# CANADA/U.S. FOREST HEALTH SUMMIT



One Continent; One Forest; One Threat Report and Recommendations



## Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summi

## ONE CONTINENT; ONE EREST; ONE THREAT: REPORT AND RECOMMENDIONS

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This report was developed by the U.S. Endowmentry and the USDA Forest Service and the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities <u>www.usendowmen</u>t.org August 2012

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The What: The USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) of Natural Resources Cana an invitation n I y "summit" @xamideuxayes to 2@hhanc 2-1000 dar, collaboration and improve r e s p o n s e t o rest health crises Theoday event hosted at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, D 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 Andeuidam forests were assembled to establish a vision that will build on past and continuing collaboration between the two countries. The Sumr first step in establishing a strategic direction with the details for implementations between the two scientists and other key leaders from the respective organizations and other interested stakemologies were assembled.

The Why: We inhabita continent with rich and diverse forests. They are the source of the greenest of building life-giving water, abundafish and vildlife, recreation that leads to spiritual tion, and so much informed cannot sustain those forests in healthy and productive condition. Source like the source of the greenest of building sets and the source of the sour

The mountain pine beetle, a native forest pest, has seriously impacted forest stands across the western ha Disturbances of the occurrence of billions of dollars in direct loss and community and societal disruptions internet. Ion be exotic Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) identified just over a de ago near Detroit, MI, and do or, ON, has in short order eliminated millions of ash trees from urban, suburban, native forests. The costs and losses that will be generated over the next 10 years by this single pest have - without accounting for environmental internet. US) per year. These costs will be borne by municipalit property owners, nursery operators, and forest operations.



just two examples of a growing list of threats to Nort A merica's forests.

One Continent; One Forest; One Threats satellite i mage showing North America political boundaries served as backdrop for the entire Summit.

In reporting the intent of contveningoud/USDA Secretary of Agriculture boildersn Vi that separate the United States and Canada don't segregate threats to our natural resources. The countrishare common environmental concerns. It is critical that continue to collaborate and addresstcamd future land management challenges as partners."

Canada's Minister of Natura highlighted that "by identi together, we aim to maximize the value of the critical work that scientists and researce to both sides of the border to ensure the health of our forest for est sector." The How: Participants in the Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summit agree that foundationally:

- The forest of the two counteries among the most important autoble anatural assist the world;
- Insects, diseases and people ther endemic or exorbio ve irrespective of political boundaries;
- The changing climateevidenced by arming temperatures and longer -freezperiods exacerbated by longer periods f drought esulting in levels of forest loss and associated wildfires that far exceed the the past several decades;
- The challenges are of such magnitude and thecspærege of occurrantgsuch a pace as to overwhelm traditional methods detection and response; and,
- Canada and the U.S., as vased ur rich forests and our collective citizens will be well served by a more of collaborative, shared holistic approach to the situation.

Therefore, the respective leaders from the *pbivate* sectors assembled *abjecte* 

- Past collaboration between and among our scientists and organizations provides a sound footing upo build a more strategic and holistics phathe expertise and resources of respective organizes pioned to r the continent's burgeoning forest health challeng
- Such response will be further fleshed out with specific plans and actions that start visitubepoint haps a species to help establish a model for broadertiapplica
- 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 issue level of continental threat;
- Such work will forunded 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 learning and response;
- We will include funders, performer users of scientific information in; planning
- We will to the maximum extent pratectiscae ek to develop a "one plated on 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 by and while doingherebyadjusing 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 on I y "summit" @mamideumages to 2@h, anc 2-0000d2r, collaboration and improve response to the continstrhealthscrifes.rTeelootagy event hosted at the Embassy of Canada in Washington, DC, was conve 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 Andeuidam runests were assembled to establish a vision that will build on past and continuing collaboration between the two countries. The Sumr first step in establishing a strategic direction with the details for implementations between the two scientists and other key leaders from the respective organizations and other interested stakemolaights velved ral and private sector officials with roles and responsibilities that converge arounded brests participa

## Context

Canada and the U.S. have a long and successful history of collaborating on varied natural resources that span the social at the individual researcher or project level. In an enteroof increasing threats that span the continent and the globe and in a time of growing resource limitation (humancate) finate that we use this foundation of collaboration to build effective, efficientented messdets that can bettee sold current challenges, employing what has been called "

