

COMISIÓN FORESTAL PARA AMÉRICA DEL NORTE
50.ª REUNIÓN DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO DE MANEJO DEL FUEGO



MINUTE

50th Fire Management Working Group Meeting

North American Forest Commission

November 15 to 17, 2017

Puebla, México

Background

The North American Forest Commission (NAFC) Fire Management Working Group (FMWG) was established in 1962. This Group is integrated by Fire Management specialists from United States, Canada and Mexico; the FMWG celebrates an annual rotating meeting having as a host one of the members that integrate the group.

In 2016 the 50th FMWG meeting was held in Puebla, Mexico. The Fire Management Working Group Chairman: Alfredo Nolasco Morales, Fire Management Manager from the National Forestry Commission, welcomed the delegations members in Puebla, Mexico.

FMWG 50th meeting was held on November 15th to 17th 2016, which was conformed by three activities days. This meeting had the presence of United States, Canada and Mexico representatives, as well as representatives from invited countries (Australia and Brazil). Likewise, a Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) representatives was present in the event.

1st Day

The FMWG 50th meeting started on November 15th 2016 at 09:38 hours (am). At the opening ceremony, local authorities of agencies involved in the Wildfire Prevention National Program have attended. After the opening, a brief press conference was performed with local media.

After a recess to dismiss the authorities, the 2016 FMWG Chairman continued the meeting by presenting the attendees (Annex A) and proceeded to make a revision of the previous FMWG meeting minute, which was held in Phoenix, Arizona in September 2015.

FAO's Consultant Forest Fire Management & Disaster Risk Reduction, Peter Moore, performed a presentation of Fire Management at an International Level, with an integrated perspective.

Peter highlighted that an Integrated Fire Management perspective is necessary, in which a socio-cultural and ecological reality of the places where is applied is included.

Integrated Fire Management is not new concept. Within this perspective science and society are included in Fire Management at multiple levels. It is also known as "Holistic Approach".

Integrated Fire Management includes: Fire Culture, Fire Ecology and Fire Management.

These concepts could be applied in any world region in regardless of the development level. Perform an analysis about Holistic Approach in the applying place is necessary to obtain satisfactory results.

FAO's vision is to strengthen Fire Management international cooperation. It is necessary to facilitate wildfire data between countries. Improve wildfire impacts comprehension and awareness. To have a data base in which the Holistic Approach is measured and the progress is recorded.

How Fire Management Holistic Approach can be applied in North America? The process to reach an Integral Fire Management is complex. Time and commitment from the implicated people is required. Fire Management Working Group must identify and characterize examples of this situation in their own countries, like Ejido Llano Grande, Mexico for example.

Country report

FMWG chairman started the Country report session about Fire Management annual situation. Starting by Canada, followed by United States and finally by Mexico.

Canada

Michael Norton, Northern Forestry Centre Director General from the Canadian Forest Service was who performed Canada's report to the meeting participants.

In 2016 specifically, Canada suffered a strong wildfire season in the country west side. Alberta had high activity since April until June 2016. The Fort McMurray, Alberta Wildfire named "The Best" activated the necessity of resources from different countries for its suppression. Countries as South Africa, United States and Mexico provided support in the wildfire.

Michael Norton also spoke about Canada's wildfire investigation. The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) has 31 permanent staff working on fire research studies. These staff is located in 5 different regional research laboratories.

The 32 wildfire researches are distributed within the following six main investigation projects of the CFS: 1) International, 2) Forest ecosystem integrity, 3) Forest models international network, 4) Climate change adaptation and impacts, 5) Forest carbon, 6) Wildfire Canadian strategy.

Canadian Wildfire Information System was presented "Geo Server", which is intended to provide wildfire Canadian data to any user and also users can export the information to their own systems.

Fuels Module creation parameters were presented, which are: 1) Forest stand, unit of measure (fuel complex), and 2) Stand comprised of separate fuel components, each with: Fuel load, fuel size and vertical and horizontal distribution.

Regarding the socioeconomic impact of wildfires, Canada is performing research focused in: Assess the economic cost of wildfires, identifying types of values at risk to wildfire, wildfire evacuation database, as well as work with indigenous communities to conduct research and develop programs to improve wildfires management in their communities and on their traditional lands.

Finally, Michael Norton highlighted the wildfire conferences in Canada. In 2016, the conference “Building Resilience” was celebrated from October 24 to 28 in Kelowna, British Columbia. In 2018, another conference will be celebrated, in which the topic and location is yet to be define.

