

May 2012

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura
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## NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

### TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, 8 - 9 May 2012

### SILVICULTURE WORKING GROUP REPORT

#### Mission

1. The mission of the Silviculture Working Group is the synthesis, development and dissemination of knowledge and technology on silvicultural strategies, systems and practices for North American forests to improve the quality of human life. The most critical function of the Group is maintaining cooperation among Mexico, Canada and the United States in promoting silvicultural practices to ensure that diverse, healthy forests continue to supply needed goods and services. The Group also collaborates with other NAFC working groups to adjust current silvicultural guidelines to address goals of: forest health, adding value, invasive species, fires resistance, maintaining genetic diversity, forest rehabilitation and climate change.

#### Activities Update: 2010-2012

2. In 2008, the NAFC targeted some priority issues for the working groups to address. The Silviculture Working Group volunteered to take the lead in identifying problems and proposing solutions to issues related to "Forest sector competitiveness". On 30 October 2010, the Silviculture Working Group hosted a workshop: "Adding Value to North American Forests," where invited presentations and facilitated discussions addressed options for an integrated management approach to North American working forests. The Workshop was co-sponsored with the Society of American Foresters and was held in conjunction with their annual convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Workshop themes considered the influences of ecological, economic and climatic dynamics on the living forest. Presentations and discussions focused on including forests in the value chain to allow for consideration of optimizing fiber value from markets to products and back to raw material. Workshop format was interactive with five invited presenters and facilitated gap analysis by participants. Doug Kneeland, Victor E. Sosa Cedillo, M.K. Marty Luckert, Jean Beaulieu, and Stephen Shifley served as the invited presenters.

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3. Participants of the workshop discussed how the ecological diversity of North American forests challenges managers to develop the right mix of forest attributes to anticipate near and longer-term market demands for fiber and other environmental services. In addition, forest ownership patterns and the sociopolitical issues confronting forest managers differ greatly among the three countries, making it difficult to target common themes for further investigation. Findings from the Workshop are being used to develop action plans for 1) Determining the role of plantations in increasing productivity and value, 2) Scientific exchanges of regionally replicated studies, and long-term data sets and 3) Development of new silvicultural guidelines for certain commercial North American species and refinement of existing guidelines.

4. From 20-24 November 2011, the Silviculture Working Group annual meeting was hosted by Mexico in San Felipe Bacalar, Quintana Roo. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting including seven working group members, and invited guests from a diversity of institutions including: INIFAP, the Colegio de posgraduados, Forestry Institute of Quintana Roo, the University of Guadalajara, and CONAFOR. The group spent two days visiting ejidos to view silvicultural practices focused on regeneration and management of mahogany. Mahogany replacement planting studies, initiated by Patricia Negreros Castillo in 1994, were also visited. Other stops included tours of a saw mill and salvage operations in forested areas damaged by recent hurricanes. During the one-day business meeting, an action plan was developed based on the findings of the 2010 Adding Value Workshop. Several projects were initiated and partnerships formed with some of the other agencies present at the meeting.

### **Achievements**

October 2010: Silviculture Working Group hosted a Workshop: "Adding Value to North American Forests," co-sponsored with the Society of American Foresters and held in conjunction with their annual convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Powerpoint presentations from the meeting have been posted to the NAFC website.

February 2011: Silviculture Working Group Chair, Mary Ann Fajvan, was invited to attend the annual meeting of the Fire Working Group in Chetumal, MX. She attended all meetings and field tours and made a presentation entitled: "Using silviculture to make forests more resistant to fire."

June 2011: Presentation at the North American Forest Ecology Workshop, 20-23 June, Roanoke, VA, USA: Fajvan, M.A., Anawati, J.N. and V.E. Sosa Cedillo. 2011. Managing forests across ecosystems instead of political boundaries: A report from the North American Forest Commission Silviculture Working Group.

November 2011: Annual meeting and field tour of the Silviculture Working Group. San Felipe Bacalar, Mexico. Themes: Mahogany silviculture, landownership and socio-economic effects on timber value.

April 2012: Manuscript submitted to Journal of Forestry: Managing Forests Across Ecosystems Instead of Political Boundaries. A Synthesis of the 2010 Workshop: Adding Value to North American Forests. Authors: Mary Ann Fajvan, Doug Kneeland, Victor E. Sosa Cedillo, M.K. Marty Luckert, Jean Beaulieu, Stephen Shifley, Joseph Anawati.

### **Future Directions**

#### *Planned meetings:*

May 2012: Annual meeting and field tour of the Silviculture Working Group. Theme: Genetics and tree fiber research for adding value. Quebec City, Canada.

June 2013: Annual meeting and field tour of the Silviculture Working Group. Theme: Using silviculture to produce quality hardwoods in the eastern deciduous forest (USA hosts).

*Projects and Collaborations:*

- May-December 2012. Revise, expand and update the NAFC Report: “Forest Plantations in North America.” Prepared in August 2002 by the Plantations Technical Paper Group (R.S. Fernandez, S.M. Rangel, J. Stanturf, C. Arseneau, P. Nantel). Incorporate latest findings from Canadian Wood Fiber Center via the Genetics Working Group. Roger Whitehead and Joe Anawati will lead this effort.
  
  - May-June 2012. Write proposal to request funding (from NAFC members, partners and other agencies) to support the development of silvicultural guides for two species. Initially, a simple conifer system (e.g. *Pinus ponderosa*) will be used as a case study to develop the guides (Start date January 2013). Faculty from the Colegio de posgraduados will provide leadership on this effort.
5. Summer 2013 (start date). Develop quantitative silviculture guides for the second species, mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla King*), using data from Patricia Negreros Castillo and possible incorporation of plantation growth data from ejido Naranjal Poniente. The focus will be on stocking and thinning guidelines. Mary Ann Fajvan will assist with leadership in this effort. Technical assistance will be required for data collection, synthesis and analyses.