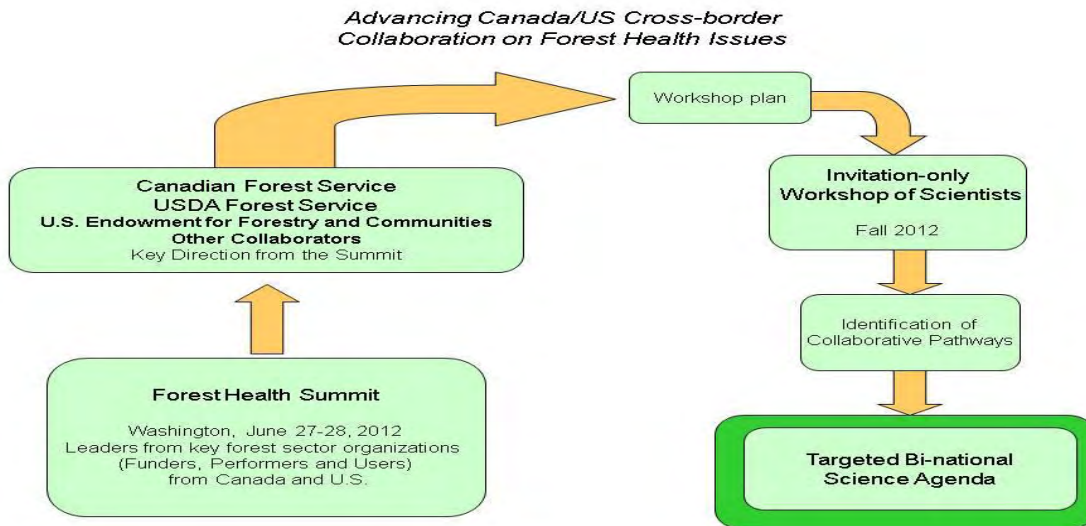
One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

One Continent Canada and the U.S. not only share the world's longest border of any two countries, but also a population of 400,000 people and \$1.4 B in trade, our countries are truly one continent.

One Forest While we share a continent, perhaps no feature symbolizes our continent more than our forests. Ranked third and fourth respectively in total forest area globally, when combined the forest area of the two countries is only by that of Russia. Our peoples and those of the entire world enjoy the bounty of our forests and their many benefits from clean air, fresh water, diverse wildlife and fish, places of recreation and natural beauty, to the products that build our lives.

One Threat Statistics are difficult to quickly combine, but perhaps the National US Report on Sustainable Forests 2010 serves as an indicator. That report finds that levels of forest disturbance are rising, including a three-fold increase in insect-induced mortality relative to the previous report less than a decade earlier. In fact, the cumulative area of just those forests in British Columbia affected to some degree by the mountain pine beetle is estimated at 17 million hectares. Similarly, an area almost equal size at 44.8 million (18 million hectares) has been affected across the western U.S.

Proposed Pathway



Planned Invitees

While the intent of the Summit was to be open and inclusive, in the interim the sponsoring organizations felt that it was best to begin with a smaller group of organizations and individuals who could review, consider, and set the strategic direction for the effort. In doing so participation was limited to those organizations, both public and private, that not only have a key stake in the health of the continent's forests, but also who have been recognized by their peers and others as having a significant role in the health of their respective forests.

Desired Outcome

To identify forest health challenges that are of strategic importance to the North American forest sector that can be addressed through enhanced bilateral engagement and collaboration.

PROCESS

The Summit was short on presentation and high on engagement. Carlton Owsen, President & CEO of the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, provided an opening address (To challenge remarks-visit <http://www.usendowmentblog.blogspot.com/>)

Dr. Ann Bartuska, Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Research, Education, and Economics, stood in for USFS Chief Tidwell who had been dispatched to Colorado to accompany President Obama in a review of the losses associated with the devastating wildfires and Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, CFS, provided context.

