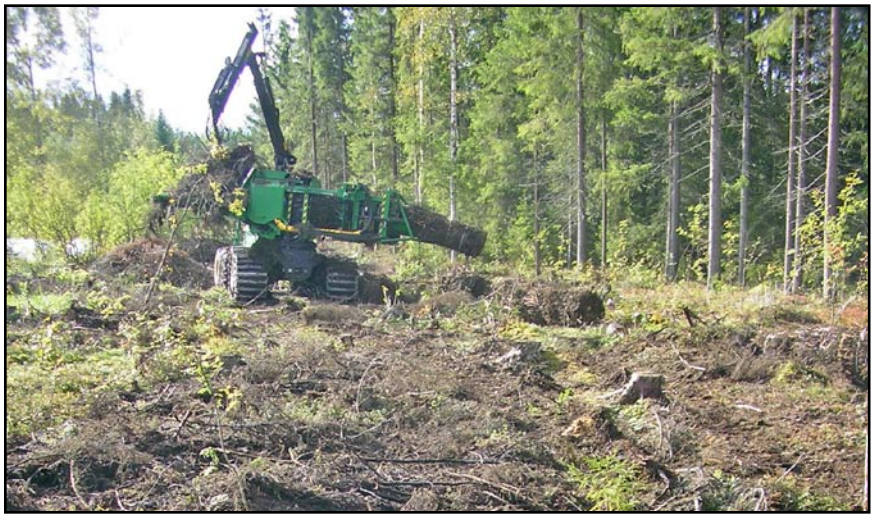
Announcing a workshop on

The scientific foundation for sustainable forest biomass harvesting guidelines and policy

February 18-21, 2008

Toronto, Ontario



This workshop provides an opportunity for scientists, government regulators, industry and environmental non-government organizations to come together to:

- share what is known about the impacts of biomass removals on forest ecosystems;
- identify research priorities for the scientific knowledge required for guidelines and policies; and
- create synergies and reduce duplication among different agencies across Canada as they conduct work relevant to their own ecosystems and circumstances.

The workshop will consist of presentations by invited national and international experts, summaries of current scientific knowledge and policy contexts in the different provinces in Canada, a volunteer poster session, and facilitated discussion amongst participants.

Pre-registration is required to receive future notices and program details:
www.sfmnetwork.ca/html/events_workshops_e.html
Click Here to Register

For further information, please contact biomass@sfmnetwork.ca

CONFIRMED SPONSORS TO DATE INCLUDE

Sustainable Forest Management Network
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range
Alberta Dept. of Sustainable Resource Development
Canadian Wood Fibre Centre (NRCanada, CFS)
FPInnovations - FERIC
New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
Canadian Institute of Forestry/ Institut forestier du Canada

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

Sustainable Forest Management Network
Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

Photo credit: Natural Resources Canada and Forestry images of the Bugwood Network

BACKGROUND:

The forest bioproducts and bioenergy sectors are developing rapidly across Canada. Thus far, these sectors have depended largely on waste wood left over from industrial processing; however, slash is an emerging and potentially important source of industrial feedstock. In Canada, relevant research on the impacts of removing slash on ecosystem processes has been conducted for over 30 years. Industrial and regulatory agencies across the country are now developing science-based guidelines and regulations for sustainable biomass removal. This scientific knowledge can also be used to develop criteria and indicators to assure markets that increased biomass harvesting will not compromise the integrity of our forest ecosystems in the future.

Sharing what we know about the impacts of biomass removal in different Canadian forests will create synergies and reduce duplication among different agencies across the country as they conduct work relevant to their own ecosystems and circumstances. By working together, experts with diverse backgrounds and interests can develop answers to key questions, such as:

- What do we know about biomass removal impacts on different Canadian ecosystems?
- What are the most important gaps in our knowledge, and how can they best be filled?
- What research approaches are most appropriate for answering the key questions in different regions of Canada?
- What synergies and efficiencies can we achieve through networking?
- What common approaches would allow direct comparisons among different regions, while still addressing local research priorities?
- What tools can we use to facilitate rapid uptake and efficient transfer of new and existing knowledge across Canada?
- What lessons can we learn from experience in other countries?

To answer these questions a workshop has been organized to bring scientists, government regulators, industry, and environmental non-government organizations together.

OBJECTIVES:

Participants will share updates on the state of forest biomass removal knowledge across Canada.

Gaps related to development of sustainable biomass removal guidelines, policies, criteria and indicators, and certification systems will be identified.

Priorities for research will be debated and collated so that they can feed into strategic planning by agencies across Canada.

Common approaches to research methodologies will be determined to maximize synergy and increase application and comparability of results across Canada.