After Michael Norton, Kim Connors, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Director took the floor, which also made a balance of 2016 activities.

In 2016 Canada suffered less wildfires and less affected area compared with 2015. 2015 was an outstanding wildfire season, in which 7000 wildfires were registered affecting 3.9 millions of hectares. In 2016, 500 wildfires were registered affecting 1.4 millions of hectares.

On average, with the information collected since 10 years ago, Canada has around 6,900 wildfires every year, affecting 2.4 millions of hectares.

During the 2016 wildfire season, Canada suffered a megafire in Fort McMurray, Alberta, where the affected area was of 589,552 ha (approx.), whereby human and aircraft international resources were requested which were provided by New Zealand, Australia, United States of America, South Africa and Mexico.

Mexico supported with a staff of 42 people, which was integrated with 40 type 1 firefighters, 1 Agency Representative (AREP), and 1 Interagency Resource Representative, which performed suppression activities in the region.

Some achievements reached during 2016 wildfire season were the strengthening of interagency coordination at a federal level and the creation of the Canadian Multi-Agency Coordinating Group.

Canada has International valid agreements for the assistance in wildfire suppression with Mexico, United States of America, South Africa and Australia.

Of the identified challenges, the mass media activity at the moment of broadcast wildfire information can be pointed, likewise improve the resources request by the corresponding authorities.

United States of America

United States of America was the following country in perform his presentation, which was presented by Gordon Sachs, Branch Chief, All Hazard & International Fire Support. His report had graphic, such as temperature and precipitation ranges average from August to October 2016.

The country south-east region, like California State, showed a potential wildfire tendency in November. Within this regions active wildfires problems were presented. According to the drought research studies from United States of America, is exactly in these areas where the drought levels are exceptional.

One of the graphics presented by Gordon showed the total number of prescribed burns annually performed in United States of America. Until October 31st 2016 the number of prescribed burns raised to 2,486,710. It is one of the highest numbers within the last 20 years.

Some of the resources used by the USFS for the firefighting are: 10,000 firefighters (6,000 permanent and 4,000 temporal). The Department of Interior (DOI) disposes another 4,500 firefighters. From type 1 hotshot crews, 67 crews are from the USFS and 20 from the DOI. Also there are 350 type 2 crews, 1617 engineers (900 from USFS and 717 from DOI) and 465 rappel firefighters. Additionally a next generation large airtankers, 1 VLAT and two scoopers were acquired.

Regarding the firefighting international assistance, the USFS supported Canada with 10 crews and aircraft. Likewise, they support and advise Latin American countries in wildfire prevention, control and suppression. Nowadays the USFS is working with Spain in Incident Command System training.

The United States Forest Service also provides assistance in other contingencies, like support the Animals and Plants Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Mexico

Once performed Canada's and United States' presentation, Alfredo Nolasco, National Forestry Commission Fire Management Manager and 2016 FMWG Chairman, presented the Mexican country report, within this report the social participation and interagency coordination were highlighted.

2016 wildfire season was less severe than what was expected. Until November 15 2016 the register was for 8,841 wildfires with an affected area of 273,967 hectares.

Wildfires appeared on the border region between Mexico and the United States, as well as some "media fires" that were presented in Morelos and Michoacán, highlighted current challenges faced by technicians, such as international cooperation and institutional coordination at the Wildland-Urban Interface.

In Mexico, the interagency coordination for the wildfire prevention and control is the key. An annual intersecretarial meeting was established, where 32 wildfire State Committees and 32 State Centers participate. However, one of the strengths of this coordination is the Community Based Fire Management.

In Mexico, the traditional Fire Management knowledge systems are applied from the communities. In some communities technical support already exists, by Non-Governmental Organizations, Universities and even Governmental Agencies, for the creation of wildfire prevention and control programs.

Rural crews program powered by CONAFOR have had excellent outcomes on wildfire initial attack. In 2016 the budget used for rural crews was for 73 million pesos which resulted in the employment of 422 rural crews.

Regarding the Fuel Management, the main goal is to reduce the amount of available fuel in critical areas, to reduce wildfires complexity and also dispose with a mayor rural crews participation.

Within the wildfire research framework, CONAFOR invest in programs such as: 1) Fuel Models, 2) Scientific Assessment Methodology for Priority Areas and 3) Wildfire Danger Rating System.

In 2016 the first National Fire Management Research Network was created, which has as a main goal to strengthen the link between the scientific community, research institutions, forest land owners and CONAFOR. This research network focuses on priority research issues related to fire management.