The engagement segments of the meeting were broken into three discussion groups with participation being of five "discussion rounds." Participants addressed

- < Round I: Identify success stories of process or programs that are working exceptionally well within respective organization and identify key concepts that would benefit others.
- < Round II: Identify ways that each organization is addressing a rapidly changing environment where diminishing resources and growing expectations/increasing demands are the norm.
- < Round III: In 10 years, how will your operating world look if we started doing things differently? What would you stop doing and what would be the impact?
- < Round IV: Using an "appreciative inquiry" process, based on the best of what we know, how would we move these lessons/concepts forward?
- < Round V: Get very specific about directions you wish to see advanced to address forest health with the understanding that a follow-up session of scientists may be tasked to help define the specific approaches and implementation plans.

Between discussions rounds III and IV, Reaves, Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USFS, and Mes Hartree, Director General, Science Program Branch, CFS, provided an illustrative example of an innovative advance in their respective sectors (See pull outs on Pages X & Y)

Jacques Gagnon, Director, Innovation and Integration, Science and Programs Branch, CFS, and Dr. Samuel Stouder, Associate Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USFS, facilitated a final plenary designed to draw key learning strategies from the final session.

Tom Rosser then provided final thoughts and Carlton Owsen concluded the proceedings

KEY LEARNINGS PLENARY SESSIONS

Among single words that participants used to describe the Summit opportunity, "exciting" was the most common. Although we did not record the session in any form other than notes, three specific stories seem worth capturing and sharing.

Using Historic Data to Predict Future Events

In her opening challenge, Dr. Ann Bartuska, reminded all of the importance of historical information to predict events. As participants gathered in Washington, DC some of the largest wildfires at this early stage of the season were burning in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. Forest and forest health professionals using data sets collected through the annual forest pest surveys and integrated with information made predictions of massive insect outbreaks followed by massive wildfires resulting from those conditions.

Collaboration, Modern Science, Funding and a Singular Focus at the Speed of Need

A collaborative effort to advance the understanding and role of biotechnology in forest health challenges. The Forest Health Initiative (FHI) was initially funded by USFS, Duke Energy, and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities. FHI initially focuses on an icon of Eastern forests, the American chestnut, as the tree as a pathway to explore new approaches to enhance the health and vitality of other trees, forests, and ecosystems. FHI has a holistic approach to address emerging forest health threats by assessing not just the scientific but also the societal and regulatory issues concurrently.

Among the advances that Jim Reaves shared as foundational to success in FHI we

- < When scientists proposed a 20 year timeframe to achieve the goal of a transgenic (related tree genes Chinese chestnut and American chestnut) American chestnut, the scientists agreed that it might be done in "twelve to fifteen years" with a good margin of skepticism, the scientists agreed that the goal would indeed be three years.
- < The program amassed essentially all of the funds necessary to achieve the objective \$7 to \$10 million and without using the traditional request for proposals (RFP) approach, recruited the range of universities, agencies, and other organizations that when taken together, could work the entire project value chain continuously.
- < The program would be operated in a "fish bowl" with open access to all of the information at the same time. The program would be directed by a Steering Committee with three funding sponsors along with representatives of broader social interests (The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund) and an independent scientist.
- < The science program would be coordinated and reviewed by an independent Scientific Board with impeccable credentials and credibility but without the benefit or access to any of the program funding for his own work.
- < All work was founded on a commitment to let the science and facts drive the process and not to cross regulatory boundaries unless the information supported that such could be done with a high margin and assurance of environmental and human safety.

Breaking Down Barriers and Building New Structural Models to Support Sound Forestry

On the issue of alignment and synergies, Mary Niles provided an overview of the experience in Canada:

- < While most forest research organizations whether seeking basic science or new product innovations tend to be described as fragmented, uncoordinated, and unfunded, the forest sector in Canada has accomplished an unprecedented model that revolves around a singular vision.
- < FPI Innovations, at just five years young, was created as a merger of three independent forest product organizations Forintek, Paprican, and Feal along with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre of CFS.
- < FPI Innovations has been a catalyst in creating an innovation hub for the forest sector, involving the governments, universities, suppliers, and innovation capacity.

