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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных
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Organización
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Naciones
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Alimentación

NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, 3 – 7 May 2010

BUREAU OF ALTERNATES REPORT TO THE 25TH SESSION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN FOREST COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the Bureau of Alternate (BOA)'s last report to the 24th Session of the North American Forest Commission (NAFC) held in Puerto Rico, United States, in June 2008, the BOA has implemented different sets of activities to improve communication for a more 'horizontal' interaction among NAFC working groups as well as improved 'vertical' communication between them. The BOA and the Commissioners have also been following-up actions related to the next integrated working group meetings

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2. The BOA has held three conference calls since the last meeting of the Commission. The major activities are related to the working groups that have all met at least one time since then.

3. The Atmospheric Change and Forest Working Group chaired by Steve McNulty met in Colorado in 2009 and recently in April 16, 2010 in Asheville, North Carolina. The new chair is Dave Pare of Canada. At this second occasion, each participant provided a brief overview of the initiatives like a critical load mapping and the WASSI-CB model. Mr. Pare presented information about monitoring forest health, state of forest health, atmospheric stressors and the global soil map network and project, suggesting this could be a topic for international collaboration. The group agreed a draft work plan could be developed around these topics and projects and finalized after review by all the members of the working group. The group was encouraged to identify one or two projects that held a common interest for all three countries. The participants agreed to identify additional new members.

4. The attention on climate change has also been raised by the Forest Insects and Diseases and Invasive Plants Working Group chaired by Dr. Jaime Villa. In particular, they have organized an informative meeting in October 2009 focused on global climate change and the impact on bark

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beetle spread. They are currently preparing a book on bark beetles of North America. Next meeting is planned to take place in October 2010 in the United States.

5. The Fire Management Working Group chaired by Tom Harbour met in Sacramento in October 2009. The meeting was attended by the three countries. The charter has been updated, the work plan reviewed and updated, the 2009 study tour report and recommendations revised and uploaded to the web in Spanish, French and English. An interesting aspect was related with the field trip showing a practical example of Urban Wild land Interface. Finally, it has been confirmed that the Chair will shift to Mexico in January 2010. Mexico will be submitting a proposal to BOA for funding the ending of phase III of the Mexico Fire Information System as Phases I and II are completed. There is also a new member from Mexico, Alfredo Nolasco.

6. The Watershed Management Working Group is chaired by Chris Knoop. The last meeting was in October 2009 with the view of being more familiar with the programs of the three countries. During that meeting, the charter and work plan were finalized. They now have a bilingual participant from the United States who will facilitate the communication. Next meeting is planned for Spring 2010 and will most probably take place in Canada.

7. The Forest Genetic Resources Working Group chaired by Jesus Vargas, has met in Oaxaca in November 2009 in conjunction with the “*Congreso Mexicano de Recursos Forestales*”. The agenda items included the revision and the update of the work plan. The update of FAO report on the State of the World Forest Genetic Resources will be based on the country reports and a national focal point will be designated. The work activities will begin in 2010 and the report will be completed in 2012.

8. The Forest Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment Working Group chaired by Brad Smith met in September 2008 to discuss the North America Forestry Data Base. The report was centered on the status and trends of North American Forests based on the FAO Eco Region. It will produce tables 1-4 and 6-8 of the country reports in a summary data base harmonized with FAO definitions. Next Meeting is taking place during the Commission meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico in May 2010.

9. The Silviculture Working Group chaired by Al Mitchell met in May of 2009 in Victoria, Canada. All the three countries were represented. The focus of the meeting was the thematic topic “Forest Competitiveness”, particularly they have developed a draft proposal for a workshop on forest competitiveness to be held in conjunction with the meeting of the Society of American Foresters in October 2010 in Albuquerque. They currently have a new member, Mary Ann Fajvan, Ph.D. research forester, Northern Research Station from the USFS.

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10. The BOA has reconfirmed the key role of Rick Scott as the NAFC Liaison to address communication gaps within the Commission and to facilitate a dialogue among the NAFC working groups, the BOA and the Commissioners. Over the past two year, he has attended several working group meetings facilitating the exchange of information among the BOA, the Commissioners and the working groups.

11. In addition to establishing the NAFC Liaison, strong efforts were made during the past two years to encourage working groups to update information on the NAFC web page, and to use it as a vehicle for sharing information. These efforts were mildly successful. Many of the working groups were also encouraged to provide information to the BOA.

12. Finally, since the 24th Session, the BOA has continued its activities to evaluate and support the NAFC working groups. The Watershed Management Working Group continues to be challenged by low membership, but is making progress in establishing its work plan and defining

its objectives. Following recommendations from the previous BOA report, the Invasive Plants Group has been merged with the Insect and Diseases Working Group and the Forest Products Working Group has been dissolved.

CONCLUSION

13. Since the 24th Session, the BOA has worked to develop and implement activities that address the recommendations raised by the NAFC Evaluation and summarized in the Management Response. The BOA looks forward to continuing this work in the future.

14. The Commissioners reiterated their interest in exploring the possibility of collaboration across NAFC working groups on cross-cutting issues such as climate change. As a result, each of the Thematic Working Groups will have an opportunity to present their ideas and potential activities to the Commissioners during the 25th Session of the NAFC. They will also have the chance to discuss further steps related to the organization of the next IWG Meeting, to be taking place every 3-5 years as agreed.