Regarding the legal framework, the "Sustainable Forest Development General Law" is currently under Mexican Congress review. In this law the Fire Management National Program, Fire Management Qualification System, State and municipal fire management programs, interagency coordination and Incident Command System are proposed.

Other Mexican standards under technical review are NOM-015 and NOM-SCI. As for the NOM-015, technicians and lawyers are working on their adaptation. It includes facilitating the use of fire in forest properties, as well as strengthening interagency

coordination. The NOM-SCI proposes to be used at a national level and to have the interagency participation; this would allow the standardization of procedures for dealing with any type of incident, whether wildfires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, using the Incident Command System.

Mexico's Fire Management international cooperation has been strengthened with North America as well as with Latin American countries. Mexico cooperates actively with the United States of America and Canada within the framework of the North American Forestry Commission (NAFC).

In 2016, Mexico and Canada signed the "Operating Plan for the exchange of wildland fire management resources between Canadian and Mexican participants", specifying in June the mobilization of 42 Mexican firefighters to support the suppression of the "Horse River" wildfire in Fort McMurray. In the case of Mexico and the United States, both cooperate actively in technical exchanges, as well as in the application of courses in fire management in South America, Central America and the Caribbean.

As for direct cooperation with Latin American countries, Mexico is part of the Mesoamerican Cooperation Program (PMC), in which, according to the Environmental Sustainability Mesoamerican Strategy (EMSA), it seeks to strengthen coordination between the Mesoamerican countries that guarantees the operation, driving and development of functions established. In addition to EMSA, Mexico also has cooperation instruments on wildfires framework with Chile, Guatemala and Colombia.

In 2016, Mexico received for the first time in its territory participants of the "Australia / New Zealand Fire Management Study Tour". This group visited the three North American countries for a period of about 3 weeks. In the case of Mexico, the Group recognized that among the strengths of Mexico is interagency coordination and Community Based Fire Management.

As part of the Mexico country report, Juan Manuel Frausto, Wildfire Prevention and Restoration Projects Coordinator of the Nature Conservation Mexican Fund (FMCN) and German Flores researcher of the National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research (INIFAP) also presented their topics.

Juan Manuel Frausto highlighted the FMCN participation in Fire Management, aiming to strengthen local capacities (NGOs and communities) in the prevention and suppression of wildfires and fire management programs. Some of these activities are: 1) Fire Management and Restoration Fund (FOMAFUR), 2) Protection against wildfires, wildlife conservation and local participation in priority areas of biodiversity in the Coahuila State, 3) International Cooperation Program with the United States Forest Service, 4) Natural Protected Areas Emergency Fund and 5) Fire Management Learning Community (CAMAFU).

During 2016, the FMCN supported the initial attack of 154 wildfires.

In terms of research, German Flores explained the work carried out by INIFAP side by side with other organizations, agencies and academies on wildfires framework in Mexico. The research modules are: vegetation, fire, fuels, weather and DEM.

With the participation of INIFAP, the Fire Management Working Group members' country reports session finished. Subsequently, the Chairman gave the floor to the invited countries representatives of the meeting: Brazil and Australia.

It was announced that in the case of Guatemala, which was initially invited to participate in the meeting, it would not attend this meeting because of previous commitments already scheduled.

Guests' countries

The participation of other Regional Forestry Commissions, through invited countries, to the Fire Management Working Group meetings has become a constant in recent years, as their assistance enriches at a global level the Fire Management perspective.

At the 50th FMWG meeting, Brazil and Australia participated as invited countries. On behalf of Australia, Alan Goodwin, from the Department of Environment, Water, Lands and Planning, made the country report presentation of the and later Gabriel Constantino Zacharias, Head of the Specialized Center PREVFOGO of Brazil, made the own.

Australia

In the case of Australia, each State has the responsibility of dealing locally with wildfires. Precisely one of its challenges in dealing with a wildfire lies in the search for resources throughout the country.

One of the most affected areas by wildfires in Australia during the final period of 2015 was the West. The wildfires in Esperance reached 128,000 ha of affectation, plus 4 fatalities. In Waroona / Yarloop, there were 70,000 ha, 2 fatalities and 162 affected homes. In Cascades there were 18,000 ha affected and Merivale had 164,000 ha.

In Victoria, wildfires have also registered damage to citizens' property. Fires recorded on Great Ocean Road caused damage in 116 residences and 2,300 ha. In Scotsburn 14 properties were affected, in addition to 4,600 ha. In Lancefield 6 properties and 4,000 ha were also damaged.