KEY LEARNINGS--BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- < Round I: Identify success stories of process or programs that are working exceptionally well within respective organization and identify key concepts that would benefit others.
 - o There were a wide range of stories and examples of success across the cadre of organizations represented. Perhaps the greatest surprise was the consistency of components that served. Among the keys:
 - § A shared vision (one plan) founded on partnerships including all sectors (government; industry; academia; and non-profits)
 - § A common message (one voice); and
 - § Focus (purposeful vigilance)

- < Round II: Identify ways that each organization is addressing a rapidly changing environment where diminishing resources and growing expectations/increasing demands are the norm.
 - o All organizations, regardless of sector, are being subjected to the dilemmas of tighter (if not cut) resources both funds and people at a time when constituencies are demanding more services. Among the keys to dealing with this new reality:
 - § Enhanced use of technology to collect appropriate information and solid analytics to understand challenges and opportunities;
 - § Greater dependence on true partnerships to spread the load
 - § Prioritizations saying "no" to the PIGs (pretty important goals); and,
 - § Better use of "story telling" to help share

- < Round III: In 10 years, how will your operating world look if doing things differently? (What would you stop doing and what would be the impact?)
 - o All acknowledge that past practices/approaches (silos; individual scientist vs. ecosystems) are poor anchors that impede process. Yet, there are already signs of change for the better. Using new processes and approaches, in 10 years:
 - § The focus would be on the power and potential
 - § There would be a more common understanding and shared strategic vision within and across organizations;
 - § Linkages between government and the private sector for profit and non-profit- would be stronger and more productive;
 - § The sector would be much better at understanding and deploying effective messages;
 - § We would learn from the human health sector to
 - o At the same time we'd stop doing some things:
 - § Compete within the sector for the same piece of the pie vs. growing the pie;
 - § Stop thinking "extraction" from forests;

- < Round IV: Using an "appreciative inquiry" process, based on how would we move these lessons/concepts forward?
 - o Building on these general strategies for positive change, the focus moved to identification of lessons that could be deployed to address continental forest health challenges. Among the findings:
 - § Get the "right people" in the room to ensure traditional forestry organizations to bring all with information and solutions to the table;
 - § Develop an aligned, long-term vision and pathway to address the challenge;
 - § Engage science, policy, and markets for a common agenda; and,
 - § Acknowledge that new models are necessary, but we must continue to evolve

-
- ◁ Round V: Get very specific about directions you wish to see advanced to address forest health with the understanding that a follow-up session of scientists may be tasked to help define the specific approaches and implementation plans.
 - Among the specific findings and recommendations include
 - § Use the power of the media to raise public understanding and support;
 - § Leverage the resources and expertise of all organizations across political boundaries to implement a holistic plan;
 - § Find ways to deploy new technologies for more rapid detection of problems (e.g. invasive species) and,
 - § Develop and deploy a set of filters to help drive the process:
 - ◁ Proactive
 - ◁ Systems approach
 - ◁ Inclusive social, economic and biological
 - ◁ Constantly add new players
 - ◁ Use new tools and technologies

RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants in the Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summit agree that foundationally:

- < The forests of the two countries are among the most important and valuable natural assets in the world;
- < Insects, diseases and pests are either endemic or exotic and are not bound by political boundaries;
- < The changing climate is evidenced by warming temperatures and longer fire-free periods exacerbated by longer periods of droughts resulting in levels of forest loss and associated wildfires that far exceed the the past several decades;
- < The challenges are of such magnitude and the speed of occurrence such a pace as to overwhelm traditional methods of detection and response; and,
- < Canada and the U.S., as well as our rich forests and our collective citizens will be well served by a more collaborative, shared holistic approach to the situation.