Tools that will facilitate storage, access, and use of knowledge will be identified and prioritized, and agencies will be identified to develop and/or maintain them.

Ways in which knowledge can be generated, synthesized, made more useful, and applied will be identified:

- adaptive management frameworks
- role of expert knowledge/opinion
- development of generic guideline systems
- meta-analysis

- approaches for synthesizing information for land managers

Long-term research networks will be formed that increase synergy and cooperation in research, field trials, and monitoring of operational biomass removal.

Long-term inter-agency networks will be formed that will increase transfer of ideas, experience, and knowledge in research and in guideline and policy development.

PROGRAM: The two-and-a-half-day program includes presentations by invited speakers (from Canada, the United States and Nordic countries), summaries of current activities across Canada, and a volunteer poster session. These knowledge-sharing sessions will prepare participants to identify knowledge gaps, common approaches, common tools, methods of generating and applying knowledge, and future cooperative activities through facilitated discussion. The following is an outline of the agenda:

The Canadian context for forest bioenergy: Where, when and how does science fit in?
- Policy drivers
- Harvest engineering and industry drivers
- Environmental non-government organization drivers

Expanding our understanding of where science fits into the big picture
- Criteria and indicators, certification, planning frameworks, monitoring, and adaptive forest management approaches

Canadian science: What do we know, and what are the key issues?
- A review of Canadian research on biomass removals and site productivity issues
- A review of Canadian research on biomass removals and biodiversity, habitat and landscape issues
- An up-date on current science programs across Canada

International science: What do we know, and what are the key issues?
- Site productivity lessons from the United States and from Nordic countries
- Biodiversity lessons from the United States and from Nordic countries

Moving science into guidelines and policy
- Minnesota experience
- Swedish experience
- Canadian experience

Facilitated discussion to identify
- Knowledge gaps
- Common approaches
- Common tools
- Generation and application of knowledge
- Future cooperative activities

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Anyone interested in biomass harvesting, scientific research, and the input of new knowledge into guideline development, C&I, and policies.

DATE: 18-21 February 2008 (*opening reception Mon. night; finishes Thurs. at 1 pm)*

LOCATION: Faculty Club, University of Toronto, 41 Wilcocks St., Toronto

ACCOMMODATION: A block booking has been made at the Delta Chelsea Hotel, where the opening reception will be held on Monday evening; it is walking distance to the Faculty Club. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations; ask for the group rate for the *Faculty of Forestry - University of Toronto* at 1-800-243-5732 (national), 1-800-3-243-5732 (international), or click here to register http://www.deltachelsea.com/grsutff. Costs are $119 + taxes per night, until Jan. 28, 2008. Participants are encouraged to book at the Delta Chelsea Hotel so that the Organizing Committee does not incur financial penalties.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be limited to 100 participants, chosen (if necessary) to maximize the impact of the workshop on the Canadian forest bioenergy sector. Please pre-register now if you would like to participate, and to receive future notices. Click here to register. Pre-registration will close on Fri. 4 Jan. 2008 and participation will be confirmed shortly afterwards. The registration fee (TBA) is anticipated to be <$400, and will cover all meal costs.

Registration by members of the international community is encouraged, in acknowledgement of the value that they will bring to the workshop.

POSTER SESSION: Those wishing to present a poster may submit a title when they pre-register. Post-graduate students and post-doctoral fellows are encouraged to pre-register early if they intend to present a poster, in recognition of Canada's need for new, dynamic, and highly qualified personnel in this emerging sector. One-page abstracts will be requested at a later date (12-point Times New Roman font, 1.25" margins; include authors, affiliations, and lead author e-mail address).

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION: An *ad hoc* committee is organizing this workshop in response to questions and concerns raised over the past year by members of Canada's forest bioenergy sector. Many of those consulted in early discussions are now assisting through the Technical Advisory Committee.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (*alphabetical*)

Dan Puddister	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Jim Richardson	CANBIO and IEA Bioenergy, Ottawa, ON
Tat Smith	Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, ON
Brian Titus	NRCanada, Canadian Forest Service, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, BC

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (*West to East*)

Shannon Berch	B.C. Ministry of Forests and Range, Victoria, BC
John Spence	Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
Pat Guidera	Sustainable Resource Development, AB
Dave Morris	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Thunder Bay, ON
Suzanne Wetzel	NRCanada, CFS, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Tony Iacobelli	World Wildlife Fund, Toronto, ON
Jay Malcolm	Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, ON
Jim Fyles	SFMN and McGill University, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC
Mark Ryans	FPInnovations – FERIC Division, Pointe-Claire, QC
Michel Campagna	Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Québec, QC
Shawn Morehouse	Department of Natural Resources, Fredericton, NB
Sina Adl	Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS