



NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

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SILVICULTURE WORKING GROUP REPORT

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

**NAFC Secretariat
Forestry Division**
NAFC31-Secretariat@fao.org

PERIOD: September 2019 – July 2021

1. WORKING GROUP COMPOSITION

Chairperson	Country	Organization
Jean-Martin Lussier	Canada	Canadian Forest Service
Members	Country	Organization
Mary Ann Fajvan	United States of America	United States Forest Service
Michael Saunders	United States of America	Purdue University
Mario Antonio Mosqueda Vázquez	Mexico	CONAFOR

¹ Rescheduled from 13-15 September 2021

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

Filemón Manzano Méndez	Mexico	CONAFOR
Vidal Guerra de la Cruz	Mexico	National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research (INIFAP)
Juan Manuel Cassian Santos	Mexico	Forest Expert, External Consultant

2. LIST OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING THE PAST 2 YEARS

Meetings	Location	Date
SWG 2019 Annual Workshop + Business Meeting	<i>Louisville, KY, USA</i>	<i>28-30 October 2019</i>
SWG 2021 Business Meeting	<i>Videoconference Host: Canadian Forest Service</i>	<i>8 September 2021</i>

ACTIVITIES:

- [Enquiry of end-users of Canada on the need to revise “Silvics of North America”](#)
[Wood, D., Verbisky, R., Anawati, J. & Lussier, J.M. 2020. Consultation of the Canadian Forest Sector on the need to revise "Silvics of North America". Canadian Forest Service, Ottawa. Internal Report. 22 p.](#)
- [Enquiry of end-users of USA on the need to revise “Silvics of North America”](#)
[Merry, K., Bettinger, P., Siry, J., McNulty, S. & Gavazzi, M. 2021. Forester Preferences on Revising Silvics of North America—a Survey of Registered Foresters in Four States. Journal of Forestry: Brief Communication 2021: 1-9.](#)

3. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT 2 YEARS

Activity	Location	Date	Status (ongoing/new)
SWG 2022 Annual Workshop + Business Meeting	<i>Oaxaca, Mexico</i>	<i>Oct. 2022 (TBD)</i>	<i>ongoing</i>
Project: Revision of Silvics of North America	<i>NA.</i>	<i>Sept. 2021 - Jan 2023</i>	<i>new</i>

4. WORKING GROUP FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS AND/OR NETWORKING

Networking: Beside the official representatives on the working group, the SWG counts on the support and expertise of 5 of its former members as experts and resources to perform its mandate. At each Annual Meeting done on location, local forest managers, silviculturists and experts are invited to participate to the field visits and discussion with the SWG to favour knowledge exchange and

networking. When possible, the SWG acts as a liaison between the local forest managers and silviculturists with their counterparts in the other countries to facilitate knowledge exchange. On each in-person annual meeting, typically 10-15 local managers and experts are met.

5. REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND/OR OTHER SUPPORT

COST: 15,000 (Canadian Dollars).

PROJECT: Proof-of-concept of a web-based version for the Silvics of North America V.3.

OBJECTIVE: Create a prototype of a web-based database and interface for the new version of the Silvics of North America.

SCOPE: In the early stages of the planning of the project of the revision of the Silvics of North America, we need to design and develop a prototype of a web-based database and interface, to provide a framework to coordinate the work of the contributing authors. We need to transition from a paper/pdf book to a web-based reference document easier to update with scientific findings, and access in English, French and Spanish, and more adapted to current needs from the forest sector in regards to current issues such as adaptation to climate change. The funding is to hire forestry students or casuals to populate the database of first prototype.

IMPACT: This project is a step-stone for a larger project, aka. “The revision of the Silvics of North America (SNA)”, which is a foundational reference document to support silviculture practice and research, in particular in the context of adaptation to climate change. The current version of the SNA has been largely used in Canada and USA since its publication in 1990.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

Despite the difficulties of operation and mobility, in the last year, derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, the NAFC Silviculture Working Group (SWG) has resumed communications in order to work to facilitate knowledge exchange on silviculture science, practices and policy between Mexico, USA and Canada, to foster networking among managers and specialists, by supporting knowledge exchange projects between the three countries.

The membership of the SWG has been significantly changed this year, because of the retirement of many long-time collaborators. Building new relationships among the members will be the first priority.

In 2020, the SWG proposed to hold its Annual Meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico. However, due COVID-19 restrictions, it was not able to hold. Virtual meetings will take place in 2021, with hopefully an in-person Annual meeting in 2022. In that sense, the SWG looks forward to the 31st NAFC Session and to exploring and exchanging ideas of further collaboration.