Therefore, the respective leaders from the public sector assembled agree that:

- < Past collaboration between and among our scientists and organizations provides a sound footing upon which to build a more strategic and holistic approach to the continent's burgeoning forest health challenge;
- < Such response will be further fleshed out with specific plans and actions that start with perhaps a pilot project to help establish a model for broader application;
- < Sound information that is readily available to all who need it is vital to success;
- < We must, using this sound data, establish early detection and responses to limit the number of issues at the level of continental threat;
- < Such work will be based on a systems approach with a commitment to reduce duplication by increasing collaboration and taking advantage of differing capabilities, skills, and talents to segment problems to facilitate learning and response;
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- < We will use a common sense of urgency;
- < We will acknowledge the importance of applying adaptive management approaches that recognize we learn by and while doing, thereby adjusting as we learn; and
- < We must draw lessons from the human health sector in focusing on prevention versus treatment.

APPENDIX

PARTICIPATION

- < Ann Bartuska Deputy Under Secretary, USDA Research, Education, and Economics
- < Cindy Bell Executive Vice President, Corporate Development, Genome Canada
- < Catalino Blanchet National Program Leader, Division of Environmental Systems, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- < Catherine Cobden Interim President & CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada
- < Jay Farrell Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters
- < Jacques Gagnon Director, Innovation and Integration Division, Science & Programs Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- < Franz Hochstrasser Confidential Assistant, USDA Research, Education, and Economics
- < Andre Isabelle Director, Energy, Environment and Resources Division, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- < Catalina Lopez-Correa Vice President, Scientific Affairs, Genome Quebec
- < David Kaplan Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- < Vasken Khabayan Counselor, Trade Policy, Embassy of Canada
- < Pierre Lapointe President & CEO, FPInnovations
- < Jean-Pierre Martel Vice President, Strategic Alliances, FPInnovations
- < Tom Martir President & CEO, American Forest Foundation
- < Glenn Mason Director General, Policy, Economics and Industry Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- < Mary Mes Hartree Director General, Science Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- < Carlton Ower President & CEO, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities
- < Jim Reaves Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USDA Forest Service
- < Tony Ritchie Executive Director, Plant Health Bioprotection, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- < Paul Robertson Minister, Economic, Embassy of Canada
- < Tom Rosser Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service
- < Steven Shafiq Deputy Administrator, Natural Resources and Sustainable Agriculture, USDA Agricultural Research Service
- < Deanna Stouder Associate Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USDA Forest Service
- < Dave Tenny President & CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners
- < Tom Tidwell Chief, USDA Forest Service

News Release USDA

Release No. 0213.12

Contact: Office of Communications (202) 320-

United States, Canadian Forest Officials Hold Forest Health Summit Officials join to discuss common land t
develop common strategies

WASHINGTON, June 28, 2010. U.S. Forest Service and Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada o
convened here for the first forest health summit between the two countries to discuss issues of common
invasive species.

"The borders that separate the United States and Canada don't segregate threats to our natural resources
Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The countries share common environmental concerns. It is critical that
collaborate and address current and future land management challenges as partners."

The overall goal of the summit was to explore and develop a cooperative vision and plan for actions to add
health challenges. The Forest Service has a long history of working with researchers and land managers, but un
now collaborations have typically occurred among individual researchers working on specific projects.

"This summit is an important first step toward the creation of a science agenda," the Honorable
Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. "By identifying issues on which we can work together, w
maximize the value of the critical work that scientists and researchers are doing on both sides of the bord
health of our forests and forest sector."

Warmer temperatures throughout the United States and Canada have threatened forests by increasing the
and associated diseases and pollutants. Mountain pine beetles and Emerald Ash Borer are having a
North America's forests.

The mountain pine beetle has directly caused tens of billions of dollars in damage in both countries. The Em
identified just over a decade ago near Detroit, and Windsor, Ontario, has killed off ash trees from urban,
suburban and native forests. The insect is expected to cause more than \$2 billion per year in the two coun
next 10 years.