Finally in South Australia, the Pinery wildfire in November 2015 affected 82,000 ha, 91 properties and 2 fatalities. In the case of Tasmania, in the period from January to March 2016, 125,000 ha were affected.

Australia's challenges in wildfire suppression, as mentioned at the beginning of its presentation, lie in having to search for resources around the country, in addition these resources are being shared with New Zealand.

In preparation for the wildfire season, Fire Management activities are carried out as prescribed burns, as well as the dissemination of an "Intelligent Fire Management" with the community.

Canada and the United States have provided support in the frame of Fire Management to Australia. Likewise, in Australia, the concept of a "Global Fire Management" has been promoted.

Brazil

In the case of Brazil, Gabriel Constantino Zacharias began his presentation explaining how the wildfires care government structure is in Brazil. The Ministry of the Environment at the federal level is responsible for this topic. State Governments participate in two entities: Renewable Natural Resources and Environment Institute of Brazil and the Biodiversity Conservation Institute" Chico Mendes".

At a state level, there is the Environmental Protection Council and the Protected Natural Areas Creation and Management Directorate. Finally, the Prevention and Suppression of Wildfires Specialized Center (PREVFOGO) and the Environmental Emergencies Coordination have been created. PREVFOGO has 833 firefighters, while the Environmental Emergency Coordination has 1100 firefighters.

2016 most affected areas belong to indigenous territory, which are: Arariboia (1,035 square kilometers), Xingu (3,158 square kilometers) and Araguaia (8,795 square kilometers).

In Brazil there are 503 indigenous territories, which comprise 1, 064,424.34 square kilometers. The indigenous population amounts to 512,000 people and correspond to 224 ethnic groups. These ethnic groups, which generally settle in the savannas of Brazil, already have an ancient knowledge in the coexistence with fire.

Nowadays, Brazil is in a transition period from a "Fire Management" approach (prevention, suppression, use of fire) to an "Integrated Fire Management" approach. The Integrated Fire Management approach takes into account fire management; however, it includes ecology (key ecological attributes of fire) and culture of fire (socioeconomic needs and impacts).

Regarding international cooperation, Brazil has been working with Australia to improve its fire management plans. He has also received visits from the Forest Service of the United States of America, with the purpose of knowing more about wildfires in Brazil and what their behavior is.

With the presentation of Gabriel the country report session was closed and the activities of the first day were finalized.

2nd day

Ejido Llano Grande Field Trip, municipality of Chignahuapan, Puebla. Internationally certified for its forestry production activities and which is an outstanding example in Community-Based Fire Management.

During this field visit, the group was shown the activities the community is carrying out to commercialize its forest resources in a sustainable way, as well as the important role of social participation in Mexico for the prevention, control and suppression of wildfires to be presented.

Almost at the end of the field visit, the members of the Group participated in an event attended by approximately 400 community firefighters. This event emphasized interagency coordination between the three government levels, as well as with organized communities. In addition, during the event a hand tools were given to firefighters.

3rd day

On the last day of activities, all the staff returned to the meeting room to make final presentations, as well as the Charter and the Group Work Plan update.

One of the presentations corresponded to the "FAO's Approach on Wildfires Challenges and Trends" by Peter Moore. The Organization is committed to a global vision and international cooperation in the field of Fire Management.

FAO supports projects on Fire Management around the world. From 2004 to 2013, to mention a few, they had projects in Latin America: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Chile; Africa: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Guinea, Togo, Benin, Swaziland, Tanzania, Chad, Ethiopia, Botswana and Zimbabwe; Asia and the Middle East: Syria, Mongolia, Indonesia; and in Europe: Croatia and Bulgaria.

According to the results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA), an average of more than 50 million hectares of forest land is burned each year. As research indicates, there is a declining trend in the burned forests surface, largely because of the decline in burned surface in tropical South America over the last ten

years. However, a growing trend was found in the burned forest surface in the boreal climate.

Climate Change has implications for wildfires, as it has increased the number of forest fires in the world and these have become longer. The approach to fire management is to apply the 5Rs: 1) Research and Analysis, 2) Risk Reduction, 3) Readiness to fight fires, 4) Responding to fires and 5) Restoration and Recovery after fires.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

FAO aims to provide facilities to collaborate and facilitate integrated fire management in more than 130 countries. Together with developing countries it will seek to make data more accessible and improve remote sensing systems for wildfires. At the country level, it will seek to raise awareness of the extent and impact of wildfires.

