

# North American Forest Commission Fire Management Working Group

## CHARTER

### **Preamble:**

Fire management in our forests and grasslands is a problem of international proportions. Ecosystems and fires do not recognize international boundaries. Fire that is a threat to one nation's forest resources is equally a threat to their neighbor.

The world has long recognized the need to protect our homes, fields, forests, and watersheds because they provide our homes, food, jobs, and recreation. Forest research is also teaching us the value of the forests and grasslands as ecosystems that are vital to the health and well being of everyone.

*In 1960, the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization established the North American Forest Commission with Canada, Mexico, and the United States as members. The purpose of the Commission is to advise on the formulation of forest policies and to review and coordinate its implementation of the regional plan; to exchange information; and to recommend appropriate solutions to technical problems.*

The Fire Management Working Group was established in 1962. The original charter was ratified by the membership at the annual meeting in September 1992. There are annual meetings that rotate between the three member countries.

### **Objectives:**

Exchange experiences and technological advances regarding prevention, wildland fire management and fire use. Provide mutual aid and technical exchanges between, Canada, Mexico and the United States in the development of strategy and appropriate actions to resolve technical problems of the North American region.

Actively support and participate in international fire management programs with fire management agencies throughout the world by developing and promoting activities that support international cooperation and development.

### **Organization:**

The Fire Management Working Group will consist of members of fire management organizations of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America. Each country's delegation will consist of a delegation head, members, and observers.

*Head of each delegation will be:*

Director (or Advisor/Coordinator/Leader) of Fire Research, Canadian Forest Service;

Fire Management Manager, National Forest Commission, (CONAFOR),  
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) Mexico.

Director of Fire and Aviation Management, USDA Forest Service (USFS).

Chair of the Group will rotate between delegation heads annually on the first of January. The Chair will host the annual meeting and coordinate all correspondence for the annual meeting, prepare the minutes of the meeting, and coordinate other Group programs throughout the year.

The position of Secretary will be filled by the other delegation heads. Each secretary will coordinate the participation by their delegation in completing the plan of work.

*Members from Canada are:*

Director of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC); and  
Provincial/Territorial Agency Director elected by the CIFFC Council of Directors.

*Members from Mexico are:*

Strategic Projects Coordinator, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP);  
The Coordinator of Fire Management National Research Network (UNAM); and  
The Director of Forest and Watershed Conservation, Mexican Nature Conservation Fund.

*Members from the United States are:*

Fire and Aviation Management Branch Chief, USFS  
International Programs Liaison USFS

Delegation members may be changed by member countries.

*Observers from Canada may be:*

Provincial/Territorial Fire Directors or CIFFC Managers.

***Observers from Mexico may be:***

Fire Management Regional Center Chiefs/ CONAFOR  
Forest Fire Department Chiefs/National Forest Commission;  
Fire Managers/States Programs;  
Regional and Local Protected Areas Directors/Natural Protected Areas Commission; and  
Fire Management Researchers

***Observers from the United States may be:***

Director of Forest Management Sciences, USFS.  
Director of the Office of Wildland Fire, Department of the Interior; and  
A representative from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA);  
A representative from the National Association of State Foresters (NASF);  
International Fire Specialist, USFS;  
International Wildland Fire Program Coordinator, Office of Wildland Fire, DOI;  
National Program Leader, Fire Systems Research;  
Chair, Joint Fire Sciences Governing Board.

Observers to the Group will be other fire managers and researchers with key responsibilities in the wildland fire community and local fire officials, as invited by the host country.

**Method of Operation:**

The annual meeting will generally last three days with one day dedicated to a field trip to an area of interest to the Group. Each delegation will prepare and present a country report of significant items from their country. In addition, the group will prepare a plan of work, which will be updated annually in conjunction with the Working Group meeting.

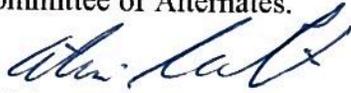
The minutes of the annual meeting will include the country reports, results of the prior projects, and the updated plan of work. Minutes will be submitted to the Committee of Alternates for consideration at their next meeting.

In addition to the annual meeting, members and observers will meet as required to prepare project plans and complete projects. These meetings will vary in number depending on the requirements of the projects. Results of these meetings will be included in the country reports.

**Ratification:**

The revised Charter of the Fire Management Working Group will be ratified by the membership at the annual meeting in October 2009 in the United States. Upon ratification by the Group, the Chair of the 2009 meeting will submit the Charter to the Committee of Alternates for approval.

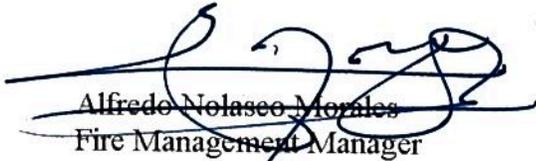
Amendments or revision of this Charter may be presented at subsequent annual meetings, and after ratification by the Group, will become effective upon approval by the Committee of Alternates.



Bill de Groot  
Project Leader, Fire and Climate Change Research  
Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service

11/2/2017

Date



~~Alfredo Nolaseo Morales~~  
~~Fire Management Manager~~  
National Forest Commission (CONAFOR)  
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) Mexico

Date 17/11/2016



Shawna Legarza, PsyD  
Director, Fire and Aviation Management  
USDA Forest Service

Date 17/12/2016

## **Appendix:**

### **A. Group Logo**

The logo of the Fire Management Working Group is an outline of North America within a circle. Superimposed on the outline is an equilateral triangle that symbolizes fire management. The left edge of the triangle consists of three small green equilateral triangles. These represent the forests of the three member nations. Red flames extend from the right-hand apex of the main triangle towards the three small triangles, representing wildland fire. There is a white space between the triangles and flames.

The logo of the group will be used on group publications, pins, and promotional items, and will be used to encourage and recognize fire managers and researchers who promote international cooperation.

### **B. Group Awards**

The Group will recognize individuals, groups, or organizations that are prominent in international cooperation. The recognition will be an annual series of awards. The awards will not be limited to people working among the member countries, but will recognize international cooperation throughout the world.

Each delegation may submit nominations for each level of award to the Group Chair. Any individual, organization, or group who has made a significant contribution to international fire management shall be eligible for the nomination. Letters of nomination should be sent to the Chair prior to the annual meeting so that the nominations can be reviewed and award winners selected at the annual meeting. Awards will be presented at the subsequent meeting of the group, or, if appropriate, presented to the delegation head for presentation in their own country.

Nominations will follow the existing process and meet the specified criteria. Awards are in the form of certificates or plaques and will be signed by the head delegate of each country.

### **C. Work Plan**

The work plan will be updated and approved at the annual meeting. The plan will contain cooperative activities that fall within the objective of this charter.