Land managers from the two countries point to science, risk analysis and based information systems as key
focus areas to combat evolving land threats.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's fo
grasslands to meet the needs of present generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.
annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to
private landowners, and maintains the largest forest organization in the world.

#

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users).

Governments of Canada and the United States to Strengthen Cooperation on Forest Health Issues

Natural Resources Canada

June 28, 2012

OTTAWA— Forest sector officials from Canada and the U.S. gathered over the past two days in Washington for the first ever summit on forest health, to advance cooperation on shared challenges. Officials identified areas in which collaboration and knowledge exchange could enable both countries to better protect the health and vitality of the two nations' forests.

"This summit is an important step forward in U.S.-Canada forest science cooperation," said Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. "By sharing expertise and resources, we can ensure the value of the critical work that scientists and researchers are doing on both sides of the border to ensure the health of our forests and forest sector."

Canada and the U.S. have a long and successful history of collaborating on shared issues. "The borders that separate the United States and Canada don't segregate threats to our natural resources," said Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The countries share common environmental concerns. It is critical that we continue to collaborate on current and future land management challenges as partners."

The mountain pine beetle is one such challenge. The beetle is a native insect that has seriously impacted forest stands in the western half of North America, resulting in the direct loss of tens of billions of dollars in environmental and economic benefits.

Participants at the forest health summit agreed that the nature and scope of the issues faced today across the world may go beyond the individual capacity of any single organization. Greater knowledge exchange and a comprehensive research agenda would help rally science and policy within organizations from both countries.

Media may contact:

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Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Date: June 1, 2012

From: Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service
Tom Tidwell, Chief, USDA Forest Service

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Rosser".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Tidwell".

Copy: Embassy of Canada, Paul Robertson, Minister-Economic
Embassy of Canada, Vasken Khabayan, Counsellor-Trade Policy
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Carlton Owen, President & CEO

To: Canada: Invited Participants
Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Forest Products Association of Canada
FP Innovations
Genome Canada
Natural Science and Engineering Research Council

U.S.: Invited Participants
American Forest Foundation
National Alliance of Forest Owners
National Association of State Foresters
National Science Foundation
USDA, Agricultural Research Service
USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
USDA, Research, Education, and Economics
USDA, Natural Resources and the Environment
USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture

RE: Forest Health Summit

Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service (CFS) and the USDA Forest Service (USFS) seek your participation at an invitation-only summit that will examine ways to enhance cross-border collaboration and improve response to the continent's forest health crises.

Desired Outcome

Identify forest health challenges that are of strategic importance to the North American forest sector that would benefit from enhanced bilateral engagement and collaboration.

This will lead to a post-Summit "by invitation" event for public and private-sector institutions and scientists from Canada and the U.S. aimed at seeking solutions. Experts will have the opportunity to convene and assemble the information, expertise, planning, coordination, and collaboration necessary to find and implement next steps in a timely and cost-effective way.

Context

Canada and the U.S. have a long and successful history of collaborating on varied natural resources and resource-related issues. Much of this work has occurred at the individual researcher or project level. In an era of increasingly complex threats that span the continent and the globe and in a time of growing resource limitation (human and financial), it is critical that we use this foundation of collaboration to build effective, efficient, and results-oriented models that can better address current challenges, employing what has been called “science at the speed of need.”

One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

The mountain pine beetle, a native forest pest, has seriously impacted forest stands across the western half of the continent. Disturbances of this type occur without respect for sovereign borders and generate tens of billions of dollars in direct losses and community and societal disruptions in the long-term. The exotic Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) identified just over a decade ago near Detroit, MI, and Windsor, ON, has in short order eliminated millions of ash trees from urban, suburban, and native forests. The costs and losses that will be generated over the next 10 years by this single pest have been estimated – without accounting for environmental impacts – at \$2 billion (US) per year. These costs will be borne by municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest products companies. The reality is that mountain pine beetle and EAB are just two examples of a growing list of threats to North America’s forests.