The Organization's current progress has been in the analysis of wildfire recording under way, reviews of remote sensing and wildfire under way in collaboration with Canadian Forest Service and FAO experts, and the interaction that has been reached with: Google Earth, on the history of Wildfires, the Global Wildfire Information System and the Forest Resources Assessment 2020 (FRA 2020).

The 2020 FRA is still in being designed, no significant changes are expected in the reports of affected surface, rather it is sought to provide more consistent data to those countries that need burned surface data.

Puebla State Wildfire Prevention Program (PEPIF)

The following presentation was related to the interagency coordination in the prevention and control of Wildfires in Puebla, performed by the State Management personnel of CONAFOR in Puebla State. The work done to strengthen interagency coordination, the increase in the training of personnel by 300%, as well as the increase in resources to combat forest fires was highlighted during the presentation.

Outcomes presentation

The last presentation of the meeting was related to the "Australia and New Zealand Study Tour to North America Outcomes" conducted by a group on Fire Management in Australia and New Zealand, which was explained by Gordon Sachs (USFS) and Alan Goodwin (Australia).

The Study Tour consisted of approximately three and a half weeks of travel by the three countries of North America. It began in Canada, later in the United States, and finally concluded in Mexico.

The twelve participants in the Study Tour are involved in operation areas with knowledge in wildfire policies and research. Main topics presented during this trip were: collaboration in risk management between agencies and communities, risk mitigation approach, safety of firefighting staff, linkage between research and operation, prescribed burning tactics and responsibility, and mitigation of risk in Wildland-Urban Interface zones.

Regarding the Community-Based Fire Management and risk mitigation, it was noted that the three countries visited by the Australasian contingent have different approaches and scales in this framework. However they all agree on the importance of community participation as a strategic approach.

The Wildland-Urban Interface topic has had innovations in the three North American countries, which must be shared, such as operational guidelines, tactics and training.

In United States, the group gained significant insights on prescribed burns topic, which can be of great use for future approaches and for prescribed burns programs. One of the highlighted things in this type of activities is the relationships established with the colleagues are of paramount importance. The main goal is that the knowledge obtained must be implemented in the hometown agencies of the participants.

Gordon Sachs spoke about the "Fire Management International Symposium" held in Park City, Utah from September 12 to 13, 2016. The objectives of this meeting are to share the current status of the main topics on wildfires management, both in the scientific and operational areas.

Likewise, the symposium helps the development of fire management networks between the countries involved and identify possible improvement areas. The next will be in 2017 and will be held in Washington D.C. the dates are still to be defined.

Charter update

Once all the presentations have been completed, the 2016 Fire Management Working Group Chairman has put on the table the updating of the Group Charter, which makes changes to some members and observers in the GTMF, as well as the representative of the United States delegation, currently Shawna Legarza holds the position of Fire Management and Aviation Director. Representatives of the Canadian and US delegation obtained a paper copy of the updated Group Charter.

2017-2018 Work Plan

Following the updating of the Charter, the Work Plan (Annex B) was reviewed, which indicated the activities for the years 2017 and 2018. One of the outstanding

activities was the creation of a Fire Management Researcher Network in North America.

The 2016 Chairman thanked all those present for their assistance and collaboration at the 50th FMWG meeting from NAFC, noting first that this meeting was very productive and that information should continue to be shared among countries, because despite having differences between them, all shares the same problems and consequences on wildfires.

Meeting closure

The 2016 Group Chairman also thanked his technical team for their logistical support and ceded the scam to the Canadian delegation, which are responsible for organizing the FMWG annual meeting. Michael Norton (NRCAN) noted that the 51st Working Group meeting will take place in Winnipeg, Canada in October 2017.

Conclusions

During the development of the 50th Fire Management Working Group meeting from NAFC three member countries (Mexico, United States and Canada) attended the event, also the invited countries (Australia and Brazil), as well as the Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Each country presented their 2016 wildfire season results, international cooperation activities, and Mexico, focused on highlighting Community-Based Fire Management, which was exemplified during the field trip to Ejido Llano Grande.

The FMWG considers important to continue encouraging the participation of other Regional Forestry Commissions members who are specialists in Fire Management, and have the support from FAO to promote and impulse interregional exchanges, as well as provide the international context in this framework.

The Interagency Coordination is a key element for the operation of Fire Management programs in various countries.