#### One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

For example, the mountain pine beetle, a native forest pest, has seriously impacted forest stands across the thecontinent. Disturbances of this type occur without respect for sovereign borders and generate tens of in direct losses and community and societal disruption term the here wotic Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) identified ju over adecade 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 si been estimated without accounting for environmental impates billion (US) per year. These costs will be borned municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest products companies. The reality is that moun and EAB are just two examples a growing list of threats to North Am

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		In	sects	Pathogens					
Na	Native		Non-Native	Native			Non-Native		
< < <	Douglasfir Tussock Moth Southern Pine Beetle Eastern Spruce Budvørm Western Spruce Budworm	<     < <tr></tr>	Asian Longhorned Beetle Browntail Moth EuropearGypsy Moth Asian Gypsy Moth Hemlock Wooly Adelgid Nun Moth Sirex Woodwasp Gold Spotted Oak Borer Mediterranean Pine Engraver Walnut Twig Beetle Redbay Ambrosia Beetle Spruce Aphid	< < <	Dwarf Mistletoe Root diseases Fusiform Rust	<pre> &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;   &lt;</pre>	Chestnut blight Sudden Oak Death White Pine Blister Rust Oak Wilt Butternut Canker Disea Dutch Elm Disease Thousand Canker Disea Laurel Wilt Beech Bark Disease ssumed nomative		

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

## Movement of Goods: Threat and Opportunity

Native and introduced **peter** impact on this continent and abroad. Native pests disrupt domestic fiber supports transform exports into a potential source of risk, threatening the forest estate of this continent and beyon access to export markets is keyotog them h success of the North American forest sector. All acknowledged the 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 chargepounding our need for timely aneffective tools to respond to increasing risks of pests, diseases, and pollutants, the CFS and USFS sought participation in the exploration and develo cooperative vision, and a plan for shared specific tance could help meet the forest health challenges facing be nations.

#### Key Learnings

In her openinggmmentBr. Ann Bartus Be, puty Under Secretary, USDA Research, Education, and Eeroning tedics, all of the importance of historical infotomatied ict future events. As participants gathered in Washington, DC of the largest wildfires at this early stage of the season raged in Colorado, Idaho, Mol yanaing taken scientisted forest health professions and dataets collected rough the annual forest pest surveys and integrated with the FIA programinformation forecast assive insect outbreaks and wildfires exacerbated unglynthick stand conditions that many suspected area by changing limate.

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 mounta emerad ash borer examples, he noted that solutions for such complex problems are beyond the capacity of in organizations and thus called for effective priority setting and collaboration.

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

- In the U.S., therest Health Initiative, a bbased program to plutthe potential of modern biotechnology to address burgeoning forest health challensingers a braided approatorwork the science, social environmental, and regulations concurrently using a leverage funding model and taking a holistic approach to the issue "at the speed of need" is l short timeline
- While most forest research organizatilbeither seeking basic sciencevoproduct innovationight best be described as fragmented, uncoordinated, andundeer the forest sector in Canada has accomplished a unprecedented model that revolves around a singular vision. FPInnovations, at just five yeared young, as a merger of three independent forest products research organization fragminization, and Feitlong with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre of CFS. FPInnovations has been a catalyst in creating an innov the forest sector, ingraliate industry, governments, universities, suppliers, and its own innovation capac

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The National Forest Inventory and Analysis Program (FIA) of the USDAR FrazestseSerivi continuous operation since 1930 yielding a continuously updated comprehensive nation wide i resources. Information collected and analyzed under this Program are three poffneecological data on the conservation and sustainable management of forests across all ownerships in the United States.

#### BACKGROUND

Process and Motivation

More than otheird of the total land area of Canada and its behave the with forests. two counts is many ecolog, socie conomic and other commonalities, and have similar needs with regard to forest science a products research. Historically the two countries have benefitted greatly from pooling their expertise on set There is now a growing erative or shared benefit in light of more complex challenges in and around our forest well as comparatively fewer resources to deal with them.