Movement of Goods: Threat and Opportunity

Native and introduced pests have impact on this continent and abroad. Native pests disrupt domestic fiber supply and transform exports into a potential source of risk, threatening the forest estate of this continent and beyond. Maintaining access to export markets is key to the long term success of the North American forest sector, and an enhanced understanding of these risks and opportunities would serve all well.

The Challenge: A Summit to Set a Vision and Course of Action

Understanding that climate change is compounding our need for timely and cost-effective tools to respond to increasing risks of pests, diseases, and pollutants, the CFS and USFS seek your participation in the exploration and development of a cooperative vision, and a plan for shared specific actions that can meet the forest health challenges we currently face.

We propose to convene key leaders with an interest and a role to play in the future of North American rural and urban forests to establish a vision that will build on past and continuing collaboration between our two countries. We anticipate that subsequently, a meeting of scientists and other key leaders within our respective organizations will be necessary to further define a specific pathway for the vision and course of action we seek to establish.

Summit Details

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, an important catalyst in development of the summit concept, will serve as summit convener and facilitator. The summit will take place at the Embassy of Canada, in Washington, DC, commencing with an informal reception and dinner on the evening of Wednesday, June 27th followed by a work session beginning at 9:00 am and concluding no later than 3:30 pm on Thursday, June 28th, 2012.

Responses

We look forward to your valuable participation at this summit. Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact Carlton Owen via email carlton@usendowment.org or phone 864.233.7646.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 2012

9:00 am to 9:15 am	Welcome and Challenge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Carlton Owen, President, U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities
9:15 am to 9:35 am	Putting the Challenge in Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service (CFS) › Ann Bartuska, Deputy Under Secretary, USDA Research, Education, and Economics
9:35 am to 10:00 am	Discussion Round I
10:10 am to 10:30 am	Discussion Round I; Part 2
10:30 am to 10:40 am	Stretch Break
10:40 am to 11:30 am	Discussion Round II
11:30 am to NOON	Innovative Examples of Response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Jim Reaves, Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USFS › Mary MesHartree, Director General, Science Branch (CFS)
NOON to 12:40 pm	LUNCH
12:40 pm to 1:20 pm	Discussion Round III
1:20 pm to 2:10 pm	Discussion Round IV
2:10 pm to 2:30 pm	BREAK
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Wrap-up and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Carlton Owen
3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	CLOSING COMMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Tom Rosser

PreSummit Background Paper
Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summit
Washington, DC
June 27-28, 2012

Process and Motivation

More than one-third of the total land area of Canada and the United States (U.S.) is blanketed in forests. We share forests ecologic, socioeconomic and other commonalities, and have similar needs with regard to forest science and forest research. Historically the two countries have benefitted greatly from pooling their expertise on selected issues. There is now a growing opportunity for shared benefit in light of more complex challenges in and around our forests. We have comparatively fewer resources to deal with them.

In December 2011, the heads of the U.S. and Canadian small package of opportunities to enhance bilateral collaboration in a way that would be both strategic and cost-effective. A preliminary review and enumeration of existing initiatives revealed that, broadly speaking, climate change, and fire management dominate an already extensive field of active bilateral collaboration. This also falls in the area of mapping or spatial analysis given the geographic link between Canada and the U.S. Outside of the basic science arena, there is notable collaboration in the area of forest products research.