During the meeting, documents of the FMWG were updated, such as the Charter and the Work Plan. New activities were included to strengthen the group's objectives.

Canada, who will host the 51st Fire Management Working Group meeting, will propose the dates for the next FMWG meeting, which is currently taking place in Winnipeg, Canada.

ANNEXE A**50th FMWG/NAFC MEETING****ATTENDANCE**

Name	Charge	Agency	Country	E-mail
Gordon Sachs	Branch Chief, All Hazard & International Fire Support	USFS	USA	gsachs@fs.fed.us
Isidoro Solís	Helitack Manager/ International Programs Liaison	USFS	USA	isolis@fs.fed.us
Rick Scott	FMWG – NAFC Liaison	USFS	USA	rscott8338@aol.com
Michael Norton	Director General Northern Forestry Centre in Edmonton	CFS	CAN	michael.norton@canada.ca
Kim Connors	CIFFC Executive Director	CIFFC	CAN	Kim.Connors@ciffc.ca
Blair McTavish	Manitoba Conservation And Water Stewardship Director	MANITOBA	CAN	Blair.McTavish@gov.mb.ca
Alfredo Nolasco Morales	Fire Management Manager	CONAFOR	MEX	anolasco@conafor.gob.mx
José Germán Flores Garnica	Researcher	INIFAP	MEX	flores.german@inifap.gob.mx
Juan Manuel Frausto Leyva	Wildfire Prevention and Restoration Projects Coordinator	FMCN	MEX	juan.frausto@fmcn.org
Diego Pérez Salicrup	Fire Management National Research Network Coordinator	UNAM	MEX	diego@cieco.unam.mx
Peter Moore	Consultant Forest Fire Management & Disaster Risk Reduction	FAO	FAO	peter.moore@fao.org
Alan Goodwin	Manager, National Resource Sharing Centre	DELWP	AU	Alan.goodwin@nafc.org.au
Gabriel Constantino Zacharias	Specialized Center PREVFOGO Head	IBAMA	BRA	gabriel.zacharias@ibama.gov.br

ANNEXE B

NAFC-FMWG Work Plan

Updated: 25 November 2016

Objective	Activity	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsible
Improve cooperation on wildland fire between Canada, Mexico, & USA	Facilitate Northamerican fire research networkwork		Continuing 2017	Bill de Groot Diego Perez Matt Rollins
	Developing bilateral (MOU) agreements	Complete draft agreements and review	Continuing Follow-up by spring	Bill de Groot Gordon Sachs Alfredo Nolasco
	Mexico operating plan		Jan 2017 In progress	Alfredo Nolasco Gordon Sachs Kim Connors
	Wildfire Information System Workshop		February 2017	Bill de Groot
	51st FWMG meeting in Canada		October 2017	Bill de Groot
	52nd FMWG meeting in USA		2018	Gordon Sachs
	Improve deployment protocols to international assistance between North American Countries		2017-2018	Bill de Groot Gordon Sachs Alfredo Nolasco

Undertake and/or support cooperative global fire activities	FMWG-International Liaison Committee (ILC) Meeting	7 th IWFC Planning meeting in DC	February 2017	Gordon Sachs
	ILC meeting and site visit	7th International Wildland Fire Conference in Brazil	2018	
	Develop Guidelines to make international symposium			Gordon Sachs Alfredo Nolasco Kim Connors
Conduct FMWG business	Update FMWG website	Add/revise names of FMWG members	Next Update 2017	Gordon Sachs
	North American Fire Danger Rating map	Post on appropriate website locations (set up for daily updates)	In progress Completed Share with Mexico	Kim Connors Matt Rollins
	2016 FMWG meeting	Minute in progress	December 2016	Alfredo Nolasco
	Update Charter	Update names	In progress	Alfredo Nolasco Bill de Groot Gordon Sachs
Improve Wildfire prevention and suppression skills in several Countries	Mexico/USA support to Latin America		2017-2018	Gordon Sachs Alfredo Nolasco
	Mexico/USA fire management exchanges		2017-2018	Alfredo Nolasco Gordon Sachs
	Capacity building in Mesoamerican region with support from Mexico, Canada and USA		TBD	Alfredo Nolasco Bill de Groot Gordon Sachs
	Australasia Study Tour / Symposium wildfire research		2018	Alfredo Nolasco Bill de Groot Gordon Sachs

Cooperate with other NAFC Working Groups	Cooperate with monitoring an inventory working group about data field		In progress	Alfredo Nolasco Bill de Groot Gordon Sachs
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