In December 2011, the heads of the U.S. a ngethectoridentify an small package of opportunities to enhance bilateral collaboration in a way that would add value and be both and cost ffective. Just a preliminary review and enumeration of existing initiatives revealed thrad, broadly sp pests, climate change, and fire management dominate an already extensive field of active bilateral collaborat Additional work also falls in the area of management 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 links, geographic proximity professional interests. Much appears to be supplyed diver because we can rather than demand driver do it because we need to or should objective of this summit is to engage more strategically on a bilateral basis taking into axis during 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 velspectives routional leaders to countries, the Forest Services' understand pib. at to Therefore, we are seeking to gather top leaders from each of the primary public and privates perctities with a national scope and vision, to determine if the time is right to take a more holistic look at threats, for portuni to a more strategic and coordinated approach to forest issues at the continental level. While eventance we have chosen as a starting point to limit this initial survey and plan to directly related to forest health.

#### One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

One	<u>Contine</u> n	Canada	and the U.S	S. not only	share two i	rld's	longest	bor	der	οf	аn
οf	400,	000	peopl	e and	\$1.4	Bin	traďe,	our	соип	tri	e s

<u>One Fore</u>stWhile we share a continent, perhaps no feature symbolizes bound or forest and our forests. Ranked third and fourth respectively in total forest area globally, when combined the forest area of the two countries only by that Russia Our peoples and those of the entire werige the bounty of sehforests and their many benefits from clean air, fresh water, diverse wildlife and fish, places of recreation and natural beauty, to the all building products.

<u>One ThreatStatistics are difficult to quickly combine, but perhaperiod and Report on Sustainable Faresto, serves as an indicator.</u> That report finds that levels of forest disturbance are risingolian indicator and indicator induced mortality relative to the previous report less than a decade inegation of the cumulative area of just the forests in British Columbia affected to some degree by the mountain pine beetle is estimated anti-Alion million a hectares). Similarly, an area motist equal size at 44.8 million (a Bremillion hectares) has been acted at the western U.S.

#### Proposed Pathway

Advancing Canada/US Cross-border Collaboration on Forest Health Issues



#### Planned Invitees

While the intent of the Summit was to be open and inclusiverim the sponsoring organizations felt that it was best to begin with a smallep opfoorganizations and individuals who could review, consider, and set the strate direction for the effort. In doing so participalitied vas those organizations hould review but all so who have only have a key stake in the health opfitheicn ent's forests, but all so who have recognized by their peers and others as having a sign forests respectively.

#### Desired Outcome

To dentify forebealth challenges that are of strategic importance to the North American forest sector that from enhanced bilateral engagement and collaboration.

#### PROCESS

Dr. Ann Bartuska Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Research, Education, and Economics, stood intofior USFS Ch Tidwell who had been dispatched to Colorado to accompany President Obama in a review of the losses asso the devastating wildfires and omit RosserAssistant Deputy Minister, CFS, provided context.

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

- Roud I: Identify success stories of process or programs that are working exceptionally well wit respective organization and identify key concepts that would benefit others.
- Round II: Identify ways that each organization is addressing a rgipidlyeobiaonment 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? would you stop doing and what would beat的 imp
- K Round IV: Using an "appreciative inquiry" process, back how would we move these lessons/concepts forward
- Round V: Get very specific about direction wish to see advanced to address forest health with the understanding that a fallowsession of scientists may be tasked to help define the specific approaches implementation plans.

Between discussions rounds IIIDamdinty, Reaves Deputy Dief, Research & Development, USFS/JanydMes HartreeDirector General, Science Program Branch, CFS, provided an illustrative example of an innovative adva their respective sectors (See pull outs on Pages X & Y)

Jacques Gagnon Director, Invation and Integration, Science and Programs BranchDiCDSpandJ. Stouder Associate Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USFS, facilitated a final plenary designed to draw key learn strategies from the final session.

Tom Rosserthen provided final thoughts Gadton Owerconcluded the proceedings

## KEY LEARNINGS PLENARY SESSIONS

Among single words that participants used to describe indirected and monipport unity, " "  $e \times c i t e$ Although we did not record the ession in any foor the rethan notes, three specific stories seem worth capturing an sharing.

Using Historic Data to Predict Future Events

In her opening challenge, Dr. Ann Bartuska, reminded all of the importance of historical information to spredic As participants gathered in Washington, DC some of the largest wildfires at this early stage of the season in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming. Forestancie for the season is health professions and data sets collected through the annual forest pest surveys and integFater or gitaminformation admadepredictions of massive insect outbreak followed by massive differences using from those conditions.