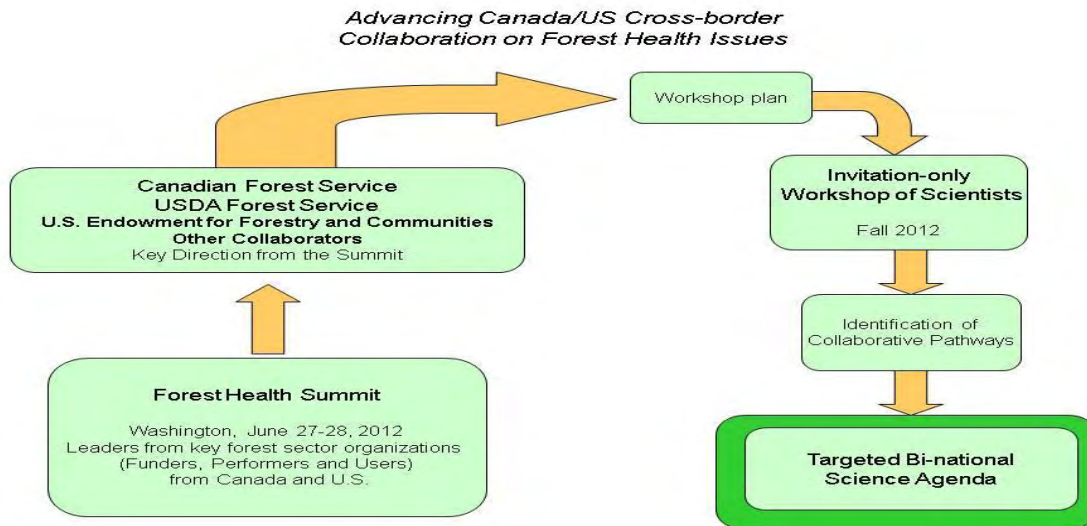
Overall, however, it is clear that the nature of collaboration is varied and indicative of a range of drivers such as links, geographic proximity and professional interests. Much appears to be supply driven because we can rather than demand driven because we need to or should. The objective of this summit is to engage more strategically on a bilateral basis taking into account existing collaboration to advance to a more strategic and path that would benefit the forests of both countries.

As the two federal authorities with lead responsibility for forests and forestry at their respective national levels in two countries, the Forest Services' understandings are taken in this topic. Therefore, we are seeking to gather top leaders from each of the primary public and private entities with a national scope and vision, to determine if the time is right to take a more holistic look at the issues, to move to a more strategic and coordinated approach to forest issues at the continental level. While we know that there are many areas of interest and engagement, we have chosen as a starting point to limit this initial survey to a few key topics related to forest health and sustainability.

One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

One Continent Canada and the U.S. not only share the world of 400,000 people and \$B.4 in trade, if we combine them, we are well on our way to being the world's largest country. One Forest While we share a continent, perhaps no feature symbolizes our common bond more than our forests. Ranked third and fourth respectively in total forest area globally, combined the forest area of the two countries is exceeded only by the one other. Our peoples enjoy the bounty of those forests and their many benefits from clean air, fresh water, wildlife and fish, places of recreation and natural beauty. The greenest of all building products are wood products. It is difficult to quickly combine, but perhaps the National Report on Sustainable Forests serves as an indicator. That report finds that levels of forest disturbance are increasing, including a threefold increase in insect-induced mortality relative to the previous report less than a decade earlier.

Proposed Pathway



Planned Invitees

While our intent is to be open and inclusive, in the end the sponsoring organizations felt that it was best to begin with a smaller group of organizations and individuals who could review, consider, and set the strategic direction for the summit. In doing so we have limited invitees to those organizations public and private that not only have a key stake in the forest health of the continent but also have the capacity to lead and coordinate the work of the summit.

Canada: Invited Participants

- Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- Forest Products Association of Canada
- FPIInnovations
- Genome Canada
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

U.S.: Invited Participants

- American Forest Foundation
- National Alliance of Forest Owners
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Science Foundation
- USDA, Agricultural Research Service
- USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Ser.
- USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
- USDA, Natural Resources and the Environment
- USDA, Research, Education, and Economics

Desired Outcome

To identify forest health challenges that are of strategic importance to the North American forest sector and benefit from enhanced cross-border engagement and collaboration.

Next Steps

This will lead to a cross-sector Institutions and Scientists Summit from Canada and the U.S. aimed at seeking solutions. Experts will have the opportunity to assemble the information, expertise, planning, coordination, and collaboration necessary to find and implement next steps in a timely and effective way.