


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

### REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATES

- This Bureau of Alternates (BOA) report covers the period from May 2010 – May 2012 during which time the BOA was Chaired by Canada (Peter Besseau). The USA was represented on the BOA by Val Mezainis, and for Mexico by José Carlos Fernández Ugalde.

1. Over the reporting period the majority of BoA activities were in the following areas:
  - Follow-up to recommendations from the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the NAFC, convened by Mexico in Guadalajara;
  - Continuation of efforts to formalize the structure, mandates, reporting, and activities of the NAFC working groups;
  - Monitoring and supporting the activities of the working groups;
  - Development of a summary retrospective document on NAFC and its working groups as well as working group profiles to be tabled at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the NAFC;
  - Maintaining regular contact within the BoA through teleconferences and direct meetings.
  
2. The following are among the key developments for this period:
  - In November 2010, following on the successful Integrated Working Group meeting hosted by the US Forest Service in Ballston, Virginia, Canada convened the BoA and working group representatives in Ottawa. The meeting drew more than 30 participants representing all seven working groups. The meeting resulted in decisions that are aimed to provide strengthened and consistent working group reporting, and clear working group plans, objectives, and milestones.

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- The BOA met face to face in September 2011, in Ottawa, to review progress on working group development and activities subsequent to the November 2010 meeting and to plan forward for the Quebec City meeting.
  - In October 2011, Canada, on behalf of the BOA, provided financial support (approximately USD 6 million) to the Silviculture Working Group to host a workshop entitled "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.
  - At the request of Mexico, consideration was given to the possibility of a trilateral agreement on forest fire response (largely around the issue of shared access to fire management "assets"). After initial exploration Mexico concluded that the legal complexity of a trilateral agreement argued against it. At the same time, efforts to strengthen Canada – Mexico and US – Mexico collaboration in this area were increased.
  - As part of its contribution as Chair of the NAFC from the 2010 Guadalajara meeting until the end of the Quebec City meeting, Canada worked with Mexican and USA partners to produce two publications – the NAFC: *"Sharing over a Half-Century of Experience"* and a NAFC information kit consisting of brief profiles of each working group, both of which are to be tabled at the 26<sup>th</sup> session of NAFC.
  - Canada concluded its chairmanship of the BoA with the organization of the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the NAFC in Quebec City, 7 – 10 May, 2012.