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

A collaborative effort to advance the coust of e r s t a n d i n g a n d r o l e o f b i o t e c h r forest health challenges. The Forest Health Initiative flated) ative funded by USES Duke Eargy, and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communitially foced 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, an ecosystems. Fleduasholistic approach to address emerging forest health threats by assessing not just the s societal and regulatory issues concurrently.

Among the advances Diratim Reaves shared as foundational to successein FHI we

- When scientists proposed ya 200 r time frame to achieve the goal of cysgenic (related tree gencesh i nese chestnut and American chestnut) When the scientists are ed that it might be done in "twelve to f good margin of skepticism, the scientists agreed that the goal would indeed be three years.
- The program amassed essentially all of the funds nextensive vtte objectiv\$7 to \$10milli@rand without using the traditional request for proposals (RFP) approach, recruited the range of universities; of that when taken together, could work the entire project value dynamic bond bare requestially.
- The program would be operated in a "fish bowl" with access to all of the information at the same time. The program would be directed by a Stelewinth@ommit 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 Solten and Sector and Credentials and credibility but without the benefit or access to any of the program funding for his own
- All work was founded on a commitment to let the science and facts drive the process and not to cross unregulated dispersal in the natural environment unless the information supported that such could be dor margin and assurance of environmental and human safety.

Breaking Down Barriers and Building New Structural Models to Support SoundnDatations

On the issue of alignment and synergies, Maryt Mesprovided an overview of the experience in Canada:

- While most forest research organizat/ibetsher seeking basic science or new product inmog/attibest be described as fragmted, uncoordinated, and unformeded, the forest sector in Canada has accomplished unprecedented model that revolves around a singular vision.
- FPInnovations, at just five years young, was created as a merger of three independent forcest product organizationsForintek, Paprican, and Feidlong with the Canadian Wood Fibre Centre of CFS.
- FPInnovations has been a catalyst in creating an innovation hub for the forest sector, involving the ingovernments, universities, supplients, and innovation capacity.

#### KEY LEARNINGS -- BREAKOUT SESSIONS

- Round I: Identify success stories of process or programs that are working exceptionally well wit respective organization and identify key concepts that would benefit others.
  - 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:
    - š A shared vision (one plan) founded may pairtnership including all sectors (government; industry; academia; and -poofits)
    - š A common message (one voice); and
    - š Focus (purposeful vigilance)
- Round II: Identify ways that each organization is addressing a rapidly changing environment wher diminishing resources and growing expectations/increasing demands are the norm.
  - All organizations, regardless of sector, are being subjected to the dilemmas of tighter (if not d resourcesboth funds and peoplet a time when constituenciesmarelide more services. Among the keys to dealing with this new reality:
    - š Enhanced use of technology to collect appropriate information and solid analytics to une challenges and opportunities;
    - š Greater dependence on true partnerships to spredd the loa
    - š Prioritizations a ying "no" to the PIGs (pretty impor (wildly important goals); and,
    - š Better use of "story telling" to help share
- Key Round III: In 10 years, how will your operating world lookrite dvelosing things differently? (What would you stop doing and what would be the impact?)
  - All acknowledge that past praatidesproaches (silos; individual scientist vs. ecosystems) are pow anchors that impede process. Yet, there are alneasignssrof change for the better. Using new processes and approaches, in 10 years:
    - $\check{s}$  The focus would be on the power and potenti
    - š There would be a more common understanding and shared strategic poission thin and across organizations;
    - š Linkages between government and the privatebsebtforprofit and nepmofit-- would be stronger and more productive;
    - š The sector would be much better at understanding and deploying effective messages; a
    - $\check{s}$  We would earn from the human health sector to
  - At the same time we'd stop doing some things:
    - š Compete within the sector for the same piece of the pie vs. growing the pie;
      - š Stop thinking "extraction" from forests;
- K Round IV: Using an "appreciative inquiry" process, ba
  - how would we move these lessons/concepts for ward
     Building on these general strategies for positive company pethiem moved to identification of lessons
    - that could be deployed to address continental forest health challenges. Among the findings:
      - š Get the "right people" in the room to ensur traditional forestry apprizations to bring all with information and solutions to the table;
      - ${\tt \check{s}}$  . Develop an aligned, lortgrm visicand pathway to address the challenge;
      - š Engage science, policy, and markets for a common agenda; and,
      - š Acknowledge that new models are necessary, bluesevenust continue to evolve

