



North
American

Forest
Commission



Silviculture Working Group

The Silviculture Working Group (SWG) was established in 1976 to focus on silvicultural practices in the region, with special attention to “subjects of particular relevance to the tropics.”



At the time, deforestation in tropical forests was becoming a global issue, receiving widespread attention. The working group was endorsed by the FAO Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics, which was active from the late 1960s until the early 1990s.

On several occasions in the 1980s and 1990s, the Commission re-affirmed the SWG’s focus on tropical forests. However, noting that limiting its focus to the tropics was not consistent with the NAFC’s wider, regional mandate, in 2002

the Commission directed the group to broaden its work to include temperate and boreal forests. In 2006, the NAFC approved the broader mandate.

Mission

To develop and disseminate knowledge and technology on silvicultural systems and practices in North American forests, to improve the quality of human life.

Objectives

1. Maintain the 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;
2. Collaborate with other NAFC working groups, adjust silvicultural guidelines to address forest health, invasive species, fire resistance, maintaining genetic diversity, value added considerations, forest rehabilitation and climate change;
3. Host workshops on crosscutting issues such as forest sector competitiveness and adding value to North American forests;

4. Disseminate knowledge and technologies for silvicultural strategies through publications and participation in regional workshops, such as the North American Forest Ecology Workshop;
5. Build partnerships and collaborate with organizations such as the Society of American Foresters.

Current Activities/Impacts

Annual meetings & workshops

1. *October 2010*: Annual meeting and workshop. Theme: Adding Value to North American Forests, co-sponsored with the Society of American Foresters, held in conjunction with their annual convention. Albuquerque, New Mexico.
2. *November 2011*: Annual meeting and Study Tour. Theme: Mahogany silviculture, landownership and socioeconomic effects on timber value. San Felipe Bacalar, Mexico.

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3. *May 2012*: Annual meeting, in conjunction with the 26th Session of the NAFC. Québec City, Québec, Canada.

4. *June 2013*: Annual meeting and Study Tour. Theme: Using silviculture to produce quality hardwoods in the eastern deciduous forest (USA hosts). Pennsylvania and West Virginia, USA.

5. *September 2014*: Annual meeting and workshop. Theme: Sustainable Forest Management: international experiences and perspectives for Mexico. D.F., Mexico.

6. *September 2015*: Annual meeting and Study Tour. Theme: Adapting silviculture to enhance the profitability and competitiveness of the value chains of the forest sector. Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada.

7. *June 2016*: Annual meeting and workshop. Theme: Opportunities and Challenges for Silvicultural Systems in North America. Durango, Mexico.



Publications & Links

- April 2012: Paper: Managing Forests Across Ecosystems Instead of Political Boundaries. A Synthesis of the 2010 Workshop: Adding Value to North American Forests. Available at: mfajvan@fs.fed.us

- October 2015: Silvicultural guide: recommendations for the management of the ponderosa pine forest. Available at: www.conafor.gob.mx/web/temas-forestales/enaipros
<http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/49782>

- October 2015: Silvicultural guide: Silviculture of the Mahogany Forest of Quintana Roo, Mexico: Criteria and recommendations. Available at: www.conafor.gob.mx/web/temas-forestales/enaipros
<http://treesearch.fs.fed.us/pubs/49853>

- June 2016: Book of Abstracts of the Workshop: Opportunities and Challenges for Silvicultural Systems in North America. Held in Durango, Mexico. Available at: www.conafor.gob.mx/web/temas-forestales/enaipros