

# What is The North American Forestry Commission Doing About Invasive Species ?



Dr. Robert Mangold  
 Director, Forest Health Protection  
 U.S. Forest Service

COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY  
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## Insect and Disease Working Group

Composition of Working Group:

	Management	Regulation	Research
Canada	Canadian Forest Service	Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)	Canadian Forest Service
Mexico	Comisión Nacional Forestal (CONAFOR)	Secretaría de Medio Ambiente Recursos Naturales y Pesca (SEMARNAP)	Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP)
United States	USDA Forest Service	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)	USDA Forest Service

## **Insect and Disease Working Group Activities Planned for 2005**

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- Publish & distribute “Forest Diseases of Mexico.” Prepare electronic (CD) version.
- Assess risk by pests transported via the importation of live plant material.
- Aerial survey training for Mexico.
- Exotic Forest Pest Database (EXFOR) – 130 “mini pest risk assessments,” primarily insects. Translate priority pest records into Spanish and French.

## **Insect and Disease Working Group Activities Planned for 2005 (continued)**

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- Evaluate the need for a new coordinated pest risk assessment on sudden oak death.
- Prepare executive briefing paper on wood packing material/wood treatment issue.
- Develop North American map of forest areas at risk to mortality from insects and pathogens.

## **Proposed Invasive Plants Working Group**

**DRAFT CHARTER** developed February 8-9, 2005

### **MISSION**

The Invasive Plants Working Group seeks to promote projects and collaborations that mitigate the impacts of invasive plants on forest health for the mutual benefit of member countries.

### **A plant is invasive if:**

1. It is not native to the ecosystem under consideration.
2. Its introduction causes or is likely to cause harm to the economy, environment, or to human health.

## **Proposed Invasive Plants Working Group**

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To promote the collection and dissemination of information, create awareness, and foster technology exchange relevant to the management of invasive plants in forested and associated lands.
2. To communicate and coordinate with existing international and regional organizations dealing with invasive plants.
3. To advise and report to the NAFC on progress and challenges in carrying out the objectives and activities.

## **Proposed Invasive Plants Working Group**

### **SUGGESTED WORK ITEMS (EXAMPLES)**

- Develop an Early Detection/Rapid Response pilot for each member country.
- Develop information on priority plant species & facilitate collaboration, provide early warnings of impending threats, and suggest ways to prevent further spread.
- Develop an information network on Urban forests. Urban forests are subject to devastating impacts by invasive plants & are often the sources of plants invasive to natural forest areas.

## **Proposed Invasive Plants Working Group**

### **ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED WORK ITEMS**

- Examine import/export regulations for live plants.
- Evaluate biocontrol information with special attention to new APHIS release guidelines.
- Explore opportunities and identify partners to provide trained taxonomists to meet priority needs within each country.
- Develop a concept paper that shares techniques on how to make the best use of public citizens in detection monitoring and control of invasive plants in forest systems.