- Round V: Get very specific about directions you wish to see advanced to address forest health w understanding that a fallowsession of scientists may be tasked to help define the specific approaches implemention plans.
  - Among the specific findingsecommendationslude
    - $\check{s}$  Use the power of threational need to raise public understanding and support;
    - š Leverage the resources and expertise of all organizations across political boundaries to and implement a holistic plandvision;
    - š Find ways to deploy new technologies for more rapid detection of problems (e.g. invasiv and,
    - $\check{s}$  Develop and deploy a set of filters to help drive the process:
      - < Proactive
      - < Systems approach
      - < Inclusive social, economic,dabiological
      - Constantly add new players
      - < Use new toalsd technologies

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- The forest of the two counteries among the most important and leader that ural assist the world;
- Insects, diseases and people ther endemic or exortion ve irrespective of political boundaries;
- The changing climateevidenced by arming temperatures and longer -freezperiods exacerbated by longer periods of groughts esulting in levels of forest loss and associated wildfires that far exceed the the past several decades;
- The challenges are of such magnitude and thecsparege of occurrant guch a pace as to overwhelm traditional methods before to and response; and,
- Canada and the U.S., as wedur rich forests and our collective citizens will be well served by a more of collaborative, shared holistic approach to the situation.

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- We will use a common sense of urgency;
- We wilkcknowledge the importance of applying adaptive management approaches that recognize we is by and while doinghereby adjusting as we learn; and
- We must draw lessons from the human health sector in focusing on prevention versus treatment.

#### APPENDIX

## PARTICIPATION

- Ann BartuskaDeputy Under Secretary, USDA Research, Education, and Economics
- Cindy Bell Executive Vice President, Corporate Development, Genome Canada
- Catalino BlancheNational Program Leader, Division of Environmental SystemsoblaDA stitute of Food and Agriculture
- « Catherine CobdenInterim President & CEO, Forest Products Association of Canada
- Jay Farrell Executive Director, National Association of State Foresters
- < Jacques Gagnon Directolinnovation and Intégration Divisione & Programs Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- Franz HochstrasseConfidential Assistant, USDA Research, Education, and Economics
- Andre Isabelle Director Energy, Environment and Resources Division, Natural Sciences and Engineering Rese Council
- Catalina LopezCorrea VicePresident, Scientific Affairs, Genome Quebec
- David Kaplan, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Vasken Khabayan, Counselor, Trade Policy, Embassy of Canada
- erre Lapoint Presidet & CEO, FPInnovations
- ✓ Jean-Pierre MarteVice President, Strategic Alliances, FPInnovations
- Com MartinPresident & CEO, American Forest Foundation
- « Glenn Mason Director General, Policy, Economics and Industry Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- « Mary MesHartreeDirector General, Science Branch, Canadian Forest Service
- Carlton OwenPresident & CEO, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities
- Jim Reaves Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USDA Forest Service
- Conversion Ritchie Executive Director, Plant Haradt Biosecurity, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- < Paul Robertson/Ministerconomic, Embassy of Canada
- Tom RosserAssistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service
- Steven ShafeDeputy Administrator, Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricustural Research Service
- Contraction Con
- Dave Tenny President & CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners
- Com Tidwell Chief, USDA Forest Service

#### News Release USDA

Release No. 0213.12 Contact: Office of Communications (2062)320

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

WASHINGTON, June 28, 201-2J.S. Forest Service and Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada of 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 w collaborate and adess 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 address health challenges. The Forest Service has a long history of Qaonadiagn websearchers and land managers, but unt now collaborations have typically occurred among individual researchers working on specific projects.

"This summit is an important first step toward the creation. So far astronomic agendia," the Honorable Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. "By identifying issues on which we can work together, we maximize the value of the critical work that scientists and researchers are doing on both sides of the border 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 Boseigni Bicarhavingaat on North America's forests.

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

Land managers from the two countries point to science, risk analysses and dotes 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 for grasslands to meet the needs of presenteagenfortations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to st private landowners, and maintains the largest forestrorgastantion in the world.

#### #

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

Natural Resourcesnada

June 28, 2012

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

"This summit is an important-UT.Siforsest scientce pagentows add the beck Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources Canada. "By value of the critical work that scientists and researchers are doing on both sides of theheahtdhenoftoouensure t forests and forest sector."

Canada and the U.S. have a long and successful history of collaboratingelatedessures. "The borders that separate the United States and Canada don't segregate threats to our natural resegred to continue to collabor Tom Vilsack. "The countries share common environmental concerns. It is critical that we continue to collabor current and future land management challenges as partners."

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

Participants at the foresth seathmit agreed that the nature and scope of the issues faced today across the of may go beyond the individual capacity of any single organization. Greater knowledge exchange and a complet research agenda would help rally science and specificities within organizations from both countries.

Media may contact:

Patricia Best Director of Communications Office of the Minister Natural Resources Canada Ottawa 613-9962007

Media Relations Natural Resources Canada Ottawa 613-9924447



#### 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 crossborder 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 <u>Embassy of Canada, in Washington, DC, commencing with an informal reception and</u> dinner on the evening of Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> 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 <u>carlton@usendowment.org</u> or phone 864.233.7646.

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THURSDAY, JUNE :	28012						
9:00 am to 9:15 am	Welcome and Challenge						
	> Carlton Owen, President, U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities						
9:15 am to 9:35 am	<ul> <li>Putting the Challenge in Context</li> <li>Tom Rosser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service (CFS)</li> <li>Ann Bartuska, Deputy Under Secretary, USDA Research, Education, and Economics</li> </ul>						
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 Jim Reaves, Deputy Chief, Research & Development, USFS						
	> Mary Mes-Hartree, 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						
	> Carlton Owen						
3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	CLOSING COMMENTS						
	> Tom Rosser						

#### Pre-Summit Background Paper Canada/U.S. Forest Health Summit Washington, DC June 2728, 2012

Process and Motivation

More than one hird of the total land area of Canada and the United States (U.S.) is blanketed with Wershare many ecologic, socieconomic and other commonalities, and have similar needs with regard to forest science and for research Historically the two countries have benefitted greatly from pooling their expertise on selected issu there is now a growing opportunity for shared benefit in light of more complex challenges in and around our forests, as a 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 evanded bed bot allustrategic and cos effective. Just 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 collab did ditional work also falls in the area of mapping or spatiallysis 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, howeveit, is clear that the nature of collaboration is varied and indicative of a range of drivers such links, geographic proximity and professional interests. Much appears to be supply/tiblescanuse we can rather than demand drivere do it because we need to or should be objective of this summit is to engage more strategically on a bilateral basis taking into account existing collaboration to advance to a more strategiorized sult path that would benefit the forest program of both countries

As the two federal authorities with lead responsibility for forests and forestry at their respectiveunational I two countries, the Forest Services' undseviths at starked 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 looknatiesh reads be perforts to a more strategic and coordinated approach to forest issues at the clothil extended develoat there are many areas of interest and engagement, we have chosen as a starting point to limit this initial survey those pterptos directly related to forest health and sustainability.

#### One Continent; One Forest; One Threat

<u>One Continent</u> C a n a d a a n d t h e U.S. n o t o n I y s h a r e t h e world of 400,000 people and \$B.4h trade; i f Wc i b h f ] Y g Uf Y h \ Yas kvell <u>One XFore</u>stWhillef [Y g we share a contineent aps no feature symbolizes our common bond more than our flearested third and fourth respectively in total forest area globady, combined the forest area of the two countries is exceeded only by one other. Our peoples enjoy the bounty of those forests and their many benefits from clean air, fresh war wildlife and fish, places of recreation and naturatodetate greenest of all building productshreat Statistics are difficult to quickly combine, but perhaps Nation & Statistic on Sustainable Fore 20010, serves as an indicator. That report finds there of forest disturbance arengisincluding a threfold increase in insettduced mortality relative to the previous report less than a decade earlier

#### Proposed Pathway

Advancing Canada/US Cross-border Collaboration on Forest Health Issues



#### Planned Invitees

<u>Canada: Invited Participants</u> Canadian Council of Forest Ministers Canadian Food Inspection Agency Forest Products Association of Canada FPInnovations Genome Canada Natural Scie**es** and Engineering Research Council

<u>U.S.: Invited Partanip</u>s 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 FoodgaincellAure/SDA, 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 that would benefit from enhanced bilaral engagement and collaboration.

<u>Next Step</u>s This will lead to a positing a final forming by final will have the opportumity of the base of the from Canada and the U.S. aimed at seeking solutions. Experts will have the opportumity of and assemble the information, expertise, planning, coordination, and collaboration necessary to find and implement next steps in a timely and cost of the frequency.